

# NUGGETS OF BOULDER COLOR

By Elton Garrett

"But what is there to see around this desert country? Now up where I come from there was lots to go an' see, but down here at Boulder City there's nothing outside of Black canyon to see except monotonous desert an' mountains. Takes you all day to get to where there's anything, then there's nothin' to see but more desert."

"What?" the Southern Nevada addict exclaimed in surprise. "Have you ever been in El Dorado canyon?"

"No, nothing over there, is there? Just a few ol' codgers livin' there . . ."

What a challenge to the man who has become somewhat acquainted with this colorful section of the West!

"Why, say, you lousy, stay-at-home, drab colored howler you! What do you mean nothing interesting? You wouldn't recognize interesting things if they were crammed down your throat!

"Just go over to El Dorado canyon with me some day and I'll make you eat those words about 'nothing interesting.' Did you ever sit in the evening by a kerosene lamp with a bewhiskered mining man of another era and get

him started spinning yarns about the claim jumping and the shooting and the big values mined from huge holes that he could take you to in a few minutes out there in a still, starlit canyon, miles and miles from modern civilization?—so far, and yet so near!

"If you haven't, you've missed a treat that's yours for the seeking, right here within an hour and a half's drive from Boulder City. If you weren't so infernally lazy about getting out and scouting around and nosing into places, you'd find some of this interesting color of which Southern Nevada is chock full.

"Here's a clipping from the January 20, 1933, issue of the Kingman paper, copying a story from the same paper, printed in 1903, nearly a third of a century ago, stating there was 'considerable activity in and around El Dorado canyon, Nevada, where more than 40 years of active mining has been in progress and millions of dollars produced.'

"If Boulder City folks think Las Vegas is the old town of Southern Nevada, they've another think coming. Searchlight used to be IT! And El Dorado canyon had

been the scene of intensive mining nearly half a century before Las Vegas was founded by the U. P. railroad. That big cavernous wall Street mine, with its massive pillars of native rock left in place to support the ceiling at irregular intervals, yielded millions of dollars in gold, in the days when shipment was made out by boat on the Colorado. Visit that old Wall Street now and think back a bit.

"Get old Ike Alcock and some of his cronies started telling about those early times . . . difficulties of building mill and getting in machinery for mining, long trips over the hot summer desert getting provisions and recording claims, battles and intrigues, shooting scrapes and Indian renegade yarns.

"Say, do you know in the mining business there's not a thing of the past in any remote sense! There are fellows taking out gold there today. Highly mineralized rock all through that canyon and its sub-canyons. Pete Keegel used to haul gold bricks a foot long to Los Angeles less than four years ago, from the El Dorado Rand mine. Visit the tunnels of that mine some day. And they're positive mining will flourish again soon in the canyon. When you visit El Dorado don't just drive the length of the canyon and get past the squat little shacks and the mining properties as fast as you