

Renewal of gaming license denied

MIZPAH HOTEL MAY SHUT DOWN

The Nevada Gaming Control Board voted unanimously Friday to deny the renewal of a gaming license to owners of the historic Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah.

Immediately before the vote, Mizpah owner Bill Allison warned board members he would be forced to close the hotel and lay off 102 people if he lost his gaming license.

The hotel, built during the Tonopah mining boom in 1907, probably will shut its doors within the next week, said Earl Hawley, Allison's attorney.

While Allison can appeal the license rejection to the Nevada Gaming Commission, Hawley said he doubted "it will get that far."

The Gaming Commission will meet Nov. 21 in Las Vegas to consider the matter. If the commission does not reverse the Control Board action, the Mizpah's gaming license will expire at midnight that day.

The closure of the Mizpah would be the second major economic catastrophe to strike

Tonopah in a year. Last winter, the Anaconda Minerals Corp. closed its molybdenum mining operations in the area.

"This past year I've aged 10 years," Allison said. "I worked from the bottom up in the gaming business. I never realized the importance of accounting in the business."

Control Board member Mike Rombolz blasted Allison for allowing his son, William Allison Jr., to work in gaming operations after his work permit was revoked.

The younger Allison was arrested in Las Vegas after he allegedly burned his father's car. Authorities found \$3,000 in cash in his possession.

Many of the Mizpah's woes stem from the lack of sound business judgement by Allison, Hillyer added.

In all, Allison spent five grueling hours standing at a podium while Control Board members railed away about numerous accounting and management problems at the Mizpah.

Allison said his troubles

began soon after he and his partner Elbert Basolis purchased the hotel from the Scott Corp. last November.

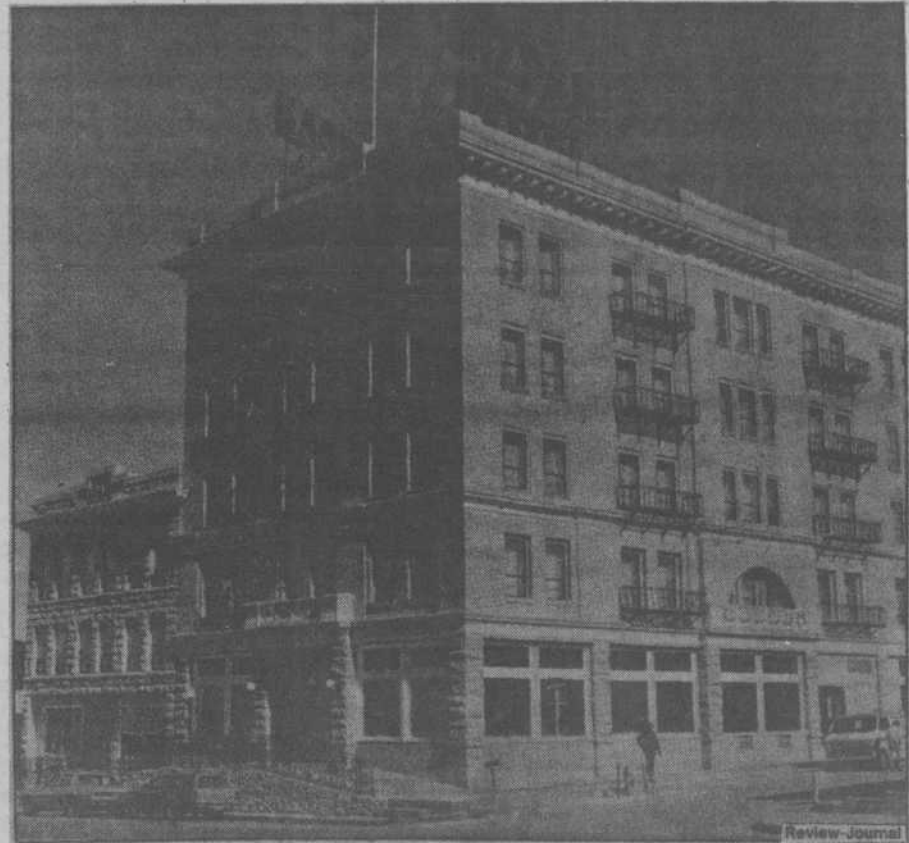
Basolis never put up the money he had promised to use to remodel and upgrade the hotel, Allison said. In recent months, Basolis has disassociated himself completely from the hotel and declared he was no longer a partner, Allison added.

Despite being ordered to attend by Jacka, Basolis failed to show up for the hearing. Hawley said it was "financially impossible" for Basolis to attend.

Allison pleaded for the Control Board members to give him a few months to prove that he has learned how to operate a casino. He claimed he soon would receive a \$2 million loan from a credit union that would allow him to buy out his partner and pay his debts.

"I took over an operation alienated from the town," he said. "I cleaned it up. I cleaned urinals and everything else."

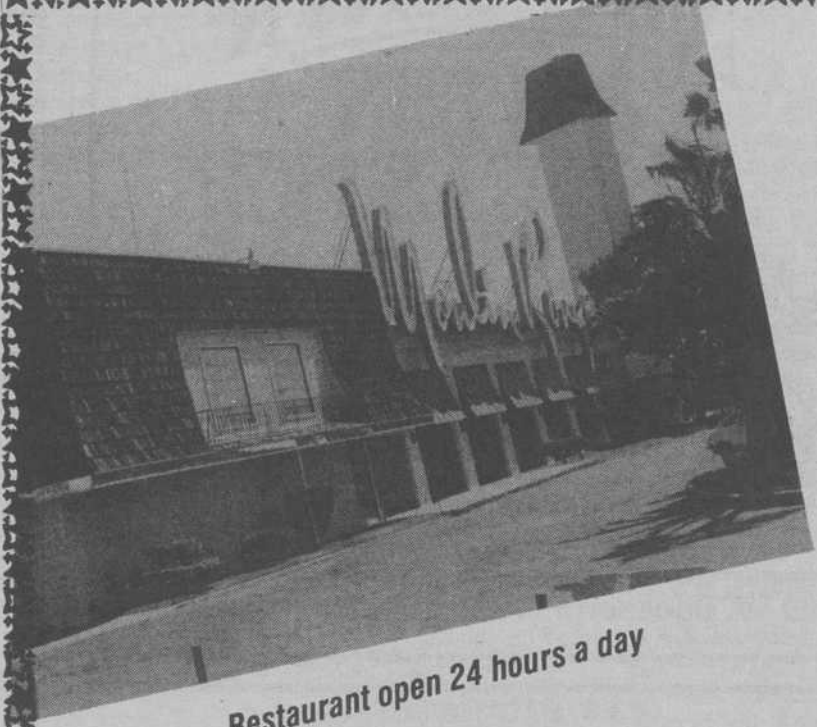
Control Board members



contended Allison had little likelihood of qualifying for a loan.

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