

CITY OF LAS VEGAS TIMELINE



INTRODUCTION

The springs of Las Vegas sustained Native people for millennia and drew traders, settlers, and ranchers in the 1800s. In 1902, Senator William A. Clark began a railroad line to connect California and Utah, selecting Las Vegas as a division point because of its springs. Rancher Helen J. Stewart sold land to the railroad, laying the groundwork for the 1905 land auction that established the city of Las Vegas. This timeline covers the city's first 100 years, 1905-2005.



1905

Las Vegas was born May 15, 1905



On this day the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad held a land auction for Sen. Clark's Las Vegas Townsite, 40 blocks anchored at the junction of Fremont and Main streets, marking the beginning of modern Las Vegas.

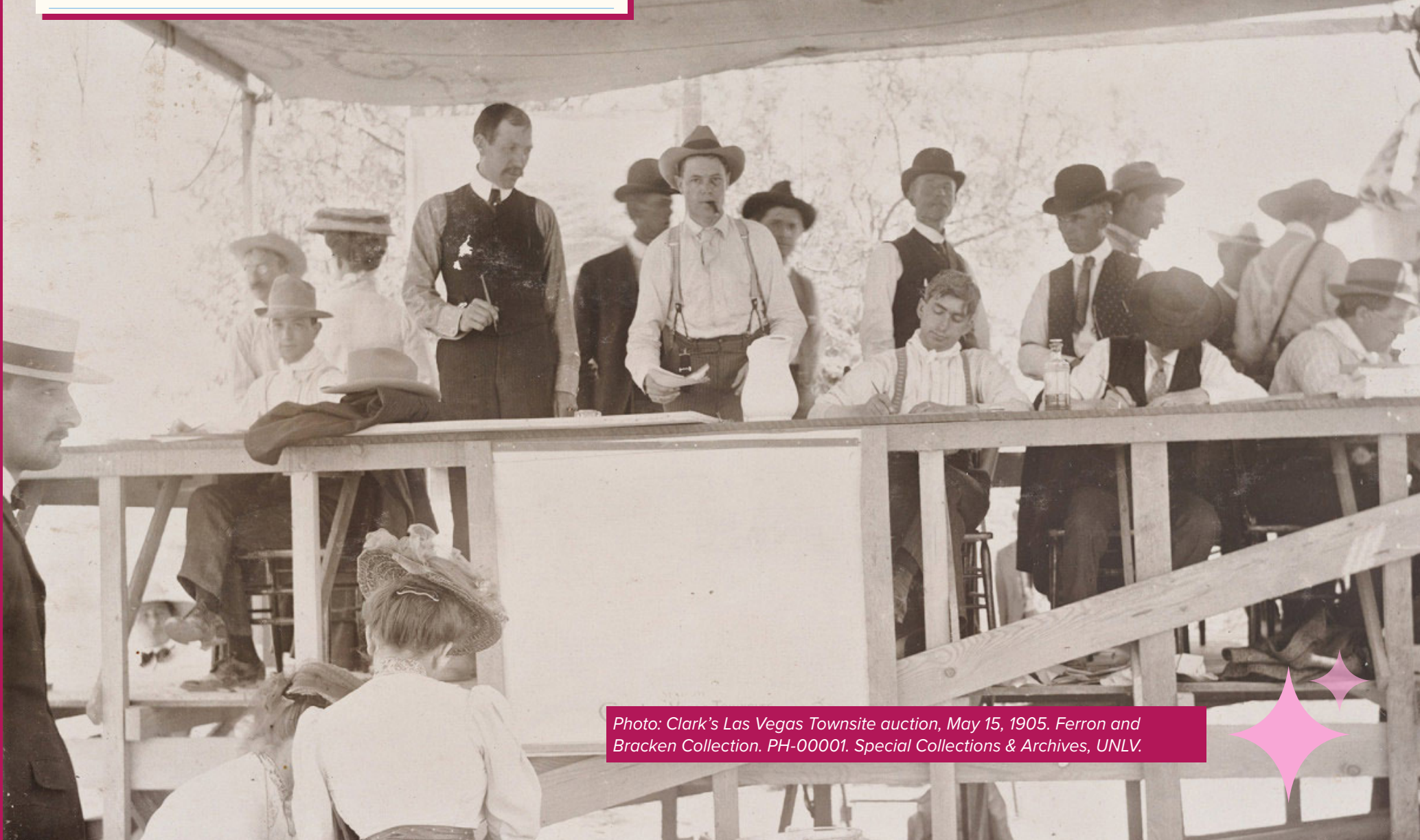
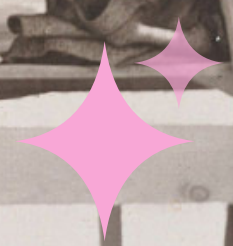


Photo: Clark's Las Vegas Townsite auction, May 15, 1905. Ferron and Bracken Collection. PH-00001. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1906

A city takes shape



Overland Hotel and the Hotel Nevada (today's Golden Gate hotel-casino) opened at Main & Fremont streets. The First State Bank became the city's first formal financial institution. Arizona Club opened on Block 16 where liquor sales were allowed.



*Photo: Hotel Nevada, 1906. Harrington Collection. PH-00291.
Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.*



1908

First churches in Las Vegas



Since the 1905 settlement, the First United Methodist congregation was the earliest organized worship group, informally called “the church” because it welcomed all faiths in a shared tent. In 1908 First Methodist completed a church at South Third Street & Bridger Avenue, and Christ Episcopal opened one at South Second Street & Carson Avenue.



Photo: Students at First Methodist Church, circa 1910. Wilson Collection. PH-00014. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



LAS VEGAS AGE

VOLUME V

LAS VEGAS, CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1909

NUMBER 27

CLARK COUNTY

Arrives On Time and is Received With General Rejoicing

Official Appointment of Commissioners by Gov. Dickerson on July First

Twelve o'clock a. m. of July first was greeted with the ringing of bells and other noises too numerous to mention, in honor of the birth of the new County of Clark. Flags were hoisted to the breeze and congratulations exchanged at the realization of the hopes of many months. Governor Dickerson appointed the new County Commissioners as programmed promptly, and steps were at once taken to hold the first meeting of the Board today. At that meeting the Commissioners will make the appointments agreed upon, the new officials will file their bonds and the machinery of the new County will be in full working order.

The new temporary Court House has been completed ready for the new officials to take possession.

- The following are the new officers:
- Commissioners—
 W. E. HAWKINS, Las Vegas.
 S. H. WELLS, Muddy Valley.
 W. H. BRADLEY, Searchlight.
 Sheriff—
 CHAS. C. CORKHILL, Las Vegas.
 Recorder and Auditor—
 FRANK CLAYTON, Searchlight.
 Clerk—
 HARLEY HARMON, Las Vegas.
 Assessor—
 W. J. McBURNEY, Muddy Valley.
 Treasurer—
 ED. W. CLARK, Las Vegas.
 District Attorney—
 W. E. THOMAS, Las Vegas.
 County Surveyor—
 C. E. MCCARTHY, Good Springs.
 Public Administrator—
 CHAS. IRELAND, Las Vegas.

GOOD FELLOWS

Go to Tonopah to Spout Elk's Antlers

A bunch of fifty good fellows passed through Vegas Monday morning on the trail to Tonopah, to join with the rest of the good fellows in the R. F. O. E. The initiation took place Tuesday evening. At Vegas the band was joined by Dan Hickey, Joe Wagner, Dr. H. W. Martin, J. W. Harden and Ed. W. Clark, J. A. Clark, Bill, Jim, E. C. W. Page, Joe, C. B. Stalman, Fitzpatrick, J. H. Smith, Tony and J. O. also joined the

TONOPAH SUFFERS

Loss of Tonopah and Goldfield R. R. Shops by Fire

Tonopah, June 28.—The greatest fire that ever occurred in this town was started at 9 o'clock tonight, when the stores behind the colonnade and paid-shipment to the machine shops and terminal of the Tonopah and Goldfield railroad. The loss is not less than \$100,000. The origin is somewhat vague.

THE CELEBRATION

Ringling Bells, Booming Cannon, Screaming Whistles and Patriotic Airs to Greet the Sun

Vegas Ready to Extend Warm Welcome to People of Clark County

1908

Las Vegas Age

Charles Squires bought the Las Vegas Age newspaper in 1908. He became the community's chief advocate for creation of Clark County, city incorporation, women's suffrage and development of the Colorado River for power and water, helping launch the campaign that led to the construction of Hoover Dam.

CLARK COUNTY



AS SHE NOW IS

OPERA HOUSE, Las Vegas, Nevada
Saturday, July 24

METHODIST CHURCH BENEFIT
"An American Citizen"
THE BEST LAUGH THIS SEASON
Reserved Seats at Drug Store. Tickets, \$1.00

Nevada Market
Prime corn-fed Beef
Tender and Juicy
THE MEAT TO EAT

50-yard Race for Girls, 12 years and under.

75-yard Obstacle Race, free for all.

50-yard Wheelbarrow Race.

Burro Race.

1 p. m. sharp, 100-yard Dash, free for all.

220-yard Race, free for all.

1-mile Race, free for all.

3-mile Bicycle Race.

Reward Jump, free for all.

High Jump, free for all.

3 to 5 p. m. Base Ball Game for Purse and Silver Cup. Good Springs vs. Las Vegas.

5 p. m. Exciting Contest between Horse Companies. Don't get wet. The two Companies will start from the corner of Second and Fremont and run to fire hydrants on First Street. The company breaking the paper on a hoop at the corner of First and Fremont Streets wins.

7 to 8 p. m. Open Air Concert by the Band.

8 p. m. Fireworks.

9 p. m. Grand Ball.

All the open air exercises, games and races will be held at the grand stand adjoining the freight house.

VEGAS PACKING CO.

Wholesale and Retail Butchers

Our Meats are Home-Dressed under Strictly Sanitary Conditions

CAREFUL ATTENTION TO MAIL ORDERS
Prompt Delivery to all Portions of the City.

Our Prices are the Lowest

LADIES' TOGGERY FRENCH
Cor. Second St.

THIS STORE WILL KEEP
CLOSED ON JULY 5

MUSLIN SKIRTS LINGERIE DRESSES
75¢ AND \$1.50 EACH FROM \$5.50 UP

Special Offer to Ice Theater Continued for Another Week

ICE THEATER

THE BIG STORES
HEBIGO TO HAWKINS
Groceries
Gents' Furnishings
Dry Goods

WE HAVE THE BEST

Swifts Premium Hams and Bacon are unrivaled.
Muddy Valley Cough Honey is absolutely pure.
Careful attention given to Missing Supplies.

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES ON
MONDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY
Spring Fabrics in the Dry Goods Department

FIRST STATE BANK

Las Vegas, Nevada

J. ROSS CLARK President
WALTER E. BRACKEN Vice President
JOHN S. PARK Cashier

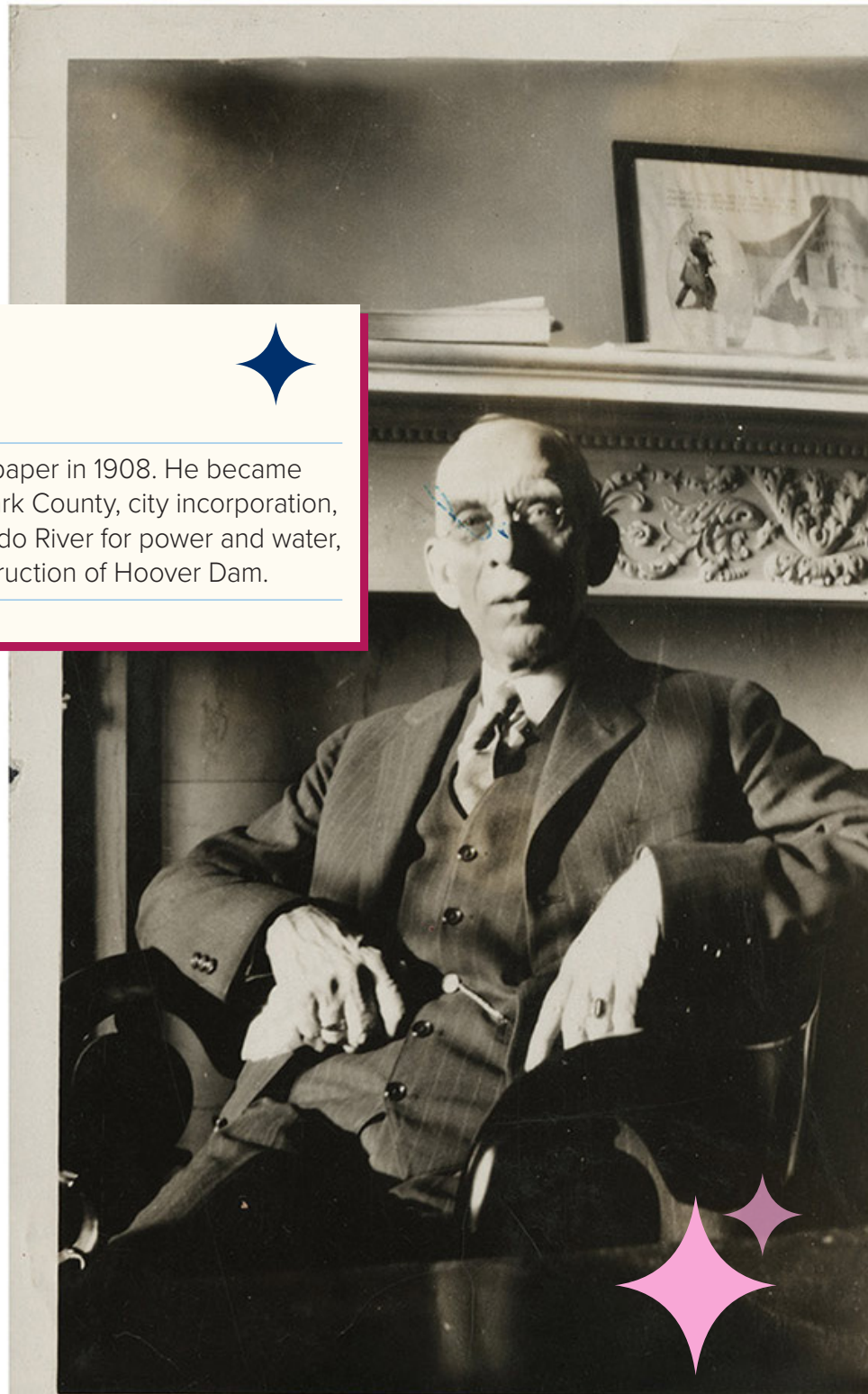
Directors
J. ROSS CLARK
W. E. HAWKINS
W. B. BRACKEN
W. E. THOMAS
JOHN S. PARK

Your Business is Respectfully Solicited

Photo: Squires Collection. PH-0002. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.

PHONE 20 COR. FIRST & FREMONT STS.

7/3/09



Clark County Review

VOLUME 1
NUMBER 1

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1929

\$2.00 PER YEAR
5¢ PER COPY

THREE GUESS CORRECT NAME:

Latest Arrivals Are Luckiest in Review Guess-Contest

Winners in the guessing contest as to the name of the new paper, which is now before you, are as follows:

MAKING THE DESERT BLOOM

Wells of Flowing Water and Fertile Fields Fulfill a Prophecy

Four and one-half years ago the writer of these lines observed, through another medium of publicity, that "surely the great Vegas Valley is not one of

PASSING OF OLD DELAMAR

Closing of Bamberger Mine Removes Only Support of Community

Caliente Prospector says a receiver for the Bamberger-DeLamar properties is to be asked, and it is understood that the Bambergers will be among

MORE SCHOOL ROOM NEEDED

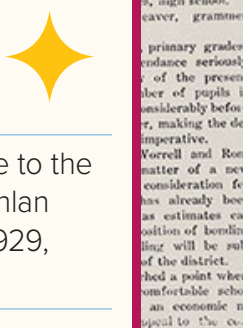
First Day's Attendance Too Much for Old Building Trustees Planning

Las Vegas schools opened Monday morning with an initial attendance of 85, including eight high school pupils. The instructors are:

1909

Clark County Review

Charles Corkhill founded the Review as an alternative to the Age. Later owners Frank Garside and editor A. E. Cahlan merged the paper with the Clark County Journal in 1929, establishing the Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal.



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city.
Cal. the same into another copy of the present Review, which was popular and a business success until he was persuaded to consolidate with another paper and well, the rest is the way we learn things that are not taught in school.

P. S. Mrs. Clayton also came from Corona. She should have won first prize, but permitted Foxy Grandpa Haldenhausen to beat her to it.

BASEBALL SUNDAY

Kelso vs Vegas on the Home Field Warm Game Expected.

Manager Ed Ross announces that Vegas vs Kelso is scheduled for Sunday, and that a hot game is expected, as Kelso has been "lining up" for the event all summer, while the home team will not be weak.

Catcher Goode from Otis and Sheets the infielder from Needles have secured positions at the roundhouse and joined the Vegas team. The home line-up will be as follows:

Goode, c; Hoack, p; Brady, 1st; Smith, 2nd; Black, 3rd; Finsley, 4th; Shanahan, rf; Collins, cf; Corlew, lf; Thomas and Pauff, extras.

Game called at 2:30 o'clock

Recorder Lucky

County Recorder Clayton reports that the Pittsburg-Searchlight mine, in which he is one of the chief owners and president of the company, has struck fluorine in a crosscut 160 feet from the bottom of the shaft, which is 300 feet deep. Fluorine with white quartz is usually rich in gold and generally denotes depth and permanency.

The sample brought over by Recorder Clayton will certainly bring the light of enthusiasm to the eyes of any mining man.

Artesian water syndicates, the organization of citizens and property owners in the valley, formed principally for the purpose of demonstrating the feasibility of developing artesian water for irrigation. The first well, at 301 feet flowed but a few inches of water, but two others were sunk by the Syndicate and at 442 and 380 feet respectively, much larger flows were obtained and the object of the organization achieved. With the success of these three wells, individual owners awoke to the possibilities of irrigation in the valley and since then nine wells have been bored as follows:

Clark-Ronnow, three
Jake Beckley, one
James Panso, one
Hejen J. Stewart, two
J. F. Miller, two

In addition to these, Fox & McCullom are now drilling on the J. F. Evcy 160 acres, southeast of town, who, if successful, may drill more than one well. On the Clark-Ronnow and Beckley ranches the fertility of the soil has been amply demonstrated by the remarkable yield of first year crops. On the former splendid success was had with hay, grain, melons, etc., enough being realized to pay all expense of fencing and improving the property, excepting cost of the wells.

Next season the activity in this direction will probably become as noticeable as any other branch of local industry.

Eastern Star

A chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star will be organized in Las Vegas next Tuesday evening, Sept. 21st. Ladies who are charter members met at the home of Mrs. C. P. Squires Friday afternoon to arrange for a banquet in connection with the event.

The Review costs only \$2.00 a year.

principle, s, high school, ceaver, grammar

primary grades, endance seriously of the present umber of pupils is onsiderably before r, making the de- mperative. Vorrell and Ron- matter of a new consideration for has already been as estimates con- sultion of bonding lingz will be sub- of the district. ed a point where comfortable school an economic ne- of patriotism and pride. There is little doubt but what a liberal bond issue will carry with scarcely a dissenting voice.

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

To Promote Interest in Sport and Make Team Self-Supporting

Local baseball enthusiasts met at the office of Judge Lillis last Saturday night for the purpose of forming an association to promote interest in the sport and to devise way and means to maintain a first-class team and conduct the games on a self-supporting basis.

After unanimous approval of the proposition had been voiced, the following organization was effected:

Harry Beale, President.
Dr. R. Martin, 1st Vice President.
J. J. Lafurgco, 2nd Vice President.
Wm. B. Wilson, 3rd Vice President.
C. G. Lundholm, 4th Vice President.
A. Levy, 5th Vice President.
Ed. W. Clark, Treasurer.
H. Harmon, Secretary.

Executive Committee - W. E. Hawkins, Al James, Harry Beale, Roy Lockett, Jno F. Miller, A. N. Pauff, M. C. Thomas Sr. and W. R. Braeken. The executive committee is expected to meet soon to plan for carrying out the motives of the association.

FIREMAN'S DANCE

Second Annual Ball is Scheduled for September: 17th

The second annual ball of Las Vegas Hose Co. No. 1 is being advertised for the evening of Friday Sept. 17th. Tickets are now on sale at various places of business about town, and no one who can possibly afford it should neglect to assist the boys who are giving their services free for the protection of life and property.

Since winning the water-test hose race on Labor day, the boys are feeling more chipper and taking, if possible, a livelier interest in the department than before.

Looking For Land

M. D. Biehn, of Lakin, Kansas, an irrigated land section, was in Las Vegas this week for the purpose of investigating agricultural possibilities here. His object is to find a promising location for his boys, for whom he desires to purchase a tract of land. He was well pleased with the prospect presented by Vegas Valley with its flowing artesian wells and may return to consummate his plans.

Change at Ice Plant

W. A. Marshall, who has been superintendent of the Las Vegas Ice and Manufacturing Company's new plant since its completion about a year ago, has been succeeded by W. C. Danuth, of San Francisco, who arrived in Vegas last week.

Mr. Marshall left Sunday for Chicago. He made many friends in Vegas who regret to see him leave.

Clark County Review

SATURDAYS
A broad-usage, progressive local newspaper, devoted to the interests of Clark County in general and the county seat in particular

CHAS. C. CORKHILL, PUBLISHER

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One Year \$2.00
Six Months 1.00
Three Months .50

ADVERTISING RATES
Made known on application to the office.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 18

FOREWORD

Once again the writer takes pleasure in launching a newspaper in Las Vegas this time under his own auspices and subject wholly to his own whims and caprices. The Clark County Review is not a child of fortune, foisted upon the community by one who has had no part in bringing about the prosperous conditions which are to sustain it. The publisher knows his field. Like many others, who are yet here to enjoy the fruits of their labors, he participated to the utmost in the skimmed-milk era, when Las Vegas was struggling valiantly for the end she has just attained which is the real beginning.

The Review is launched with full confidence that it will be a success. Conditions warrant it. The community demands it. The establishment of a second paper in Vegas in the immediate future, by some one, was a foregone conclusion. The publisher of the Review wanted to be the owner of that paper. Here it is.

In conclusion, let him state that the Review will endeavor to be a newspaper, first, last and in between. It will cater to no one class, society or set of individuals. In politics it will probably be Democratic providing the Democrats behave themselves and "come across" occasionally. (This latter is just between ourselves.) Further than this, let the paper be its own argument.

Thanking many friends for words of encouragement and kind wishes for the venture, I subscribe.

CHAS. C. CORKHILL.

PROTECT THE SIDEWALKS

It would seem that the business men of the community should have a keener sense of appreciation of the value of cement walks than any one else, but unfortunately in Las Vegas some of them have been and are the chief agents of destruction of this valuable business asset.

It would be foolish to assume that this condition prevails because of wanton disregard, as nearly all our business men are known to be liberal and progressive citizens. It is merely thoughtlessness, this driving of delivery wagons across sidewalk and curb and the Review believes that it is only necessary to mention the matter to bring about its cessation.

There are other drivers beside those of the delivery wagons who are careless in this regard, but all are capable of seeing the matter in the right light, if once called to their attention. Otherwise the town board should secure the passage of a special ordinance.

THE REVIEW begs the indulgence of the public for any gross shortcomings in the initial issue. There is much haste, bustle and worry about getting out an issue of an established paper, but getting out a first issue, where extra help cannot be secured, affords an opportunity for strenuous work and shattered nerves. We'll make amends later on.

Editorial Comment

About Anything and Anything

Don't worry about the future. The present is all that counts. The future will soon be present. And the present will soon be past. (Selected.)

WE'LL bet Andrew saw it first.

HAVE you joined the sewer brigade?

MOTTO: We'd rather be wrong than be a mollycoddle.

AFTER all is said and done the pole still seems to have a shade the best of the situation.

ANYWAY, Doc. Cook took a mean advantage of the pole in that he sneaked up on it between two suns.

WHEN it comes to the art of spending money that she hasn't got, old Lincoln County is still entitled to the palm.

"Don't worry" about the size of the Review; "watch us grow." And in the meantime, don't overlook quality.

AMONG other things, Cook and Peary have succeeded in making asses of themselves just like ordinary mortals.

IF SEARCHLIGHT will do all other honorable things the same way she plays baseball, Clark county will have reason to feel proud of her all the time.

AS WE understand it, the place in the county treasury where Clark county's proportion of the old county funds ought to be is what might appropriately be described as an aching void.

WONDER if the people of Clark County will ever realize just how much those seven Las Vegas delegates to the Democratic county convention had to do with the success of the county division cause?

LINCOLN County has accused Clark County politicians of naming the former's new and recently appointed commissioner. In the ways and wiles of politics Clark County is much younger than old Lincoln, but we are not permitting any other County to select our officials for us. Catch the idea?

Wilson Drug Company

Drugs, and Sundries



Ladies' Toilet Articles

A Complete Line of Face Powders, Creams, Antiseptic Lotions, Dentrifrice, Tooth Brushes, Hair Brushes, Combs, and Mirrors, Hair Tonics, Manicuring Sets, Etc

W. B. Wilson, Mgr.

Thomas Block Cor. First and Fremont Sts.

Charleston Hotel

THAT'S ALL

ROY T. LOCKETT, Proprietor

Ladies' Joggery

Ladies' and Misses, Furnishings and Millinery

Just Received

New Line of Gage's Hats

Silk and Net Waists
Muslin Underwear

Nevada Market

Government inspected storage meats. Corn tender and appetizing.
TONY SCHWEBIG, Prop.

THE MEAT TO EAT

We give 16 ounces to the pound
Cor. First and Fremont Streets Telephone 2

It's Open! What?

The New Printery

The Print Shop

Fremont Street
Fine Job Printing

CHAS. C. CORKHILL, Proprietor

1909

Railroad expansion and company houses



The railroad expanded its Las Vegas operations with new and enlarged shops, and built the community's first housing tract: 64 company houses for workers in what would later be called the Railroad Cottage Historic District.

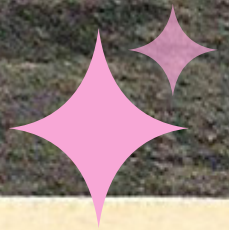


Photo: Postcard circa 1910.

WILSON DRUG CO.

THE COMPANY HOUSES.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



1909

Clark County is created



Creation of the county government on July 1, 1909, made Las Vegas the political and administrative hub of Southern Nevada. Power broker Ed W. Clark is credited with the political maneuvering to form the new county.

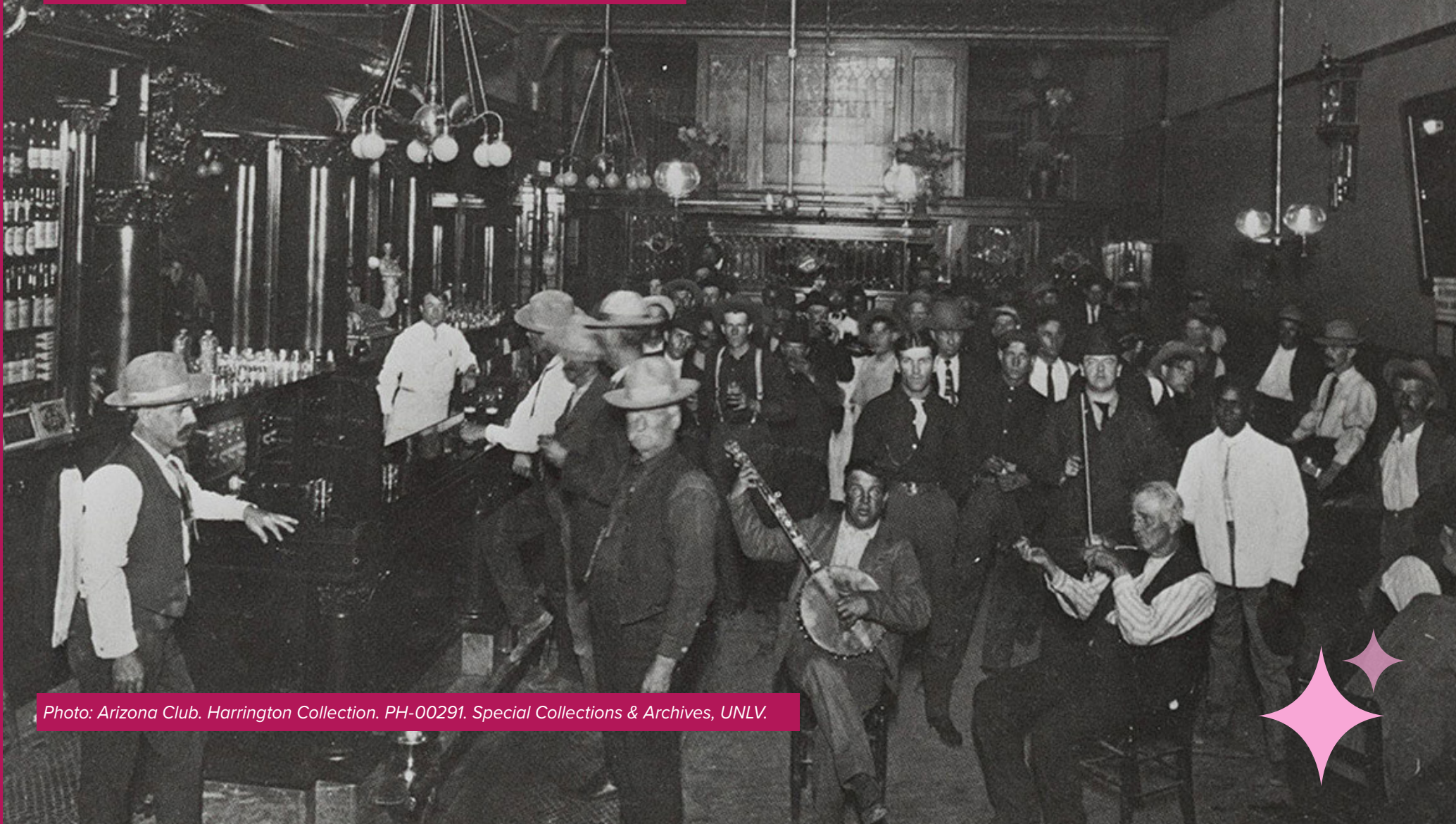


Photo: Arizona Club. Harrington Collection. PH-00291. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1910

Township population: 800



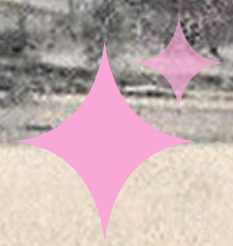
In 1910 the town endured its first major economic shock when flooding destroyed nearly 100 miles of railroad line north of Las Vegas, halting traffic for up to six months, and limiting rail traffic with Los Angeles. The shutdown disrupted pay, freight and supplies.



Photo: South Main & Bonneville, facing east. Postcard, circa 1910s.

ARTON DRUG CO.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.



1911

City of Las Vegas incorporated



On June 1, residents voted to incorporate under a charter approved by the Nevada Legislature. Peter Buol became the city's first mayor.



Photo: Fremont St facing west, Fall 1912.

Fremont Street.

LAS VEGAS, Nevada.



1914

Infrastructure improvements



The Clark County Courthouse completed. The grand building marked the civic center of Las Vegas in the prewar years.

Woodlawn Cemetery was established in 1914 on land donated by the railroad, becoming Las Vegas's first formal burial ground and a lasting institution.



Photo: 1914. UNLV Collection. PH-00062. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.

COURT-HOUSE, LAS VEGAS, NEV





1919

Groundwater use codified



Congress passed the Pittman Underground Water Act, encouraging drilling on Nevada public lands to support farming. Amid concerns over existing artesian wells, the policy spurred further drilling and shaped Las Vegas's reliance on groundwater for decades.

Photo: Opening an artesian well in Las Vegas circa 1920s. Garrett Collection. PH-00265. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1920

City population: 2,304



In the 1920s, Las Vegas was connected to the world by air, road and radio, while the promise of a federal dam project loomed as the city's biggest transformation.



1922

Railroad strike

Union Pacific workers in Las Vegas joined a nationwide shopmen's strike which disrupted rail operations, and strained local businesses. After the strike, the city's railroad operations were diminished when Union Pacific transferred most repair-shop functions to Caliente.

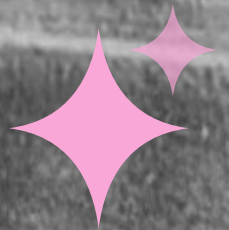
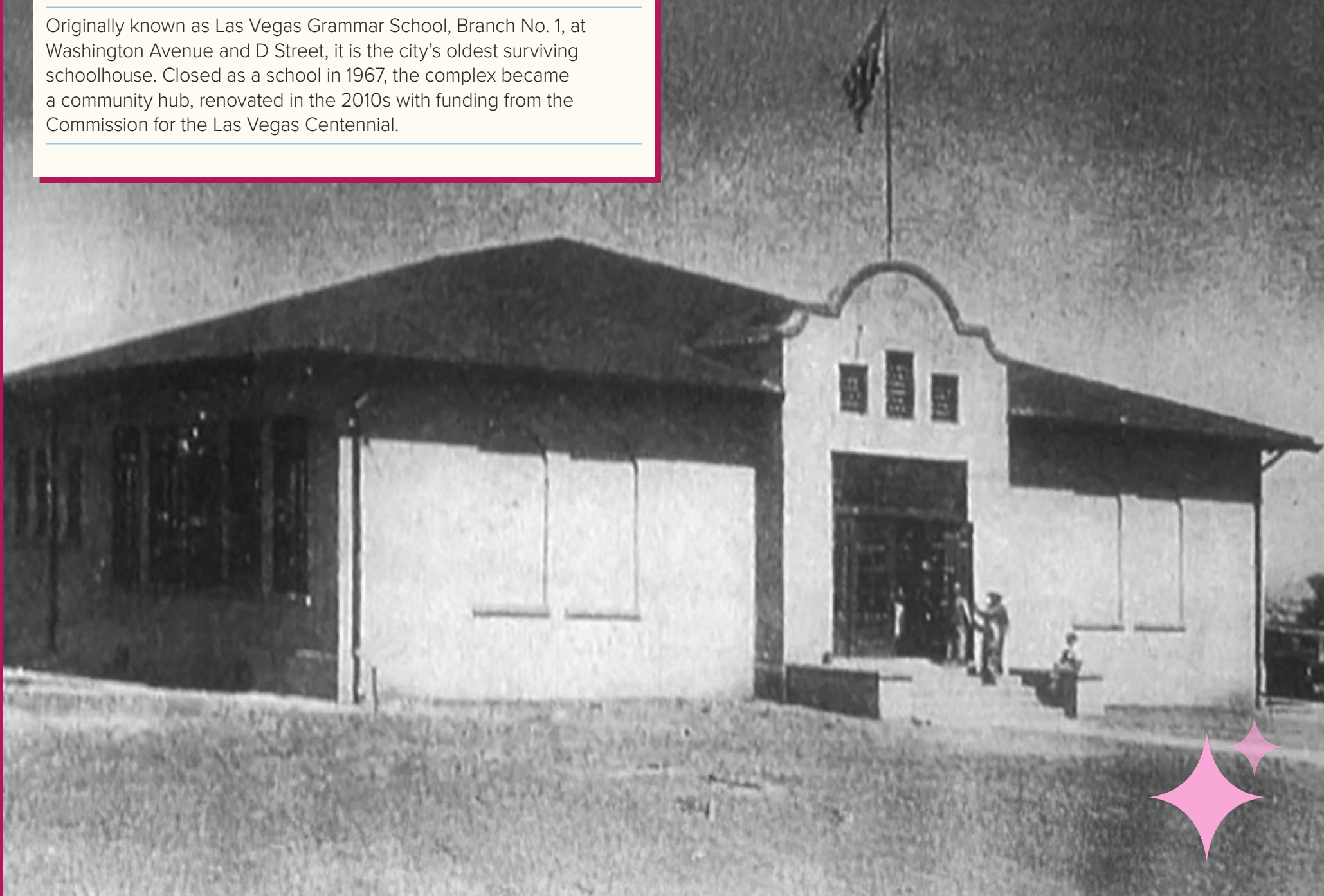


1923

Historic Westside School



Originally known as Las Vegas Grammar School, Branch No. 1, at Washington Avenue and D Street, it is the city's oldest surviving schoolhouse. Closed as a school in 1967, the complex became a community hub, renovated in the 2010s with funding from the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial.



Mormon Church, Las Vegas, Nevada

1924

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Las Vegas Ward



A branch had existed since the city's early years, but organization of the first ward in 1924 marked the church's permanent presence in Las Vegas. Ira J. Earl was the first bishop. The First Ward Chapel at Ninth Street and Clark Avenue was completed in 1932.

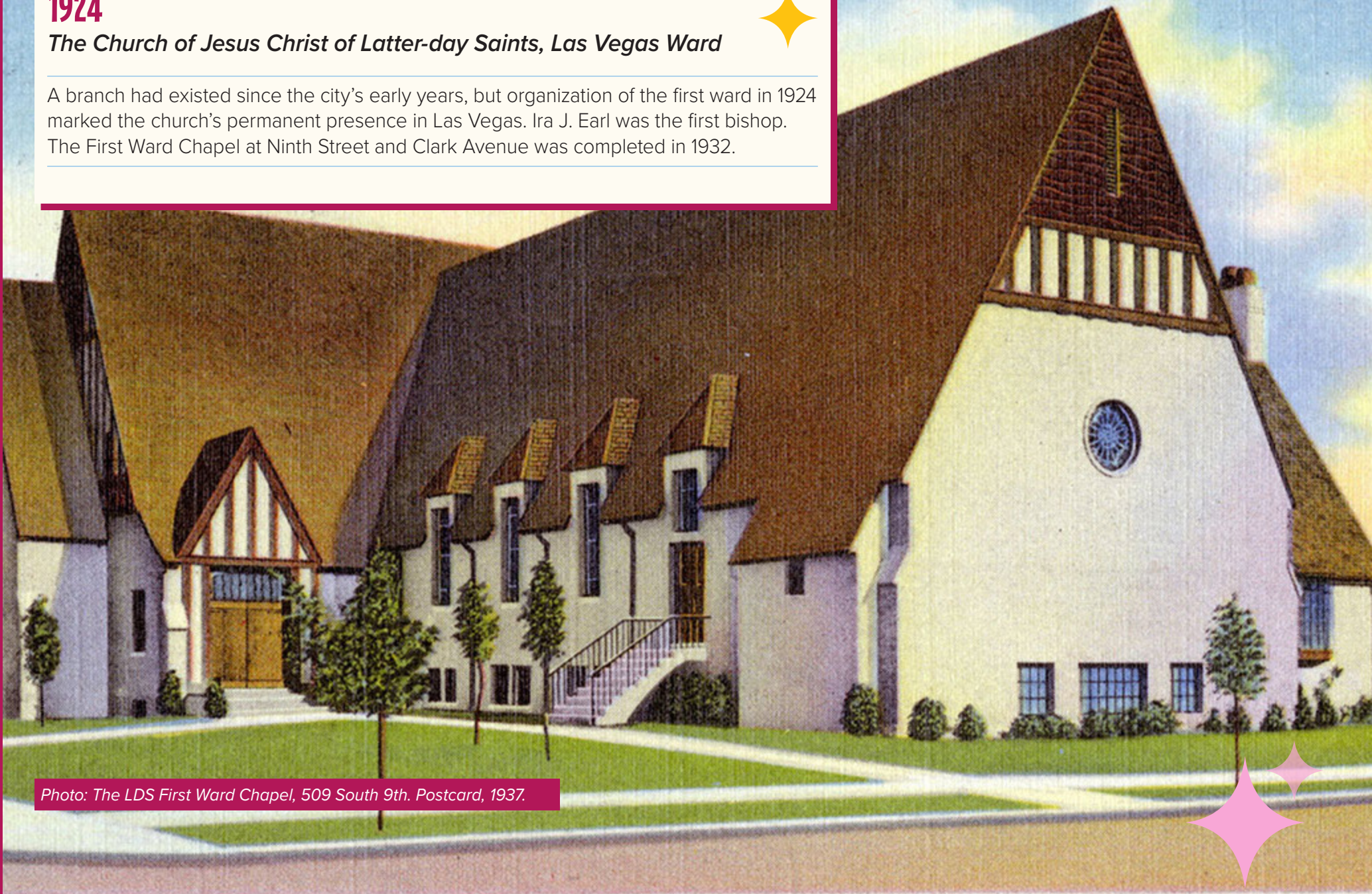


Photo: The LDS First Ward Chapel, 509 South 9th. Postcard, 1937.

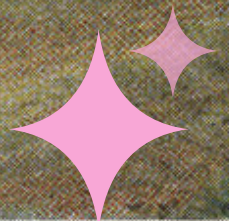
1926

Lorenzi Lake Park



The park consisting of twin lakes fed by artesian wells, gardens, orchards, a swimming pool, restaurant and dance pavilion became one of Las Vegas's most popular recreational resorts. Later renamed Twin Lakes Lodge, the property was purchased by the city in the 1960s and survives today as Lorenzi Park.

Photo: Lorenzi Lake Park circa 1920s. Postcard by Oakes Vegas Studio.



1926

Highways and airmail

Las Vegas was incorporated into the new U.S. Highway System with Route 91 linking the city to Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. That same year, Las Vegas became a stop on the expanding airmail network, giving the community a leap forward in communication.



Photo: Las Vegas, Apr. 17, 1926. Postcard by Oakes Vegas Studio. Rockwell Collection. PH-00008. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.

1928

The first neon sign in Las Vegas debuted at the Overland Hotel.



Boulder Canyon Project Act was signed Dec. 21, authorizing construction of Boulder (Hoover) Dam. Promising a reliable source of power, the project laid the foundation for Las Vegas's rapid growth in the decades ahead.

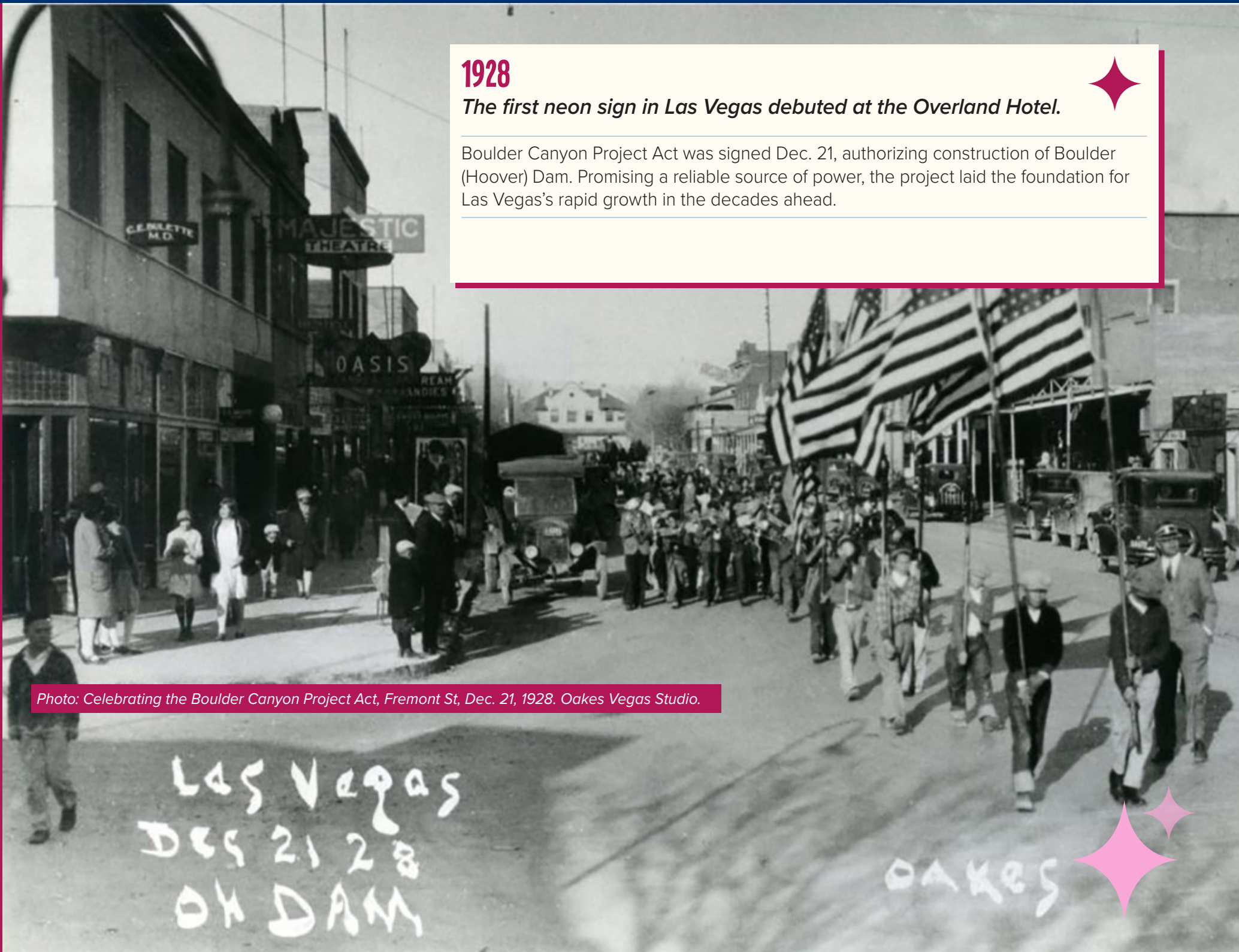


Photo: Celebrating the Boulder Canyon Project Act, Fremont St, Dec. 21, 1928. Oakes Vegas Studio.

LAS VEGAS
DEC 21 28
OH DAM

OAKES



1930

City population: 5,165

*Las Vegas High School at Seventh Street & Bridger Avenue
opened in Fall 1930.*



In the 1930s, Las Vegas was transformed by the Hoover Dam project, legalized gaming and liberalized divorce laws, setting the foundations of its modern identity.



1931

Dam project brings population boom



Thousands flocked to Las Vegas seeking work on the dam. The city's population more than doubled in a single year, overwhelming housing, schools and services.

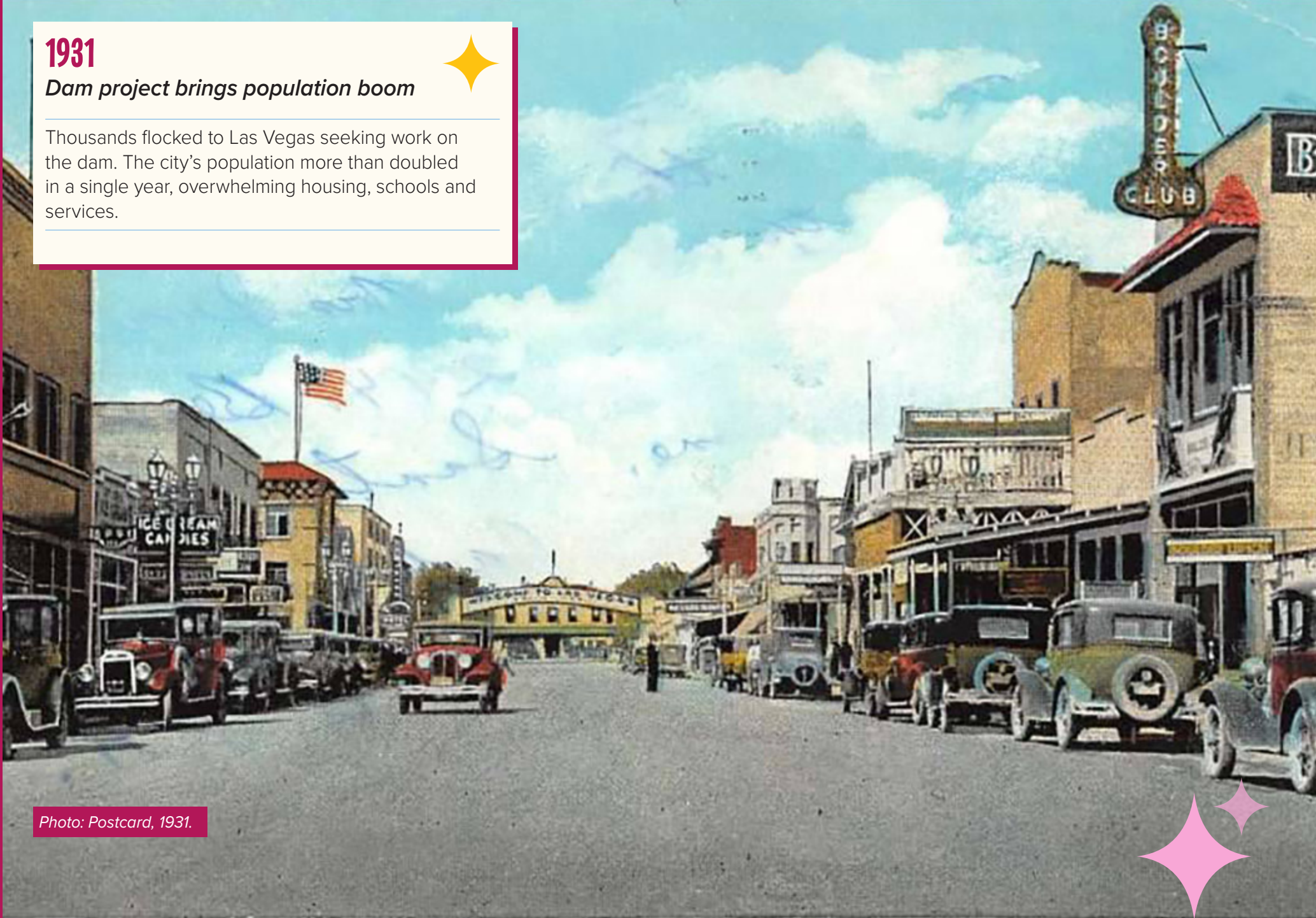


Photo: Postcard, 1931.



1931

Gambling and divorce laws



Nevada law legalized wide-open gambling and shortened the divorce residency. These changes laid the groundwork for industries that would define Las Vegas's image in the years ahead.



Photo: The Meadows Club, Boulder Hwy, 1931. Garrett Collection. PH-00265. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1933

Wedding chapels



Rising automobile travel led to new motels and roadside businesses in Las Vegas, along with visitors drawn by Nevada's lenient marriage laws. On Sept. 29, 'The Wedding Chapel' opened at 513 S. Fifth St., the beginning of Las Vegas's dedicated wedding industry.



Photo: A private home-turned wedding chapel, Las Vegas, 1940. George Strock.



Post Office and Federal Building, Las Vegas, Nevada

1933

U.S. Post Office and Courthouse

Dedicated Nov. 11, the Neo-classical building at 300 Stewart Ave. served as post office and federal court for 50 years. Today it houses The Mob Museum.

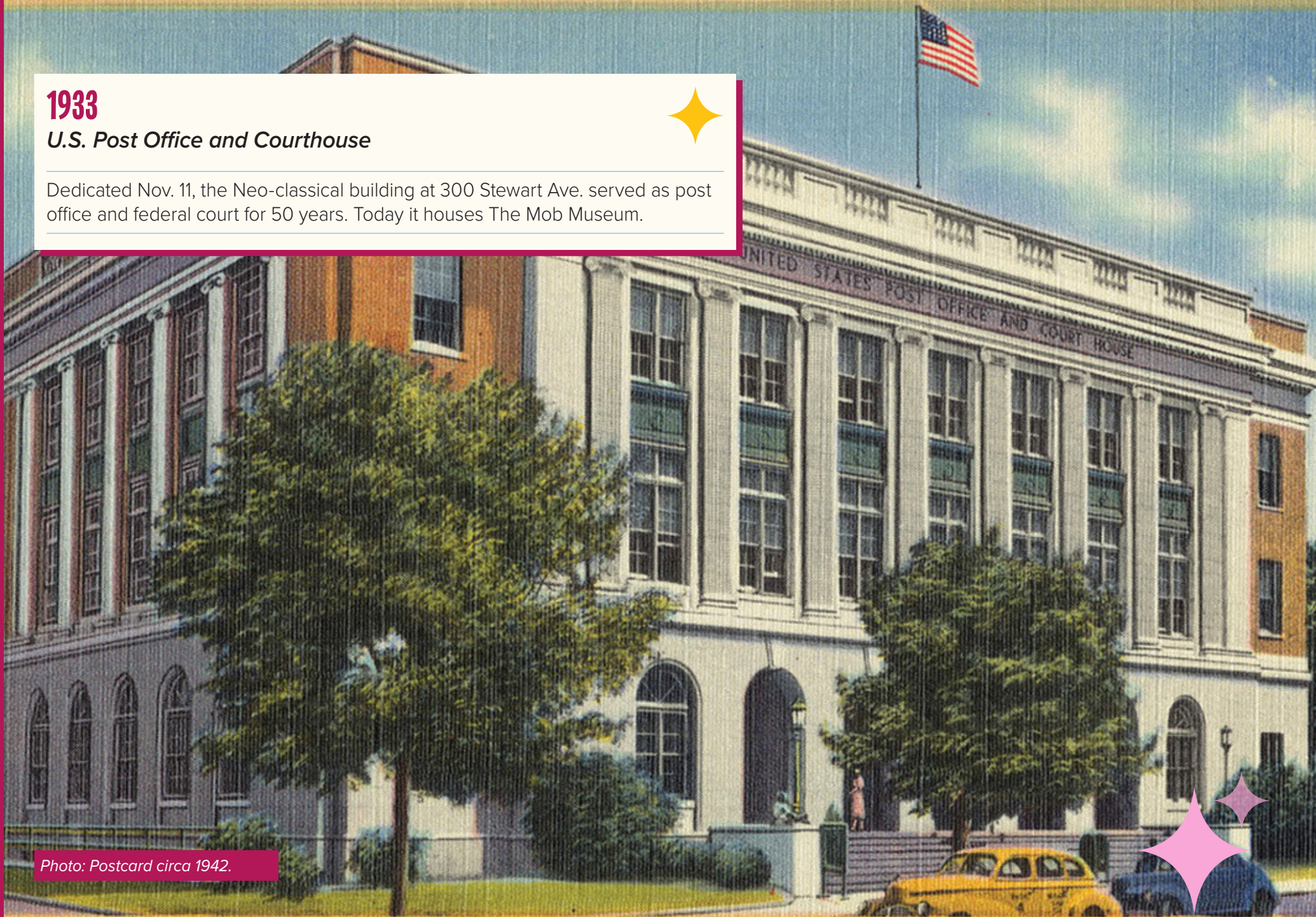


Photo: Postcard circa 1942.

1935

Helldorado Days



Organized by the Elks Lodge No. 1468, the western-themed festival began as a fundraiser and grew into Las Vegas' longest-running civic celebration, continuing through the 1990s and revived in 2005 for the city's centennial.



Photo: Helldorado Days circa 1938. Davis Collection. PH-00020. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1936

Historic Fifth Street School



The new Las Vegas Grammar School, informally called the Fifth Street School, opened to relieve overcrowding. Closed as a school in 1966, the restored building now houses cultural and educational programs.

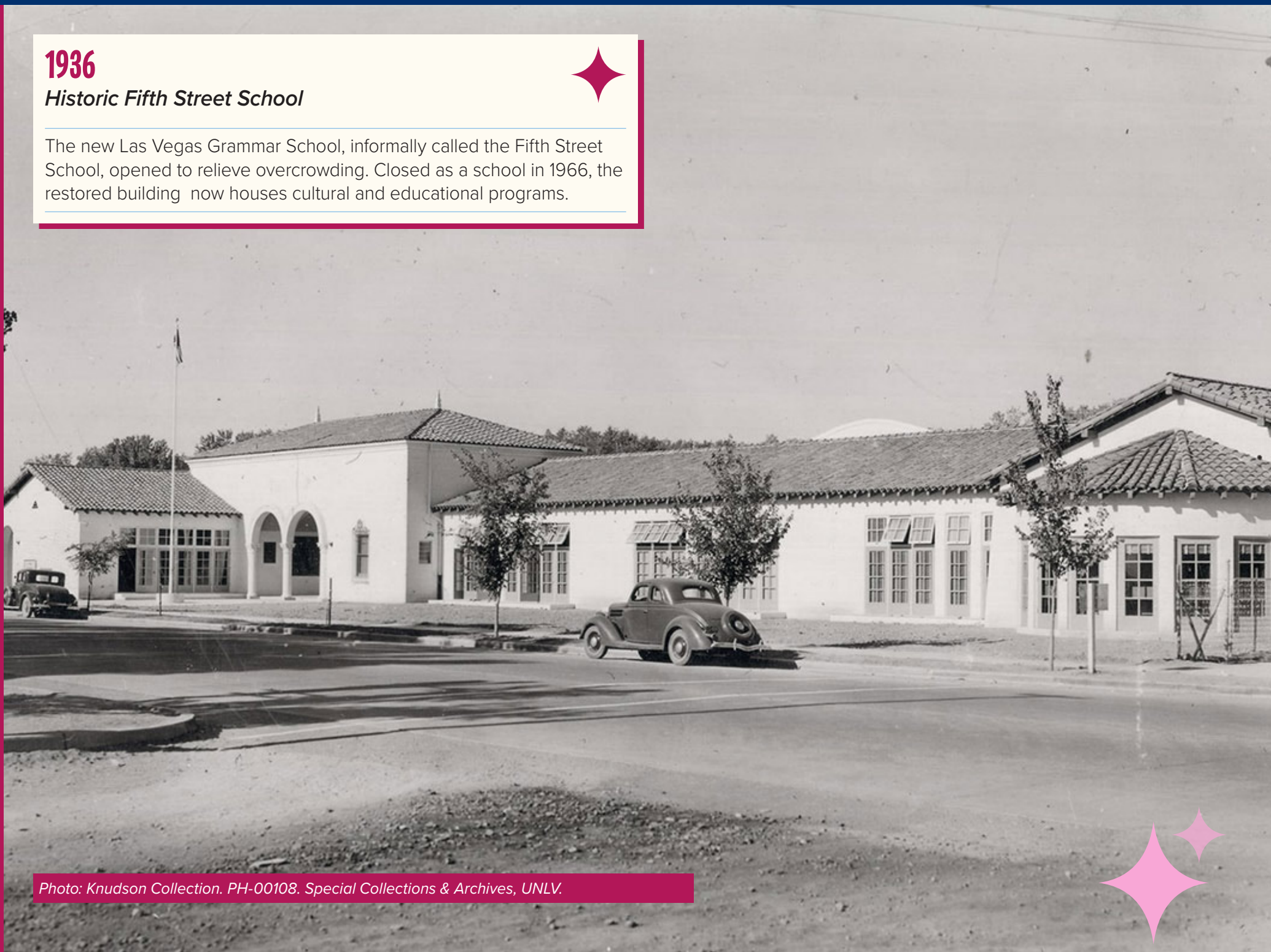


Photo: Knudson Collection. PH-00108. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



BOULDER DAM POWER HOUSE—NEVADA WING

1937

Power flows from Hoover Dam

With the dam completed and dedicated in 1936, electric power began flowing in 1937 to Southern Nevada, transforming the regional economy and securing Las Vegas's modern growth.

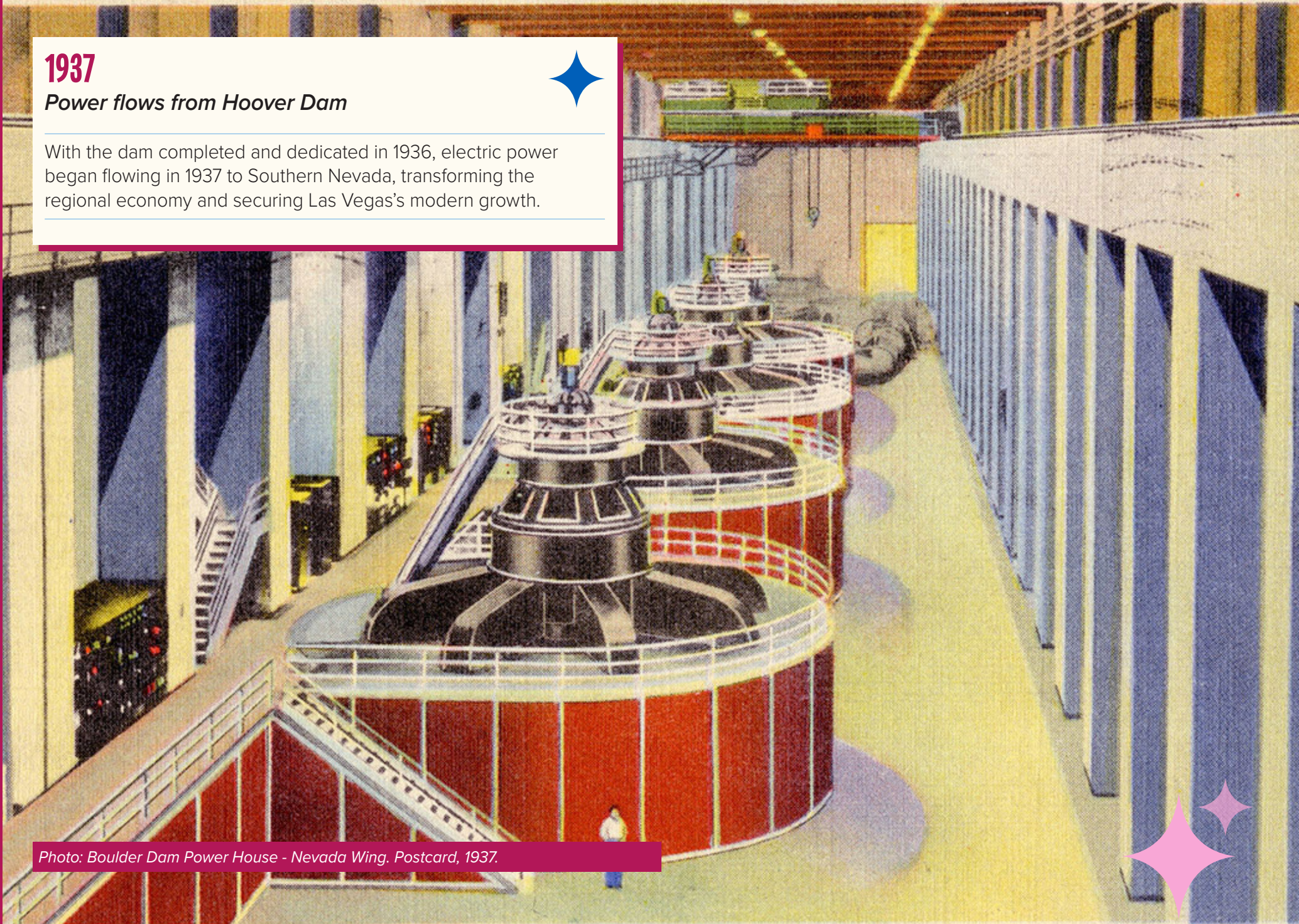
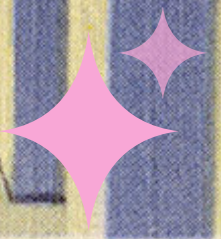


Photo: Boulder Dam Power House - Nevada Wing. Postcard, 1937.



1940

City population: 8,422



World War II spurred growth in Las Vegas through the opening of Las Vegas Army Air Field, and the Basic Magnesium plant. By decade's end Las Vegas transformed significantly with valley-wide infrastructure, the hospitality industry, and rise of the "Las Vegas Strip" south of city limits.



1940

KENO-AM Radio Station



Las Vegas's first station, KGIX, launched in 1929 but did not last. KENO, founded by Laura Belle and Maxwell Kelch, began broadcasting on Nov. 1, 1940, becoming the city's first successful radio station and marking Las Vegas's transition into the modern mass-media era.



Photo: KENO-AM, US Hwy 91, circa 1947. Manis Collection. PH-00100. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1941

Dawn of the resort industry



Between 1941 and 1942, four major hotel-casinos opened that defined new Las Vegas hospitality: El Cortez on Fremont Street, Nevada Biltmore on North Main Street, and El Rancho Vegas and Hotel Last Frontier on The Strip south of the city limits.



Photo: El Rancho Vegas, 1940s. Manis Collection. PH-00100. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.

ARIZONA CLUB

CLUB
A J. S. S. S. S.

1942

Block 16 is shut down



After the U.S. Army established Las Vegas Army Air Field (today's Nellis Air Force Base) the city banned prostitution and revoked licenses in the 'red-light district' on North First Street.

Photo: Arizona Club, circa 1940. Wilson Collection. PH-00014. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1943

Wartime housing



To accommodate defense workers and families, FHA-backed subdivisions such as Huntridge, Biltmore Addition, Vega Verde, Mayfair and Charleston Square expanded the city's housing supply. These neighborhoods introduced tract-style planning that shaped Las Vegas's suburban development in the decades that followed.

Photo: Aerial view over the city of Las Vegas. circa late 1940s.



1943

Westside segregation takes hold

War projects brought a migration of African Americans to Las Vegas to fill essential defense industry jobs. Confined by discriminatory housing practices, most new and existing Black residents were limited to the underdeveloped Westside, solidifying it as a segregated enclave.

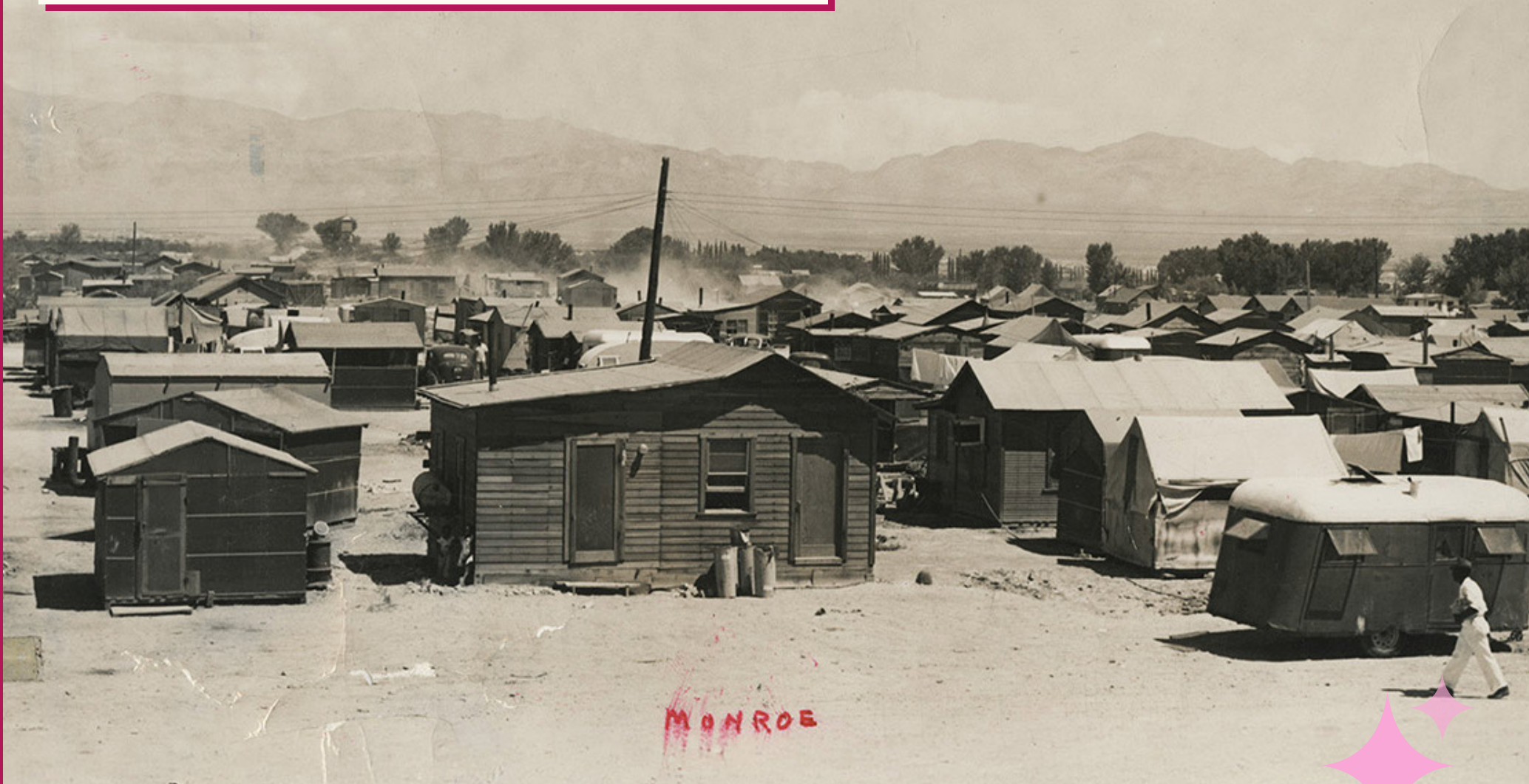


Photo: Monroe St, 1943. Milton Norman Collection. PH-00259. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.

1944

Huntridge Theater



The Streamline Moderne-style theater opened Oct. 10. Las Vegas's first suburban movie house served the new Huntridge subdivision during the city's wartime expansion.



Photo: 1947. Vintage Las Vegas Collection.





Howdy
Podner!

PLAC
STAM
HER

1945

Selling Las Vegas



Hotel and casino operators financed a national advertising campaign through the Live Wire Fund masterminded by Maxwell Kelch of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. The funding model proved successful for years, spawning Vegas Vic' in 1946 and the Las Vegas News Bureau in 1948.

COPYRIGHT MCML BY CURT TEICH & CO., INC., CHICAGO

LAS VEGAS, Nevada

1945

Golden age of neon



The Boulder Club casino on Fremont Street debuted a giant, animated neon marquee sign towering over the building. Created by Young Electric Sign Co. (YESCO), it ushered in the era of Neon Spectaculars that would define Fremont Street's image for decades.

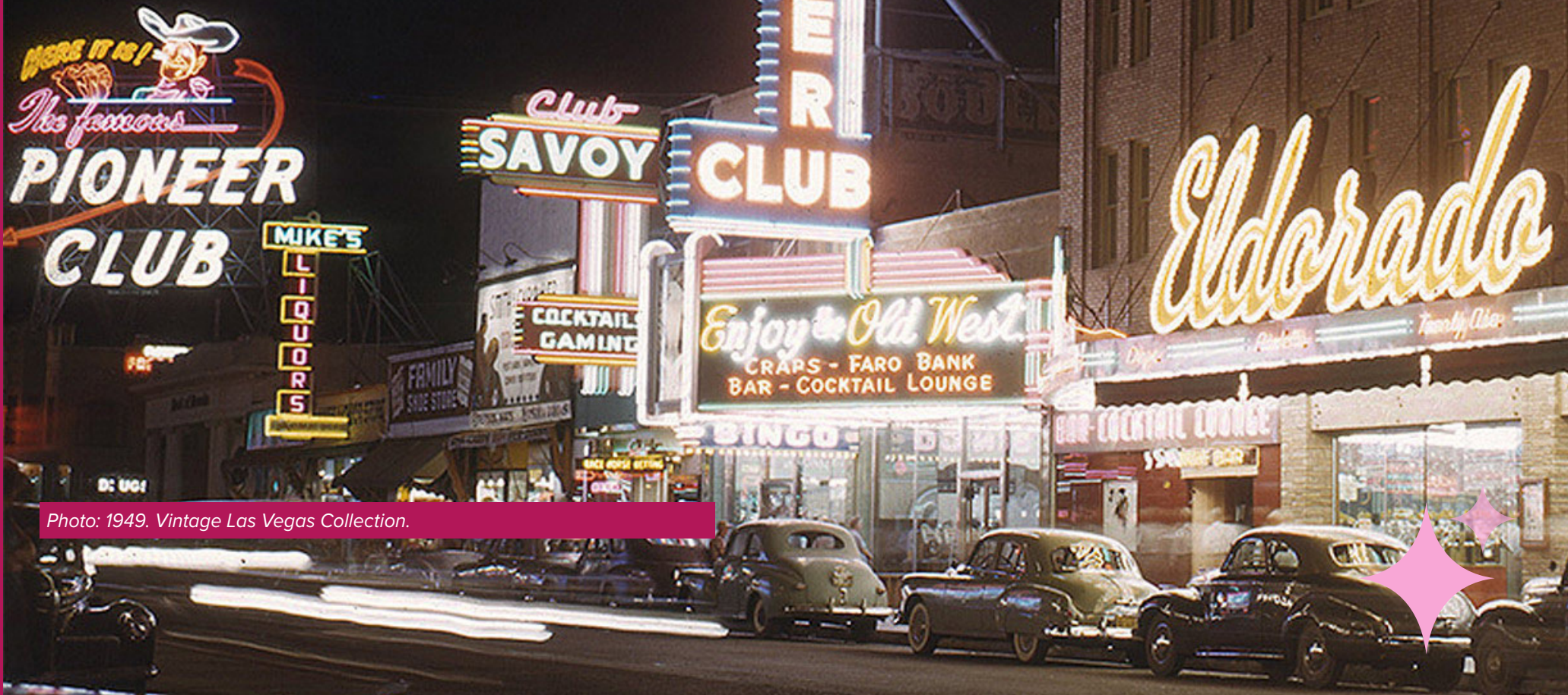


Photo: 1949. Vintage Las Vegas Collection.



1945

The mob in Las Vegas



A group linked to underworld financier Meyer Lansky purchased the El Cortez, marking the entry of East Coast organized crime into the hotel-casino industry.



Photo: 1940s. Manis Collection. PH-00100. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1946

Golden Nugget



Founder Guy McAfee unveiled the city's largest, and among the first themed casinos in Las Vegas on Aug. 30, raising the bar for style and branding on Fremont Street.

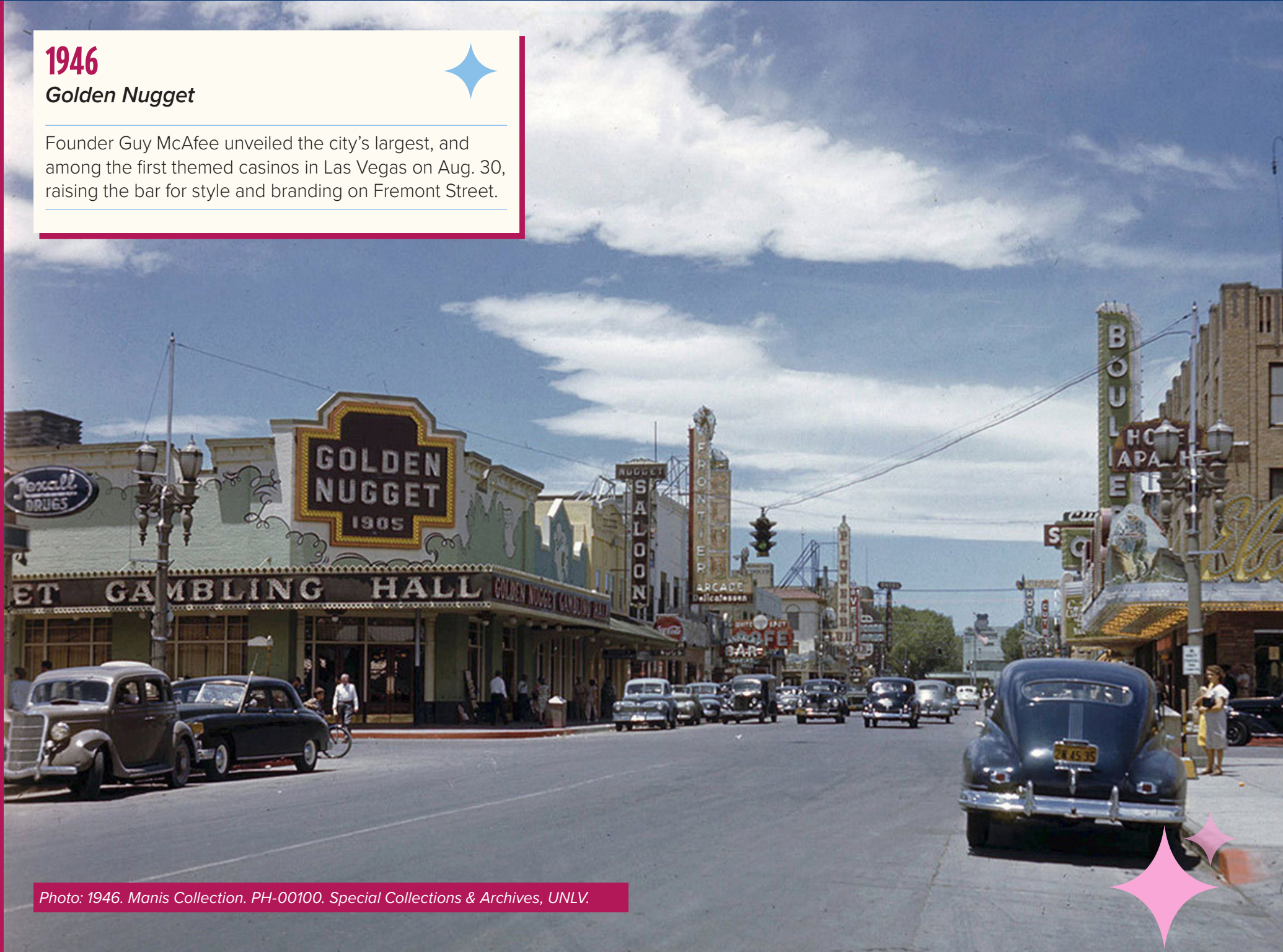


Photo: 1946. Manis Collection. PH-00100. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1946

Las Vegas Jewish Community Center



After years of informal gatherings, the community center at 1229 Carson Ave. became the city's first permanent Jewish institution and served as the hub of organized Jewish life in Southern Nevada. Relocated in 1958, it became Temple Beth Sholom.



Photo: 1229 Carson Ave, circa 1950s. Las Vegas News Bureau.



1950

City population: 24,624



In 1950 the city attempted to annex the Las Vegas Strip, but casino owners fought back. The Nevada Legislature intervened, keeping the Strip in unincorporated Clark County. Clark County adopted the Las Vegas name for the Strip and its business and residential areas.



Unknown Pro Paces Tucson Golf With 61

(SEE SPORTS)

WEATHER

CLOUDY WITH SHOWERS
southerly winds 13-23
6 a.m. High 45, low 35.
today's high 47, low 47.
tomorrow's high 47, low 37.
43 per cent. Sunrise 6:17.
Sunset 5:55.

New 'Atomic City' for Nevada

By ED GINKER
MEN Staff Writer

The town is required by the Atomic Corp. which was recently awarded a huge contract by the Atomic Energy Commission to build a new atomic power plant at the Nevada Test Site. The town will be built on a 10,000-acre site near the plant. It will be a self-contained community with its own schools, stores, and services. The town is expected to be completed by 1955.

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Las Vegas SUN

SOUTHERN NEVADA'S ONLY HOME OWNED DAILY NEWSPAPER

FINAL COMPLETE SPORTS

VOL. 12, NO. 232 EV 3-1111 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1942 TEN CENTS THIRTY-SIX PAGES

U.S. GRAND JURY SUPERSEDES GAMING FIGURES

WHERE I STAND

By HANK GREENSPUN

The Governor writes: No man is so talented that he can accept bribes, all things with superior knowledge and equal facility. No man is any man as competent that he be administrator, politician, writer and publicist, all at the same time.

I don't believe that Governor Grand Sawyer has yet acquired the needed position where he can claim ability and knowledge denied to ordinary mortals.

The main body of the resolutions of the Grand Jury is a list of resolutions of the Grand Jury. It is a list of resolutions of the Grand Jury. It is a list of resolutions of the Grand Jury.

The Governor writes: "It might also suggest that if your administration is elected from the Las Vegas area, it might be advised to establish the position of the Governor of the State of Nevada."

A slight margin, the error in judgment, perhaps, it has always been my understanding that the motives of the Publisher and the owner of the SUN is to gratify the public, not to gratify the public, not to gratify the public.

Las Vegas

WESTERN FORCES ON ALERT

War Threat Over Buzzing



WASHINGTON (UPI)—The United States and its western allies warned Russia yesterday they will take "necessary action" to insure the safety of their planes unless Soviet fighters stop "aggressive and dangerous" interference in the corridors to Berlin.

COUNTY SEEKS \$50,000

District Attorney Taking 'Quickie Law Course'

While Clark County's district attorney, John Stenhouse, was taking a "quickie" law course at the University of Nevada at Reno, the county is seeking \$50,000 to pay for the course.

SUN Special Offer

Language Course Makes Traveling Fun, Simple

Learning a foreign language is a great idea. It makes traveling so much easier. It makes traveling so much easier. It makes traveling so much easier.

Syndicate Kingpin Probe Due

By LEZ McCLAIN
SUN Staff Writer

A number of strip gaming figures and a Las Vegas attorney reportedly have received subpoenas to appear before a federal grand jury later this month to probe current activities of the syndicate.

Painter Freed As Suspect In Murder Here

CHENNAI (UPI)—A painter freed from the custody of police here today as a suspect in the murder of a woman in this city.

May Reveal Election Plans — Bible

U. S. Sen. Alan Bible is expected to announce his plans for a campaign in Nevada next year.

HIDDEN CAMERA TO SHOOT 'CRAZY DAYS' SHOPPERS

"Crazy Days" today and tomorrow, have the whole town talking about smart shoppers taking advantage of the sale.

SEN. JOHN MANFIELD
Nevada's 1st District

Nevada State Bank Will Change Hands

The Nevada State Bank will change hands soon. A deal by Harley Harmon and a group of bond investors to purchase the majority stock interest of the Nevada State Bank from banker Lloyd S. Mahay has been consummated with the actual transfer of stock.

Orbital Flight Halted By Bad Weather

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—John Glenn's eighth space flight was called off for the 10th time last night.

World Briefs

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.—The general assembly's main problem is to solve the problem of the Middle East.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The U. S. State Dept. today announced that it will support the plan for a new international organization to deal with the problem of the Middle East.

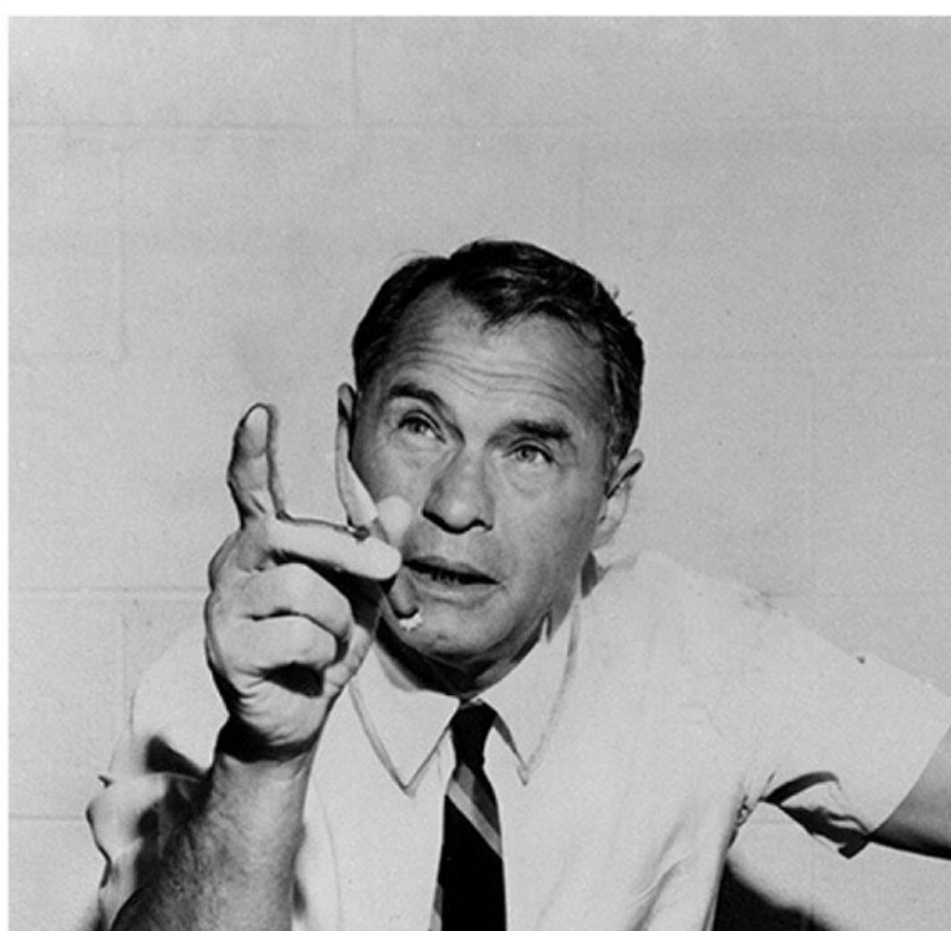
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1950 Las Vegas Sun

Hank Greenspun began publishing the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, taking an editorial stand against corruption, censorship and political intimidation in Nevada. Its early campaigns during the McCarthy era marked the beginning of Greenspun's long influence on the state's journalism and politics.

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1950

Kefauver hearings

The U.S. Senate's organized crime committee, chaired by Estes Kefauver, convened at the federal building in Las Vegas. The hearings exposed mob influence in casinos. Nevada officials used the moment to push reforms, while the publicity added to Las Vegas's notoriety and lured even more curious tourists.



Photo: Senator Kefauver (standing) in the federal courtroom in Las Vegas, Nov. 15, 1950. Themobmuseum.org



**ATOM
BOMB
BLASTS**

ACTUAL PICTURES •
PHOTOGRAHED FROM VANTAGE
POINT HIGH ATOP MOUNT
CHARLESTON, NEAR LAS VEGAS

COURTESY

Benny Binion's
HORSESHOE CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEV.

1951

Atomic testing begins



The first nuclear test was conducted at the Nevada Test Site on Jan. 27. Between 1951 and 1962, one hundred above-ground tests were conducted, with atomic mushroom clouds occasionally visible in Las Vegas. The tests drew national attention to the city, and the test site employed thousands of Las Vegas residents.

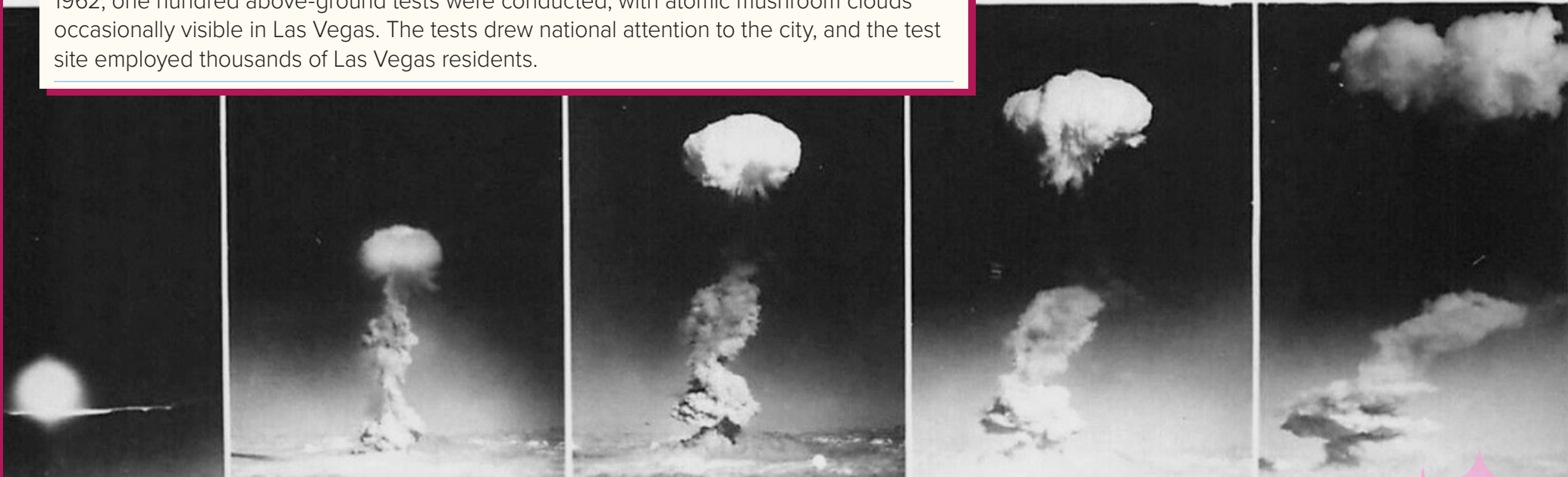


Photo: Postcard, 1951.



1953

KLAS-TV Television Station



On July 22, KLAS-TV Channel 8 began broadcasting as Nevada's first television station. It introduced network programming and local news to the valley for the first time, expanding Las Vegas's reach as a modern regional media center.

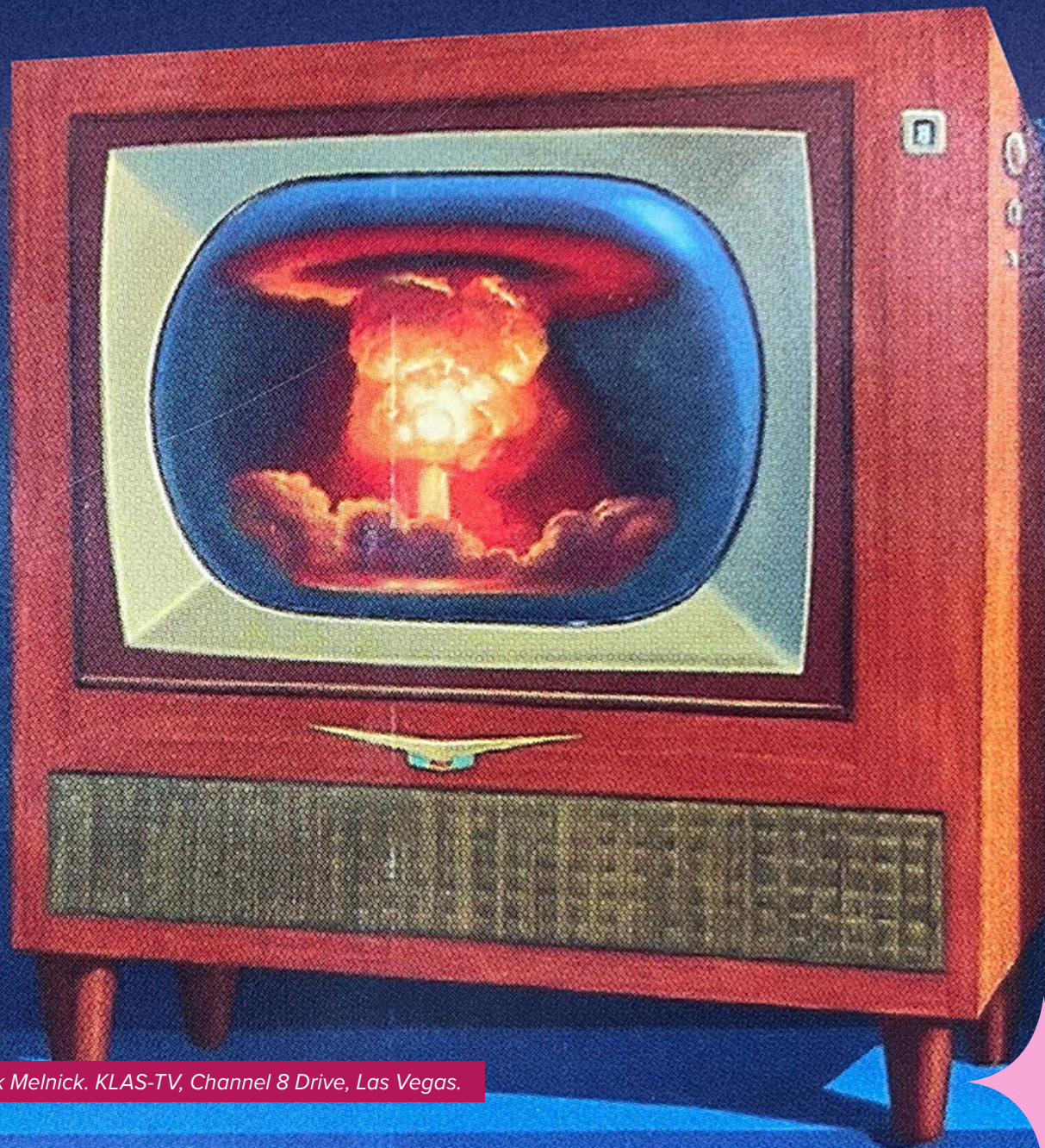


Photo: Detail of "100th Birthday" (2005) mural by Mark Melnick. KLAS-TV, Channel 8 Drive, Las Vegas.





1954

Las Vegas Valley Water District



Facing overuse of the valley's groundwater, the water district was established to take control of the water system from Union Pacific's Las Vegas Land & Water Co. Construction of a pipeline soon followed, linking the city to Lake Mead's water for the first time.

Photo: Construction of LVVWD Pipeline, 1954.





YOUR HOST

J. Louis



Moulin Rouge

THE RESORT WONDER OF THE WORLD
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

1955

Moulin Rouge

Opened May 24, Moulin Rouge was the first racially integrated hotel-casino in Las Vegas and in the nation. The resort closed within the year, but remains a milestone in the city's civil rights history.

Photo: Postcard, 1955.

1956

Fremont Hotel



Designed to rival the top resorts of the Strip, the Fremont opened May 18 as the tallest building in Las Vegas and the state. In the 1960s, FBI wiretaps of president Ed Levinson's office uncovered casino skimming and concealed organized-crime involvement.



Photo: Fremont Hotel with an atomic cloud following a detonation at Nevada Test Site, Jun. 24, 1957. Las Vegas News Bureau.



1956

Clark County School District



On Sept. 16, Nevada's public-school reorganization consolidated the schools of Las Vegas into the newly created CCSD. Beginning with under 14,000 students, CCSD would grow into one of the largest school districts in the U.S. by the 21st century.

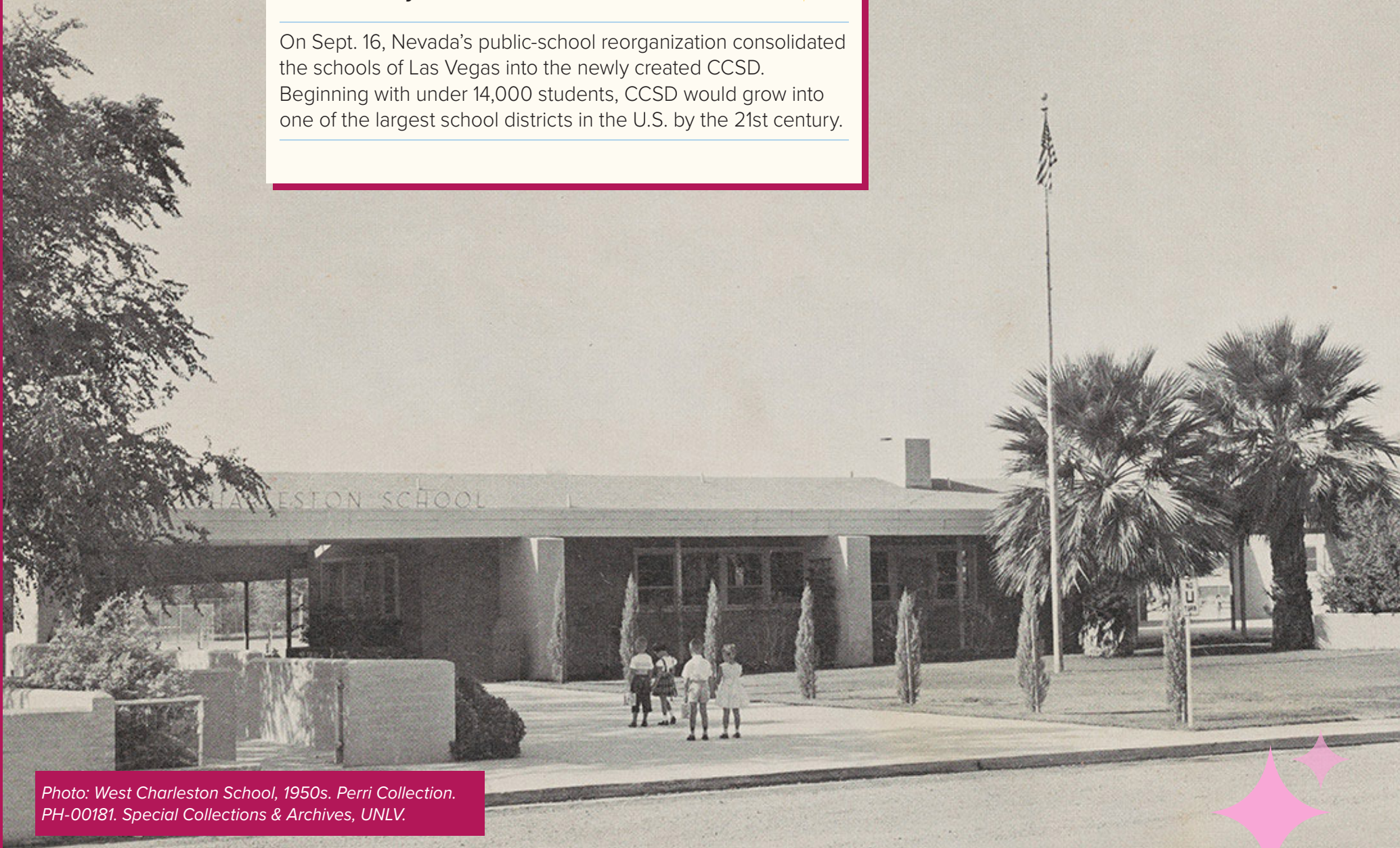


Photo: West Charleston School, 1950s. Perri Collection. PH-00181. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.





1959

Oran Gragson elected mayor



A political outsider, Gragson won office on a reform platform. Elected to four terms (16 years), he became the city's longest-serving mayor.

Photo: Mayor Gragson (center) at an NAACP meeting, Las Vegas, 1963. Brookman Photographs. PH-00303. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1960

City population: 64,405



Las Vegas was now the largest city in Nevada. In the 1960s Las Vegas grew rapidly outward, with new subdivisions stretching along Charleston Blvd, an 18-mile thoroughfare linking more than 80 residential areas.



1960

Moulin Rouge Agreement



On March 26, NAACP leaders led by Dr. James B. McMillan met with state and local officials at the Moulin Rouge, reaching an oral settlement to end discrimination in hiring and patronage on The Strip and downtown. The Moulin Rouge Agreement marked a turning point in civil rights in Las Vegas.



Photo: Meeting at Moulin Rouge Hotel Coffee Shop, Mar. 26, 1960.
McMillan Collection. PH-00334. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1964

Tule Springs Park



The city purchased the 680-acre Tule Springs Ranch for its groundwater resources, and to preserve its natural springs, ponds and historic ranch site for recreation. It is now called Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs.



Photo: Tule Springs Ranch, 1952. Las Vegas News Bureau.



1967

Culinary Workers Union strike

On April 18, about 2,000 members of Culinary Workers Union Local 226 walked out against 12 downtown hotel-casinos, launching a six-day strike. Chartered in Las Vegas in 1935, the union expanded dramatically under Secretary-Treasurer Al Bramlet in the 1950s-1970s, becoming the dominant force in Nevada's hospitality labor.



Photo: Workers picket in front of Fremont Hotel, Apr. 1967.



1969

Highways reshape downtown



Construction of Interstate 15 and the Downtown Expressway transformed the city's layout. The full network through downtown opened in the early 1970s.

Photo: Construction of the downtown interchange, circa 1969.



1970

City population: 125,787



Las Vegas was now a major urban center. The 1970s were marked by further urban growth, civil rights advances, and massive infrastructure expansion.



1970

Las Vegas Paiute Tribe sovereignty



After adopting a formal constitution, the tribe gained federal recognition as a sovereign tribal nation. The Las Vegas Paiutes, part of the Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute) people with deep ancestral ties to the valley, had maintained a community at the downtown Paiute Colony since 1911.



Photo: Creative Services Records. PH-00388. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.





1971

Southern Nevada Water Project

Years in the making, a direct pipeline from Lake Mead to Las Vegas opened in 1971, securing the city's water supply. Later renamed the R.B. Griffith Water Project, its Stage II was completed in 1983, expanding capacity to nearly 300,000 acre-feet. Since the 1990s the project has been managed by Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Photo: Alfred Merritt Smith Water Treatment Facility, 1971. Bureau of Reclamation.

1972

Mormon Fort recognized



The remains of the 1855 Mormon Fort, the first permanent settlement in Las Vegas, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site was acquired by the city in 1989 and gained lasting protection in 1991 when it became Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.

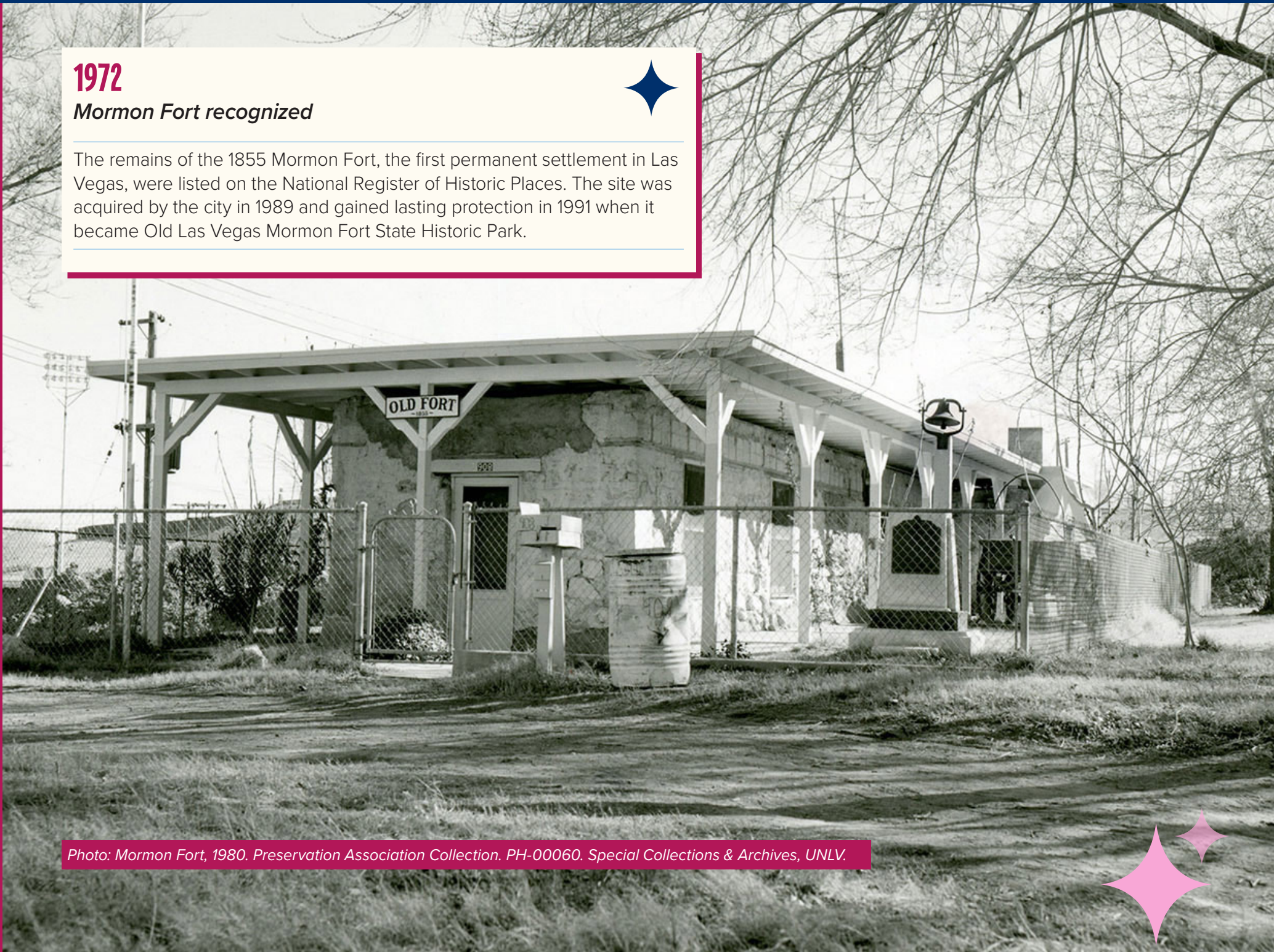


Photo: Mormon Fort, 1980. Preservation Association Collection. PH-00060. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.



1973

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) formed

On July 1, the city of Las Vegas Police and Clark County Sheriff's forces merged into a unified agency. The LVMPD established its headquarters in the new Las Vegas City Hall, dedicated on June 15.



Photo: Sgt. Stanley Cooper at Craig Road Speedway, 1979. policemotorunits.com

1980

City population: 164,674



Fire struck the MGM Grand Hotel on Nov. 21. A total of 148 firefighters and 11 fire trucks were dispatched from Las Vegas Fire & Rescue to assist Clark County Fire & Rescue with the blaze. Eighty-five people died in the disaster. The tragedy prompted major changes in building codes, fire-safety systems and public-safety policy across Nevada and nationwide.

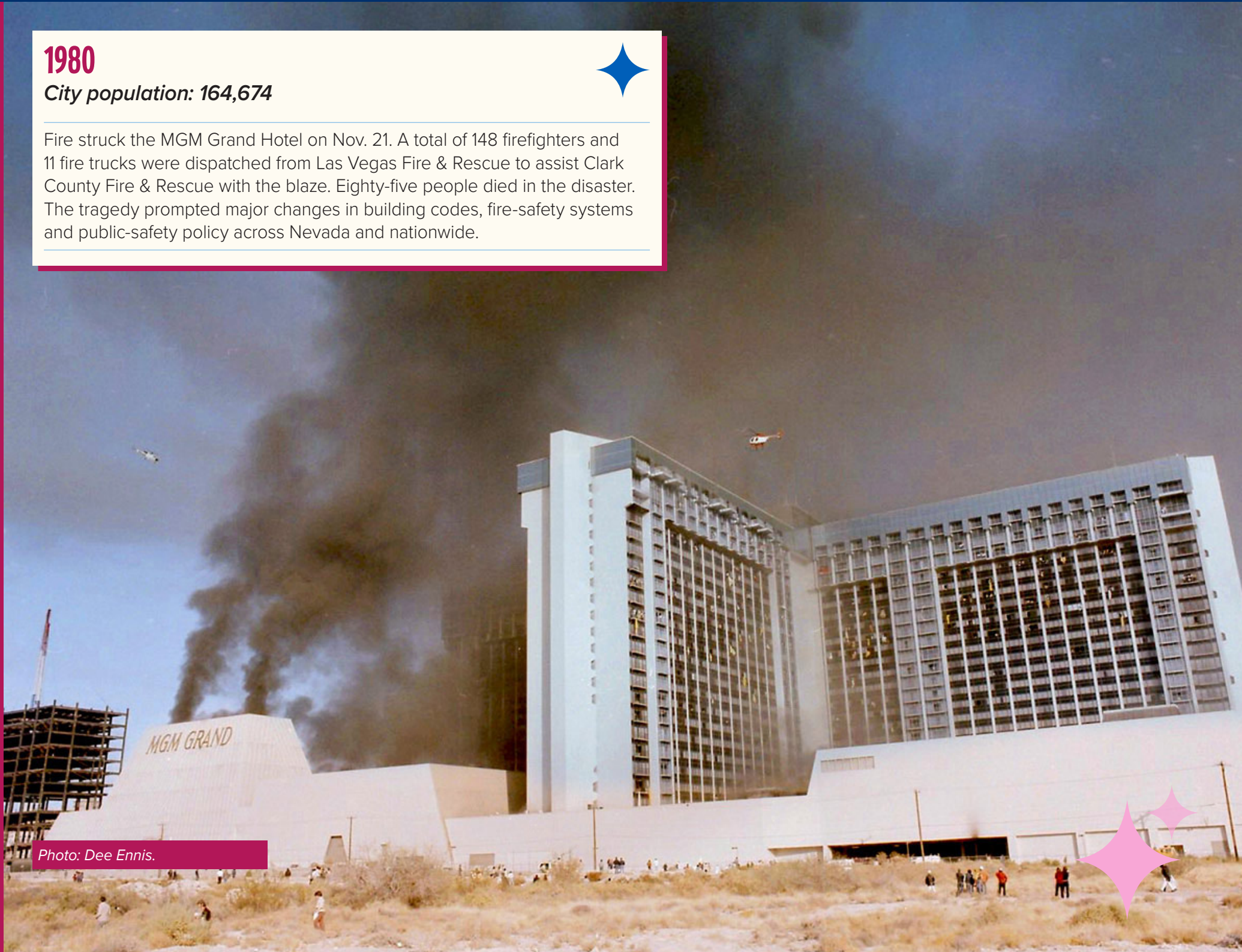


Photo: Dee Ennis.



1982

Nevada State Museum



The museum opened in Lorenzi Park, showcasing Nevada's natural history, archaeology and cultural heritage. Since 2011 it has been located on the Springs Preserve campus.

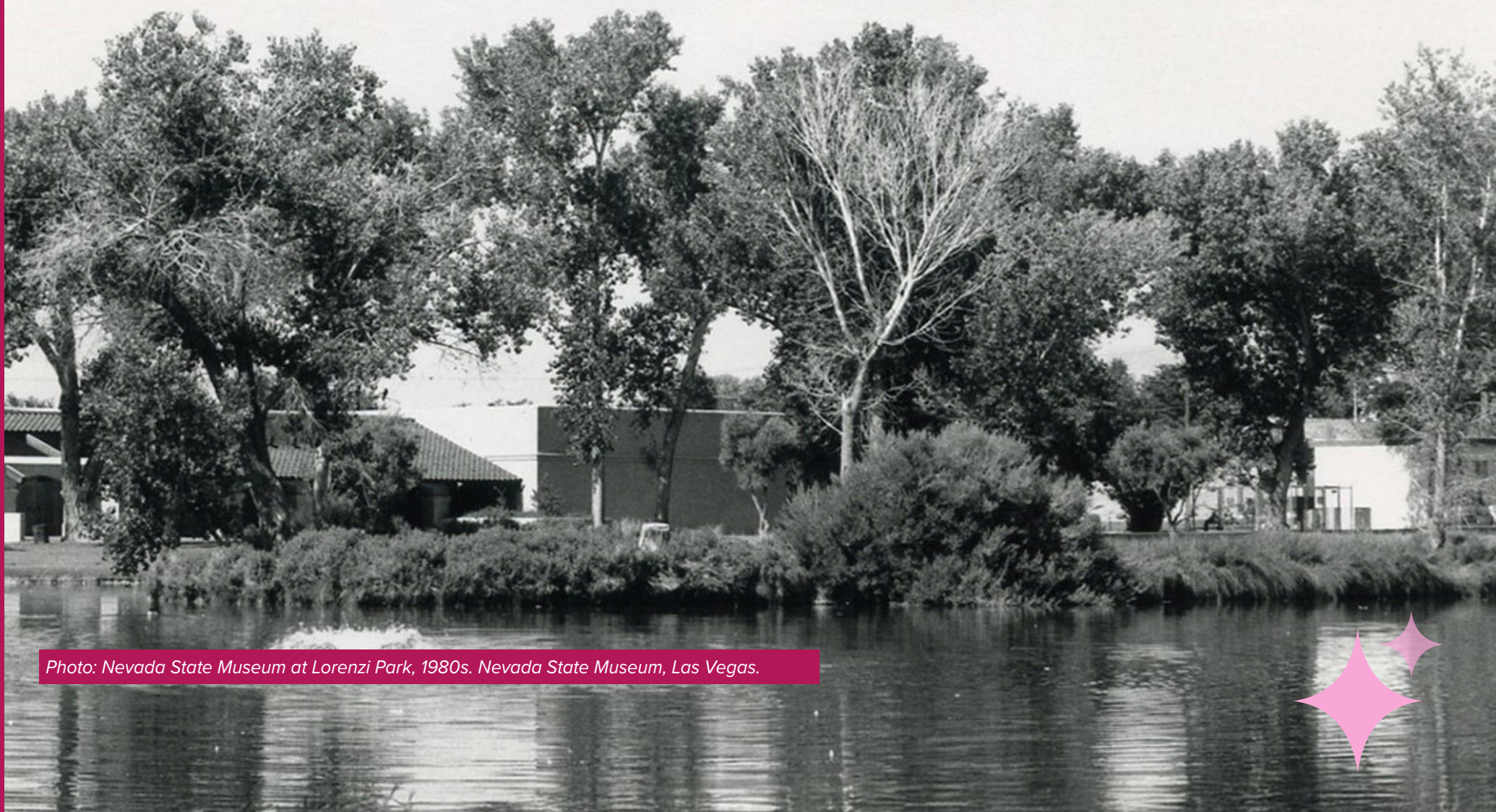


Photo: Nevada State Museum at Lorenzi Park, 1980s. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas.



1984

Flooding and flood control

Major floods in 1983 and 1984 inundated Las Vegas streets and neighborhoods. In response, the Clark County Regional Flood Control District was created in 1985 to coordinate flood prevention and drainage projects across the valley, including within the city of Las Vegas.



Photo: Flooding at Charleston Underpass, 1984. Bill Rogers.

1988

Union Pacific yard closure

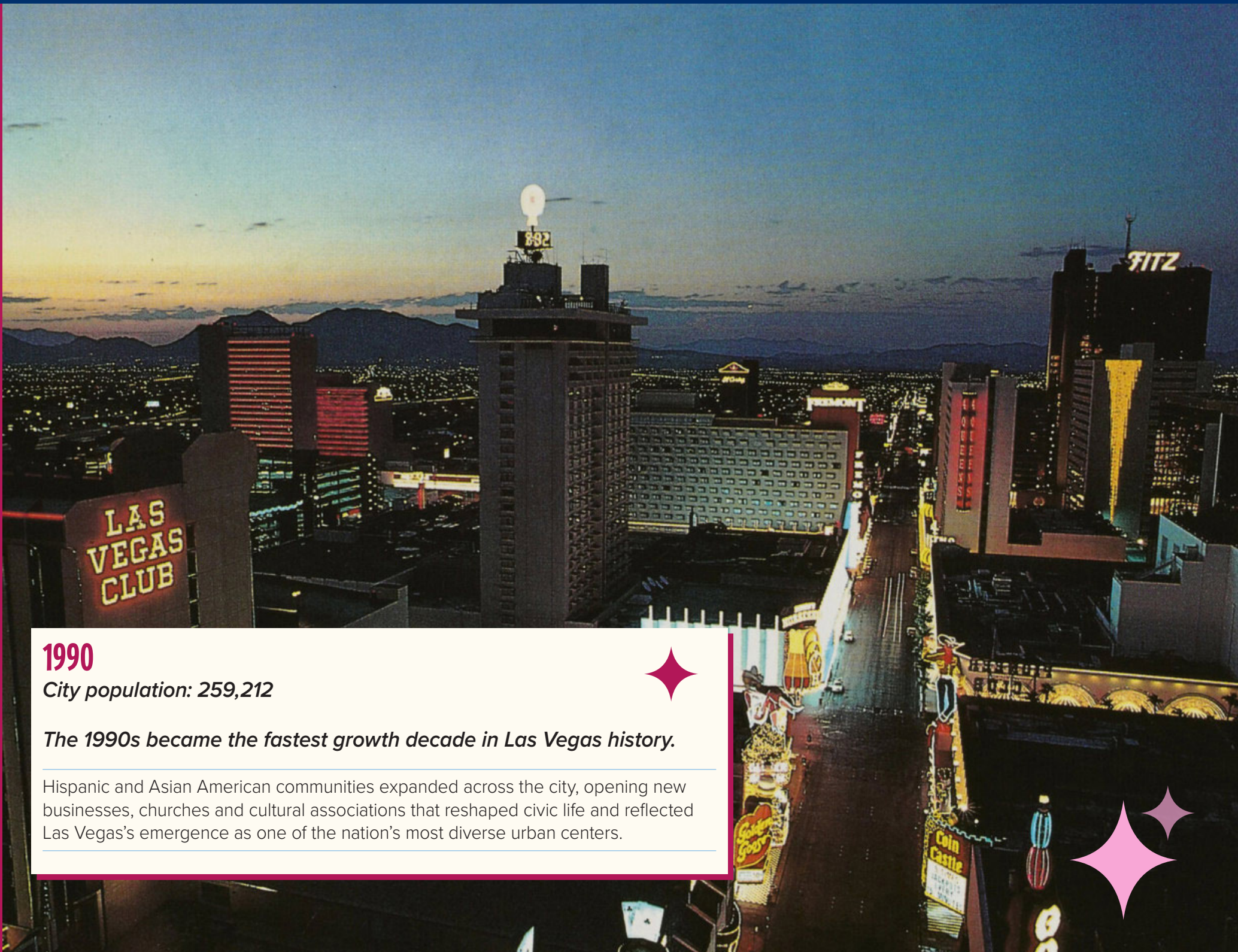


Plans to close and vacate the downtown rail yard adjacent to the original townsite were finalized, ending more than eight decades of operations. Amtrak, meanwhile, continued passenger service until 1997.



Photo: UP Railroad Yard. Nov. 5, 1980, by Harv Kahn. PH-00456. Special Collections & Archives, UNLV.





1990

City population: 259,212



The 1990s became the fastest growth decade in Las Vegas history.

Hispanic and Asian American communities expanded across the city, opening new businesses, churches and cultural associations that reshaped civic life and reflected Las Vegas's emergence as one of the nation's most diverse urban centers.



An aerial photograph showing the construction of Summerlin Parkway in 1990. The image captures a wide, winding road under construction, with multiple lanes and a central median. The surrounding landscape is a vast, flat, brownish desert plain. In the distance, a range of mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene depicts a large-scale infrastructure project in a developing area.

1990

Summerlin



The city of Las Vegas annexed thousands of acres on the valley's western edge in coordination with the Howard Hughes Corporation to enable a master-planned community. The project, named Summerlin, marked the start of large-scale suburban expansion, with its first villages opening in 1990.

Photo: Construction of Summerlin Parkway. Summerlin.com





1995

Fremont Street Experience

Initiated under Mayor Jan Jones's downtown revitalization agenda, the city partnered with casino owners to counter competition from The Strip. The pedestrian mall and light canopy opened Dec. 14, transforming five blocks of Fremont Street into an entertainment district designed to revive tourism and gaming in the city's historic core.

Photo: 1995. The Jerde Partnership.



1996

Neon Museum

Founded as a nonprofit partnership with the city, the museum launched publicly on Nov. 13 with the relighting of the restored Hacienda Horse & Rider sign at Fremont Street and Las Vegas Boulevard. The museum later opened its own exhibition space in 2012 at 770 Las Vegas Blvd. North.

1997

Las Vegas Medical District established



The City Council created the Las Vegas Medical District to cluster hospitals, offices and medical research near downtown. Its anchor was University Medical Center, founded in 1931 as the Clark County Indigent Hospital.



2000

City population: 478,434



Las Vegas entered the 21st century as the fastest-growing major city in the nation. Expanding suburbs and steady in-migration marked its rise as the largest U.S. city incorporated in the 20th century.

Photo: The Paseos, Summerlin, Las Vegas. Summerlin.com



2000

Redevelopment of Union Pacific site



Under Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, the city purchased 61 acres of the former Union Pacific rail yard after a years-long cleanup overseen by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. The site was planned as a mixed-use redevelopment area, later becoming Symphony Park

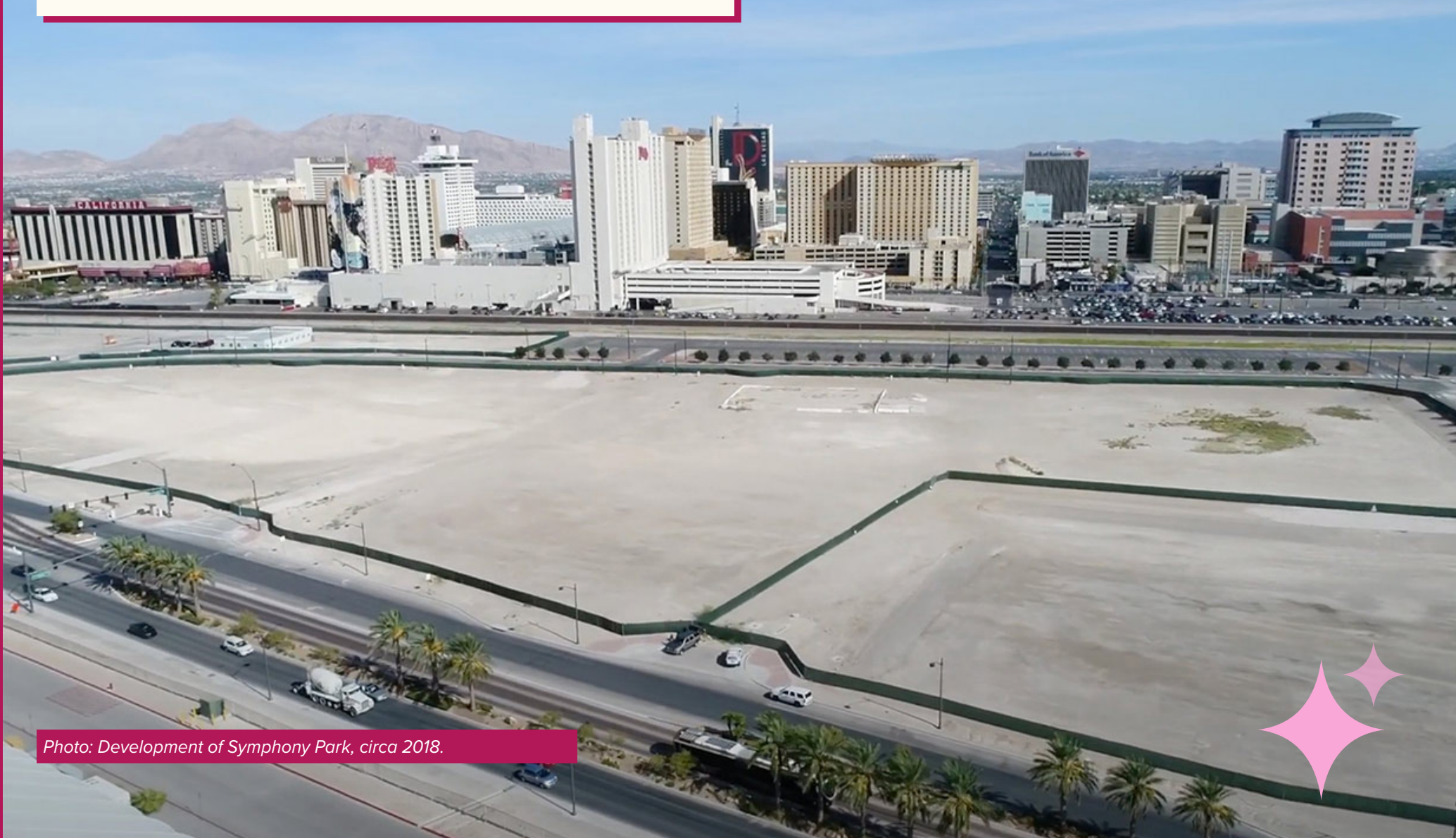
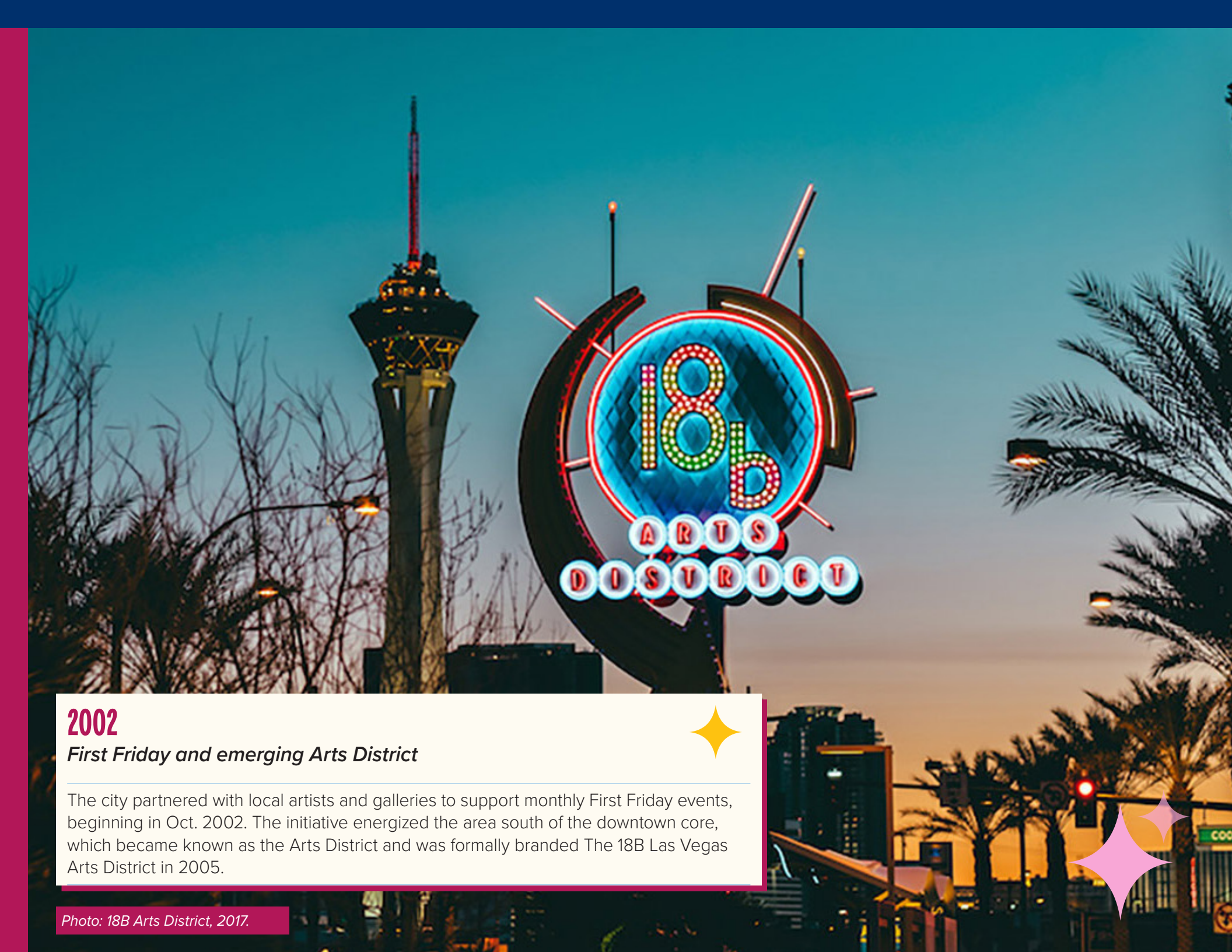


Photo: Development of Symphony Park, circa 2018.





2002

First Friday and emerging Arts District



The city partnered with local artists and galleries to support monthly First Friday events, beginning in Oct. 2002. The initiative energized the area south of the downtown core, which became known as the Arts District and was formally branded The 18B Las Vegas Arts District in 2005.

Photo: 18B Arts District, 2017.



2004

Civic Corridor plan initiated



The city launched a planning effort to connect downtown's government, cultural and business centers within city limits. The plan set a framework for future projects such as The Smith Center for the Performing Arts and the Main Street City Hall.



Photo: Las Vegas City Hall, completed in 2012.



2005

Las Vegas Centennial

The 100th anniversary of Las Vegas was commemorated with citywide events and heritage projects. The festivities revived Hellsdorado Days and launched the City of 100 Murals public art program. The Centennial license plate created a lasting fund for historic preservation and grant initiatives in the city of Las Vegas.



