

Jobless Thousands Swarm To Desert for Dam Work

LAS VEGAS, Nev., March 7 (AP). What gold was to Bodie and Goldfield, Hoover Dam will be to Las Vegas.

This city today is booming, and on the desert between Las Vegas and the damsite on the Colorado River, 21 miles away, more than a score of tent cities have sprung up almost over night.

From Maine to Florida, Arkansas and the Dakotas, Podunk and New York, city families arrive each day, not in covered wagons, but in battered automobiles.

They are, for the most part, from the ranks of the unemployed, and few have money even for a few days more of idleness. They are drawn to the desert, of which they know nothing but the lure of money and adventure.

50 IN TENT CITY

Fifty families constitute a tent city on the very brink of Black Canyon, where the dam will be built. They have but little food and clothing.

Those drawn to Las Vegas by the prospect of work have brought hunger and squalor with them.

Despite the long bread line, how-

ever, there is an undercurrent of optimism.

The boom of 1929, which struck like a tornado and blew property values skyhigh only to pass with the coming of the realization that the signing of the Swing-Johnson bill did not mean immediate commencement of work on the dam, had no counterpart in the present activity.

HOUSES FINALLY RENTED

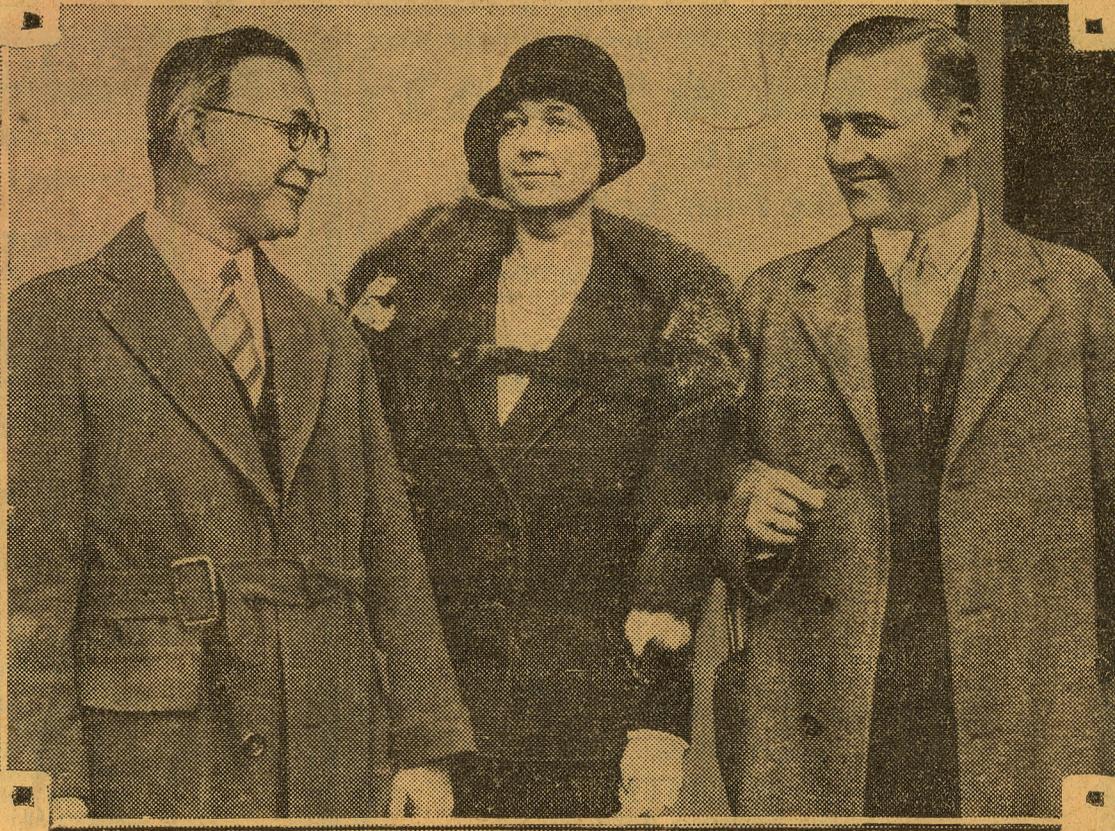
Houses built in 1929 only recently have been rented, and then not for the fabulous rentals which drove many into the streets two years ago.

Some 500 men are at work on the railroad, the roads and telephone and telegraph lines, which are penetrating the desert to the river.

An additional 1500 men are expected to be set to work as soon as the dam contract has been officially let. There are already more than two men for every potential job.

Leonard Blood, superintendent of the government employment bureau here, has issued numerous warnings to laboring men to stay away from Las Vegas until they are advised that work is available.

Hundreds threatened a riot yesterday when a report was received that labor would be recruited in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



City officials and executives of the Six Companies Inc. welcome from Denver two officials of the association of contractors successful in landing the Boulder Dam contracts. Left to right,

are: Felix Kahn, treasurer; Mrs. Kahn and Kenneth K. Bechtel, son of First Vice President W. A. Bechtel of Six Companies. Headquarters will be maintained here.