

Early Historical Events of Las Vegas

By
Delphine Squires

A number of important events marked the beginning of 1906—perhaps the one that was destined to mean the most to the future of Las Vegas was the building of the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad, which had been started by the Borax Smith people in 1905 and abandoned. This road was begun again the first of the year and when it got under full swing progressed at the rate of two miles a day.

Then there came the copper boom at Greenwater in the Funeral Range, which caused unusual excitement and activity among mining men all over the country and was noticed particularly in Las Vegas where much outfitting was done by prospectors and promoters.

In a short time the bubble burst and all those who had rushed to those greener pastures returned, sadder, wiser and poorer, willing to earn their salt by the sweat of their brows rather than by "get rich quick" schemes.

That spring Perry L. Smith built the two story adobe house on Bridger street near First, "White House" and the Charleston Mountain and its forests were withdrawn from the public domain for which we today are thankful as we enjoy the comfort and beauty of our mountain resorts.

On March 31, J. O. McIntosh opened the New Arizona Club on North First street. It was the most elaborately finished saloon in Nevada and for several years was highly respectable, it desolate characters coming later. The entire front of the building was of imported beveled plate loaded glass with solid oak doors. Inside the woodwork was of quarter sawed white oak with pink Tennessee marble baseboards.

The Del Monte bar was of quarter sawed white oak with an imported plate glass mirror. The bar counter was of mahogany and was 30 feet long. Crystal chandeliers hung from the ceiling.

The fame and the beauty of these finishings had spread from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City and countless travelers between these cities took advantage of the stop the train made here to see this famous resort with their own eyes.

The front of this Arizona Club is now the front of the "Gay Nineties" Bar at Hotel Last Frontier, and inside one may be served from the old mahogany counter and gaze into the old plate glass mirror. If that old mirror could only again reflect all the faces that have peered into it in the past what a composite picture it would make of people from all over the world!

There were two topics of conversation heard on every side, both fraught with wonderful possibilities for the future of our community, one was "county division" and the other was "railroad shops."

An interesting spot in town in those days was the court room of the Justice of the Peace Jacob Ralphs. The Judge was a blacksmith who used his shop on First street as a court room. In the shop there was a tub which he kept full of water in which to temper his irons. The over flow formed a muddy pool in the dirt floor in which his "White Perkin" ducks delighted to waddle and quack. While the Judge was holding court it was difficult to distinguish between the voices of the witnesses and the ducks.

The year 1906 was of great moment to me as on June 21st of that year the children and I arrived in Las Vegas, Mr. Squires having been here since February 1905.

Of course I had known for a long time that I would eventually move to Las Vegas but as the time drew nearer for my departure

Los Angeles became to me a very dear spot in which to live and I just knew that leaving our home there would be something I hated to think of. But it was a funny thing that after the last van had departed with our belongings and we walked through the empty rooms they didn't seem like a part of our home and proved to my mind that it is the "lures and penates" that make a home rather than the four walls.

The next morning through the berth window I had by first view of a sunrise on the desert and I'll never forget the beauty of it. To me it was an omen of the peace and contentment of our life in Las Vegas.

When we arrived at the station Peter Buol was there with his buckboard and high steppers and kindly took us up Fremont street to the house which has been our home for 38 years.

When I opened the front door of our house the color of the ceiling fairly hit me in the face. It was the most violent billious yellow I had ever seen—a yellow so vivid that no amount of Las Vegas sunshine could ever change. The better half was just as surprised as I was. When he left to go after us the men were just trying out the ceiling color which was to be cream all over the house. They had dobed on a little on the livingroom ceiling and as it looked a little too white Mr. Squires had told them to add a little more yellow which they had, but not sparingly enough. It stayed there until, in desperation, I purchased

a brush and Kalsomine and mounting a stepladder and a kitchen table toned it down.

Then there was the bathtub which remained to be enameled on the outside. The painter came five days in succession and gave it a coat. Each time as he was painting he whistled "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and never came to an end. Each time as he neared what should have been an end I would fairly hold my breath thinking this time he would stop on the down note but he would just swing right up to the beginning again. It was years before I could take a bath without singing that hymn.

The Sunday following our arrival the children and I went to church. We walked across lots to the Schoolhouse where Dr. Bain, the Methodist minister held service. When we arrived our shoes were both full of and covered with dust and gravel. I wiped off the outside with a cloth I had brought for that purpose but concluded that the gravel inside might as well remain there as a sort of penance for our sins.

Inside the school room the air was hot and we had to squeeze into seats which were too small for us. The flies came merrily in at the open windows, buzzed around for a time and then flew

out. There were several dogs asleep on the floor looking so comfortable that one longed to change places with them. Occasionally one would open an eye, stretch and thump its tail against the floor as much as to say "we take ours lying down."

After the service I was invited to attend the Ladies Aid which was to meet the coming Thursday at one of those two story houses across from the ice plant.

When Thursday came I thought nothing of walking, during the hottest part of the day, down to Mrs. Rosselle's where the Aid was to meet. I have often wondered since if it were religious zeal or the lack of good sense that caused me to do it as I never was so hot in my life as I was when I arrived at my destination. In those days there were no trees, no lawns and no cooling systems in Las Vegas.

I'll tell you right now that I take off my hat to that Aid Society. It was the most unique one I ever heard of. Although one I never heard of. Although one I never heard of. Although one I never heard of.

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Mrs. Jack Hanson Entertains Club

Mrs. Jack Hanson entertained members of her bridge club Monday evening at her home, those present being: Mesdames Luther Horner, James Down, Jr., Lorin Ronnow, Harry Allen, Gerald Sylvain, Bert Purdy and Pat Diskin.

"Pan" Bridge At Afternoon Party

Mrs. Frank Garside entertained a few friends at a luncheon with "pan" and bridge as the diversion on Thursday afternoon at her home. Those invited were: Mesdames Lou Gammell, J. L. Swank, Jack Cherry, Harry Manente, Paul Jones, J. M. Murphy, C. A. Morehouse, George Johnson, Marion Earl, O. Irwin, S. L. Hardy, R. D. Balcom, W. N. Schuyler, Jack Haake and Gurnsey Frazer.

Dessert Bridge For Card Club

Mrs. Harold Morse was hostess on Wednesday afternoon with dessert bridge for her card club.

CHRISTENSEN WINS

Mrs. M. J. Christensen, jeweler, of 225 Fremont street won the \$50 war bond raffled by the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary.

ing efforts in making the affair such a success.

Each member of Kappa chapter who graduated into the new Exemplar chapter was obliged to write a 1500 word thesis on one of several subjects presented to them. The prize winning one, the name of the writer still unknown, was read by Maydell Norman. The program closed with the singing of "God Bless America."

Miss Helen Smith, chairman of the committee of arrangements, graciously thanked the members of her committee for their untiring

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and I learned right then and there that it wasn't what you believed that counted but what you did. I have the greatest respect for everyone of that bunch of women—God Bless Them. I never knew a group of women to work together with less friction or do more worth while things.

In October school opened with two new teachers, Mrs. Ella Palmer and Mrs. Elsie Bartlett, both fine women, who aided in every possible way every project for the betterment of the community. One thing that amused me more than anything else was that, in spite of the fact that there was a law which prohibited the reading or teaching of the Bible in the schools of Nevada, these teachers took an hour every Friday morning to teach the children their Sunday school lesson. There was just one Sunday school and all the children went to it and it certainly was a joy to teach a class in a school room.

That fall both the Democrats and the Republicans held their political rallies in Las Vegas. One windy night in October Mr. Squires rushed home and asked me to hurry dinner as there was to be a Democratic rally that night. All the candidates for state offices were in town and our neighbor, John S. Park was to introduce them. The affair was to be held in Aplin's hall which was way down on Main street and is now a part of the Montana Hotel.

At that time there were no street lights and the night was

a very dark one so I lighted our kerosene lantern and we started down the middle of the street (everyone walked in the middle of the street then). Aplin's hall had been built in the spring of new green straight up and down board with no battens and by fall the heat of the summer had warped them so that the proverbial cat could easily be swung between them. When we arrived at the hall there was a small audience and the wind was coming in on one side bringing dust with it and going out the other leaving the dust behind.

We sat for a while and no one appeared to be introduced so the better half went out to see what was delaying things. It seemed that the candidates had arrived in town during the middle of the afternoon and had proceeded to make the round of calls on the voters on empty stomachs. This together with the wind and the heat had done things to them which the local demos were trying to eradicate with strong coffee. At last they appeared duced but the local fans did most of the talking.

On the way home I said to Mr. Squires "Were those the only men the democrats could find in the state of Nevada to represent them?" To which he replied "You should have seen the Republicans that were here last week." As he had never even mentioned the Republicans having been here I concluded that at that particular time "silence was golden."

Ann Sheridan - Dennis Morgan - Irene Manning Jack Carson in "Shine On Harvest Moon" at the Palace Theater Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.



Ann Sheridan as Nora Bayes in Warner Bros. "Shine On Harvest Moon" now at the Palace theatre, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

tives from nine western States will be in attendance. Lieutenant Ralston O. Hawkins, son of Judge and Mrs. L. O. Hawkins, spent the week in Las Vegas. Lieutenant Hawkins has returned from spending 25 months in service in the South Seas, where he participated in many engagements. He left yesterday and expects to be on duty at the Presidio, San Francisco, or Monterey, for a time. Kemmis Hendrick, staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, is a visitor in Vegas, having arrived Friday.

Society

Sororities Observe Ritual of Jewels

The beautiful candlelight ceremony of the "Ritual of Jewels" was observed Monday night in the Mesquite Club House by the members of the five Las Vegas chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. At this ceremony the pledges are taken into full membership.

At one end of the room an altar had been erected, covered with a white satin cloth on which was embroidered the insignia of the order. On either side were tall tapers and between them the bowl of yellow roses. Tall wicker baskets of roses marked the aisle down which the pledges walked to the altar to renew their vows.

Mrs. Ellen Albright, the retiring president of VI chapter read the pledge ritual and all the members pledged themselves anew to the aims and purposes of the order. This was followed by the Ritual of Jewels read by Mrs. Sonya Honrath, retiring president of Kappa Chapter and also of the City Council of Beta Sigma Phi. As the young women walked down the rose petal covered aisle they were aided "altogether lovely."

Following the ceremony the group repaired to Hotel Last Frontier where a formal dinner in the Canary Room marked the 13th anniversary of Founders' Day.

The Star Spangled Banner was sung by the group followed by the Beta Sigma Phi grace which was sung by Juanita Jarrett while all the girls stood with bowed heads. Sonya Honrath was mistress of ceremonies. The new members were welcomed by Delphine Squires. Toasts to the army, the navy and the marines were given by Directors Finney and Burwell and Hene Smith. A letter from Walter Ross, the founder of the organization was read by Isabelle Blackman.

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Personals

Mrs. Helen F. Askew has recovered sufficiently from her recent illness to be taken to her home from the Las Vegas Hospital.

Mrs. Joe Ronnow had the misfortune to fall last Sunday and break her arm. She was removed to the Las Vegas Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Wither have returned from an extended trip through Mexico.

I. R. Crandall, executive secretary of the civilian defense council, left Wednesday for Salt Lake City, where he will attend the salvage division of the war production board. Representatives

Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks will again present limited services to the public this season with free campgrounds and their facilities available. At Zion the Utah Parks company will provide cabin accommodations and meal service commencing May 16. At Bryce Canyon the same company will make similar provision starting May 27. Touring or sightseeing buses will not be operated.

Free campgrounds and their facilities will be available at Cedar Breaks National Monument, 23 miles from Cedar City, after June 15.

Timpanogos Cave National Monument, 40 miles from Salt Lake City via American Fork, has free campground facilities at foot of Timpanogos Cave Trail.

Pipe Spring National Monument, 13 miles from Fredonia, Arizona, has free campgrounds in operation.

All branches of the armed forces are cordially welcomed and civilians who can arrange transportation are welcome as ever.



(NEA Telephoto) Mrs. Elaine Montefredri Wisecarver, 21, and her 14-year-old husband, Ellsworth Wisecarver, after their arrest in Denver on warrant sworn out by Ellsworth's mother charging child stealing. Mrs. Wisecarver, mother of two children, waived extradition to be returned to Los Angeles.

"Take" of Better Output Increased

RENO, May 6—The regional office of distribution of the war food administration announced today butter manufacturers will be required to set aside 40 per cent of May production and 50 per cent of that produced in June, but that civilian supplies will be slightly greater than during the first six months of 1944. Buell F. Maben, regional director of food distribution, said the increased "take" is in accordance with WFA policy of filling government war needs during months of heaviest butter production. The set-aside in April was 10 per cent, and the government had purchased none at all during the previous six months.

The ladies literary club met at the home of Mrs. Fay Leavitt Thursday.

Mrs. Mike Burns and son Tony returned home from Boulder City Thursday after spending a few days at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Don White.

A party was held Saturday night at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lamond Hughes in honor of their son George Hughes who leaves Sunday for Salt Lake City to continue his training in the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hughes left for Moroni, Utah Tuesday. Mrs. Hughes will make her home with her mother Mrs. William Brothers while her husband is serving in the navy.

V. Bland of St. George, Utah spent Thursday in Mesquite on business.

Mrs. Merle Woodbury of St. George, Utah is spending a few days visiting relatives in Mesquite. Mrs. Woodbury's husband is serving in the armed forces overseas.

Lynn Pulsipher and Odean Barnum left Thursday for Los Angeles to work.

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Art Harris and Bob Russell of Las Vegas were visitors in Mesquite on Wednesday.

Marion Leavitt returned home Thursday from Los Angeles after spending a week visiting friends.

Virgin Valley

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Campbell of Salt Lake City, Utah are spending a few days in Mesquite at the home of Mrs. Campbell's father C. S. Pulsipher.

Mrs. Margaret Woods of Las Vegas spent the weekend in Mesquite visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lamond Hughes.

Mrs. Della Barnum is much improved after being confined to her home the past week with the flu.

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