

Dam Dedicated by President Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated Boulder Dam in ceremonies atop the dam on September 30, 1935, with an estimated 20,000 persons witnessing the ceremonies and millions hearing his remarks, which were broadcast over all the great radio networks in the country.

The president said, "It is my belief that the government should proceed to lay down the first yardsticks from this great power plant in the form of a state power line, assisted in its financing by the government and tapping the wonderful natural resources of southern Nevada."

The presidential party left the special train at Boulder City promptly at 9:30 in the morning and sped out the highway leading to the top of the dam. The party continued across the great structure and on to the newly constructed observation point on the Arizona side of the dam.

After viewing the project from there, the chief executive was taken to the speakers' platform, where the program was started.

Following the program, he returned to his special train for luncheon, then left by car for Las Vegas, arriving at 3:30 p.m. After inspecting the War Memorial building in the city park and driving down Fremont street to greet the large crowd that lined the streets, he was taken up the Mt. Charleston highway to inspect the CCC road work near Harris Springs.

He boarded his special train in Las Vegas at 6:30 p.m. and left to continue his vacation tour.

At the dam ceremonies Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes made a speech and introduced governors of six western states who were honored guests on the occasion.

Harry Hopkins, aide to the president, and Mrs. Roosevelt were taken by cable into the canyon to view the project from that vantage point, with Frank Crowe, superintendent of the Six Companies, Inc., escorting them.

The trip to Harris Springs was not on the itinerary of the president, but both he and Mrs. Roosevelt had expressed a desire to see the area, about which Senator Key Pittman was so enthusiastic. Although E. W. Starling, chief of the White House secret service, had checked every phase of the president's visit and his route, there was no time for this.

Claude J. Mackey, supervisor of public works under the FERA here, who had aided the government officials in planning for the president's entertainment, telephoned to his wife in Las Vegas to tell her of the change of plans and told her to take her car to Cashman's garage and get the "fastest driver" there to take her up the road to warn the workmen to have all barriers cleared.

She carried out this instruction and was the advance "courier" on the mountain trip.

It originally had been intended that only the four official cars would make the trip, but others joined and encountered difficulty in making the grade, causing a slight delay in the return of the president to his train.

Senator Pittman, riding in the car with President and Mrs. Roosevelt, reported later that only the secret service men were concerned and that the honored guests enjoyed ever minute of the ride, particularly returning and seeing one of southern Nevada's most spectacular sunsets.

When the President came to Las Vegas from Boulder City, his motorcade stopped at Fifth and Fremont where he was presented with a 10-gallon cowboy hat by the Chamber of Commerce and a gold and silver key to the city by the Las Vegas Elks.

Governor Richard Kirman proclaimed a state holiday for the occasion, and all schools were closed. Children attending schools in southern Nevada thronged the dam on the occasion of the dedication.

Many federal and state officials from nearby states joined the crowd, which was estimated at 20,000 at Boulder Dam for the dedication.

MAGIC CARPET

LAS VEGAS REVIEW - JOURNAL, July 25, 1931 — With a mattress as a "magic carpet," Mrs. Joe Leavy went over a house and landed out on the desert unhurt at 5 p.m. yesterday when a twister struck Midway City, eight miles out on the Boulder dam highway. While a visiting family was being shaken about in the Leavy home like dice in a box as that house was carried over an automobile, Mrs. Leavy literally sailed out the window on the mattress, over another house and landed in a heap with the mattress, shaken up but unhurt.