

# LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**ELECTRIC SERVICE WITH SAFETY** is the subject of a publicity campaign being sponsored by Southern Nevada Power Company and all the electrical supply dealers in Las Vegas.

The campaign is timely and constructive and if the public will heed, even partially, the instructions embodied in the full page advertisement on another page of this issue, thousands of dollars loss by fire and the lives of some of our people will be saved.

Due to the splendid work of our volunteer fire department and the good fortune which fate has showered upon Las Vegas during the past 35 years, we have not suffered any major conflagration. Practically all our fires have been staged at times when there was no wind or when what wind there was carried the flames away from adjoining structures, enabling the fire department to end the threat to the city quickly.

Some day, inevitably unless we take every possible precaution, conditions will not be so favorable and a roaring mass of flames may be driven through the city to destroy lives and property.

Defective wiring, wiring which has deteriorated through long years of use, and especially cheaply made cords and appliances, are constant dangers, while proper installations are absolutely safe. The small cost, generally but a few cents, to replace frayed or broken light cords or sockets, is a small price to pay for safety.

We should remember that the wiring of most of the buildings in Las Vegas was installed when the use of electric current was only for lights. Since Las Vegas came to enjoy the cheapest rate of any comparable city in the country for electricity from Boulder Dam, the use of current has increased four or five times. And now most of our homes are using heaters, coolers, flatirons, cooking utensils, fans and other electrical appliances, all drawing their current through wiring that was intended only for supplying a few lights.

The campaign is an example of fine community service and our people should enter into it heartily to promote our common safety.

**STOPPING WESTBOUND EVENING** trains for an hour and a half in Las Vegas as proposed by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, is not so unreasonable as it may sound to some people.

Just how the idea appeals to railroad officials we have no means of knowing at the present time. However, to the novice it appears that the present running time of the Los Angeles Limited from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, a distance shown on the time-card as 335 miles, is 11 hours and 10 minutes. The supposedly slower train, The Challenger, makes it 10 hours and 55 minutes, 15 minutes better than the Limited.

The speed of the trains is approximately 30 1/2 miles per hour on the average, on this portion of the through trip.

However, between Chicago and Las Vegas the Los Angeles Limited covers 1,964 miles in 46 hours, being at the rate, including stops, of a little better than 42.5 miles per hour. If the run from Las Vegas to Los Angeles were made at the same rate, the time would be a few minutes less than eight hours, which would be a saving in time of more than three hours over the present plan of jogging along at slow speed all night to keep from reaching the Los Angeles terminal too early in the morning.

The problem the Junior Chamber of Commerce is trying to work out is, "Why not add to the pleasure of passengers on the westbound Challenger and Los Angeles Limited by giving them a chance to stroll about Las Vegas for two or three hours in the evening instead of spending all that time trying to sleep on a loafing train?"

That plan would not only help advertise Las Vegas as a playground, but it would also add another attraction the Union Pacific could offer passengers on their way to the coast. It would also be quite possible for passengers to take a two-hour trip by Union Pacific stages to Boulder City and the dam. The majesty and beauty of Boulder Dam as it is brilliantly illuminated at night is something which would attract thousands of passengers every year if the opportunity were offered without loss of time on their journey.

**A GOOD YEAR FOR LAS VEGAS** is the prediction of travel experts who have been diligently looking over the prospects for the coming year.

The invention by some smart guy, silly as it is, of the rumor that Boulder Dam is in danger of being blown up by some "subversive element" will not scare travelers away, but, rather, will stimulate their curiosity to see the great structure.

**TRAIN LOADS OF DYNAMITE** would be necessary to destroy Boulder Dam or even damage the structure seriously. Of course if some fellow should smuggle a hundred pounds or so of high explosive into the power houses in his pocket he could perhaps damage one of the great generators or some of the control room apparatus or some of the hundreds of gadgets necessary to the transmission of power, but the rest of the gigantic machinery would go smoothly along making electricity.

Even disabling one or more of the generating units would be only a temporary trouble, since the Bureau of Reclamation has duplicate parts for replacement of practically everything in and about the power plant, and nothing short of bombardment of the plants with heavy artillery would stop operation for long.

The dam itself is practically indestructible, being a mass of solid concrete extending 650 feet along the river bed, and set far into the solid rock walls on each side. It took hundreds of tons of dynamite and miles and miles of drilling to prepare the rock on each side to receive the concrete mass. In view of the fact that the concrete is harder than the rock of the surrounding canyon walls, the easiest way to destroy the dam would be to blast out the mountain against which it is wedged.

**WINTER IS GENTLE** with us so far this season. It really required the blustery gale of the other evening to shake the old leaves off the cottonwoods so the new ones can come out.

Have you noticed that the buds are swelling? February will see our little world about Las Vegas again clothed in the tender green of new foliage. Even now some of the trees are taking on a greenish hue.

## PICK-UPS

By JOHN H. LIGHTFOOT

It is said that curiosity killed a cat. I did not get killed but I got an awful jolt—one that stayed with me for some days.

One McDowell murdered a girl by twisting a barbed wire about her throat and strangling her. The crime happened in San Bernardino county. McDowell was duly tried, found guilty and sentenced to die by execution. Before the time set for the execution he escaped from the county jail and was later captured at San Pedro, while he was awaiting a chance to go to China. He was heavily armed but put up no fight saying the arresting officer was his friend—just a friend taking him back to San Bernardino to be hanged.

In those days the scaffold was erected in the court house yard in the county where the crime was committed and was enclosed by a high fence. On the day of the execution I was in the vicinity of the court house at the time McDowell was brought to the scaffold. I did not want to see the drop but I did want to see the preliminaries. I found a peep hole and proceeded to peep.

I saw the black cap placed over his head and the hands pinioned to his side. Curiosity still held my attention—when the sheriff sprung the trap and down shot McDowell. I was bewildered and for weeks that scene was before my eyes. I had witnessed my first official hanging.

Along in the early '80's a fellow by the name of Peterson, riding home with a young fellow who lived at Banning. When they got out quite a ways from San Bernardino, an argument took place and Peterson knocked the boy from the conveyance and crushed his skull with a rock—left the boy by the roadside and continued on the journey to the boy's home.

In answer to the mother as to

where the boy was, Peterson said he remained in San Bernardino. He partook of the mother's hospitality and when morning came he hitched up the team and started back to San Bernardino. When he arrived at the spot where he left the boy he found him still alive. He used the same rock and killed the boy before he left.

He was seen to leave San Bernardino with the boy and when confronted with the evidence he confessed. He was duly sentenced to be hung on a certain date. The scaffold was erected in a vacant lot from the court house. My mother was passing and knowing Deputy Sheriff A. T. McKinney, asked if she could look at the scaffold. He assisted her across a ditch and up the 13 steps. When she looked down she saw what she thought was a dummy to stretch the rope. She remarked to the sheriff, "Oh, Frank, what is that—a dummy?" "No, Mrs. Lightfoot, that is the real thing," Peterson had been hung, but not cut down. She got down those steps and across that ditch without any assistance.

Curiosity cost my mother many sleepless nights—she also saw the result of her first official hanging.

I saw "Geronimo" on the screen the other day and my mind went back to the time he was in all his glory—murdering and killing to his heart's content. But General Nelson Miles stopped him. He was taken all over the United States just to see how many white people there were. When he returned he told his people that the white man could never be beaten, as they were as thick as the leaves on the trees. He was sent to the Everglades of Florida to think over "what might have been."

### MRS. BREEZE ILL

Mrs. C. D. Breeze, 500 South Seventh street, was taken to the Las Vegas Hospital Thursday with a severe case of flu.

### ENTERTAINS "PAN" CLUB

Mrs. C. W. Woodbury was a charming hostess Wednesday when she entertained her "pan" club at 1 o'clock at her home, 430 South Seventh street. The members present were: Mesdames Ryland Taylor, R. R. Myers, A. W. Ham, Arthur Brick, W. E. Ferron, F. R. Mildren, R. R. Russell, Roscoe Thomas and the hostess, Mrs. Woodbury.

### MRS. GRANT ENTERTAINS CLUB

Mrs. A. C. Grant entertained her contract club Wednesday at a desert luncheon. The guests included: Mesdames H. M. Morse, W. S. Park, C. L. Dimock, Lloyd Payne, C. F. DeArmond, C. S. Wengert, W. N. Schuyler and the hostess, Mrs. Grant.

### HOSTESS TO "PAN" CLUB

Mrs. James Cashman entertained her "pan" club Thursday at luncheon at her home, 215 North Fourth street. The following guests enjoyed the afternoon: Mesdames Jack Haaké, Lou Woltishek, J. T. Watters, Clint Boggs, J. M. Murphy, R. J. Stevens and mother, Mrs. Joe Bailey of Wells, Nevada, and the hostess, Mrs. Cashman.

### JOINT SORORITY MEETING

The members of Lambda Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, of Boulder City were guests of Kappa Chapter of Las Vegas at the meeting Monday evening. Plans were discussed for the district meeting of the Nevada chapters to be held in Las Vegas the 8th and 9th of March at which the two chapters will be joint hostesses.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by Mesdames Pat Clark, R. O. Pearson and Miss Maydel Pistole and a social hour enjoyed.

### THOMAS'S VISIT RACES

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Thomas motored to Santa Anita Friday morning to visit the races for a few days.

### ANNOUNCES BIRTH OF SON

Mr. and Mrs. Arden J. Sampson announce the birth of a son, born Tuesday, January 16, 1940, at the Las Vegas Hospital. The young man has been named Allen Arden Sampson. Mother and son are getting along nicely.

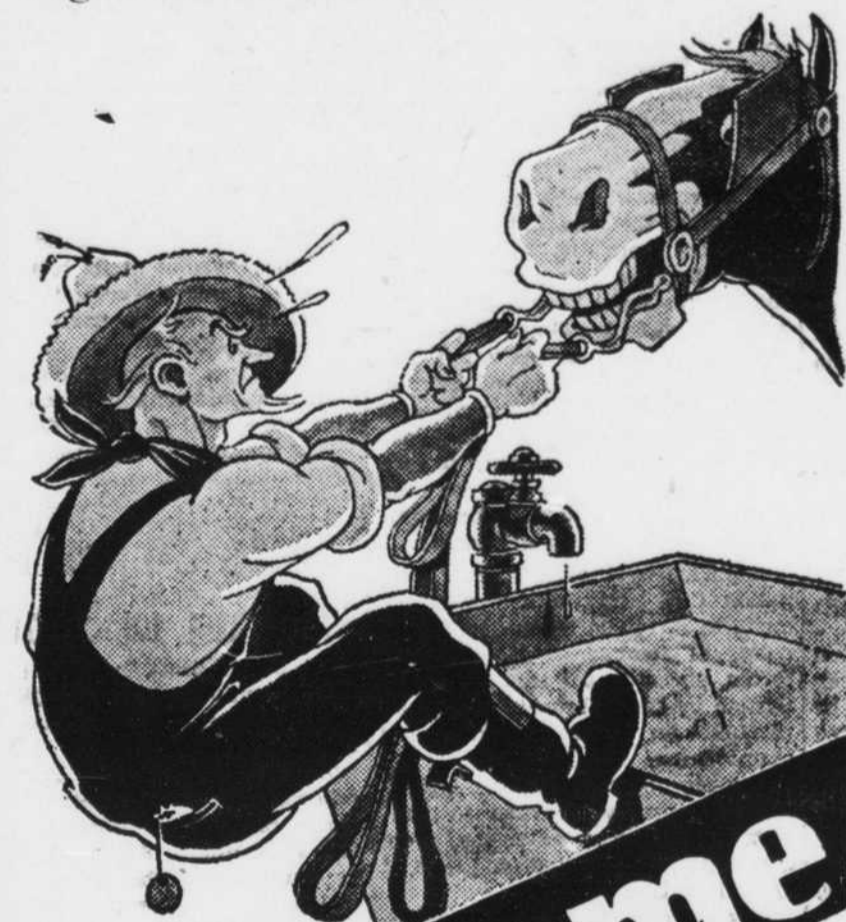
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