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# An Interview with Janzon (Jan) Stewart

An Oral History Conducted by  
Claytee D. White and Karen Shank

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The Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV  
University Libraries  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

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The transcript received minimal editing that includes the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. In several cases photographic sources accompany the individual interviews.

The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. Additional transcripts may be found under that series title.

Claytee D. White, Project Director  
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## Preface

In 1901, Jan Stewart's grandfather William T. Stewart brought his family to Alamo, Nevada in Lincoln County and about 90 miles north of Las Vegas to ranch. Soon he and his wife were operating a livery stable. One of his customers was an executive with the Union Pacific Railroad for whom he provided transportation to Las Vegas, where the railroad owned a ranch referred to as the Old Ranch.

In this narrative Jan recounts how his grandfather and later his father became managers of the Old Ranch and lived a just a few dozen yards from the Old Mormon Fort, a historic Las Vegas landmark.

In addition to sharing stories of his family's history, he describes how the ranch was a unique place to group up, brought the family in contact with many community people and an occasional celebrity.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER AT UNLV

Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project



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Name of Narrator: JANOU STEWART

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JANOU STEWART 6/28/2010  
Signature of Narrator Date

CLAYTEE D. WHITE 6/28/2010  
Signature of Interviewer Date

**This is Claytee White and I am with Mr. Jan [Janzon] Stewart. We're here in the Reading Room at Special Collections UNLV Library. It is June 28th, 2010.**

**So how are you today, Mr. Stewart?**

I'm pretty good. How are you?

**Fantastic. And the name Stewart, you know what my first question really has to be. Are you related to --**

Helen J. Stewart.

**That's right.**

No, we're not actually related to her. But it gets confusing because we once lived on the same ranch that she operated for many years.

**Yes, and your history with that ranch goes back a couple of generations. So why don't we start there. I usually ask tell me about your early life, but in this case because you had a grandfather associated with this old ranch—that we call the old ranch today, the old fort, tell me about your grandfather.**

My grandfather's name was William T. Stewart, Jr. He and his parents moved to the place called Alamo, Nevada in 1901. They came from southern Utah. So their purpose was to establish ranching in that community and a rangeland in Lincoln County—which they did. Well, not soon after they moved there, they obtained a livery stable in a place called Delamar. Delamar was a mining operation that was booming at the time. So they obtained a livery stable. My grandfather and his wife went to operate the livery stable. In 1903, their first child Jesma was born in Delmar. And then my father, he was born in Delamar in 1904.

So they ran the livery stable there for a year or so. A person came to town; named Walter Bracken. He was an important official with the Union Pacific Railroad. He needed a ride. He came to the livery stable to get a ride from Delmar to Las Vegas. So he talked to my grandfather. Would you take me? And they made some arrangement. So my grandfather drove him in a horse and buggy from Delamar to Las Vegas. In the meantime, the railroad was being constructed in this area.

So during his trip Mr. Bracken found out that my grandfather was a cowboy. And that he knew how to manage wild cattle. And it turns out that when the railroad purchased the old ranch, there was a lot of cattle on the ranch that had been scattered out throughout all the valley, not taken

care of, not branded, not made steers. You know, they were just kind of ragged and weren't taken care of. So he offered my grandfather a job. You come and work for me and I'll pay you \$45 a month plus room and board. He was making \$30 a month with no room and board. So this was a good wage for him in that period of time.

He sent word back to his wife (who was) still in Delamar: Look, this has worked out for us; what do you think? She says: Oh, yes, let's do it. I don't think this mining camp is a good place to raise our kids anyway.

So she packed up her stuff and got a ride into Caliente where she could catch the railroad. By this time she could ride the railroad train as far as Moapa. Do you know where Moapa is?

And then grandfather went up—he or his brother went up and picked up my grandmother and the two kids with a horse and buggy. My father at this time was a two-month old baby. The trip from Moapa to Las Vegas was 50 miles. It was in the middle of July. It was dusty and it was hot and the road was rough. There's no water. So you had to carry a drink. That is a very long drive. I don't know if they made it in one day or spent the night somewhere. But eventually they pulled into Las Vegas.

But the little girl became very ill on this trip. Grandmother did everything she could, but the child would not eat, would not take anything. She lost a whole lot of weight. She called Helen Stewart, who lived nearby, because they actually located my grandfather on the old ranch in a structure they called a tent house, which was part wood, the bottom part, and then the top was canvas. And I think there are some pictures of that kind of a dwelling in the history of the old ranch. Well, they lived in one of those. But the child -- Helen gave her best advice and the child was still not very well. Finally Dr. Bracken came to Las Vegas. He was a brother of Walter and also an official of the Union Pacific Railroad. He gave some advice and some medicine to grandmother. Eventually the child started recovering. Now, this child at this time was just skin and bones. There was no flesh on this child. The eyes were just sunken. So in six months or so the child had gone back to normal. So they were very happy, very please. They felt blessed that this had happened to them.

**So this is your father's older sister?**

Yes. Just two of them in this family at this point.



**So only two kids.**

Yes and so he spent a couple of years gathering the cattle from the mesquite forests in the lower part of Las Vegas Valley and taking care of them on the old ranch. This is in 1904. In 1905 lots were sold by the railroad which established Las Vegas. They were here when that occurred. But my grandfather was a rancher and he wasn't interested in that. Eventually, the cattle had been taken care of and he was no longer needed at the old ranch.

In the meantime, Rhyolite, which is a mining community just up by Beatty, was booming. So grandfather thought, you know, there's a good freighting business between here and Rhyolite. And he came across a guy who had a team of six horses that he used to pull his freight wagons. But the horses didn't pull together. And the teamster didn't know how to train them. So his business was failing. He just couldn't make good time and couldn't get the horses to pull a big heavy load.

So my grandfather bought these horses and the wagon and spent two weeks training them. He was an expert horseman. I mean, he could jump on a wild horse and grab hold of the mane and just ride him down. That's how good he was. In two weeks he had those horses up to speed. So he got in the freighting business. Now he's making \$3,000 a week compared to \$45 a month.

He did that until that kind of petered out. He took his money and went back to Alamo and bought into the ranches and the rangeland up north and west of Alamo. That's where they made their home. They lived there for many years. They had 12 children. One died as child about nine years old. The rest grew to adulthood. One was lost in the Second World War. So all that family was raised up there. All the daughters went to college, none of the sons.

**But wasn't that unusual?**

No. No. It was more important for these people, they were Mormon, to see that the mother was educated because she's the one that's going to raise the kids. She's the one that's going to teach them. The men in those days made their living by hard labor. All of their work was hard work. So it figured out best to educate the girls. And that's what occurred in this family. My grandmother was a school teacher.

**See, I think that's very smart.**

Yeah. So all the sisters were sophisticated. My dad and his brothers, they were smart about horses and ranching.

**So where did the girls go to school?**

BYU. [Brigham Young University]

**So your grandfather left Las Vegas. When he went back to Alamo, did he ever return to Las Vegas to live?**

Yes. So in the early 40s they were, of course, still acquainted with what was going on in Las Vegas. Those folks came down to Las Vegas every once in a while to get a paying job. The Wittwer family was operating the ranch in 1933. And so in 1942 my grandfather, my father and his brother-in-law, Earl Leavitt formed a partnership to run the ranch. Well, one of my dad's sisters married a Leavitt. Another of my dad's sisters married a Bunker. So the old families around here pretty much got interconnected as time went on.

In 1942 they arranged to take over the lease. Albert Wittwer had been running the ranch. He died and his brother Will Wittwer took over the lease for a short time and they transferred it to our family... The Leavitt family—my dad's sister and her husband—were already in Las Vegas and my grandfather came to Las Vegas in about 1942. My dad stayed in Alamo and ran things up there until we moved to Las Vegas in 1945.

Now, keep in mind that my dad and mother had lived here between 1930 to 1937. People come from Alamo to Las Vegas to earn some money. Then they would go back to Alamo and spend it on the cattle business. And my dad worked on the dam. He worked at the old icehouse delivering ice. He worked unloading railroad cars and those kinds of things for about seven years. So in that time I was born here and lived here until I was about three years old.

**So do you remember any of your father's stories about the dam?**

No.

**Any of his stories about the icehouse or anything else related to Las Vegas during that period?**

The icehouse, there were stories about the icehouse. They'd deliver big blocks of ice. They'd lift the ice blocks with large tongs or hooks. They carried the ice on their shoulder or their back. They'd go upstairs and they'd go into bars with this ice. There were a couple of times my dad or his brothers ended up in some kind of fight in a bar just coming in delivering the ice. So in some locations it was a rough place. But they did that. It was very heavy work that they did.

**So it's like delivering Sparkletts water.**

Yeah, except it was much heavier and more difficult to carry. You didn't have wheels to put it on.

**Right. So what are your first memories of Las Vegas?**

I have no memories myself of that early time when I was three years old. I didn't bring it, but I have one picture of my dad holding me in front of just a bungalow or small house that was on Bridger and Fifth Street. Long time ago.

**That's downtown. Great.**

**Karen Schank has just come in and joined us.**

**Karen, do you want to take over the interview? We're just getting ready to talk about Mr. Stewart's experiences here in Las Vegas. He just told me about his grandfather, a little about his father. So now we're getting ready to talk about his experiences.**

So we're now living on the old ranch. We had a small, framed house that was about 30 yards from the fort. My grandparents were living in the old ranch house, which at that time faced Fifth Street and was adjacent to the creek. So we lived there. And my uncle and aunt, the Leavitts, lived in another framed house that was about 20 yards from the old fort. So we are very familiar with the old fort and we played around it. There was a piece of the wall still left. We would walk on top of the wall and do those kinds of things.

There was a family that lived in the old fort at that time. I'm not sure if it was the entire time we were there. The husband's name was Arthur (Art) Thompson and his wife's name was Gladys. Her maiden name was Lamb. But they lived in the fort -- they also had come from Alamo -- although he didn't work on the ranch and I don't know what his occupation was and what he did.

So this is a wonderful place for me to grow up, on the old ranch. There were parts of an old orchard that were still there. There were giant fig trees and we used to feast on those figs. They would get very juicy and soft. There wasn't much market for them. Well, I think we gathered them up once or twice and sold them to the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Market, a grocery store. And sometimes they would be kind to us and put them out. But there really wasn't much market for those figs. But they were the sweetest figs. There was a big pecan tree that we used to harvest for the pecans, a walnut tree and an apple tree. And all these had survived over the years. I don't know how long they had been there, but they had been there for a long time. Whether these were part of the orchard planted by

Helen J. Stewart. I don't know. So we had all those things.

There were corrals down below. We all had horses. There were places to ride all over the ranch and beyond.

So I have some pictures. In fact, let me just show you. I don't know if you need to remember them. This is a picture of me during that period of time. This is in front of the house. You can see it's just a small house that's just 30 yards from the old fort.

**Now, this was taken when you were 11?**

I was about 12... This is a picture of the side of that old house. The only reason we have a few pictures is because it snowed and everyone ran out to take a picture.

*Karen Shank: This is the home you lived in?*

Beg your pardon?

*This is the home you lived in?*

Yes, that's the home. That's the side of the house. (In the previous photo) I'm in front of the house. Now, if I looked directly from the front of the house straight out, I'd be looking at the old fort. I'll show you a picture of that.

This photo shows my family inside the old house. I had an older brother who is not in the photo. He was away at college.

Now, if I looked out the front door or we walked out the front door, this photo shows what we'd see. That's what the old fort looked like when we were there. So, yeah. We didn't appreciate its importance when we were kids. Now, if I looked out from the back of my house—we were kind of on a hill—we looked down upon the ranch. These are the corrals and the fields are way out. You see a silo. You have any questions on that picture of what you see?

**The train, do I see a train?**

No, that is not a train. That is some storage units that somebody placed back there.

**Oh, it looks just like railroad tracks.**

So that's nothing significant. Eventually this is where Rancho High School was built down by those storage units.

*Where was the racetrack in connection with this?*

You really can't see the racetrack. You can see a round building. That's the grainery.

**Right here.**

Yes. They kept grain in that and the silo. On the ranch, we grew alfalfa hay, of course, barley and then corn, corn for silage. They would chop up the stalks and corn shucks and everything. And they kind of bury it and then it ferments a little bit. This made good feed for the cattle. Keep in mind my folks were cattle people. So they still operated the rangeland in Lincoln County where the cattle grazed and calved. It was an open range, hundreds of miles almost. Then they'd bring them down here to Las Vegas and feed them out from what was grown here, the corn, the barley and the hay. Then they'd truck them down to Los Angeles to sell. So that was their business. There was also at this time a slaughterhouse in Las Vegas over where Scotch 80s (neighborhood) is.

So some of their cattle were taken over there. But most of it was trucked down to Los Angeles. If I could see that picture again: no, it's not in there, but to the left of the trees is where all the big corrals were, the feedlot corrals. So that would actually be north if you were looking at this picture. It would be on the other side of the trees from the side we're looking.

**So more corrals than what we see right there?**

What we see in the photo are the horse corrals. Horse corrals were used not only by us but people from uptown in Las Vegas. So we had a lot of horse people that we got acquainted with, most of them gamblers, people that worked in the clubs and on Fremont Street and stuff like that. So we got acquainted with a lot of those people and they became our friends.

**So how would they use the corrals?**

They would put their horse in the corral and they'd come down and feed them every day. Or sometimes if they were going to be gone, we'd take care of them.

**Did they have to pay a leasing fee or a rental?**

I think they paid something for the hay. The corrals, I don't know if they were actually charged.

But the racetrack was also down here where those storage units are. The racetrack was actually down there. But you cannot see any of it in this photo.

**So what year are we talking about for the racetrack?**

Well, the racetrack went on for several years. It was probably constructed in the late Forties... Now, keep in mind my dad and his family were quarter horse people. Quarter horses were the favorite horse for cattle people. Then they all had to race them and see who had the fastest horse. Gradually

they'd become racehorses. But the maximum distance they ran for was 440 yards, which is a quarter of a mile. They would also run a hundred yards, 200 yards, and 300 yards. Getting out of the gate fast was important if you're running cattle. A horse had to move quickly to head off a calf. So this is an important characteristic of a quarter horse, which you wouldn't really find in a thoroughbred.

So that's why they got into the horse business early. In fact, there's an article -- I don't know if I brought it -- in the newspaper about the horses that they had acquired. They went back to Oklahoma to purchase their first horses and they brought them out here. Other folks did the same. Pretty soon a number of people around Las Vegas that were excited about this horse and we would see them on the ranch all the time. They'd come down to the races or they'd come down to exercise their horses.

**So which of the horses -- I've been to a horse race where the men were sitting in the little -- Starting gate?**

**No. They were sitting in like a little buggy.**

Oh. Oh, no. Those are trotters.

**So those are different.**

Yes, but keep in mind that this track was a very crude track. It was not Churchill Downs.

In fact, they had railings for only for 400 yards. Although the track eventually made a circle, they didn't bother with railings for the last part. It was that first 400 yards where the race was taking place. They had gates, but they didn't have like 16 gates. They had, maybe, six gates. So that's what they'd come out of. They would have match races where you'd bring your horse over and match a race with somebody else. They'd stick them in the gates and out you'd come and the race was on.

Now, eventually they got more sophisticated and they built a tower so that they could take photographs of the finish and pari-mutuel betting was established. If I recall one of the Ashworth brothers operated the pari-mutuel betting because you had to be an accountant to keep all these figures straight. So that took place on a very small scale. The town was very small. But a lot of the people would come down to the ranch and bring their horses.

If I can just refer to this. This is an article that appeared in Las Vegas Review-Journal November 28, 1947. By '47 they're racing horses. There's 11 races going on and they're all pretty much matched races. Jack Wollenzine had a horse named Sizzler. He owned a grocery store on

south Fifth Street. He was quite well known. Nephi Potter, Bob Fones, Dave Campbell, Tommy Young, Nig Graham, Jimmy Middleton and other horse people would come down to the Old Ranch. Then things got bigger as time went on. Then we had a lot of people that we used to see down there.

Then they had a famous race in 1946 that I want to bring your attention to. One of the first quarter horses my family purchased in Oklahoma was a horse named John Harold. This is a picture of my grandfather -- he's the one with the nice hat on -- and my father with the horse John Harold. This was taken on the old ranch in the arena they had. Maybe you can see a piece of it in the photo.

**In this one?**

It's right over here. You can just barely see a piece of it right behind the pecan tree. That's where this picture was taken. So John Harold was their prize horse. He was pretty fast and they raced him around a little bit at some other tracks. So some people come up from California with a horse that couldn't be beat. And they were showing a lot of money and they wanted to race John Harold. Of course, they had nice tracks and nice facilities in California and they didn't expect very much competition. They came with a challenge: you claim your horse is good; we got \$10,000 that says we can beat him.

My dad -- and his brothers were ranchers and they didn't have that kind of money. But they knew Benny Binion. So off my dad goes to Fremont Street to talk to Benny Binion. Well, Benny, he's excited to get in this thing. So he went to his safe and filled up his briefcase with cash. Off they went. So Benny says: we'll match your money; and we'll up it even more you think your horse is so fast. So the betting got even higher than \$10,000. So the word got around town about this big event that was about to happen down at the old ranch. Of course, John Harold beat the other horse pretty good.

Well, a little kid was watching this race. His name is Mike Prince. I'm acquainted with Mike. He's kind of a cowboy poet in his spare time. So it's a cowboy poet. He wrote a home about this race. I want to leave it with you because you'll enjoy reading it. I have to explain a few things because he's a poet and often times they're not exactly accurate to the facts. But it's poetry. The basic facts are true -- the horse race, the betting, the winning and all that business is all true. But he gets a little mistaken about how he describes the horse. The horse didn't have four white stocking feet like he says. He calls the California people "Prunies." I don't know if you've ever heard that.

**No.**

Well, they grow a lot of prunes in California. So it's kind of a derogatory name for California people.

**Okay. I see.**

The folks in Las Vegas were not going to be looked down upon by people from California. So they used the name "Prunies." That's not done any more. This photo shows the horse, my grandfather and my father. Here's the poem about that race. So you can read it in your spare time.

**What I'd like to do is I'd like for Karen and you to continue talking. What I'd like to do is start scanning the photographs so that when you get ready to leave -- I'll take this stack now.**

**Leave that there because you're still looking at those as you're talking.**

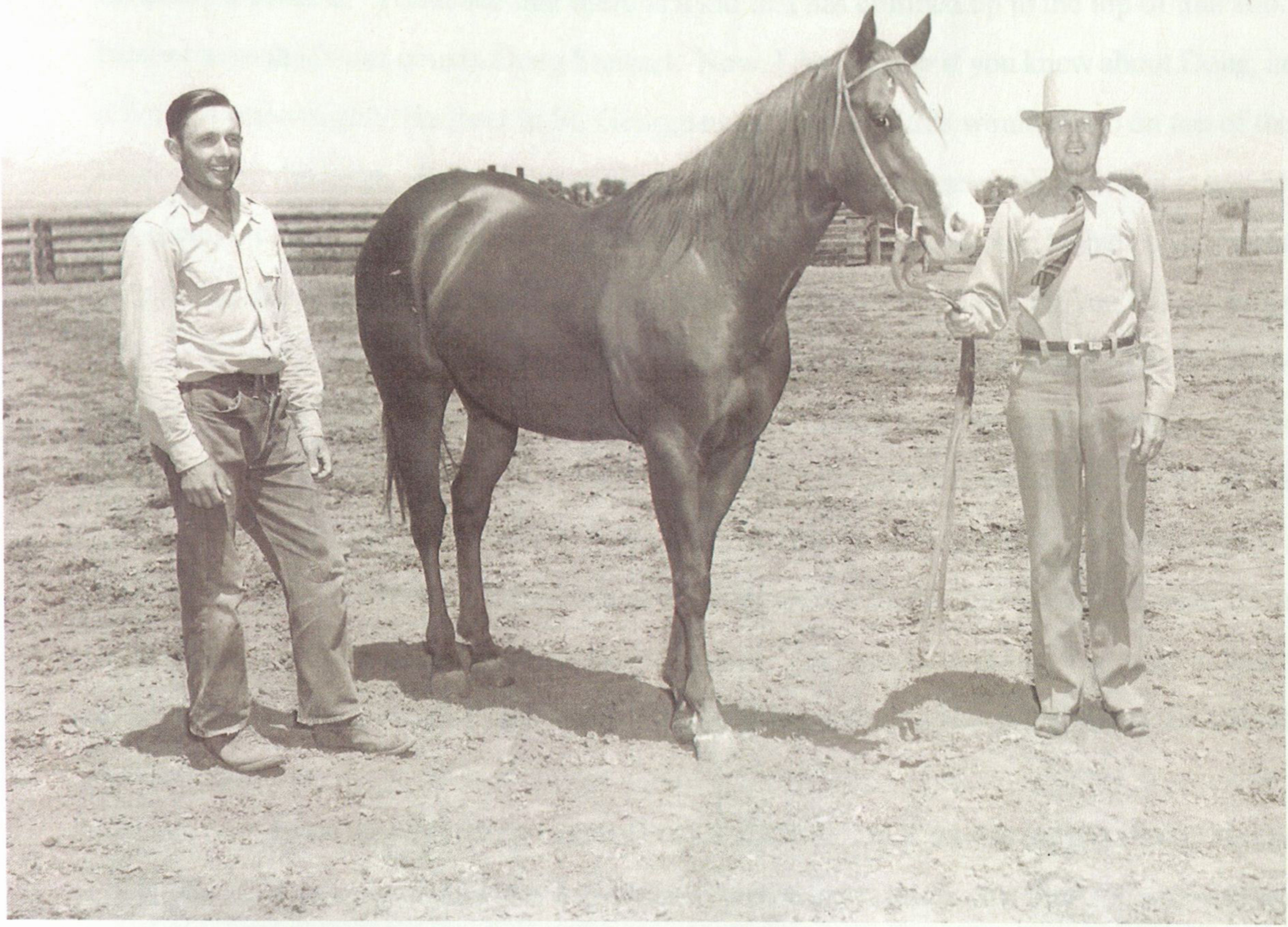
So, Karen, we've talked about the horse races. I had one article that mentioned some of the people that had their horses, but I didn't bring it. There were names that are familiar to old-time Vegans, the gamblers mainly. But Jimmy Middleton, he had a horse down there and he'd come and race. Cliff Jones would bring his horse over and race. Benny Binion, I remember an event where we were having some races and he came on a horse, a beautiful horse. Of course, his saddle and everything was silver and the blankets and the bridles. We had tack that's falling apart. That's what we used. Then he brought all his kids. He had, I don't know, six or seven kids. So it just went the oldest and then the next one had a little bit smaller horse and the next a little bit smaller. It went all the way down to a Shetland which the very youngest boy rode. They came from their house over on Bonanza down to the old ranch to see what was going on at the races. It was a real parade because they all had just beautiful tack -- the bridles, the saddles, the blankets -- and the horses were just immaculately cared for. So I was very impressed.

Grant Price and Buck Blaine were two other gamblers that came to the ranch. There are others that I just can't quite remember their names. So that's the racetrack. That's where the races took place on the ranch. For a few years, it was an exciting activity and a lot of people came over and enjoyed those races. I got to ride in one race because I was still young and light enough to be a jockey. But I didn't win. I came in second.

*That sounds great.*

This picture shows the corrals and stuff, you can see a silo. This is used to store grain, usually grain.





The famous quarter horse, John Harold.

So here's a picture. You'll see that there is a kid that has climbed up to the top of that silo. My brother says that's our cousin Doug Stewart. Now, I don't know if you knew about Doug, he became a famous playwright. He lives in St. George now. So these kids would climb on top of the silo and walk around the edge. Parents did not know this. But you can see how high that is and how dangerous it was. Sometimes it wasn't too dangerous because it would be half full of grain. So if you fell on the inside, you would hit the grain and you're okay. Not so if you fell on the outside.

This is a picture of the feed yard. This is where the cattle were kept. That's one picture. Here's another picture from a different direction. The cattle were brought in from the rangeland in Lincoln County down to the Old Ranch where they were fattened and then taken to the market.

This other picture is similar to the one you have in color showing the ranch and where the corrals are from our house. You can even see my mom's sheets that she had hanging up on a clothesline. If you look you can see this old truck. That was a truck that they used to haul the cattle from the rangeland to Las Vegas and from here down to L.A. There was also a trailer that came behind the truck.

Just under those sheets you can see part of a building. Can you see a doorway maybe? Okay, that was a dairy barn. There was a dairy herd on the old ranch at this time. Another fellow ran the dairy operation. It wasn't my people. I don't know what the financial arrangement was. But he came on the ranch and actually ran the dairy. So he was the dairyman. So we had a dairy there. And the dairy --

*What was his name?*

Well, he was a Leavitt, but I don't know his first name. He had a son named Benny Leavitt I think. I've lost track of all that. So they ran the dairy.

Now, over time the dairy was abandoned. By now the town is getting closer and there are a lot of cattle yards. And the dairy was kind of smelly. So they eventually shet the dairy down before we moved away. But we still managed to keep three or four milk cows, which we used ourselves. I spent some time in the dairy barn milking cows.

There was a cooler, a freezer to cool off the milk. Then you could get an ice cold drink of milk that was just really fresh. It tasted really good. Of course, it wasn't very good for you because it had a lot of cream in it I guess. But we're still alive, right? So that's the dairy. Eventually that was

sold off.

*Did you make ice cream with your dairy?*

No, we didn't. I think they sold the milk to a company called Rancho Creamery or something. It was before Anderson Dairy. Maybe it was a predecessor of Anderson Dairy. I don't know. But Rancho Creamery was downtown on South Third Street, somewhere in there. They made a lot of ice cream. So we ate their ice cream. But my mom made butter from the cream off the milk.

When we first arrived on the Old Ranch, there was a fairly large pig operation, you know, like the pig farm they have out north of town, but smaller. It also was operated by another fellow, not by my family. They would use what they called the wet garbage from the hotels and the restaurants to feed the pigs. That also was kind of a smelly operation. So that didn't last many more years after we arrived. But the cattle business ran for quite sometime.

There came a period of time towards the end of our stay there, which is in 19 -- what did I say, '56? Although the creek still ran, most of the water out of the Vegas springs had been taken by the town and by the railroad. So the creek didn't run much water. My family built a reservoir to store up the water for irrigation. The creek itself, though, was quite an attraction. The kids would come from uptown or around to chase crawdads or crawfish in the creek. They'd take them home and some folks would eat those things.

Also on the ranch just across -- if you know where the old ranch house was, where it was located in front of the fort, between the fort and Fifth Street or Las Vegas Boulevard and then just to the south of that house and the fort was the creek. Across the creek was a swimming pool. That was operated by my Aunt Jesma and her family. She was the two-year-old that arrived here in Las Vegas very sick in 1904 when they made the trip from Delamar to here. The swimming pool was a real attraction to people in town. At that time I think they only had Twin Lakes pool and the pool down at the old ranch. The pool down at the old ranch was much closer to everybody that lived in this area. So they had big crowds in the summertime. The pool was very noisy and a lot of kids. It was a nice place to go.

I don't think people know much about the swimming pool. So I brought here an advertisement in the newspaper, 1946 Review-Journal. Here's just an ad about the swimming pool on the old ranch. Then there is another article in '45 in the Review-Journal about swim classes

taking place at the old ranch and also at Twin Lakes pool that mentions the names of the people. I recognize just a couple of the names of kids I knew. Ken Greggson, I went to school with him. He is listed as going to the swimming classes. Naomi Lytle was also a classmate. Probably some of these others I knew, but I've forgotten them.

But anyway, a lot of kids come down to the old ranch. Of course, we had free reign of the pool because it was my uncle and aunt that ran it and it was on the ranch. So we got in free. We did quite a bit of swimming in the summer.

*How did they fill the pool?*

They had a well. They would just pump the water into the pool.

And near the swimming pool was a trailer court. There were a number of trailers. And that was a business of my Aunt Jesma. Her husband was Wilcox. So it was Carlisle Wilcox and Jesma Wilcox who ran the pool and the trailer park. They also had a convenience store where you could buy soda pop and candy. They also had doughnuts and a few things that people in the trailer park—milk and eggs—would come over and buy. So it was a little 7-Eleven in those days.

*Tell me about the trailer park. Who would live there?*

I remember one family, the Johnsons, because they had a daughter that was very pretty and she went to school about the same time I did. She became a dancer on the Strip like the Jubilee or one of those shows. She was quite well known. I think her picture was splashed around quite a bit. That's the only name I remember.

*What did they charge for the swimming pool?*

I have no idea. I can't remember. I didn't have to pay.

*You got in free, didn't you? Yes.*

So I've talked about the things that went on there, the operations that went on there. One of the alfalfa fields bordered Las Vegas Boulevard, which was Fifth Street at that time. So as you come down the hill from uptown, you come down the hill past the swimming pool, the ranch house, you cross the creek and then you drop down again after that. You then pass this nice hayfield that went all the way to the Woodlawn Cemetery. That was kind of a pretty place to drive past back then because it was so green and nice. So that was the old ranch. I'm trying to think if there's something else that I should -- they also grew melons there on one occasion, cantaloupe and watermelons.

Finally in 1956, the water was so low there was not enough to irrigate the place. By then my family had purchased land out in the east end of the valley at the end of Charleston, which was known as the Winterwood Ranch. So we moved from the old ranch in 1956 out to the Winterwood Ranch. That was the end of our time in the old ranch. So I don't know if you've got any more questions.

Oh, there is one other thing I want to talk to you about. All summer long they would harvest hay and they would stack up the hay to feed the cows and the horses. So along one side of the corrals where the horses were kept would be a high stack of baled hay. It would last them all winter.

Well, my youngest brother and his cousin, one of the Leavitt kids, got a hold of some matches. They were about five years old. They went down and started lighting all these matches and sticking them in this stack of hay right. They were just having a big time. Pretty soon some of the matches started to catch and pretty soon they had a big fire going. So they ran away. They knew they were in trouble. Then next thing we had two big fire engines or tankers down there spraying water all over these haystacks. Well, they became quite famous for this escapade.

The haystack was pretty much destroyed. They had to pull apart the remaining bales of hay because it smolders and will flare up again. So they had to wet what was left, which made it pretty hard to salvage. It dries out eventually if the hay is spread out. So they did that. That was a very exciting thing to happen. Flames and smoke shooting up to the sky, sirens blaring, the firefighters pumping water on the haystack, and crowds coming to see.

My brother's name was Larry. So we never let him forget this event. His buddy was John Leavitt. John Leavitt still lives here. Larry has a house here, but he also lives in Oregon. I want to make sure you get his name in this history.

*Good. Now, tell me about the Alamo cattle and the Test Site setting off.*

Our rangeland was next to the Test Site, in fact eventually taken over by the Test Site. The south end of our range was Papoose Lake. It's a dry lake. That area is now within the Test Site itself. Groom Lake became part of the Test Site or the Air Force bombing range. It is now known as Area 51 and was used for the development of supersonic airplanes and other secret projects. That was part of our range. We used to have two or three reservoirs around the edge of Groom Lake which filled with water when the rain came. Cattle would water off of those reservoirs. Up off the lake to

the north, we had a spring called Cane Springs. It was piped out of the south end of Bald Mountain to some corrals and a water trough. We ran quite a lot of wild horses in the early days. Those were sold off mainly to the Army when they were using horses in the cavalry during the Second World War. That's when I was very, very young. But I do have some recollection because I had spent some time out there with my dad. When I was in high school I would spend my summers taking care of the cattle on this range land. I've ridden across Groom Lake on a horse, which is about four miles across, in the middle of summer herding a few head of cattle driving to get them back to where they were supposed to be.

So then they started setting off the big bombs. That area became quite contaminated. People would have Geiger counters and loan them to us. You could go out across Groom Lake and you could pass a wand across and it would beep, beep, beep. Tiny pellets would set off the Geiger counter. We had some cattle and horses, especially horses, that had been rained on by these pellets. You could see white spots as big as the end of your thumb over the backs of those horses.

So pictures were taken and these were shown to the government officials and they paid for the animals and eventually bought that area of our rangeland. So that was taken over by them. We continued to operate the rest of the rangeland (Sand Spring and Tikaboo Valleys) for a few more years and then we eventually sold that out.

I recall that I, my dad and my uncle left very early one morning to go out to the range. It was still pitch-black dark. As we came into Tikaboo Valley, they set off a bomb off. The pickup was just facing it as we were driving. So we're not 30 miles away I guess from where the bomb was set off. But I can never forget all of a sudden it was just like somebody turned on a light switch. Everything was light. You could see clear across the valley as if it was daylight. We immediately stopped the truck, got out, and you could see airplanes that were just specks up in the sky. That tells you how high you could see. And it was pitch-black dark just seconds before. Then this big cloud starts rising and we could see it over the low mountain range and it's climbing and churning with many different colors. And that's a very vivid memory I have of that event.

Of course, we felt the earth shake several times in Las Vegas and you could see the flash. So, yeah, we were acquainted with atomic testing. But none of us seemed to have come down with any ill-effects from working in that area with the cattle and the horses.

*This article talks about just over the hill from Helldorado Village. What was Helldorado Village like?*

At the intersection of Bonanza and Las Vegas Boulevard, at the southwest corner is the senior citizen center. That area used to be the rodeo grounds. They had big bleachers for the public. The Helldorado rodeos were held in that area, way back in the early Forties.

Diagonally across from that corner was the Helldorado Village. It was enclosed by, oh, a rough wood fence, kind of tall, maybe seven feet tall. It was a fairly large area. This is where the carnival would locate for the Helldorado celebration sponsored by the Elks. So it was called the Helldorado Village. It was located on Fifth Street about where Bonanza intersects now.

So as you come north from downtown, you pass Helldorado Village; then you going further north, down the hill a ways, would be the old ranch. The old ranch also included part of Cashman Field and its parking lot, although at that time the upper side of it was a lot of mesquite trees and a lot of vagrants lived in there for a while. Eventually they cleared it out.

*Was that a weekend event, the Helldorado Village?*

It would be just during Helldorado, when that celebration was going on, which was about a week, wasn't it? Rodeos and parades etcetera. That's when I recall that they had the carnival and the rides at the Village.

*Now, I heard there was a dance place or skating rink or something kind of in that area. Was that part of the Helldorado?*

I don't recall.

*All right. The Helen Stewart ranch house, it was moved and made into a restaurant, right? Are you familiar with that?*

Yes.

*Are you? Can you tell me about that?*

Well, I'm not too familiar. I know that happened and it became the old ranch house restaurant over Tonopah Highway. It was a nice restaurant. People used to drive all the way over there and have a nice steak at the old ranch restaurant.

*Why did they move it from the ranch?*

Whoever owned the ranch sold it. The buyer came in and moved it off. That's a shame that

happened. Then the Elks built that building that bumps up almost against the old fort. That was a shame that they did that, too. But at least there's something left at the old fort. So that's there. That was long after we left when that happened. But my grandparents lived in the old ranch house when we ran the Old Ranch.

*Oh, did they?*

Yeah, when it was there that's where they lived.

*Do you have any pictures of the inside of the home?*

No, I don't. I don't think the family has any pictures. We didn't take many pictures back then.

*Are there any holidays or events at the old ranch that you'd like to tell me about?*

Sometimes Hollywood people would come to the Strip and they'd want to go see a horse ranch or something and they'd come down to the ranch. We had a picture for a long time of John Payne. He was a movie star in the 40s and 50s. We had a picture of him sitting on the haystacks eating a plate of beans, talking to my dad or one of my uncles. It was kind of a place nearby where they could see an operating ranch and get a picture taken with a cowboy. Audie Murphy, war hero and film actor, came to the ranch to visit about quarter horse. Later he sent to my dad a set of long horns from Texas. We have those hanging in our cabin near Brian Head. Rex Bell would also visit the ranch and we had a picture of him riding the horse John Harold.

*Well, great. Thank you very much.*

You're welcome.

*I really appreciate it.*

*Tell us about her again.*

Well, I just mentioned that my Aunt Jesma, who was a two-year-old when my grandparents arrived here in 1904, was very sick. She lived here most of her life. But she married a fellow from Lincoln County and they lived in Pioche a few years. They operated the pool that was on the old ranch, she and her husband, Carlisle Wilcox.

Well, her last child had Down syndrome. He just passed away two years ago. So he would have been in his 60s, which was very, very unusual for a person with that handicap to live that long. But he did. They made sure they had some things that he could do and that he did them. Jesma was part of the group that initiated what is now called Opportunity Village. Her son worked and served





JULY 1960

Jan in 1960 facing direction of the Old Fort.

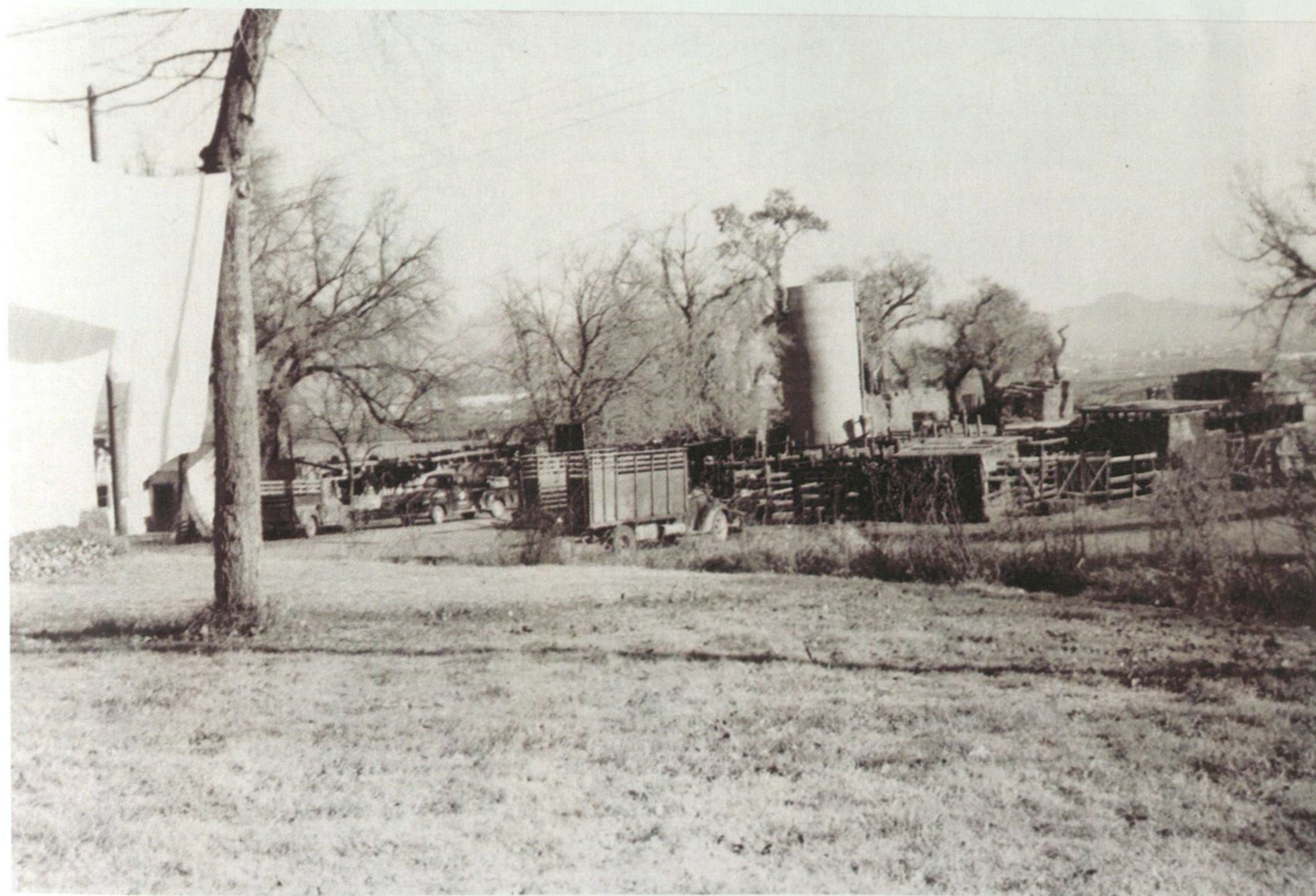


APR • 55 •

Jan's family Gary, Sylvia, Lorraine, Lorna and Larry. (1955)



Ranch house.



View from rear of ranch house.





Cattle feedlot, silo, and other old ranch photos.



in that facility almost his entire life. Jesma promoted the cause for Downs Syndrome to the state, the school district and anyone else that would listen. She died in 2002.

Remember they came in 1904. So in 1905, when they sold off the lots, she's three years old. Jesma has a memory of being at that auction. She did. But she passed away and would have been the last person ever alive that would have remembered that. I don't know. The town just missed it. She was a very important person.

**I wonder if anyone ever captured her interview, her stories, her memories on tape.**

No. You weren't here, Claytee.

**This has just been so wonderful.**

**Those photographs, I'd like for you to take a few minutes if you will and let us jot down a little description of each one. I have them saved on the L drive on our computer. I just want to make sure that I have a good description of each photograph.**

Let me start with where we lived. So this is a picture of me standing at the front door of our house. The front door faced the old fort about 30 yards away.

**Okay. Faced fort 30 yards away. Wow. Okay, great.**

And then this is a picture of the side of the house. The only reason we have that picture is because it snowed. Otherwise, we'd have no picture of that.

**Okay, great.**

These dates down at the bottom are dates that these prints were made of, not the dates the pictures were taken.

**That's right. So the snowman picture, tell me from left to right.**

This is my brother Gary.

**G-A-R-Y?**

Yeah. And he still lives in Vegas.

**Oh, my goodness. Is he older or younger?**

He's just younger than me. Well, he's six years younger than me. He had his CPA firm, which is Stewart, Archibald and Barney. It's a CPA firm here in town. He's a Stewart. He's retired now.

This is my sister Sylvia. She is deceased. She married and had a bunch of kids.

This is my mother, Lorraine Webb Stewart. She's from Arizona.

**Good. It's on your information sheet.**

Yeah.

**Okay. Then the snowman. Then on the right side of the snowman?**

That's my youngest sister. Her name is Lorna and she still lives here.

**L-O-R-N-A. That's your sister.**

She married an Earl, a family that's been around here forever.

This is my brother Larry. He's the one that set the haystacks on fire.

**Did he tell you that story? Okay, great. Wonderful.**

That's Larry. So they all went to school at Rancho and Vegas High School and North Ninth Street Grammar School, which is no longer used as a grammar school.

*North Ninth Street?*

North Ninth Street, yeah. Administration uses it for some purpose. I don't know.

**And what is the horse --**

Let me finish. Let me take off from there. So in the front of the house looking out our front door you see the old fort. This is how it looked to us when we were there.

**That is great. That's a wonderful photograph there.**

Is it? Okay. Looking out the back of our house you see down towards the corrals, the silo.

**Now, is that the same as that photograph, too?**

A little bit different. You can work off of both. They show a little bit of difference.

**So there are two photographs. These are the ones with the silo. Okay, good.**

The silo, the grainery. There's a pit right here that they put the silage in. You wouldn't notice it, but I notice it. I can't believe it showed up in this picture. And this is the arena where a picture of John Harold is, which we'll get to.

This also is a picture of -- well, you weren't here when we went over this picture.

**So the black and white.**

It's out of the back. But it shows a little bit something different that you might be interested in.

**Clothesline.**

This is my mother. She's hung up the sheets right here at the house.

**I grew up with a clothesline in my backyard.**

Yeah. Well, if you can see just under the sheet there's a building there and there's a doorway. That was the old dairy barn. You can't see it in any of the other photos. That dairy barn was there for a long time. Part of it may still be there next to the state building is there right next. The state building is now where all the corrals were, the feedlot corrals were.

And then here is a picture of the horse. This is John Harold. He's described in this poem and in a news article that I've left with Karen. To the left side of the picture is my father, Dell Stewart.

**That's D-A-L-E?**

D-E-L-L. Actually his real first name is Udall, U-D-A-L-L. But I think he was teased about that name. His great-grandmother was a Udall and part of the Udall family that were politically active in Arizona.

**Right. Because we know Senator Udall.**

Yeah. That's where that name comes from.

This is my grandfather. His name was William T. Stewart, usually called W.T. So after they came here and lived on the old ranch, they went out to Winterwood Ranch. My father and grandfather lived the rest of their lives here in Las Vegas.

*How many brothers were at the ranch or lived at the ranch?*

How many brothers? On the Old Ranch there was my dad and his sister's husband, Earl Leavitt and my grandfather. They were the three partners in this ranch. The ranch had a name called Rancho Amigo. That was their formal name. But everybody called it the old ranch.

**So it was friend ranch?**

Yeah. I mean the checks were written out with his name. That was the name of the corporation or whatever. It was called Rancho Amigo. Then when they moved out to the Winterwood Ranch, most of the other brothers became involved -- Cornell, Ronald, and Willard. Two brothers stayed up in Alamo—Wilson and Dan—and were not involved with the ranches in Las Vegas.

**Those other photos -- that's the silo.**

Yeah.

**And the silo was used for what kind of grain?**

Barley mainly. That would be harvested on the ranch. Then if you put it in a hopper, it blows it up and dumps it in the silo. Then in the wintertime you'd take it out through a box down here and you

can open it up and it flows out into your wagon. Then you put it in a manger for feed for the cattle.

These are the cattle out in the feedlot. Those are the range cattle that they brought down from Lincoln County, fattened them out here, and then take them to L.A. to sell.

**They were trucked?**

Yeah.

**Wow. This is amazing.**

There's a picture of the truck right here. They had a trailer that you pulled behind it.

**So how many cows could you take at a time?**

Well, back in those days you could take, I don't know, 20.

**Oh, really?**

Oh, you packed them in.

**It looks painful.**

Then you can see some haystacks back in this photo. Those are baled hay.

**I grew up on a farm and the hay that we baled was from peanut vines.**

Really?

Yes.

I didn't know they baled those. What did they use the vines for?

**To feed the farm animals.**

Where was that?

**North Carolina.**

Well, I had a chance to visit Muskagee (sic)? The university.

**Is that in North Carolina?**

No. That's in Alabama. But that's where George Carver --

**Oh, George Washington Carver.**

Yeah. That's where he located and that's where he got folks growing peanuts because they lost the cotton.

**That's right.**

He was ahead of his time. And I was very impressed.

**He found how many uses for peanuts? Like 300 and something uses for peanuts.**



Oh, yeah.

*This is the John Harold one.*

**Oh, that's great. Now, that's yours. And this one is about the swimming pool. And do you have any other articles for us?**

I may have another article about the swimming pool and another about horse racing. If I do, I will send them to you.

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- Young, Tommy, 9

JOHN HERALD

by Mike Prince

They figured us for an "easy touch"  
Them boys from Hollywood  
Come up from California  
To teach us a lesson good

They brought with them a race horse  
An old campaigner tried and true  
This ol' pony'd made em' lots of money  
They had no doubts what he could do

The Stewarts had a young race horse  
The colt was Oklahoma bred  
Four white stockin's and a blaze  
Laid on his coat of red

The pride of the Stewart clan  
Was this young sorrel stud  
Purchased from the Oakies  
For the race'n in his blood

They called the colt John Herald  
For t'was his breeder's name  
At the short tracks of the west  
The colt would win his fame

Them "prunies" pulled into Vegas  
On a clear warm summer day  
Them boys was in a festive mood  
For them boys had come to play

They drove out to the Stewart Ranch  
With their race'n pride in tow  
Unloaded their black horse  
And then put on a show

For us poor "ignorant" cowboys  
They done their very best  
To show us that they had  
The best horse in the west

Oh, I'll say he was a beauty  
Of that there was no doubt  
Sunlight sparkled on his coat  
As he pranced and tossed about

They adorned him in their colors  
Legged a jockey up on his back  
Said, "Bring on yer runnin' horse  
We'll meet you at the track"

Page two\_ John Herald

We hurried to the pasture  
John Herald met us there  
Cockle-burrs in tail and mane  
Mud caked upon his hair

He was a sorry sight..  
And now that I look back  
It took a lot of courage  
To lead him to the track

Them prunies done their best  
To keep from laughin' aloud  
But snickers and silly grins  
Kept comin' from their crowd

They circled 'round John Herald  
Like a pack o'desert coyotes  
They mistook his unkept looks  
For a lack of hay and oats

"We was told you had a race horse"  
Said this prunie with a sneer  
"You want to run this..this...  
Against my race horse here?"

I reckon that's true  
Said Del Stewart with a grin  
"Unless you think yore pony  
Don't stand a chance to win!"

That prunies face got red  
Then he sprinted to his car  
Grabbed a satchel full o'money  
Said, "Lets see how brave you cowboys are!"

Del looked into the satchel  
The color left his face  
He didn't have that kind o'money  
There wouldn't be no race

Then his eyes regained their sparkle  
And a grin spread acrost his face  
"Just give me thirty minutes  
And we'll have us that horse race."

Del sped to the Horsehoe Club  
Where he bent ol' Bennie's ear  
Said he needed Bennie's backin'  
For the horse race of the year.

Page 3\_ John Herald

Ol' Binion went over to the safe  
That held his private stash  
Grabbed a leather suitcase  
And filled it full of cash.

"Mind if I tag along, old friend?"  
Said Benny as he handed Del the bag  
"I just want to be there  
When John Herald beats their nag"

The word raced like wild fire  
Up and down old Fremont Street  
That the prunies were in town  
With a pony that'd never been beat

Bell hops, maids and porters  
Dealers and card sharks too  
Politicians and church folk  
To the ranch they all flew

They covered them prunie's bets  
Then to the rail they crowded  
"They're in the gates and now they're off!  
In a single voice they shouted

Like thunder on the desert  
On a dark and stormy day  
I heard the rumble of their hooves  
As they sped along their way

Shoulder to shoulder, stride for stride  
The sorrel and the black  
Each battled for the lead  
As they pounded up the track

And just like them two horses  
The spectators battled too  
For to gain a place at the rail  
From which to catch a view

I stood beside the prunie  
As we craned our necks to see  
I saw the color leave his face  
Saw him tremble at the knee

"Oh Lord...My Lord..." he cried  
They're beating our race horse!"  
In the lead by two lengths  
Came John Herald up the course

Del said that later, when he'd pull into one of the  
California tracks with his race horses, that quite often the  
California boys wouldn't remember his name; they'd just  
holler "John Herald!"

Page 4\_ John Herald

Little Joe Smith, the jockey  
Waved as they flew by  
From the throat of the beaten prunie  
There came a pitiful cry..

Quite a lesson was learned  
By the boys from Hollywood:  
When you run your pony in Nevada,  
He'd better be more than good!

**STANDS BY FOR HISTORIC SIGNING** — Preliminary conference between Japanese emissaries and Admiral Halsey's staff, in which details for historic signing of surrender were issued, was held aboard U. S. S. Missouri, battleship aboard which ceremonies will take place in Tokyo Bay. Missouri here lies at anchor in Tokyo Bay, triumphant flagship, leader of Yank fleet into Japan waters. U. S. navy photo transmitted to San Francisco via Radio Telephoto direct from battleship Iowa in Sagami Bay.

(NEA Telephoto)

# The Quarter Horse Makes His Bid

By MATTIE GIASSON

Ownership of fine horses, particularly parade and rodeo performers, is nothing new to southern Nevada, but breeding stables for production and training of Quarter Horses—stout little bulldog cow ponies and short distance speed demons—have been started here to eventually make the Las Vegas area a renowned center for the equine industry.

Within the past year, W. T. Stewart, pioneer Nevada rancher, has undertaken start of stables on a commercial basis at the Old Ranch on North Fifth street. Stock now includes two stallions, nine fillies and four horse colts almost ready for the saddle. Two spindle-legged foals are the babies of the corral.

King of the harem is "John Howard," a beautiful sorrel stallion three years old last April. A native of Oklahoma, he was named for his former master, a physician in that state, who sold him to Stewart last fall. Gentle and affectionate, "John Howard" greets Stewart with a glad nicker as he approaches the pen, and nudges him like a playful puppy. None of the vicious temper so often found in stallions exists in the great heart of this stout little beast.

A brother of "John Howard" known as "Bennie Joe" occupies the adjoining stall. September 5 will be his second birth anniversary and the horse shows promise of becoming the same fine steed. His disposition is lovable with no hint of jealousy for his handsome kin, however "Bennie Joe" is by no means an ugly duckling himself. His coat is darker than "John Howard's," but his fine clean lines and intelligent head mark him for a championship class within a few years.

Stewart and his sons, all well known ranchers and horsemen of Clark and Lincoln, plan to raise and break the horses for sale as rodeo stock, or keep their finest specimens for breeding purposes. They are all smart, good natured and easy to train, Stewart said.

A favorite of the cow country and range lands, the Quarter Horse as a breed dates back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Stewart revealed. He was developed from English and Spanish stock in the Thirteen Colonies, a work horse during the week and a race horse on Sundays and holidays.

Reason for his unusual success in short races is his distinctive conformation—the small alert ears, short head, big jaws, well developed hock, deep sloping shoulder, great heart girth, short back and full loin, low flank and heavily muscled thigh and fore-

arm, short cannon and moderate pastern, his heavily muscled rear quarters and hind legs all combining to spell just one horse—the little bull-dog quarter horse.

The horse normally stands perfectly at ease with legs well under him and can move quickly in any direction. It is this qualification that makes him a universal favorite on the range. His powerful and stocky legs, increasing his stability, give him unsurpassed maneuverability. He can stop and turn at speeds which other horses find impossible, and his heavily muscled drivers allow him to break faster from a standing start than any other horse, a factor greatly desired for rodeo work with cattle.

His docility, lack of nervousness and his quiet, even temperament, even after strenuous action, is an outstanding Quarter Horse characteristic.

In 1650, the Quarter Horse averaged about 13.2 hands high. Today the ideal average is from 14.2 to 15 hands, and he weighs about 1200 pounds.

Of the horses registered with the American Quarter Horse association, sorrel is the predominating color. Next comes bay and chestnut. Others in order are dun, brown, black, gray, roan, cream, grullo and white. No paints, appaloosas, albinos, multi-colored or glass-eyed horses are accepted for registration.

As well as the Stewart stock on the Old Ranch, there are approximately 35 to 40 other Quarter Horses in the Las Vegas district. Undersheriff C. D. Stewart is the proud owner of "Las Vegas Star," a blood bay sired by "Little Star," Oklahoma rodeo favorite. His father was the great "Oklahoma Star," sire of more top ranking rodeo horses than any other Quarter Horse Stallion.

Dave Campbell is owner of the champion stallion, "Old Town Cowboy," valued at more than \$5,000, but definitely not for sale. His brother, Dan Campbell, is also a prominent local Quarter Horse breeder.

Prominent owners and breeders in the area are Tommy Young, Nig Graham, Ebb Davis,

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Kel Houssels and Kenny Searles. "Peggy," a Quarter Horse filly, foaled "Home Coming" out of "Old Town Cowboy" on the day that her owner, Major Cliff A. Jones, returned to the United States from combat duty in Germany. The officer's stables at his ranch home here include fine specimens of Quarter Horse stock.

## High School Boy Sets New World "Sit-Ups"

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (UP)—Jerry Insley, 18, Prescott high school athlete, is believed to have set a new world record for "sit-ups" by performing the exercise 1,118 times.

The old record of 1,037 "sit-ups" was held by an army air corps sergeant.

The "sit-up" is one of 12 exercises which make up the army "daily dozen." The performer lies on his back, clasps his hands behind his head and without raising his feet from the floor, sits up until he can touch his right elbow to his left knee, or vice versa.

In performing this feat, Insley worked without pause an hour and 42 minutes. The test climaxed months of training. The youth is 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighs 165 pounds and is a star football player.

**KEEPS MESSAGES FLOWING**  
NEW ORLEANS (UP)—Western Union has handled more than 10,500,000 expeditionary forces messages since June, 1942, according to J. C. Jackson, local superintendent of the company. Jackson said service personnel sent 2.6 messages from overseas for each one they received from home.

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For  
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126 S. FIRST  
NOW OPERATED BY  
MAC and HARRY

in its wake a toll of eight known dead.

The storm, accompanied by winds of 135 miles an hour at its height, narrowly missed Houston, Texas' largest city.

This area was deluged with 15.65 inches of rain in a 24-hour period. But E. W. White, acting public works director, said the big Barker dam probably would prevent a repetition of the disastrous 1935 flood.

Hurricane warnings were pulled down as Red Cross and other disaster agencies attacked the enormous task of relief and rehabilitation.

Along the 300 mile length of the coast from Port Isabel to Houston, residents surveyed the wreckage of their communities. Reports coming in over patched communications lines painted a bleak picture of homes crushed, rice and cotton crops ruined and whole towns levelled.

Everywhere in the storm's path there was the wreckage of fishing craft and shrimp boats, symbols of the coast's principle means of livelihood.

Damage to crops was estimated in millions of dollars. In the Corpus Christi area alone, the loss from unpicked cotton was placed at more than \$1,500,000.

## Life Imprisonment

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 28 (AP) Charles S. Kennedy, 27, ex-soldier, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment. Superior Judge Edward R. Brand found him guilty of robbing and slaying William Fitzpatrick, 68, who was bludgeoned to death with a revolver butt last June 12.

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**Cher New New**

MIAM Major ( nault e: the Jaj would b military again se Chent as com force i America could p Japanes sympath ple and strong. "In "there rōyal fa the emj the sam couldn't peror w

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R. F. 7.7.45

# Swimming Classes Going to Town

Twenty-nine youngsters from the Las Vegas area have already enrolled and are enjoying the pleasure and benefits of swimming classes at the Twin Lakes and Old Ranch pools, while a third class, advanced pupils, started Saturday afternoon under the direction of Jeanne Profitt, former Water Follies star and more recently with Buster Crabbe's show. All are eligible for Red Cross certificates on completion of the swimming courses. The classes are sponsored by the city recreation department, Al G. Borders, director.

The Friday class, intermediate at Twin Lakes pool included Sandy De Lucca, Patsy Graham, Martha Ann Love, Kenneth Gragson, Lois Rose, Gail Schreman, Barbara Profitt, Agnes Langstaff, Virginia Nelson, Violet Caldin and Bob Vaughn.

Instructions for this class are given twice weekly, Tuesday and Friday, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The little folks, beginners, who are given the rudiments of swimming at the Old Ranch pool include Susan Cranister, Erin Cranister, Claire Roberts, Camille Roberts, Gary Haller, Jean Fujita, Peggy Beecham, Lynne Adams, Walter Wolfe, Mike Boyer, Frank Lavielle, Loren Lytle, Naomi Lytle, Marylin Norris, Sharon Walsh and Faye Walsh.

Borders stated that while transportation has been made through vehicles privately owned, any classes of 25 or more will be transported by the Vegas Transit company to and from Twin Lakes by a specially chartered bus at a nominal fare. He urges all youngsters interested to register early so arrangements may be made for a bus. Today's advanced class is the first in that division. Borders is confident many excellent swimmers will be developed through the summer months in this activity.

## Beg. Your Pardon

The names of four Las Vegas juniors, listed as eligible for the district and state tournaments in the competition for baseball laurels were inadvertently omitted in the publishing of the list as submitted by H. H. Nickel and registered by K. O. Knudsen. The list, with birth dates, includes the following:

- Leo Hineine, July 23, 1929;
- Harold Kelly, January 20, 1928;
- Myron E. Leavitt, October 27, 1930, and Buddy Hardy, December 6, 1929.



**EXERCISE GIRL** — Believe it or not, manpower shortage has hit the exercise lads at race tracks and in many cases girls have taken over. Above is Joan Maecher, who hails from Miami, is 20 and owns seven ponies and two mares. Latter are thoroughbreds and she has bred them. She works racers for trainer James McGee.

## A DODGER CLICKS FOR BOSTON

By Associated Press

It's a fine how-do-you-do in Flatbush with the Dodgers losing 15-3 and a Brooklyn-born laddie setting new records in Boston.

Tommy Holmes was brought up almost in the shadow of Ebbets Field, but he has done his ball playing for the Yankee farm system and the Boston Braves where he hit safely in his 33rd and 34th successive games yesterday to smash Roger Hornsby's old standard set in 1922.

Although Holmes still is 22 short of Joe DiMaggio's mark of 56 set in 1941, his feat of hitting safely in 34 successive contests, at a .438 pace, lifting his season mark to .407 and leading four individual departments and tied for a fifth is by far the standout individual job of the campaign.

The Holmes inspiration pulled the Braves out of a losing slump that began with a 24-2 pasting by Chicago, for Boston twice whipped Pittsburgh, 13-5 and 14-8, as the left-handed hitting outfielder topped Hornsby's mark.

Chicago and St. Louis continued to make the big noise in the National, the Cubs rambling over the Phillies twice 11-3 and 5-1 and the Cards thumping the Dodgers, 13-5. The result finds the Dodgers' lead sliced to a single game over the Bruins. Blix Donnelly handcuffed the

Fox to hand Van Mungo his fourth loss.

New York took a fall out of the first-place Detroit Tigers, 5-4, with Oscar Grimes doing most of the hitting and Floyd Bevens doing all of the pitching for his eighth success.

Washington opened up on St. Louis to sweep a doubleheader, 6-3 and 5-2, holding second place and moving to within three games of the Tigers. Rick Ferrell established a new American League record by catching his 1,722nd game in the opener.

Jim Bagby and Mel Harder hurled Cleveland to a double victory over Boston, 3-2 and 4-2 with Allie Reynolds coming on in the ninth of each game to save the bacon.

Jess Flores edged Thornton Lee, 1-0, in a neat pitching battle for the A's second decision in their last 18 and the White Sox sixth successive drubbing.

## Baseball Sunday

Las Vegas Legion Juniors vs Basic Juniors at Henderson. Game starts at 2:30 p.m.

Basic Juniors, contenders for the Southern Nevada district championship, cross bats with Las Vegas Sunday afternoon in what looks like an attractive baseball show for the fans and which will surely be a test for

# Today Sports Parade

By JACK CUNNINGHAM  
NEW YORK, July 7 — Those baseball fans "long shots," the Senators today are a chological bet to win the American league pennant.

They are the long shots because they led last in the 1941 league campaign. They weren't expected to do things this year.

But the Senators are going off the past and the present as they travel through the west on their tour. On this trip they won 13 of 17 games at home on June 22. They are working on a string of straight victories. They are second place in the American league standing, just behind the leading Detroit Tigers.

This second swing in the west was supposed to be for the Senators, who were against the supposed western clubs — the Tigers, the champions and the hard-to-beat White Sox.

The Senators, with the expectation of them as under no pressure, they went west and won two games in Detroit, three of them on the road, four straight and climaxed their trip with two victories over the Browns last night.

What has happened to the Senators? First, they suddenly developed power in their new staff. Since leaving the Stadium, they have had home runs. Second, Cliff, the Senator man who was carrying the skins, has gone a power hitter. The team left home he nearly 50 points to the average, although a mark of about 100. The Senators have lagged in smaller parks not been subject to every-night diet of ball, as in their home

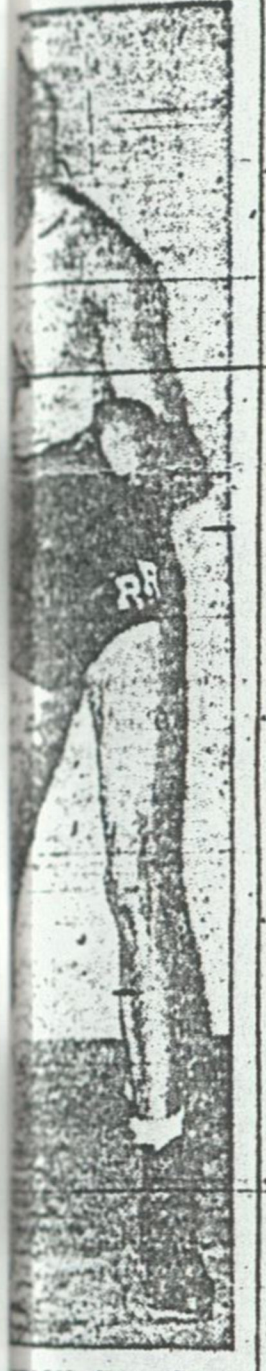
With all of their knuckle-ball flinger mound artists pitching, they have the depth in the American League. Three of them have games each: Duke Roger Wolff and Roberto Pieretti; meanwhile

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been it "the hard  
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come off the deck  
Madison Square  
a 15-round decl-  
ard-punching Tony  
the welterweight  
world. Robinson  
for an eight count

Win In  
Tourney

CITY, Dec. 21—  
ah, and Kingman,  
erged triumphant  
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ent held here last

from Utah dump-  
team of Eagles,  
the Kingman Bull-  
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led by Bill Spivey  
man, two of the out-  
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early in the game  
sizeable margin all

Boulder City meets  
the first game, at  
hurricane tangles  
in the nightcap

# SPORTS

## BASKETBALL SCORES

By United Press

Colorado College 92, Fort Warren 83.  
Carbondale Teachers 57, Indiana State Teachers 54.  
North Dakota University 84, Ellenda Normal 50.  
Eastern Kentucky Teachers 66, Baylor 61.  
Vanderbilt 51, Sewanee 30.  
McMurry 59, Oklahoma Tech 46.  
Stevens Tech 71, Clarkson 51.  
North Carolina State 54, Tulane 44.  
Lehigh 62, Wittenberg 56.  
Syracuse 74, Ohio Wesleyan 47.  
Omaha University 99, Billings Poly Tech 29.  
Minot Teachers 43, Valley City Normal 41.  
Lawrence Tech 64, Otterbein College 54.  
St. George 55, St. Gregory 31.  
Delpaw 55, Knox 42.  
Purdue 55, St. Louis U. 52.  
Oklahoma A&M 45, Kansas 37.  
Princeton 60, Rutgers 40.  
Texas A&M 58, Stephen F. Austin 53.  
Pepperdine 73, University of Houston 61.  
Detroit 69, Scranton 49.  
Sampson 41, Hobart 21.  
Lehigh 62, Wittenberg 56.  
Seton Hall College 65, William and Mary 31.  
Union College 56, St. Lawrence University 32.  
Virginia Poly 53, Catholic University 42.  
Cornell 64, Yale 41.  
Manhattan 67, Brooklyn College 56.  
Villanova 65, Loyola (Md.) 56.  
Duquesne 63, Morehead Teachers 52.  
Georgetown 70, Davis Elkins 31.  
Colgate 58, Baldwin Wallace 33.  
Washington University 58, Arkansas State 50.  
Loras 61, St. Mary's (Calif.) 47.  
Denver 61, Colorado State 50.  
Marshall 63, Murray State 59.  
Canterbury 49, Indiana Central 27.  
Alton 73, Case 50.  
Michigan State 57, Stanford 45.  
Dickinson Teachers 66, Wahpeton Science 53.  
Mayville Normal 53, Bottineau School of Forestry 37.

PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL  
Association of America  
Toronto 74, New York 70.

## Illinois Given Big Sendoff

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Dec. 21 (P) Upwards of 1,500 townspeople and students cheered the Illinois football squad last night as it boarded three special coaches of the Panama Limited for the trip to Pasadena and the Rose Bowl game with UCLA on New Year's day.

The squad of 43 players—Dwight Eddleman will join the group on its arrival in Pasadena Monday after playing with the Illini basketball team at Berkeley, California—will arrive in New Orleans today and take in a sightseeing trip through the city before showing off for the coast.

Coach Ray Eliot, disappointed that the squad was chased indoors for workouts by cold weather, ordered a heavy scrimmage Monday afternoon, four hours after arriving in Pasadena.

PEPPERDINE WINS  
HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 21 (P) Pepperdine college's Waves from Los Angeles romped to a 73-61 basketball victory over the University of Houston last night.

KING'S  
FLOWER HOUSE

# Quarter-Horse Racing In Las Vegas Sunday

The opening of an active quarter-horse racing program gets under way Sunday afternoon at the Old Ranch track, just off North Fifth street.

Main attraction of the running will be a \$2,100 matched race between Del and W. P. Stewart's sensational four-year-old "John Harold" and "Sky Pete" an entry from the Roberts stables from Blythe, California. This race is scheduled for 1:30, and will pit two of the fastest quarter-horses in these parts,

according to local handicappers.

Also of high interest is a race between "Bing," two-year-old Las Vegas colt owned by Ronald Stewart, which is matched against a quarter-horse favorite from Kingman, Arizona. They will go to the post at 3:30.

In the one eighth of a mile competition, Undersheriff Cyril Stewart's "Las Vegas Star," prominent two-year-old, is matched with a horse, owned by the Blythe county sheriff.

All Garrett of Las Vegas will enter a local horse against another entry by the name of "Bee," and Nephi Potter's "Buz" will compete with Johnny Jensen's horse. Two other races also are on the program.

## Christmas Checks Go to Dependents

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 21 (UP)—Families of nine Spokane baseball players killed and six others injured in a bus crash last June today awaited Christmas checks totaling more than \$114,000, mailed by major and minor league baseball clubs and individuals.

The needs of each family were considered in distributing the money. Pitcher Dick Powers of Oakland, Cal., who is still in a hospital suffering from critical neck and back injuries, drew the largest share, \$11,190.

Mrs. Bessie Lyden, widow of Pitcher George Lyden, Tensed, Ida., will receive \$11,167. She has three children.

Other shares ranged from \$3,000 to \$9,000.

Organized baseball contributed more than \$63,000 to the Christmas fund and another \$21,000 was raised in a benefit game between Oakland and Seattle of the Pacific Coast league.

## Upset Stomachs

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 21 (AP) Coach Odus Mitchell of North Texas State, whose team meets College of the Pacific here today in the Optimist Bowl, said this morning 15 members of his squad were suffering from upset stomach and that several had been quite ill in the night.

"I think all will be able to play but they are bound to be handicapped as the result of loss of sleep and weakness," Mitchell said.

In Travancore, a state in India, the heads of the state are men but succession is always through the female line.

## Fights

By Associated Press

New York—Tommy Robinson, 146, New York, outpointed Tommy Bell, 146, Youngstown, Ohio, (12), welter-weight championship.

Chicago—Lew Jenkins, 138, Sweetwater, Tex., stopped Nick Castiglione, 125, Chicago, (4).

Chicago—Johnny Bratton, 123, Chicago, outpointed Willie Joyce, 125, Gary, Ind., (10).

San Diego—Rusty Payne, 135, San Diego, knocked out Willie Brown, 135, San Francisco, (4).

Hollywood—Larry Cherner, 125, Los Angeles, outpointed Vic Grapone, 130, San Francisco, (10).

WHITTIER, Dec. 21  
ward Bob Tuttle's 22 p  
Whittier to a 60-49  
night over Santa Bar  
college's cagers.

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We have endeavored to do our part in put  
Las Vegas on the map.

# THE Boulder Club

IN THE BEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WO

## Acid Test For Basic Hoopsters

Basic department store's promising basketball team, receives another acid test tonight at 8 p. m. when it tangles with the Needles All-Stars in the Henderson gymnasium.

The visitors are reported to have one of the strongest teams in recent years and will "shoot the works" at the Henderson aces. The department store has a high scoring quintet, and have won two of their five tilts this season.

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**THE OLD RANCH SWIMMING POOL**

OPENS

**Wednesday, May 1st**

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PHONE 488

(A Brigham Townsend Advt. Feature)

*Making the Rounds*

WITH BRIGHAM TOWNSEND

TO BEARD OR NOT TO BEARD is no longer the question. No sir, now it's a case of beard or else. So regardless of whether your wife, gal friend or sister likes it, or not—wear your badge of courage. Gosh knows the ladies can't wear 'em for you! And, to the gents who make all the heavy profits on this event, here's a fashion note—your whiskers won't get in the way when you start raking in the profits. So

**At School**

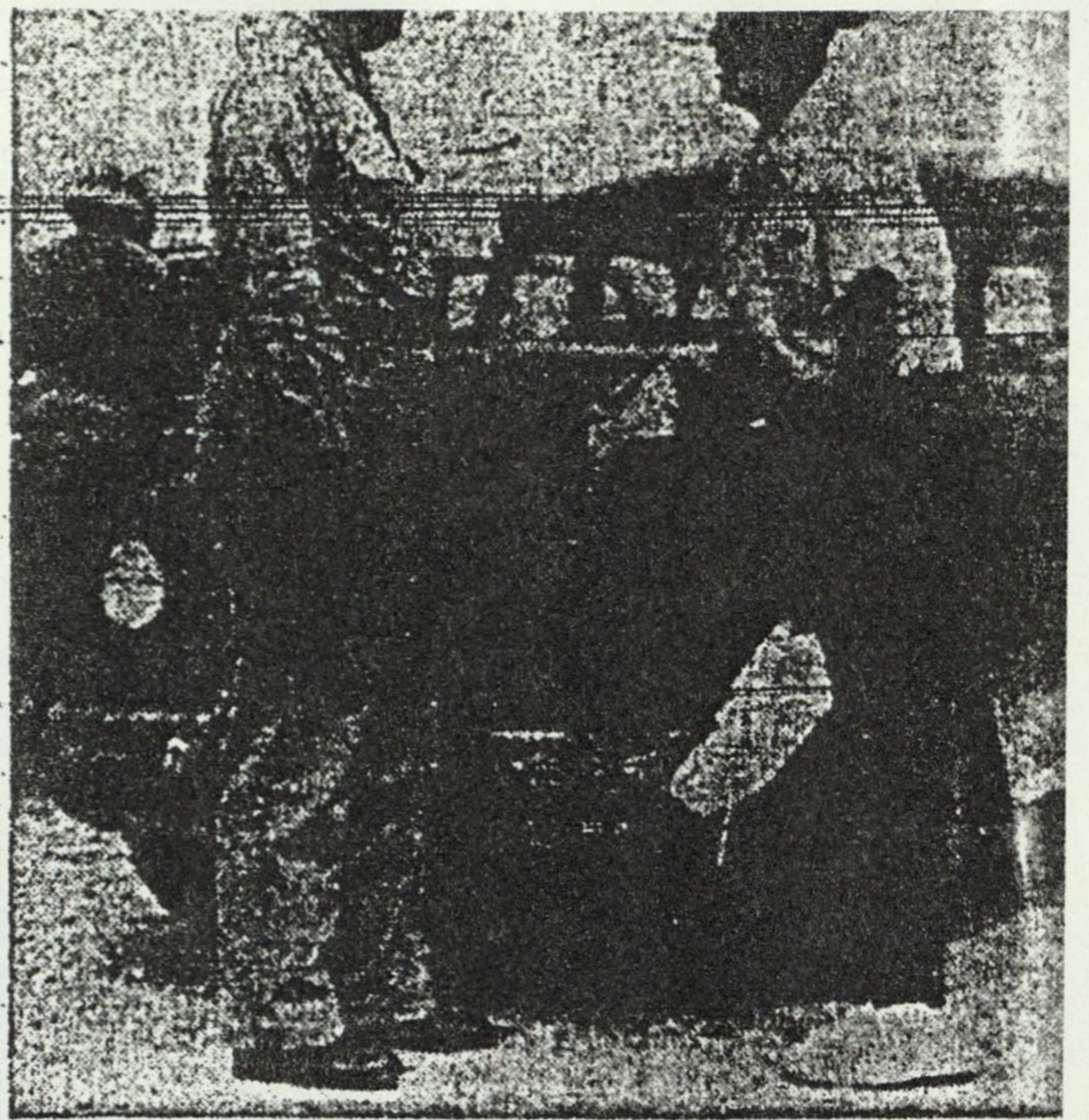
**Schedule May Fete At Vegas High**

The annual May festival of the Las Vegas high school, will be held at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening at the high school gymnasium. The program will be presented by the girls' physical education classes, with a special feature by the primary children of the Vegas Heights school under direction of Mrs. Roma Knight.

The physical education classes will present a parade of sports, with demonstrations of particular skills in games, a setup for physical education efficiency tests, calisthenics, posture parade and specialty dances. Included will be an early American square dance and waltz patterns by three groups who were adjudged winners in a contest on original dance patterns.

Announcers on the program will be the Misses Helen Toolson, Barbara Carruth, Marjorie Dumke and Alice Brady. Miss Helen Stovall is director of all the physical education work for girls in the high school.

The public is invited to attend the program, and no admission will be charged.



**GETTING ATOM BOMB TEST STORY** — Major General Leslie R. Groves (left), chief of the Manhattan Engineering Project (atom bomb development), talks with Associated Press Science Reporter Howard Blakeslee after press inspection of the test atom bomb blast near Alamogordo, New Mexico. N. M. Blakeslee sheds his canvas shoe covers which protect him against radio active sand particles. He is the author of "The Atomic Future," the 24-page book that the Review-Journal will distribute on May 3.

**Vegas Booster Program Continues**

Volunteer workers for the chamber of commerce Livewire fund reported three new boosters for Las Vegas' national advertising program today.

The ice distributors made their allotted donation 100 per cent strong, through committee worker Bill Stark, it was announced today.

The city of Cincinnati, Ohio, owns the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railway, connecting Cincinnati with Chattanooga, Tennessee, operated under lease by the Southern Railway system.

Brown Furniture, on a contract made by J. R. Mason, was added to the growing roster, and the first auto court contribution was claimed by Burt King with donation by Robes Motor Lodge. A huge thermometer, for public inspection, to gauge this city job of raising a substantial exploitation fund was being planned by the committee in character today.

READ  
**MICROPHONIES**  
TODAY, PAGE 3  
A Copyrighted Feature of  
**MARSH - STOKES**  
PHONE — 86

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ALL SIZES

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