

LAS VEGAS AGE

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING EXCEPT MONDAY By CHARLES P. SQUIRES, Editor and Publisher, at the AGE BUILDING, 411 Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, and entered in the Postoffice at Las Vegas as Second Class Matter.

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THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1931.

STEADY GROWTH

That Las Vegas is making a steady growth is indicated by the building permits issued in April. No large structures were included, but there were 52 small ones, mostly residences, with a total cost of \$61,600.

Not a great record, perhaps, but indicating that the work of providing modest living accommodations for many families is going on at a very satisfactory rate. And \$61,600 expended for little items of building means quite a bit of labor employed.

Later we expect that some of the several large building operations now contemplated will boost our building permit total to large figures.

THE DEAD ONES

Also we observe as an item of city business that there has been a modest boom in the sale of lots in the city cemetery. Which may or may not be a good advertising feature. Although it may indicate that the dead ones are being promptly disposed of.

THANKS KINDLY

The Editor of The Age appreciates more than he can find words to tell the friendly greeting published by the Las Vegas Review-Journal of yesterday.

In these days of keen competition it is pleasant for one to know that there is still a place in the world for a little kindly feeling and a little word of encouragement. Thank you kindly, Frank and Al.

RECOUNT NECESSARY

Owing to the confusing form of the ballot on the question of voting \$160,000 sewer bonds and the resultant confusion of the counting boards, it will be necessary to have a recount of the ballots before it can be known whether or not the bonds have been legally approved by the voters.

Totalling the returns made by the counting board election night, the bonds appear to have been defeated. But it seems probable that the returns of some of the precincts do not correctly show the vote. That is, some of he board counted the crosses stamped instead of the "yes" or "no" left unmarked.

The city charter says that the words "yes" and "no" shall be placed after the question of bonds and that the voter shall "scratch out the word 'yes' if opposed to the bonds, and the word 'no' if in favor of the issue."

That being the wording of the charter there was nothing the city attorney could do except follow, notwithstanding the fact that the "scratch out" method of voting was long ago generally abandoned.

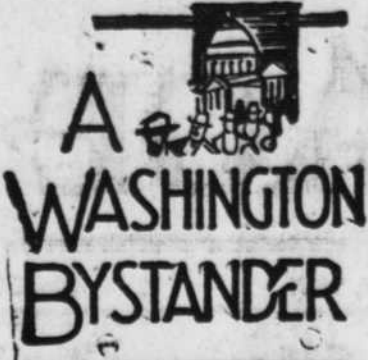
THE DAILY AGE

Many complimentary words came to the Editor of The Age yesterday following the announcement that the paper would henceforth be published six times a week.

Since April 7, 1905, The Age has been serving the people of Las Vegas, always constructively, never seeking to tear down but constantly striving to encourage the people of Las Vegas to build a city.

Since June, 1908, the paper has been owned by the present Editor. Through good times and bad; when hopes were high and when disappointments came with crushing force, The Age has pointed out the brightness of our future and the certainty of our greatness.

Now, as the only morning daily in Nevada outside of Reno, our power to assist in the shaping of the state's future metropolis is greatly increased. And it shall be our constant desire so to use that power as to best serve the interests of Las Vegas and her people.



WASHINGTON BYSTANDER

WASHINGTON—Whenever any of the last half dozen presidents of the United States awoke in the night and found himself momentarily shy of something to worry about, he could just conjure up the word "Nicaragua."

That must have opened a vista of troubled thoughts in the mind of the President to keep him stewing until daylight.

Probably every time any of the last several presidents thought about Nicaragua the word 'Borah' also popped into view. As far back as 1914, Senator Borah was doing and saying things about Nicaragua that gave trouble to the administration.

The Borah of 1914 and of 1931 of course, are quite different persons. The Idaho senator as chairman of the foreign relations committee is a power now the White House always must consider when it makes a foreign policy.

In 1914 he was just a minority senator; but he helped force a vote on whether the Nicaraguan treaty should be dealt with by the senate in open session. He lost then.

There seemed reasonable prospect when President Hoover took office that he might escape some of the worries over Nicaragua.

With Henry Stimson, pacifier of Nicaragua, as his secretary of state, he seemed especially well fortified to keep that turbulent country off the front pages. Had Stimson succeeded in getting Sandino to accept his famous disarmament ukase which terminated the civil war with which President Coolidge had to deal, that might have been possible.

Still it is doubtful. Looking over the news index files of The Associated Press in Washington covering just a bit more than 20 years, the Bystander discovered that it has taken nearly 300 cards with about a dozen separate items on each just to touch the highlights on Nicaragua for that double decade. What a going and coming of warships, bluejackets and marines those cards tell of!

TO CARRY OUT PLANS

The most recent landing in Nicaragua, that at Puerto Cabezas, came on the heels almost of a state department declaration that the policy of withdrawal of marines from Nicaragua at an early date was to be carried out.

Since then, however, the earthquake destruction of Managua has entailed heavy unexpected costs on the Moncada government. It seems highly dubious that his government will find additional funds for expansion of the national guard necessary if it is to take over full responsibility for maintaining order.

But despite the insurgent activity and earthquake the state department has reiterated its announced intention of having all marines out of Nicaragua by 1933.

READ THE AGE

FORD PROJECT AIMS BLOW AT RUBBER "CORNER"

BUILDING AMERICAN RUBBER INDEPENDENCE

Vast Plantation On Amazon May Help Brazil Win Back Old Power In World Market

EDITOR'S NOTE: American forces in the battle for control of the world's rubber supply are deployed in laboratories and afield—test tubes and experimental plantations are the weapons. This is the second of a series of articles by Associated Press writers surveying this interesting industrial struggle.

By DAVID J. WILKIE. DETROIT (P)—Back in the early '70s a young Englishman, Henry Wickham, came out of the Brazilian interior at Para carrying a glass case which he said contained seeds for the garden of her majesty, Queen Victoria.

As the queen's messenger, he was permitted to hasten aboard his ship without inspection. Wickham told the truth when he said he had seeds for her majesty's gardens. He did not say, however, that they were rubber seeds and that some of her majesty's gardens were in British tropical possessions.

It was a smuggling feat without parallel in history. From it grew the great British monopoly in rubber. It cost Brazil her sole control of the world's rubber output. It won for Wickham a knighthood.

It is in an effort to win back for Brazil the lost dominance of the world's rubber market that Henry Ford has begun, in almost the identical region where Wickham gathered the seeds that sprouted into the British monopoly, intensive cultivation of a huge rubber plantation.

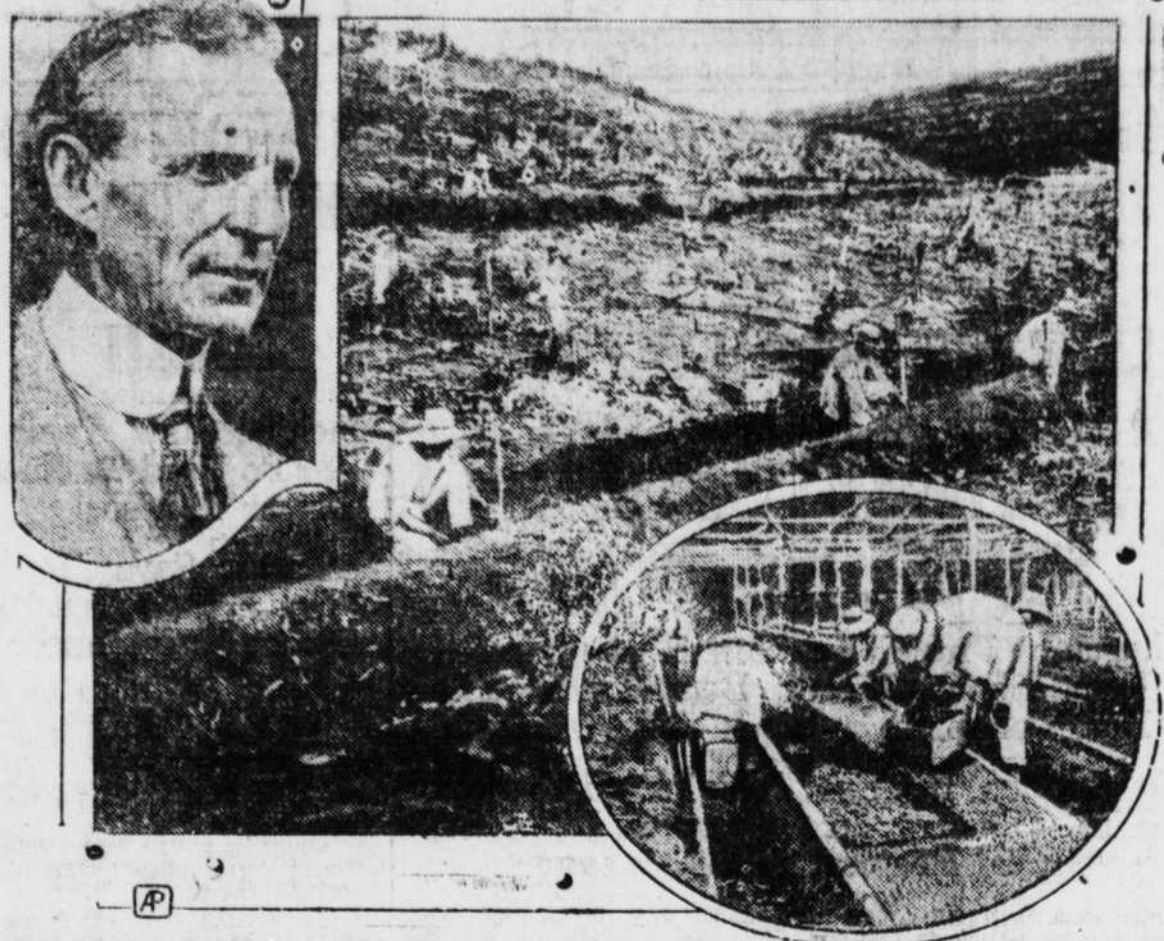
On the Tapajos river, deep in the Amazon valley this plantation is well under way. Out of a 4,500,000-acre grant obtained from the Brazilian government, the Ford interests in three years have cleared some 3,500 acres and have it under cultivation. Under the terms of the grant at least 1,000 acres must be cleared and cultivated each year.

Most of the land was dense jungle, sometimes called the "Inferno Verde," or Green Hell of the Amazon valley.

Prior to the clearing work expeditions were sent into the jungle to gather seeds of the heavy-bearing rubber trees. These were brought back and placed in nurseries.

Establishment of a self-maintained municipality within the plantation boundaries is the major change in the new plan. It is proposed to have markets, stores, restaurants, churches, schools and places of amusement.

"The church should, quite obviously, maintain the schools," said the announcement. Much of the dissension that grew



Henry Ford (left) is attempting to restore Brazil's dominant position in the rubber market by scientific development of a 4,500,000-acre grant in the Amazon country. Above is shown a view on the 3,500 acres already cleared. Below is a view in the nursery where seedlings are produced for transplanting.

out of the punching of time clocks, serve-self restaurants and other modernities with which the native laborers were unfamiliar, is expected to be removed by the new plan. Millions of dollars have been spent by the Ford interests on the

rubber project, and many more millions are expected to go into it. Far from preparing to abandon the undertaking, the Ford company plans to press it to successful conclusion. The project is frankly admitted to be an attempt to break British

control of the world rubber market. In this connection its sponsors point out that the Ford plantation is only 3,500 miles from New York, and nearly 10,000 miles nearer the American market than the British and Dutch plantations in Malaysia.

RATTLE SNAKE IS LURED BY MELODY

RENO, May 5. (P)—Rattlesnakes are also music lovers. This is conclusively proven by the story of two Reno residents.

These men have a hobby of driving to some secluded spot in the sagebrush out from Reno, attaching their radio aerial to an old stump, and proceeding to listen to the music.

Recently, on a picnic trip they had connected up their aerial, lighted a campfire, and were enjoying harmony from a distant station.

Suddenly, a huge rattler emerged from the shadows. Apparently hypnotized, enraptured by the music the reptile swayed from side to side, with its eyes closed.

Without noticing the men the snake moved toward the radio. One of the men killed the snake with a shovel.

SCIENTIST SAID CRITICALLY ILL

PASADENA, May 6. (UP)—Dr. Albert A. Michelson, 78 year old University of Chicago physicist, suffering from a nervous breakdown, remained critically ill in his home tonight.

His wife said that there had been no change today.

ADVERTISE IN THE AGE

HOOVER DAM PROGRESS

Resume of Present Activities and Those of the Near Future on Greatest Engineering Project of the Age

MAIN CONTRACTS

The principal contract was awarded March 10 at Denver to Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco, a combination of Utah Construction Company of Ogden, Utah; Henry J. Kelsner and W. A. Bechtel, McDonald & Kahn, Morrison-Knudson Company, J. F. Shea Company, and Pacific Bridge Company. Amount of bid \$48,890,999.00.

The contract covers tunnels, penstocks, outlet works, spillways, coffer dams, excavations for main dam, main dam construction, valves and gates, and power houses.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD—Main line to Boulder City, 22 miles, completed. Cost estimated at \$800,000.

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD—Boulder City to dam site, 8.6 miles under construction by Lewis Construction Company. Contract price \$455,509.50.

GOVERNMENT HIGHWAY—Boulder City to dam site, 10 1/2 miles of 22-foot highway, under construction by E. G. Le-Tourneau, Inc., subcontractors. Contract price \$329,917.15.

BOULDER CITY

Excavation for water tanks—Contract let to Butterfield Co., Los Angeles.

Tanks for water system—Contract let to Lacy Manufacturing Company, Los Angeles.

Residences—Bids for first group of 12 three- and four-room cottages were opened at Las Vegas office of the Reclamation Service March 12.

Laying out of final plans for the city—As soon as these are approved, contracts will be let for the streets, sidewalks, curbs, paving, water system, sewer, system, pole lines for electricity, etc. Administration buildings, dormitories, garages, etc., to follow as soon as possible.

POWER SUPPLY—Transmission line from Southern California under construction by Southern Sierras Power Company.

Substation—E. G. Roche, General Construction Company of Las Vegas, grading site near dam for Southern Sierras Power Company.

COMMUNICATION LINES

Telephone Lines—Line from Las Vegas to Boulder City was built by Southern Nevada Telephone Company and is now in operation.

Telegraph Lines—Joint Western Union and Union Pacific line to Boulder City now in operation.

ELECTRICAL MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

To be installed by the government and includes turbines, alternators, switchboards and transformers.

Reporter Tells Of Solving Payne Murder

By A. B. MacDONALD

(Reporter, Kansas City Star)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (P)—A. D. Payne, the Amarillo, Texas, lawyer who murdered his wife and maimed his son, had defended criminals and learned their ways.

He planned for ten months the murder of his wife and children. His plan to set off a timed explosive in the family motor car was so well thought out that five weeks afterward police, sheriff, insurance investigators and reporters had uncovered no clue whatsoever.

Gene Howe, editor of the Amarillo News and Globe, asked the Kansas City Star to send a man to work on the mystery.

The Star sent me. Howe met me. "The first thing," I said, "is to find the motive. Who wanted her out of the way and why?"

"INSURANCE OR LOVE?" She was heavily insured, and so was each of the three children, with Payne as the beneficiary. But I did not believe that this insurance alone was motive enough.

Howe said there seemed to be no woman in the case. Everyone in the neighborhood said the affection of the Paynes was often commented on.

Next morning we drove out to see Payne. He welcomed us cordially, but he was nervous. His long fingers kept pulling at his cheeks and chin. Behind his thin-lipped mouth and leathery face I felt there was a cruel heartless nature.

No matter what the question, he always dwelt on how he loved his wife. He overdid that.

His eldest daughter, now 14, was getting dinner. I imagined there was a frightened look in her eyes.

"TOO MUCH EXPLAINING" Some months before the murder Mrs. Payne opened a closet door and a shot gun exploded. Payne spent a full hour explaining to us his theory that the gun had fallen from a sewing machine as she opened the door. I did not believe it.

Payne's little girl, Bobbie Jean, came in with a Bible under her arm.

"This is our little girl, Bobbie Jean, coming from Sunday-school," said Payne.

I asked Bobbie Jean some questions. Once her father corrected her.

"No, honey; it wasn't that way. Don't you remember, it was this way—" and he began to set her right.

Into the face of the child came a look of fright. She burst into tears.

"GIRL'S EYES SHOW TRUTH" I felt then, and I know now, that both girls knew their father had killed their mother.

Something convinced me that there was a strange woman somewhere in the background. If so, his stenographer might know about it.

He gave me a list of his different stenographers. Of one, Miss Verona Thompson, he said she was "just an ordinary-looking woman. Of another, Miss Mabel Bush, he emphasized her attractiveness.

We left and hurried to see Miss Bush. She was all that Payne said she was—red headed, pretty. She liked Mr. Payne. No, she never saw a woman around the office.

Had she heard anything about Miss Thompson? Yes, some talk Payne was sweet on her.

We went to see Miss Thompson. Howe introduced me just as "Mr. MacDonald." She said afterward that she thought I was a detective from New York or Chicago.

to conceal anything. "Do you think he killed her?" she asked.

"Yes, I think so." She shook her head and said: "My! It was an awful thing, wasn't it?"

"WHY DID SHE TELL?" I don't know yet why she told me. She has said since that she could not explain that herself. She had met Payne secretly, and he had cautioned her that his life and hers depended upon her silence.

Next we had a joint conference with the police, sheriff and district attorney. We told them what we had learned.

Miss Thompson was brought in that evening and told all she had told us, adding how she and Payne had gone on a picnic together the Sunday before the death of Mrs. Payne and had planned how he was to divorce his wife and marry her.

Still the officials would not send for Payne, thinking the evidence insufficient.

"WOMAN CONFRONTS HIM" Confront Payne with the girl and he'll confess," I argued. "No mind can carry such weight of guilt."

We appealed to Mayor Ernest Thompson, and at his order Miss Thompson was brought in and her written statement taken.

Then Payne was brought in, peering at the girl, hardly believing his sight.

She watched him with a curious sort of sneer as his face became convulsed with emotion.

He would have confessed then, but mics were forming. The police spirited him away to another room.

That night he confessed.

By MARK BARRON NEW YORK—Perhaps it also happens in other communities, but frequent explosions in this city take place when poverty stricken ladies wear wealthy headdresses or famous show girls.

Jessie Reed, the "Follies" star had this experience more than once. The first man she married, a visitor from the middle west, had hardly more than two sous instead of the millions he was supposed to possess.

Miss Reid seemed to like it for her last marriage was to a moderately salaried newspaperman.

Millicent Rogers married her millions to Count Salm, who wasn't any too well off financially. That romance put Miss Rogers on the front pages and kept her there. She is now the wife of an Argentine.

Preston Sturges had to overcome considerable opposition when he married Eleanor Huton, who had nearly two million dollars in her own name. Sturges scored an absolute victory when his play, "Strictly Dishonorable," earned for him more than a half million in royalties.

The most amusing case of all is the Gene Tunney-Polly Lauder wedding. It is said that Tunney was unusually embarrassed before the wedding because his fortune was a mere three million dollars. Miss Lauder has a bank account of thirty million.

FOR THE assurance of this department's readers, especially the couple in Houston and Cincinnati, we hereby promise that at no time this

TO START SURVEY OF SCHOOL FUNDS

WASHINGTON, May 6. (UP)—A four year national study of the tax dollar spent on schools will be started July 1, according to Secretary of Interior Wilbur. The survey, which will be known as the National Survey of School Finance, was authorized by the last congress.

William J. Cooper, U. S. commissioner of education, will be director of the survey, but the active work will be in charge of Dr. Paul R. Mort, recently of the Columbia University Teachers' college, who has been appointed associate director.

The survey is expected to produce comparative information on the sources and uses of the \$2,450,000,000 spent annually for educational purposes for the use of congress, state legislatures and school boards and officials. Congress appropriated \$350,000 for use in the investigation, and \$100,000 a year more is expected for the next four years.

EXPECTED HERE Mrs. J. E. Williams of Long Beach is expected to arrive in Las Vegas today to visit with her mother, Mrs. A. H. Woodard, and her sister, Mildred Hardy.

STONE-AX HEAD FOUND PHOENIX, Ariz., May 6 (UP)—Amateur archaeologists are wondering these days about the origin of a stone ax-head found 18 feet below the surface of the ground by workmen excavating for a new business building here. The ax-head was seven inches long and perfectly grooved and shaped.



year will columns be written on the following subjects: Cleaning out our desk. Our dog. The wife and kiddies (we haven't any). There's a broken heart for every light on Broadway. The lost little ladies that fit about New York's side streets.

Nor about: The romance Estelle Taylor and Jack Dempsey. What a grand old saint is William Muldoon. The return of Maude Adams to the stage. The wise-cracks credited to Dorothy Parker and Marc Connelly. Sunday morning in the fish market.

Nor about: The passing show from a bus top. The view from our office window (the nearest one is twenty yards away and we never tour of the night clubs. A visit from our 5-year-old niece. Romance in the tenements.

Those subjects are verboten unless, of course, well you know how it is on days when fish are biting and the sun is shining.

LOCAL BRIEFS Blanche Sweet, an expert at handling salt boats.

The proposed law to ban dogs in New York apartments was tabled. The filling in of the Central Park reservoir is at a standstill. There will be no playground there this summer.

Michael Arlen said he wouldn't go to Hollywood, but he did. They all say that, and then do.

The bathing bench that will be the favorite on Long Island this summer is an Al Smith development. Coney Island will be open in another fortnight, thank goodness.