

LAS VEGAS AGE

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Water Supply

Las Vegas has been most fortunate in its water supply. One might expect that a town established in the midst of a great arid region such as this would find providing an adequate water supply one of its most expensive and difficult undertakings.

Not so with Las Vegas. The town was established in this particular place because here was the only ample water supply in the whole region. And the supply was not only ample, but of the highest quality for domestic use. Furthermore, there was comparatively little cost involved in developing water — it was mainly a question, in the early days, of diverting it from the springs which were the source of supply, into the water mains to carry it over the city.

Later, when the permanency of the city and certainty of future growth was well assured, an artesian well was drilled about 650 feet deep, which flowed 8.2 cubic feet of water per second—enough to provide more than 100 gallons of water per day per person for a city of 50,000 people.

And during the years to the present time, Las Vegas has enjoyed the practically unrestricted use of pure, sparkling water for all purposes including lawns and gardens, at rates about as low as any city in the west—lower than many.

Wasting Water

These extremely favorable water conditions have had two major effects. First, Las Vegas became a place of beauty with trees, flowers, gardens and great expanses of green lawns. Second, water use was so unrestricted and the supply so apparently inexhaustible, that the people developed the habit of wasting water to an extent that became almost criminal in some cases. Leaking toilets and hydrants were ignored, flowing a steady stream of water day and night. Water was permitted to flow from lawn sprinklers 24 hours a day. Gardens were kept flooded until the soil soured and trees and shrubs were killed. Streams flowing into the gutters softened the subsoil and allowed our pavements to break down.

Ample Supply

In spite of the long series of dry years, resulting in depletion of the underground water resources of the entire west, there still is ample water for all proper uses for a city several times the size of Las Vegas. The great well, which for years has been only partially required to fill our water mains, has been reduced in flow only a small percentage.

It is reasonable to believe that, if proper safeguards to our artesian water supply are put into effect, we still will have ample artesian water for domestic use for a great city.

The Chief Waste

In the artesian basin of Las Vegas Valley there are a large number of artesian wells, probably fifty, which have been flowing without any restriction whatever for fifteen or twenty years, some of them for longer than that. The waste of this precious artesian water through these wells is estimated to be several times as much water as is used by the city of Las Vegas. And this waste of water continues notwithstanding the fact that there is a law requiring owners of artesian wells to keep them under control.

On several occasions the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce has called the matter to the attention of the state officials, especially the state engineer, and on each occasion some excuse has been found for taking no steps to protect the artesian water resources of this valley.

In May, 1929, when the problem was before the Chamber, Mr. J. T. McWilliams, civil engineer of this city, sent the Chamber a check for \$50 to assist in paying the expenses of an investigation. For some reason that check was returned to Mr. McWilliams and the matter of capping the artesian wells dropped.

Cap the Wells

The constant flow of unused water from artesian wells not only depletes the artesian water resources of Las Vegas Valley, but causes damage to large acres of good land by rendering them unfit for cultivation. Most of those wells are entirely useless and a source only of damage.

Hickman on Trial for Life



Millard Hickman, accused by police of the slaying of Louise Jeppesen in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, is on trial for his life. The dapper marine engineer is pictured laying plans for defense with his attorneys, Harry and Edwin A. McKenzie.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

July 16, 1934

Paul E. De Rocher, 32, and Helen Adams, 22, both of Red Bluff, Calif.
Arthur L. Cummings, 35, of Alhambra, and Alice R. Coltren, 28, of Los Angeles.

Theodore Pfannebecker, 60, and Lola I. Slagner, 35, both of Los Angeles.

Maryt Schultz, 32, and Vivian Estes Graves, 27, both of Lang Beach.

Frederick Thorq Fredgerson, 35, of Los Angeles, and Lillian Edith Taylor, 38, of Santa Monica.

July 17, 1934

James R. Bess, 47, and Goldie Knight, 47, both of Bakersfield.

Edward B. Henson, 36, of Long Beach, and Edith V. Ghene, 39, of San Francisco.

Stanley A. Jenson, 27, and Katherine Ford Hunter, 26, both of Los Angeles.

(Continued on Page 13)

Others are only partially used.

Means should be found to control the flow from all wells and allow them to discharge only what water is put to beneficial use. If the present law is inadequate or the state engineer disinclined to act, the Clark county delegation in the next legislature should see that legislation is passed whereby this waste of the most valuable asset of Las Vegas Valley can be prevented.

Vote for . . .

FRED S. ALWARD

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for

Lieutenant Governor