

# LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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**A HUNDRED CHILDREN DEAD**, hundreds more in hospitals and homes, moaning with pain, disfigured and, many of them, helpless wrecks for the remainder of their lives—these are horrors Las Vegas hopes to avoid.

By the grace of God, rather than by the wisdom of man, we have so far escaped a holocaust with its anguish and "advertising." That is not the kind of advertising our Chamber of Commerce seeks. Yet, unless fire hazards in some of our school buildings are removed, a major disaster is inevitable. It may not be today or tomorrow, but it will come, all too soon.

Many of us have known for years of the hazards of some of our older buildings and an occasional warning has been sounded by individuals. Now, through the report of Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department in which a committee of the Chamber of Commerce cooperated, we have the definite details with recommendations of means to remedy the defects.

The men of the fire department, during all its years of fine service, have never performed a more valuable work than in making its survey and report on fire hazards in our school buildings. It will cost considerable money to carry out the recommendations, to be sure, but in these days when throwing away money on silly and useless projects is glorified, it surely is possible to finance the major demands without delay, the lesser ones as it becomes more convenient, of this essential service.

The board of education has had difficulty in finding the money to carry on some of the many side lines of school activities, it is true. The growth of population has been considerable and the demands for money urgent. It would, possibly, be wise to curtail some of the school activities for a year and devote those funds to safety measures, if no other means can be found.

**THE GENERAL HOSPITAL**, establishment of which in connection with the now existing county hospital, is a matter of such importance to every citizen that the whole question should be brought out from behind closed doors and submitted to the most careful scrutiny.

If the personal views of the Editor of The Age were consulted alone, the immediate response would be that existing private hospitals, the Las Vegas Hospital and the Children Clinic are offering our citizens a very high type of medical and surgical service, above the average in hospitalization service. The finest of equipment and care are provided for the patients of these two institutions. The owners pay large sums in taxes, have large investments and provide employment for a considerable number of people. Certainly such institutions should be amply protected and encouraged. It was not long ago that Las Vegas was suffering for lack of adequate hospital accommodations and the advent of the new institutions was hailed as important steps forward for Las Vegas. During all the years when the county was unable to do more than provide for an incomplete hospital service for indigents, the private institutions afforded the people of the city and county the best of health service. However, after conversations with many of our people we find that there are two sides to this question.

It is claimed with truth that the majority of the citizens of Clark county are unable to afford the expense of private hospitalization. Neither do they wish to be classed as indigents. Unexpected illness in many of our families often means that they must either mortgage their future for years in advance, or take the dreaded, un-American step of swearing that they are paupers.

A further argument is made, that persons desiring the services of their own family physician who may not be connected with existing private hospitals must either change physicians or be deprived of hospital services. Should we persist in a policy which must inevitably result in death or unnecessary suffering?

In a number of the counties of the state General Hospitals are maintained efficiently, offering hospitalization at low cost. Such hospitals are open to all physicians and surgeons in the county. In some of the counties the appointment as county physician rotates among the doctors of the county with changes every six months or at longer intervals. The success of any hospital from a health standpoint or financially of course depends upon the manner in which they are operated.

Las Vegas has an unusually competent supply of physicians and surgeons both in private hospitals and outside of them. Perhaps the proposal made by a group of them may provide a happy solution for the problem. In the noble profession of medicine emulation rather than competition will assure that each physician shall take pride in the conduct of the General Hospital and give to it his best knowledge and most conscientious efforts. Under such an arrangement, with all physicians welcome to take their patients there, the General Hospital could provide a high type of hospitalization at moderate prices and at the same time reduce the cost to the county of operating the hospital. The plan is well worth consideration.

The great objection to the operation of a general hospital by the county is the danger of its becoming a political football, kicked about from one management to another, each bent on obtaining all possible political graft in one way or another. If such can be avoided here, the general hospital plan will provide very great benefits for the large number of people of small means and will result in little or no loss of business to private institutions, because there will always be a large element financially able to pay for private hospitalization and who will prefer that service rather than a public institution. It is not improbable that private hospitals may benefit greatly from the operation of a general hospital by the county, because they will be relieved of the necessity of caring for many patients who are unable to pay but for whom there is no other place. Under present conditions it is probable that a high percentage of the charges made by private hospitals are uncollectable and result in total loss.

In several counties of the state the General Hospital helps pay a considerable portion of the cost of care of indigents and so is a relief to already over-burdened taxpayers. The Elko County General Hospital is given as an example of excellent hospital management, it being one of three hospitals in Nevada accredited by the American Hospital Association.

Of course the establishment of a general hospital by Clark county means a considerable investment, part of which, however, has already been made. An alternative for further investment by the county might be an addition to the Las Vegas Hospital by its owners, to be operated by the county under some arrangement under which it would have the ad-

## Years Ago

### 10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. W. R. Bracken was named as the third member of the city library board at a meeting yesterday of the board of city commissioners to take the place of Ed Smith, who passed away some months ago.

The other two members of the board are Frank A. Stevens and Mrs. C. P. Squires.

Lillard French, daughter of T. P. French, has been confined to her bed for a few days because of a throat infection, but was reported improving yesterday.

### 15 YEARS AGO

President Carl R. Gray of the Union Pacific System, passed through Vegas in his private car on Train 26 Thursday. He is returning to Omaha after spending two weeks looking after Union Pacific interests in Los Angeles.

### 20 YEARS AGO

C. R. Shields and C. J. Smith have purchased an interest in the Troy Steam Laundry and Cleaning Works from David Farnsworth.

At the Las Vegas Hospital in this city, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1920, to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Ham, a son. The young fellow answers to the name of Artemus Wineman Ham, Jr., and is delighted with Las Vegas. Mother and child are doing nicely.

Miss Helen Lucille Potter of Lander, Wyoming, arrived in this city Thursday morning to visit her friend, Mrs. Roy W. Martin.

### 25 YEARS AGO

The Kalem Motion Picture Company of which John P. McGowan is director came to Las Vegas Tuesday to find new scenes, atmosphere and plenty of sunshine for their photography.

The Azurite Mining Company is pushing work on its property lying about 500 feet northwest of the famous "Boss" mine. This was opened up as a copper prospect but like its neighboring properties, is showing good values in platinum-gold ore.

### 30 YEARS AGO

Of the cottages being constructed by the railroad company in this city, 16 are now under roof ready for plastering. The work of plastering will begin at once. Steady progress is being made in pushing the first installment of 40 cottages to completion.

County Clerk Harley Harmon has received word from Judge Brown that the next term of the district court will convene in March. The

vantage of having physicians, nurses and expensive equipment available at all times.

The Editor of The Age believes that the whole matter of county General Hospital should be given most careful and unprejudiced consideration by both the general public and the county board.

exact date will be fixed later. Owing to the difficulties of travel between here and Pioche, the spring term for Lincoln county will not be held until after the Clark county term.

## Large Increase In Auto Licenses

CARSON CITY, Jan. 19.—A new all time record for numbers of motor vehicles registered in Nevada was set during 1939, Secretary of State Malcolm McEachin, ex-officio motor vehicle commissioner, announced today.

A total of 42,409 vehicles of all types were registered, McEachin stated, exceeding the previous record set in 1937 by 379 units. The 1937 mark was 42,030.

Despite the increase in number of vehicles the total income of the department fell below the 1937 total, McEachin said, with \$285,709.29 being collected last year and \$292,359.65 in 1937. The decrease in revenue, the commissioner added, can be attributed to a decrease in the number of heavy duty trucks operating in the state on construction projects. Registration of commercial vehicles was the only classification falling below the 1937 levels.

Pleasure cars led in registration with 32,863 sets of plates having been sold, McEachin said, and commercial vehicles were next with 8,038 registrations. Trailers numbered 1,366 and motorcycles 142. The previous registration record in 1937 showed 32,410 pleasure cars, 8,060 commercial vehicles, 1,249 trailers and 111 motorcycles, he added.

Revenue derived entirely from sale of license plates amounted to \$272,822.79 with receipts from transfers, duplicates, and dealers plates bringing the total to \$285,709.29.

The various counties of the state reported the following number of vehicles, McEachin said. Figures show pleasure cars, commercial vehicles, trailers and motorcycles in order.

Churchill	1662	505	184	3
Clark	4961	910	156	20
Douglas	704	221	57	0
Elko	2820	948	145	20
Esmeralda	626	177	23	0
Eureka	227	120	4	0
Humboldt	1134	440	45	2
Lander	424	164	7	0
Lincoln	909	284	26	7
Lyon	1099	356	69	2
Mineral	565	176	37	1
Nye	934	390	36	1
Ormsby	952	184	75	0
Pershing	762	263	36	2
Storey	356	69	13	1
Washoe	11548	2108	414	69
White Pine	3180	723	39	14

The National Consumers Tax Commission says that of the \$2,500,000 spent for Christmas presents, about \$300,000,000 went for taxes.

## Clean Sweep Shoe Sale

Your last chance to buy shoes at this give away sale. Every shoe less than half price. Don't miss this sale!

\$1

### 200 PAIRS OF \$3 to \$4 SHOES

At this unheard of price. In this group are many good sizes to choose from. All good colors. Brown, Blue, Wine, Tan and Black.

### 25 Pairs of Brown and Black Oxfords

### 50 Pairs of Silver Evening Shoes in This Group

\$1

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A Pair. High, Low and Cuban Heels

### 300 PAIRS OF \$4 and \$5

In This Group

# 1<sup>99</sup>

Many Good Sizes.

All Colors.

All Heels.

A Pair. All Colors

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2<sup>99</sup>

VITALITY \$6.75 and \$7.50 SHOES

### 100 Pairs at Less Than Half Price

### 50 Pairs of Arch Supports Shoes in This Group

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High, Low and Cuban Heels

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### Doctors

#### Las Vegas Hospital Association

Phone 20

R. D. Halcorn, M. D.      C. W. Woodbury, M. D.  
S. L. Hardy, M. D.      J. R. McDaniel, M. D.  
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HAVE FUN  
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PLAY  
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In Our  
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