

# from the CAPITOL

By GOV. GRANT SAWYER



FUTURE HISTORIANS comparing the Nevadas of 1865 and 1965 might conclude 100 years didn't really change too much.

As Nevada completed its first year of statehood a century ago, the residents could look back on significant accomplishments. Yet, there was some apprehension for the years ahead.

Among other matters, they were concerned about insuring the continuation of the mining prosperity, reducing the high rate of lawlessness in the boom camps and providing education and other necessary services without imposing a high tax rate.

Things are not much different in 1965. The problems that faced our pioneers trouble us yet today.

But where our settlers had little except courage and determination on which to base their hopes for a better state, we can point to solid achievements and carefully-drawn plans as the base for future progress.

DESPITE A PROLONGED labor-management difference in Southern Nevada and the first effect of the Stead AFB phase-out in Northern Nevada, our prosperity climbed to new heights. While Nevadans could boast of one of the highest per capita incomes in the country, they could also point to one of the lowest tax levies.

The prosperity was widespread, with the majority of business indicators at record levels. Mining, the historical staple of Nevada's economy, continued its comeback. Promising oil discoveries, and new developments in gold, copper and other minerals combined to push mining productivity over the \$100,000,000 mark.

Agriculture also showed improvement as new lands were turned to productivity, new techniques were employed and new crops were introduced.

Industry, a relative newcomer to the Nevada business community, continued its dramatic expansion. Attracted by liberal tax laws, ample land, an adequate labor force and good transportation facilities, a number of new firms began operation in our state. Many other leading businesses set up warehousing operations here to take advantage of our strategic placement among the western states and our freeport law.

Tourism continued its steady growth, with the number of visitors climbing to nearly 20,000,000 in 1965 and contributing to our economy by more than \$600,000,000.

NEVADA'S GENERAL FUND was in healthy condition, reflecting the general prosperity of the state. Conservative fiscal policies and a demand of full value for each tax dollar offer hope that our enviable tax structure need not be disturbed while we meet the needs of the public.

Nevada continued improvement in the field of education with the state now ranked as one of the top 10 in the country. Nearly 70% of the state's budget is allocated to education. A Governor's Commission on Education will begin work in 1966 to develop the coordination and planning to bring us closer to our goal of excellence.

Our crime rate was high, but there was hope for optimism. Nevada last year registered a seven per cent decrease in crime, while 46 other states showed an average 13 per cent increase. Creation of commissions to develop police standards and to study formation of a Department of Corrections, plus improvements in our correctional institutions and our parole programs gives hope that state assistance in crime fighting will effect further decreases in the incidence of lawlessness.

THE SAGA OF NEVADA is one of the great success stories of America. We have much unfinished business, but the forecast for the future is bright.

Growth has made our state one of the most prosperous and progressive in the land, and it has brought complex problems that demand answers.

We shall, as in the past, resolve these problems. There can be no fear of our future so long as we are willing to plan, work and sacrifice.

For Nevada, 1965 will be remembered as a year of success. Let us begin to work now to make 1966 equally memorable.

## NATIVITY SCENE FROM CHURCH PAGEANT



"SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT", a Pageant in three acts was movingly portrayed by the Gospel Course of the Upper Room Church of God in Christ, 1117 'F' Street, Sunday night. Shown here in the Nativity Scene from l-r are Ruth Mitchel, Marvel Stevens, and Clarie Johnson as the Three Wise Men; Ethel B. Junior as Mary and James Clark in the role of Joseph.

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