

LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

The Age Building, 411 Fremont Street, Las Vegas, Nevada

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Entered in the Postoffice at Las Vegas as Second Class Matter
Subscription Rates — \$2.50 per year

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ELECTION ASSURED

The re-election of Viola Burns to the office of City Clerk, which she has so efficiently and faithfully filled for the past two terms, is practically assured by the strong public sentiment which favors her.

Mrs. Burns is not entitled to the position simply because she is a widowed mother with a family to support, although that may be an excellent reason why she should have favorable consideration.

However, the faithful, efficient and cheerful service she has given the public does deserve the practically unanimous support of the public which she seems to be enjoying.

During the time she has conducted the office of City Clerk there has been no complaint whatever of her administration. And it is noticeable that every person who ever applied to her for any information or service which the office could supply was treated with respect and cheerful acquiescence.

And those in the city administration whose duties have thrown them into close association with the City Clerk's office are strong in their praise of her efficiency.

PIOCHE MEANS BUSINESS

The deposit today of \$50,000 in cash with the Colorado River Commission to cover any possible default in payments for Boulder Dam power, is the final and positive proof (if any were needed) that the Lincoln County Power District and the mining companies which plan to take Boulder Dam power, are acting in good faith.

Some people in the northern part of Nevada have sought, it appears, to hamper the Power District in their efforts to develop their resources with Boulder Dam power, and have persistently placed unfair and artificial obstacles in their way. This came about more through failure to grasp the problems of Southern Nevada than from any other cause we believe.

Assuming as we must that the Colorado River Commission has been forced to navigate an unknown sea and to feel their way through the shoals that might be in the way, we still believe that the Commission was created, not alone to protect the state from possible loss, but to encourage and promote the use of Boulder Dam power and to lend every possible assistance, in keeping with sound financial policies, to those who hope to use the power.

Now that the many technical and legal questions involved are better understood, other applicants will not experience the difficulties which have so far hampered Lincoln County Power District No. 1 in its efforts to build a transmission line and secure Boulder Dam power.

Mrs. Charles Perkiss and two children, of Colton, Calif., are guests at the home of Mrs. Minnie Westlake. Mrs. Perkiss will be remembered as Katherine Westlake.

William Stinson, who is a student at U. S. C., is spending the Easter vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stinson.

Mrs. Leland Ronnow and daughter, Mary Lee, have left the hospital and are now at their home on Fifth street, much to the gratification of a very proud father.

Miss Elizabeth Scott, who was English instructor in the high school for several years but who is now a librarian in San Francisco, spent the week end in Las Vegas.

OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

Along in the summer of 1910 or 1912, I was on the train of the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad, going from Vegas to Reno. Jogging along all day at the terrific speed of 25 miles an hour, which was fast traveling in those days, and watching the seemingly interminable reaches of the Amargosa Desert, I was inspired to write. So picking up the pad which I carried, I gave myself over to the spell.

Just a day or so ago I came across the yellow sheets of handwritten manuscript and was interested myself in what I had written (but not printed) more than a quarter of a century ago. Of course I do not vouch for the scientific accuracy of the article, further than to say that if it is not true it should be. However, you may judge for yourself, for here is the first story, so far as I know, written exclusively about

THE CANTEEN FISH

One of the most peculiar and least known of nature's strange freaks is a species of fish having for its habitat the remote and almost inaccessible desert regions of southern Nevada and California, in the immediate vicinity of Death Valley. The scientific name of the strange fish, which is the subject of this article, is "Pisces Cantinus" or Canteen fish.

The Pisces Cantinus is a perfect sample of the manner in which nature modifies the life, habits, structure and mode of living of her creatures to meet the difficulties which the varying degrees of heat and cold, dryness and dampness, bring about in certain localities. For example, it is a well known fact that fur-bearing animals are given by nature a heavy coating to protect them from the chill of winter, and certain animals hibernate during the winter months.

In a similar manner has nature provided to preserve the life and perpetuate the species of the Canteen fish, which has its habitat in variable rivers such as Furnace Creek and Amargosa river. These streams, as is well known to travelers, at certain periods are rushing torrents. However, the surface flow of water soon subsides, leaving the bed of the stream dry and dusty, the only water being several feet below the surface.

Here nature steps in with her wondrous work. The Canteen fish, which in the water much resembles one of the carp family, is left by the subsiding flood apparently lifeless among the sands of the river bed. However, the sucker-like mouth soon becomes elongated into a tube which is projected downward through the sands of the river bed until the water is reached. By suction the water is raised into the body of the fish which becomes greatly distended, and by the time the skin of the fish is full of water, is shaped like an ordinary Canteen, hence the name.

When entirely full, the skin of the fish begins to harden by reason of the deposits of alkaline and calcareous matter upon the inside of the shell. The scales of the fish soon drop away owing to the friction of the drifting sands and what remains resembles nothing so much as a smooth, round flat boulder standing upon edge. The fins of the fish have entirely disappeared

through the process of evolution, but the tail has been split, one part remaining on each side near the center, where it is used as a flipper, furnishing the means of locomotion.

In the country I have mentioned the Canteen fish abounds, being found by hundreds of thousands during the winter months, and such old desert rats as Jim Butler, Geo. Wingfield, Cal Brounger and Governor Oddie have often saved themselves from death by seeking the dry bed of the Amargosa river and opening a canteen fish to quench their thirst. The contents is obtained by breaking off a slight projection on the rim on the side opposite the mouth of the creature and applying the lips.

Until recently no attempt has been made to exploit the pisces cantinus, but now large fortunes are being amassed through its use.

A peculiarity of the creature after it reaches its canteen form is that so long as it remains standing on its rim it has the power to propel itself by means of the flippers, like a wheel. But when tipped down on the side by the winds or through attempting to travel over uneven ground the creature is quite helpless.

Naturally, irrigation of arid lands is one of the first uses to which the canteen fish was put. In the Pah-rump Valley Messrs. Buol and Brounger have cleared and smoothed broad avenues reaching from their lands to the Amargosa river. Water spaniels, which have been trained to the purpose are taken to the river bed where the canteen fish are

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New Oil Head



WILLIAM REINHARDT, veteran southern California oil executive, who has just been appointed vice-president of the Union Pacific Railroad in charge of oil development. He will make his headquarters in Los Angeles.

Importance of the oil development on the Wilmington properties of the railroad resulted in the creation of the new vice-presidency post.