

LAS VEGAS AGE

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
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LAS VEGAS AND THE RAILROAD

The Age today extends the thanks of the entire community to the Union Pacific for the generous manner in which it has carried out its promises to Las Vegas in building the very fine passenger station we are dedicating today.

It should induce us to pause and consider that in the matter of public interest and the relations between the community and the railroad, the obligations are not all on one side, but are mutual.

Las Vegas of this year 1940 is, perhaps, inclined to consider herself as self sufficient — a city of importance whose wish must be given immediate attention. It is true in a way that the interest of "the people" must be given first consideration. Yet even a community of the size of Las Vegas can exercise forbearance and consideration with advantage to itself sometimes.

We, some of us, can recall that the railroad did not come this way because of Las Vegas and that it was in no degree dependent upon us when it did come. On the other hand, the railroad created Las Vegas. But for the necessity of a line of rail transportation between Salt Lake and Los Angeles and the enterprise in the minds of men to build it, Las Vegas would now exist only as a ranch where an occasional team would stop for hay and water and an occasional cowboy would come for his Saturday night drink and shooting scrape. The greatest enterprise of the entire west, Boulder dam would not have been built had it not been that the advantages of Colorado River development were seen and kept in a state of public agitation from the day Las Vegas became a railroad town, and the powerful influence of the railroad exerted over a period of many years in favor of the project.

Having come to life as an offspring of the railroad, this same parent has been and still is our chief source of payroll and employment. Its many activities have enabled us to live and grow as a town. We might enumerate some of them—the ice plant, round house, shops, company houses, street improvements, water and sewer systems and a hundred other improvements in which the railroad showed the spirit of co-operation with the community. The community has not at all times shown the same spirit of cooperation with the railroad as we remember to our sorrow especially in the matter of the loss to Las Vegas of the railroad shops and its payroll of hundreds of workers.

We have seen the railroad by bettering its service assist Las Vegas in hundreds of ways. We have seen its business largely taken over by the competition of bus and truck lines. We have seen and still see the railroad struggling for the business which means its life.

The railroad we should remember has been by far our largest taxpayer during all the years of Las Vegas' existence. It has contributed approximately 50 per cent of the cost to all our public improvements. It has paid at least half the salaries of our considerable number of city and county officials.

We may say that the railroad has not always done everything we asked when we asked it. Yet on the whole, as in the case of this beautiful new passenger station, it has shown a splendid spirit of cooperation with the people, not always we fear, to its own financial advantage.

With these things in mind, our business houses may well heed the request of the railroad for at least a fair share of the local freight business for which they have made preparations in the shape of pick-up over-night service from Los Angeles with truck deliveries similar to those provided by the truck lines.

Just now when we are feeling elated over the beautiful, new passenger station, we should remember that, without business, the railroad cannot long continue to serve us. Some of us who have seen towns in the east where railroad stations like ours have become useful only as a roosting place for bats after the railroad was forced by lack of business to abandon its lines, hope that nothing like that will happen to us.

STILL NEGOTIATING

Negotiations on the question of settling the interests of the seven states of the Colorado River which began twenty years ago are still being painfully dragged along by the warring states of Arizona and California.

The conference being held in Las Vegas just now is but one of scores which have used up the time and tried the patience of officials of the states. Most of the claims of the warring states are made, apparently with the thought in mind that whatever one state gets will detract from the others, which, of course, is not true.

It would be well if the warring statesmen could go back twenty years and take to heart the perfectly true declaration regarding the war over Colorado River water made by one of the outstanding personalities of the southwest, "Bill" Mulholland, when he stated the basis for settlement in one simple sentence:

"There is water enough for all."

It appears to the outsider that the entire situation has become muddled up by too many engineering and legal technicalities and too little "horse sense" statesmanship.

OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from Page One)

cause active navigation was being carried on by Polhamus and Mellon who operated a steamboat carrying salt and ores from the Virgin River to Yuma, and supplies on the return trip up the river.

Nevertheless, McWilliams has continued all these years a firm believer in the destiny of the Colorado as now materialized in the Boulder Canyon Project.

MONAHAN & MURPHY

There is a story which is seemingly immortal (not immoral) about the old firm of Monahan & Murphy, fifty years ago the chief factors of the Needles region so far as business and finance were concerned, when they were struggling for success in the desert country about Needles.

The Colorado river floods were constantly bringing down large quantities of drift wood which went on toward the gulf, although fuel was very scarce about Needles. So Monahan & Murphy, one or the other or both, had an idea. "Why not employ the Indians to catch drift wood and cut it up?"

So they made a business proposition to the Chief: "If the Indians will catch the drift wood, bring it ashore and cut it up, we will give them half of it."

After long and careful consideration the Indians decided the 50-50 division was fair enough. They went to work, brought in hundreds of cords of wood, the sale of which built the foundation of the Monahan & Murphy fortune.

That is the way I heard story and it sounds reasonable enough. Without the services of Monahan & Murphy, there was no market for the wood. Without the Indians the wood could not be secured. 50-50 fair enough! And the Indians got theirs.

LEAVES FOR CALIFORNIA

Mrs. E. W. Cragin left Tuesday evening for Los Angeles to spend a few days visiting with her mother, Mrs. Jack Yerby.

RETURN HOME

Mr. and Mrs. Orville W. Preston and little son, Jon, returned to their home in Glendale, California after a week's visit at the home of Mrs. Preston's parents, Mr. and Mrs. David S. Farnsworth.

PICK-UPS

By JOHN H. LIGHTFOOT

I lived in San Bernardino when the old surface wells were our water supply. You just didn't know what would come in the bucket. Anything that did would not have surprised you—you just took it as it came. If it did not suit—ditch it. We had to irrigate also.

Then came the evolution. Surface wells commenced to disappear—the purer wells took their place. I have stood for hours watching the huge derrick being erected preparatory to beginning of the long period it took to start drilling artesian wells. What a big time when one was brought in—great rejoicing everywhere—in fact a gala day. The drillers had no gasoline or motor power to help drill—it was the slow man power that manipulated the drills for many weary days—just up and down—that never ceasing man power operation—then after days and days the well would burst forth with the purest of water, gushing from the mouth of the pipe.

Gone were the surface wells. It was the coming of the artesian. The valley was dotted with wells—too many to keep track of. When the Riverside gage canal was built many of the artesian wells at San Bernardino went dry and there was nothing to do but sink deeper. Suits piled up in the courts asking for the discontinuing of the gage canal's flow. A compromise was effected whereby the gage canal flow would be slowed up for a given period and the wells in the vicinity of San Bernardino would start to flow. It was a kind of a game of "put and take."

But now comes the artesian wells to Las Vegas in the residential districts. No more of that slow man-power. It is relegated to the past and the gasoline and motor power comes to the front. Where it took several men to bring in a well—it is only necessary to employ a couple now.

The first well to be brought in was at the Blakely Apartments on Sixth and Carson streets—striking water at a depth of 584 feet. Another one is being drilled on the Goumond property near Seventh and Clark.

In all probability more will follow and ere long an artesian well will be on many properties in residential districts.

BETA SIGMA PHI FASHION SHOW A SUCCESS

The style show and tea at the Apache Lounge last Saturday sponsored by Kappa Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi was a very lovely affair. Some exquisite creations from local shops were modeled by some of Las Vegas' fairest daughters.

Miss Sonya Worthy described each gown as it passed in review and told where it could be purchased. Tea was served from a beautifully appointed table. Mrs. Guy Edwards, Regional Director of the sorority, Mrs. Isobel Blackman and Mrs. R. Russell dispensed hospitality.

STOPPED!



National Safety Council

Years Ago

TEN YEARS AGO

Helen Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Miller, celebrated her 15th birthday Tuesday evening with a dinner and theatre party for a few of her friends.

Miss Barbara Ferron celebrated her 12th birthday Thursday afternoon when she entertained a number of her school friends at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Ferron.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

The Tinega Camp Fire Girls were entertained Saturday afternoon at Mrs. Helen Stewart's ranch home. Mrs. Stewart greeted the girls by showering them with peach petals and welcomed them to her camp in the Moon of the Peach Blossom. She told the legends and the stories of the baskets in her own charming way.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The White Cross Drug Company is illuminated by a new electric sign which livens up the night scene considerably.

Dr. R. F. O'Brien has just taken over an interest in the White Cross Drug Company, including the interest formerly owned by J. W. Woodard.

There will be no change in the management of the business. Dr. Earl B. Gratto continuing in charge.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Capt. James H. Ladd has just purchased a carload of pipe with which to pipe the water from his

new artesian well. The well, recently completed, flows about ten inches of water, which will be piped to the reservoir and distributed to Ladd's addition. Capt. Ladd has also set out a large number of cottonwood trees on the tract this spring.

Harry Trehearne of Crescent was among those called to Vegas this week by court business. He is registered at the Overland hotel.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

Saturday afternoon the governor appointed Emmett Boyle to the position of state engineer to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Frank R. Nicholas. Mr. Boyle is an engineer well known in the northern part of the state and is said to bear a good reputation. He has been in charge of the gypsum plant at Mound House for some time.

W. B. Mundy is busily engaged in building an addition consisting of a dining room and kitchen, to his home.

WILBOURN'S MOTOR TO LOS ANGELES

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbourn of Wilbourn's Flower and Furniture store accompanied by Mrs. Anita Cornish, Mrs. Wilbourn's mother, spent a few days in Los Angeles this week on business.

VISITING DAUGHTER

Mrs. C. D. Breeze is spending a few days in California visiting her daughter and family.

ESCAPES SERIOUS INJURY

Monday Leland Lewis, employe of the Lake Shore Mining company, at its mine near Boulder Lake nar-

rowly escaped injury when he was caught by a cave-in.

He suffered a fracture of the left ankle and numerous contusions and abrasions over the body it is re-

ported at the Las Vegas hospital where he was taken.

Printing of all descriptions— at the Las Vegas Age—Phone 7



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