

WILD LIFE AIDED BY PROJECTS, SAYS PAGE

Lake Mead Area Lauded in Talk

John C. Page, Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, last Tuesday, February 15, delivered an address to the Third North American Wild Life Conference at Baltimore, Maryland.

His subject was "Reclamation Aids Wild Life" and the address was full of interest to all sportsmen. A portion of the address touching on Lake Mead and the Colorado River below Boulder Dam, follows:

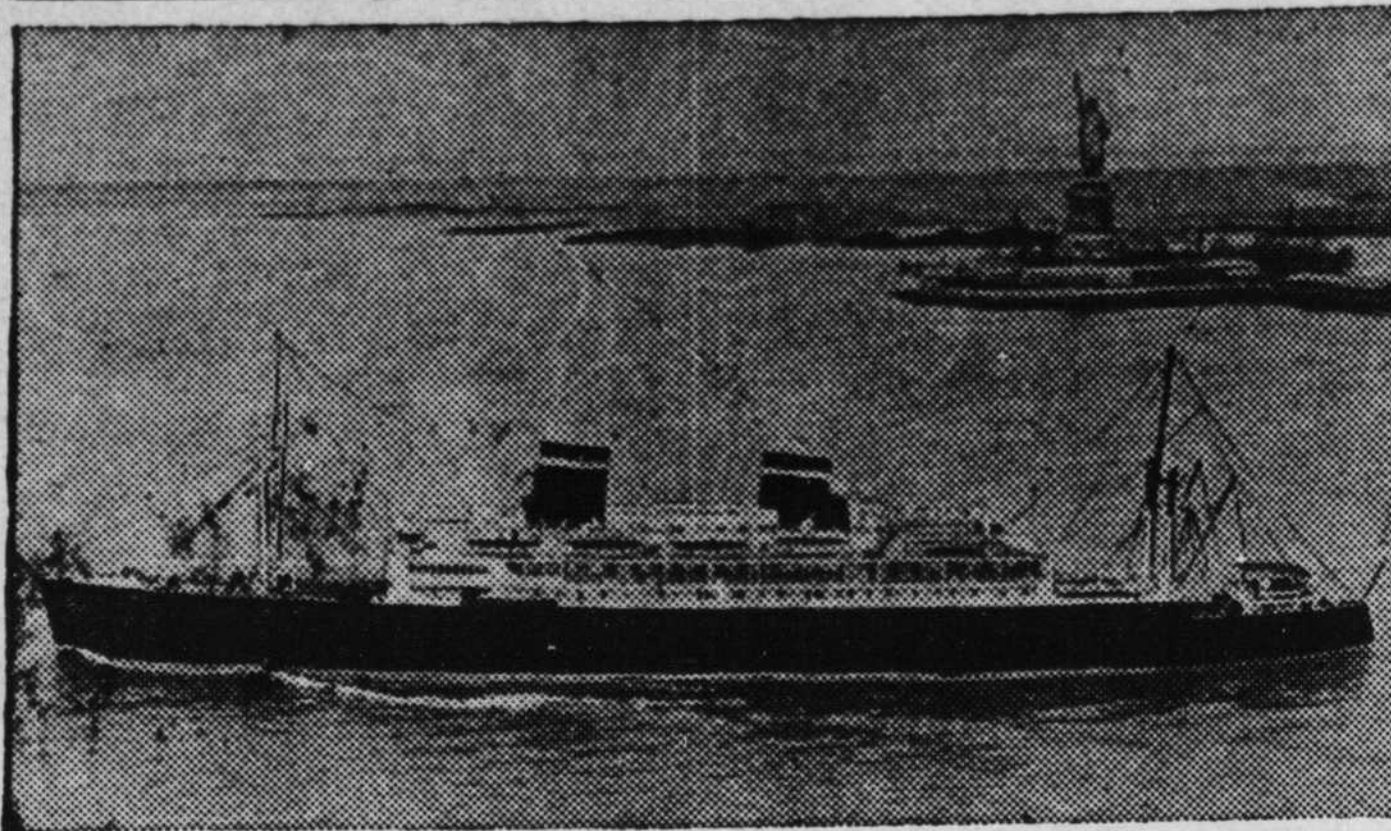
"The Bureau of Reclamation has done much for wild life, and, in comparison, it has done very, very little to hurt wild life. It has watered 3,000,000 acres of desert lands, which formerly supported only one or two stray jack rabbits to the square mile, making them ideal habitat for quail, partridge, pheasant, ducks and geese. The irrigation places in most of the wide, arid projects in the west are the only valleys where some of those birds can be found, but they are plentiful on irrigated farms, along the ditches and in other areas where feed and cover have been provided as a result of project construction.

"Twenty-eight of our reserves have been set aside by executive order as wild water fowl and wild life refuges which we and the Biological Survey operate cooperatively. These range in size from the 1,120 acre refuge at the Conconully reservoir in Washington to the great 649,000 acre refuge which includes Lake Mead created by Boulder Dam in the Colorado river. These refuges are of tremendous value to wild water fowl in the west, not only because they are strung out along the migration way, but also because in that dry region there are indeed few natural bodies of water.

"Of the 138 dams we have built, many have been valuable aids to fish life, and very few have damaged fishing streams. Our dams are storage and regulatory dams. While some have power plants, none has resulted in industrialization of mountain areas and in the poisoning of streams. All of our reservoirs in accessible localities have been stocked with fish and many of them are among the most popular recreational areas for many miles around.

"A considerable number of the western rivers are naturally roily, silt-laden streams in which no fish live. The Colorado is an example. One of the purposes of the Boulder Dam was to desilt the lower Colorado. For 40 miles below Boulder Dam the stream runs cold and clear at this time, its character altered entirely. As scouring is effected the river will be cleared farther down stream. Already this section of the river and the great beautiful Lake Mead above the dam have been stocked with fish. Many sportsmen are of the opinion the river below Boulder Dam is destined to become one of the finest fishing streams in the West."

Southward Bound for the Caribbean



The Grace Line's "Santa Elena" passes the Statue of Liberty in the lower bay on her way to the Caribbean and the coastal countries of northern South America. American designed and built under the Maritime Act of 1928, the "Santa Elena" and her sister ships, the "Santa Paula," the "Santa Rosa," and the "Santa Lucia," represent the finest of modern combination passenger and cargo ships.

Dr. Clark Given High Honor by French Gov't

Outstanding honors were conferred this week at San Francisco on Dr. Walter E. Clark, president of the University of Nevada, by the French government.

According to word received here Thursday by the board of regents from the coast, Dr. Clark was decorated with the Order of Knight of the Legion of Honor of the Republic of France at formal ceremonies conducted by M. Roger Gaucheron, and witnessed by his personal entourage and the entire consular staff.

The honor was conferred in accordance with a decree of the Council of the Legion of Honor, of which

the president of the French republic is grand master, on July 14, 1937. Dr. Clark was recommended for this distinction by the former French consul-general, M. Yves Meric de Bellefon, who has since been promoted to the position of attache at the French embassy in London. The recommendation, before being forwarded to Paris, was approved by the French embassy in Washington, D. C.

The rank of Knight of the Legion of Honor, as conferred in peace times, requires a minimum of 20 years of distinguished public service as a prerequisite to eligibility for membership. For many years M. de Bellefon had observed the progress of the University of Nevada as a cultural institution under the administration of President Clark. This together with Dr. Clark's previous record in the cultural field, formed the basis for granting the honor.

Dr. Clark completed 20 years as president of the Nevada university last fall and is now in his twenty-first year as head of the institution.

Jr. Chamber to Make Boat Trip

Some 40 members of the Las Vegas Junior Chamber of Commerce and their guests will travel into the lower end of Grand Canyon Sunday on an all-day excursion over the placid waters of Lake Mead.

The Junior Chamber has chartered the boat for the trip which will include a stop at the Pierce's ferry camp for lunch, a cruise into the lower Grand Canyon and return to the boat landing near the Dam. The trip is nearly 200 miles in length and will consume the biggest part of the day. Reservations are being made with "Bud" Allbright for the trip which will start at seven o'clock Sunday morning.

Following another car on the open highway more closely than is reasonable and prudent is forbidden by law, it is pointed out by the Automobile club of Southern California. Trucks, or trucks and trailers must stay at least 300 feet behind other similar vehicles on open highways.

Lincoln Wrote Autobiography

The manuscript of a brief autobiography of Abraham Lincoln, dug out of a bank vault where it lay for more than 70 years, was published Saturday for the first time, throwing additional light on Lincoln's early years.

The document, penned by Lincoln in 1859 for his friend, James W. Fell is a terse account of his life until he entered national politics in 1854, after the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.

Government to Buy Waste Lands

WASHINGTON—The government which gave away millions of acres to homesteaders in the Great Plains, has begun buying back the land in an effort to save the "dust bowl" from becoming a virtual desert.

More than five million acres already have been purchased and an expanded program under Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act calls for the buying of another five million during the next two years.

"Black blizzards"—dust storms on the southwestern great plains caused the Department of Agriculture to rush its program for anchoring the soil and checking wind erosion over a wide area.

Department soil experts have been organized into a general staff to direct the most ambitious land use program ever undertaken by the government. Dr. L. C. Gral, assistant chief of the bureau of agricultural economics, heads the land use coordination committee.

Congress last year authorized appropriation of fifty million dollars over a three year period ending in 1940 for purchase of sub marginal land and to "develop a program of land conservation and land utilization" in the Great Plains.

Field agents have been sent into the "dust bowl" to buy options on two million acres before June 30. This would obligate the ten million dollars made available by Congress for carrying out the program in the 1938 fiscal year.

Land already ruined for farming purposes will be purchased in nine states. The government uses this land as demonstration areas to show private land owners how to control wind erosion. Private owners of more than 100,000,000 acres are expected to cooperate.

McKay, Graham Get Nine Years

William J. Graham and James C. McKay, wealthy Nevada gambling czars, yesterday were sentenced to serve nine years in prison for mail fraud and conspiracy in a \$2,500,000 bunco ring which operated on a nation-wide scale.

Each was fined \$11,000. Justice Van Devanter presiding in Federal District Court, gave the two men twenty-five days to go to Reno and settle their family affairs. Bail was increased to \$25,000 each. They had been free in \$100,000 bail prior to the trial.

Boies Heed of Phoenix and Allen Comer of Sioux City, Iowa, found guilty with McKay and Graham last Saturday, were sentenced to serve five years. Heed was fined \$800 and Comer \$900. A fifth man was found innocent.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE AGE