

# OBSERVATIONS

By CHARLES P. SQUIRES

## TRAVEL IMPROVES

Coming to Los Angeles the other day with Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Thomas (Elsie driving), I had time to cogitate on the improvement we have seen in highway travel.

It was something like twenty years ago when we had our first "automobile highway" from Las Vegas to Los Angeles. And we were amazed to find that we could drive to Los Angeles in two days if we could put in 12 or 14 hours each day and had not too many flat tires and no serious accidents to the car. Flat tires were a matter of course in those days and when a fellow drove twenty miles without a "flat" he would brag about it for a week. In truth, it seems to me that the improvement in tires has been the basis upon which our present swift and dependable cars and our splendid highways are built.

Well I remember when our old friend, Ralph Thomas, announced that he would attempt to drive to Los Angeles in one day. Of course we did not believe he could do it. But he stripped the car to lessen its weight as much as possible, provided plenty of tires and started off in a cloud of dust, leaving a cheering but skeptical crowd hoping for the best.

What an excitement there was in the little city of Las Vegas when a message came in the next morning that Ralph had made it, Las Vegas to Los Angeles, in fifteen and one-half hours of almost non-stop driving.

Another great event in development of automobile highways in Clark county was the "opening" of the road from Las Vegas to Goodsprings. Charlie McCarthy, then county surveyor, now Colonel McCarthy of the U. S. Army, had located the road and, with the few hundred dollars appropriated by the county commissioners and a little money subscribed by business men, had scraped the brush and some of the rocks out of it.

We made a great event of the opening and finally induced the owners of all cars in that region to join. What a spectacle it was when we had all the cars ready to start lined up in front of the railroad station! And when we started out, fifteen cars, mostly Fords, chugging themselves along at the terrific speed of ten to fifteen miles an hour, an unbelievably long parade, completely enveloped in dense clouds of dust.

Most of the cars made it to Goodsprings in four or five hours, although one I remember, our old friend John Wisner of the Overland hotel, had to give up the idea of getting through on his own power and was towed to safety by friends late that night.

Goodsprings put on the greatest celebration of its entire history under the leadership of George Fayle. There were gay banners across the street and plenty of eating and drinking and making merry, closing that night with a grand ball at Hotel Fayle, at which everybody danced, even our ancient friends, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Feaster, long since gone to their reward. God rest their kindly souls!

What a group of great and fine characters there were in Goodsprings when the camp was in its period of great prosperity! And what overwhelming disaster struck during

that terrible flu epidemic in 1913, when the three leaders and key men of the camp died within a few days of each other.

Harry Rawdall went first, I think. George Fayle and Fred Hale arranged for transportation of the body and accompanied it to Los Angeles. Then after returning, wearied and worn and filled with grief at the loss of their friend, George and Fred were stricken and passed away within a few days of each other.

That marked the close of the brilliant era of Goodsprings, and the camp remained dormant until the recent development of the Chiquita mine. Now a new group of staunch characters have assumed leadership in the work of re-establishing Goodsprings as the center of one of the most prosperous mining regions in the west.

To get back to the story—it is easy now to drive from Las Vegas to Goodsprings in forty-five minutes—much easier than it was to make it in four hours twenty years ago. And Elsie drove us into Los Angeles easily last Sunday in less than six hours, part of which was spent under the cottonwoods near Victorville, where we engaged in spirited competition with the red ants for the splendid picnic-luncheon Roscoe and Elsie had prepared.

## LOS ANGELES CHANGES

Thirty or thirty-five years ago the Herman W. Hellman building, Fourth and Spring streets, was the finest building in town. In its basement was established The Bristol, which then was the very acme of swell cafes where gay Los Angeles used to dine at night.

Yesterday I passed that corner and observed a ramp built from Spring street down what once was the entrance to the Bristol. The basement is now used as parking space for automobiles.

The Bristol was opened by a man, Schneider was his name, I think, who had made a considerable success of The Palace, in the basement of the Wilson block, First and Spring. Schneider was a distinguished looking chap with a sharp goatee and a peculiar impish countenance. He had a hobby in the decorations of The Palace. The walls were covered with really very artistic and beautiful paintings of groups of dancing girls in sylvan retreats rather scantily garbed for those days, and here and there and everywhere out of the shrubbery and foliage was the impish face of Schneider peering out slyly at the girls. Quite naughty for those days! I suppose there are not many people left in Los Angeles who recall Schneider and the Palace and the Bristol and the brilliance of Las Angeles night life a third of a century ago.

I am told that the Alexandria hotel, twenty years ago the center of Los Angeles business and social activities, but which has been closed for several years, is to be remodeled, refurnished and opened for business again. In the basement of the Alexandria for a few years following its opening, was the city's most brilliant night club. There, I think, was first introduced the Hawaiian orchestra and music, the flair for which quickly spread over the whole country.

Why doesn't Walter Winchell give us a confidential report on what President Roosevelt thinks of Senator Wheeler since this court fight started?

# Summer Session At Nevada "U"

Stressing courses not offered during the regular school year, a summer session will be held at the University of Nevada this year for the first time since 1931.

While arranged chiefly for teachers in service in Nevada or wishing to prepare themselves to teach in the state, the session also offers courses of general interest to persons able to do work of college grade.

Opening June 21, the session will run through July 30, and, as in the past, will be held on the campus of the state university in Reno.

In addition to some members of the regular staff of the university, a corps of teachers from outside the state and from the schools of Nevada will be in charge of the classes, Dr. F. W. Traner, professor of education, who is director of the summer session, announced this week.

Marie Burgess, primary teacher in the Rockridge school of Oakland, will have charge of the demonstration primary school, which will be one of the features of the session. This primary school serves as a laboratory in which teachers daily observe progressive theory put into practice with children of the first three grades.

Roswell H. Johnson, director of personal service of the Institute of Family Relations in Los Angeles, will

conduct courses in sociology.

Four members of the summer session faculty will come from the staffs of Nevada schools, and include Roger Corbett, Jr., principal of the elementary school in Winnemucca Hazel Mai Durham, teacher of art and music in the Ely schools; Mildred Klaus, commercial teacher in the Reno high school, and George McCracken, principal of the Churchill county high school at Fallon.

University of Nevada regular faculty members who will be on hand for the summer session are Miss Eva Adams and Professors A. L. Higginbotham, W. C. Miller, Theodore H. Post, Edith Ruebsam, Mae Simas, C. C. Smith and F. W. Traner.

Most of the courses offered are designed for teachers and prospective teachers, and include specialized education techniques which are not offered in regular university sessions. Art, music, journalism, dramatics, public speaking, hygiene, remedial procedures in fundamental elementary subjects, leisure time activities, school library work, and similar subjects are to be emphasized.

A group of courses for those not interested in education, however, has been prepared for the general student, Dr. Traner stated.

All of the courses given will carry regular university credit and are accepted toward degrees and diplomas.

They used to say that a rolling stone gathered no moss. Doesn't this include the fellow who lives in an automobile trailer?

## UNUSUAL FACTS REVEALED

—by "Movie Spotlight"

**PAUL KELLY**

PLAYED SHAKESPEAREAN ROLES ON THE STAGE WHEN HE WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD.

**ROSALIND KEITH,**

WHO IS AN EXCELLENT COOK, PREPARED ALL KINDS OF DELICACIES FOR HER CO-PLAYERS

IN "PAROLE RACKET"

**THURSTON HALL,** COLUMBIA PLAYER, EARNED ONE DOLLAR A WEEK AS A CHOIR BOY. HE WAS FINED TEN CENTS THE FIRST WEEK FOR EATING CANDY DURING THE SERMON.

Columbia Feature Service