

Vegas Broadcast By Don Thomas

Don Thomas, distinguished civic leader and managing director of the All-Year Club, Southern California's official non-profit organization for maintaining this area's vast income derived from expenditures of out-of-state tourists, is a good friend of Las Vegas, as has been proven on many occasions. His latest boost for Vegas was the following broadcast over the Columbia Broadcasting company last Tuesday, May 11, between 12:45 and 1:00 p. m.

"It's a crime for a man to shave in Las Vegas.

"Razors have been laid away, and the tube of shaving cream has at last joined its mate, the cap. Now, neither tube nor cap are to be found.

"For every male resident of the Nevada town has been ordered to raise a beard, side-burns, or some other tonsorial shubbery. And those who think they can evade the law in this rip-roaring old frontier town, are getting a ride to the Sheriff's Court—and pay as high as \$100 for the offense.

"All day long the 'desert edition' of the 'Black Maria' clangs noisily through the town, right to the very doors of men suspected of having recent relations with a razor. Into the culprit's home march the deputies. The pleas of his wife are to no avail. The deputies drag him out,

shove him onto the big truck which serves as patrol wagon, and tear through the town, ringing a big bell as they go.

"In the center of the town, aboard another truck, and surrounded by his court, sits the Las Vegas sheriff — dispensing Helldorado justice, and assessing every smooth-shaven Las Vegas man a husky fine, which is then turned over to the Rodeo fund, amid great joshing and good-humored heckling by the crowds that gather to hear the fun through a loud speaker.

"Meanwhile the women of the town are busy trying on the bustling costumes of their grandmother's day. For they, too, are going to turn back the years, and join their men folk in a rousing four-day celebration of the old mining era which gave birth to Las Vegas.

"Las Vegas, a roaring frontier town even to this day, is staging a big rodeo and helldorado from May 13 to 16, inclusive, and there'll be everything from the old square dances and rodeo, to a 20th century bathing beauty parade in the middle of the desert.

"The rodeos will be staged in the afternoons, and if you thrill to the virile sports of half a century ago, you won't want to miss this show, with the world's finest bull doggers, ropers and bronc riders performing their tricks to the lusty cheers of an audience as picturesque as the bronc busters themselves.

"A friend of mine returned from Las Vegas this past week end and he said you can't imagine the cross-section of humanity that can be

seen there. He described the motley assortment of cattlemen, railroad men, desert rats and prospectors that he saw, and I was inclined to agree that they were characters that the movies wouldn't dare use for the simple reason that people would say they were over-drawn, and didn't exist.

"In contrast to the tanned, weather beaten faces of most people, he described the white-faced gaming dealers and croupiers, who never see the sun except for a few minutes as they go home to bed each morning at five o'clock. He described the eerie glare of the gaming halls, their great white lights reflecting the green cast of the felt-covered gaming tables, on the impassive faces of the patrons.

"One strange couple he described was a pair dressed in deerskin suits — elaborately trimmed with fringe. The man stood at least six foot four, and had long red hair, which curled up in the back. His face was covered with a beard as fiery red and curly as the hair on his head. The woman with him was almost as tall as he — well over six feet, and her hair was yellow, cut in a dutch bob. They might have stepped out of the novel, 'The Plainsman,' but they probably had been prospecting and made the suits themselves as the early plainsmen did.

"Although a strictly modern city, yet Las Vegas retains all of the hilarious atmosphere of the old west, and though the shooting is always directed toward the sky where the worst it can do is scare a tender-foot off his chair, there's a good deal of fireworks 'long about mid-night, when the whoopee is in full swing.

"Serving as a center for the vast mountain and desert country roundabouts, and for the railroads, cattle and mining industry going on there, Las Vegas in the last few years has achieved additional tourist interest because it is the gateway to Boulder Dam.

"Boulder Dam continues to grow more interesting and more wonderful to see with each passing month.

"Do you know you can take an elevator and go right down through the dam itself.

"Imagine entering an elevator, and going down, down, down — for the equivalent of 53 stories — right through the very center of the world's largest dam.

"Midway between the states of Arizona and Nevada, midway between a wall of cement which holds imprisoned the world's largest artificial lake, down, down you go — and after a breath-taking descent of 85 seconds, you stop — to walk through a long tile tunnel, until you approach a balcony overlooking the power house on the Nevada side.

"Here you look down upon a strange spectacle. Looking like giant mushrooms, springing from the dazzling floor, are four huge generators, churning the power which provides Los Angeles and many other southland cities with electric current.

"Everything about Boulder Dam must be described in the superlative. It is the world's largest and most daring feat of engineering. It impounds the world's largest artificial lake. Its power is carried to Los Angeles through the world's largest transmission lines — (with the smallest power loss of any major transmission line). Also used in the dam, and to be seen as you walk

across the balcony to the Arizona side, is the world's largest steel pipe — so large that a freight train could run through it and be well accommodated.

"A trip into Boulder Dam is something you won't forget no matter what other dazzling and stupendous sights you are yet destined to see. Like Alice in Wonderland, you roam through the palatial structure, opening beautiful doors elegantly finished with solid aluminum railings, thrilling to the symmetrical beauty of the generators in operation, pinching yourself from time to time, trying to take it all in and realize that this gigantic structure was built by little dwarfs called men.

"It all seems fantastic . . . unbelievable. Yet there it is, before your eyes.

"Meanwhile, day by day, the great lake formed by the imprisoned waters of the Colorado river, grows in size. Already 95 miles long, Mead Lake in time will extend for 115 miles behind the dam, through the Colorado Canyon, on and on until it reaches even 38 miles into the great gorges of the Grand Canyon.

"Many boats are already operating in the Colorado waters; excursion boats carry passengers down to the dam for a nominal fee, and many picnic parties are lured to the sheltered coves in the shadow of overhanging cliffs miles up the lake.

"If you like you can even travel from Boulder Dam to Grand Canyon on one of these launches or motor boats.

"This is one of the most scenic trips in the entire world. Tremendous peaks of many colors rising to the sky from the water's edge. Mile after mile of beauty, until recently rarely seen by white man, passing in solemn majesty before your eyes. Occasionally a mountain sheep ventures out upon a crag, or an eagle leaves his lonely nest to wonder at the strange sight of boats, and all the other mystifying changes in the chasms of his one-time empire.

"Southern California motorists who wish to avail themselves of their nearness to this marvel of the ages will find a splendid paved road and many new hotels and automobile court facilities offering modern conveniences and accommodations enroute and at Las Vegas — which in such aspects is a thoroughly modern city.

"No better time could be found to visit Las Vegas than this week-end, when from May 13 to 16 the colorful residents of this interesting community will turn the hands of time backward, bringing a panorama of life as it actually was in the roaring nineties, before your highly civilized 1937 eyes. While a few miles away, in a setting of natural grandeur, stands the marvel of the 20th century, a miracle of stone and steel, of brain and brawn. The vision of Boulder Dam becomes reality. A towering fortress, holding the once unruly waters of the Colorado river in submissive obedience, forever more."

UNUSUAL FACTS REVEALED

-by "Movie Spotlight"

ALLEN BROOK WON A NAME FOR HIMSELF ON EASTERN WATER COURSES AS ONE OF THE LEADING MOTOR-BOAT RACERS, AND REQUIRED NO DOUBLE FOR RACING SCENES IN "MOTOR MADNESS"

ROSALIND KEITH BEGAN ACTING AT THE AGE OF FIVE!

COLUMBIA DICTIONARY TORMENTORS... ARE MOVABLE PANELS WITH MATERIALS FOR CONTROLLING THE ACOUSTICS ON THE SET!

TIRES and TUBES

New, Used, Rebuilt
Wheels and Rims to Fit
Most All Cars

ED. BAGGETT'S PLACE
Three Miles Out of Las Vegas
on Salt Lake Highway