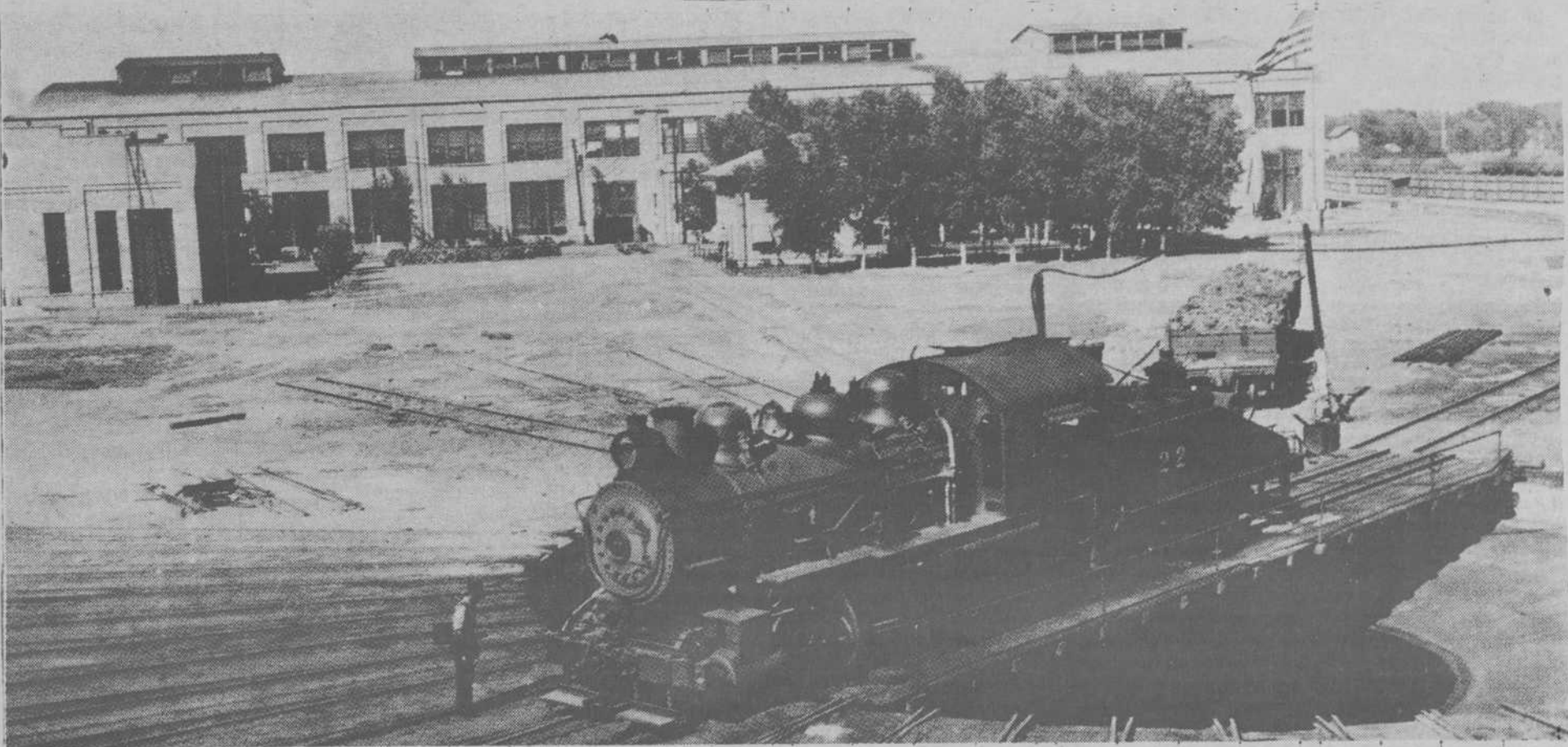


BEST FRIEND

IN LAS VEGAS IN THE EARLY YEARS



from page 8

who came from other parts of the United States, were not hired. Following numerous efforts it was realized that it was necessary that they unite in order to alter hiring policies on the dam. The Colored Citizens Labor and Protective Association was formed. Its purpose was to secure employment on the dam for Blacks. Leland Hawking, field representative of the NAACP, Vegas Age reported on those activities. "Specific instances were cited by various speakers in which building programs and construction work was under progress with no Negro labor whatsoever. It was charged that on some of these jobs there were foreigners working while Negro American citizens were denied employment."

By late 1931, there were 1,350 men working on the project. The task at hand was to excavate tunnels in order to divert the river. There were no Blacks em-

ployed. O.B. Allbritton of CCLPA penned a letter to the editor in which he stated that "many colored over sea soldiers and citizens have applied in person, with their discharge papers, for work on the Hoover Dam Project." All were denied. That letter had no impact on the sentiments of those doing the hiring and firing.

For the first two years of the project, Blacks were excluded from the work force. They were termed

vagrants and bums because they were not working. In reality that responsibility rested with those

rightminded rascals who refused to relinquish their religion of racism.

(To be continued.)

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