

OLD LANDMARK — This night picture shows the front of the service station at the House of Price, owned and operated for many years by Frank Price. The buildings have now been destroyed by fire. Price came here in September of 1942 and opened his first business in the old Government Trailer Park where he sold tires out of his automobile. He worked for the OPA from 1943 until it closed. One of the largest land owners in Pittman, Mr. Price has now retired from the tire and service station business and spends his time taking care of the many rentals he owns in the community.

DOCUMENTATION — Minutes of the meetings and other records of Unofficial Pittman Advisory Board and Pittman Town Board.

PICTURE FRONT COVER

The C. L. Best track layer, shown on the front cover, was used on the first industrial job in Nevada's Industrial Center. Rodney Colton is shown as the driver of the track layer which pulled three big wagons on the ore haul from the Three Kids Mine to Las Vegas in 1918. The track layer made its own road across the desert, hauling 42 tons of manganese ore and making the round trip from the mine to the railroad in 20 hours. The only drinking water was at Jefferson's ranch. Little did the tractortrain driver think, as he made his frequent stops for water, that within the next 30 years he would be sitting as Chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners directing the creation of the Town of Pittman at the site of this desert oasis.

Industrial Days Program Committee:

Chairman: Sam Boyd
Pictures: Woodruff Basic Photo
Staff: Ellen Shirley, Manager
Gara Merrill, Editor
Midway Edition
of the
History of Henderson
Author
Rachel M. (Rae) Von Dornum
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Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Henderson, Nevada

1970 INDUSTRIAL DAYS DEDICATION

Welcome to Henderson's 19th Annual Industrial Days as we celebrate the Western 70's.

Today we hail the 1970's, challenged by adynamic social and scientific revolution that touches every citizen of every age.

Yesterday, in the 1870's, our forefathers faced a task of formidable proportions as they dared a west full of violence and promise to shape the west of today.

Tomorrow, the 2070's beckon tantalizingly on the horizon of space, continuing to entice social and scientific change. As in the past century, so in the coming century our citizens will accept the pioneer gauntlett and continue to develop home towns of America. Henderson's men and women are willing and eager to press on to the greater promises that lie as cases in the desert, enticing the fearless to greater achievement.

We invite you to lay aside the rush of today's living. Take the week-end off to enjoy, with your family and friends, the Henderson Industrial Days, April 18 through 26. Enjoy the thrills of a colorful horseshow, the traditional western rodeo, a modern carnival with new, fascinating rides, the spectacular parade and the ever new enchantment of the beauty pageant. Yes, these and many other interesting activities provide for your pleasure and enjoyment, Just take a look at the enclosed schedule of events.

To you we extend our hand in fellowship in building a better home town, Henderson. We look forward to meeting you during Industrial Days.

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OLD POST OFFICE — Ruth Corn is shown standing in front of the former Pittman Post Office after it was opened in 1943. This building, one of the first built on Boulder Highway, provided both a location for the Post Office and living quarters for the Corn family for a number of years. It is located on the corner of Corn Street, named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Corn and their contribution to the community.



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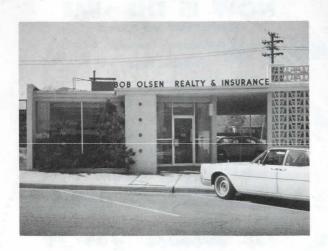
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Best Wishes For A Successful Industrial Days

> HENDERSON CLINIC 67 Lake Mead Drive Henderson, Nevada



FUN SPOT-Dancers shown here are enjoying the atmosphere of the old Swanky Club which for many years was the meeting place of almost every organization in the city. The building, formerly a railroad depot in Goldfield, was moved here during the early days of plant construction and opened as a night club featuring gambling, bar, cafe and dancing. First designed to cater to a higher class clientele than the surrounding clubs, it was called the "Casa Blanca." Apparently this idea did not catch on... A short time later a bright new neon sign proclaimed it the "Swanky Tonk." In 1946 it was purchased by Jack and Doris Mallory and Bob and Pearl Pfluger who introduced their famous smorgasbord to the public just before Thanksgiving. The old building was destroyed by fire, July 15, 1958 and has been replaced by a new restaurant with a motel and trailer park added.



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MIDWAY

By Rachel M. (Rae) Von Dornum

No one remembers why the name of Jericho Heights was changed to Midway City; however, the name indicated the location of the property which was situated midway between Las Vegas and Boulder City. After T. Alonzo Wells started work on his Sierra Vista subdivision, doubling the size of the community, the entire area became known as Midway.

After construction on Hoover Dam was completed in 1936, Midway was almost deserted. The temporary tent-houses disappeared as residents moved to Boulder City and Las Vegas or returned to their

former homes throughout the nation.

At that time it was rather generally agreed that "the big boom in Southern Nevada was over and the

bubble was about to bust."

Even Jefferson and Bearden joined the exodus when in 1940 they sold all of their remaining property to Clark County Sheriff M. E. Gene Ward and T. A. Wells. The unsold lots in the Midway City subdivision were included in the property which was acquired by Ward, who was then serving his second term as sheriff.

After construction of the Basic Magnesium Plant was started the following year, Midway became a veritable beehive of activity. Homes and business places sprung up like mushrooms as workers converged on Clark County from all parts of the United

States to work at the gigantic war plant.

The population zoomed to 2500 with more than 700 living in one trailer park on Ward's property, which was leased for this purpose. This figure did not include the Apache Indians, who required no houses and lived in the unsettled area of Wells' land. These colorful people dressed in their native costumes and many of them did not speak English. Clerks in the Pittman stores were required to learn sign language.

The old Jericho Heights speakeasy was enlarged to house a lively club known as the Midway Casino, which included a bar, cafe and casino. Nick Coroneos, operator of the club, also owned and operated a

hotel in the community.

A second settlement was started at the southwestern corner of Wells' property where casinos, restaurants and cafes offered food and entertainment to workers almost at the plant gate.

About September 1, 1942, a post office was opened in Midway under the name, "Pittman, Nevada Post Office." It was located in a building erected by Wells, almost across the street from the present post office.

Shortly after the post office was opened, Midway adopted the name of Pittman in honor of U. S. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada and Governor Vail Pittman, descendants of Francis Scott Key. The town also boasted its own weekly newspaper called the Pittman Key, which was published by George and Penny McElroy.

Four temporary postmasters served in the Pittman post office during the first year. These were: Mrs. M. Gault, Lela Ward, Sylvia Myers and Ruth Corn. John Corn was appointed the first postmaster and the office

Continued on Page 8

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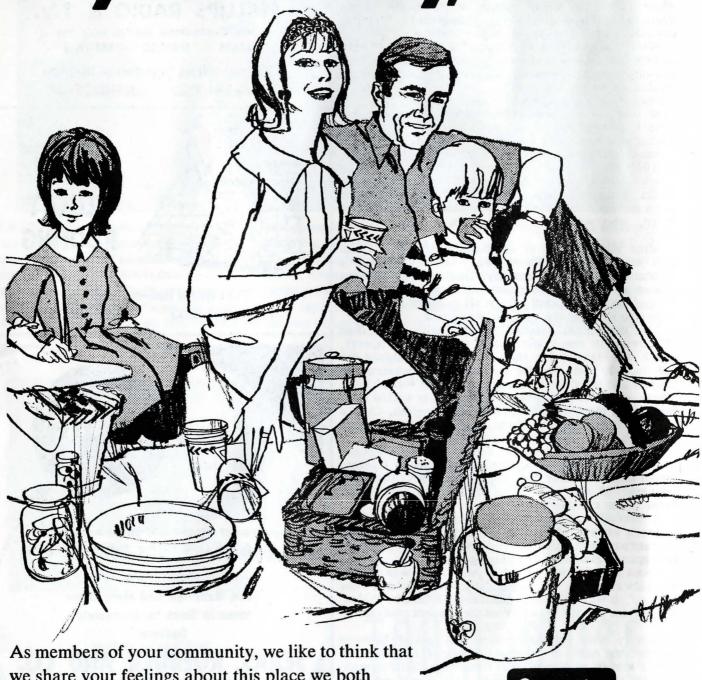
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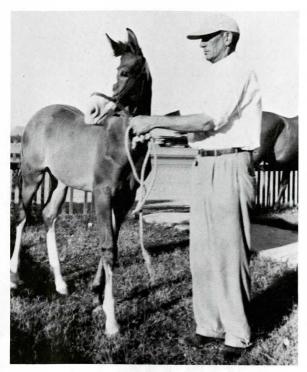


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HORSE FANCIER — Although he was kept busy with the duties of postmaster and grocer, as well as his work with the Pittman Advisory Board and Water Improvement District, John Corn could always find time to train and care for the family's pet horses. He is shown here with Dixie, first filly born to Sugar, a pet mare owned by his son, Richard.

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Continued from Page 5

was moved across the street and located in a small building on the Corn property where it remained for about 20 years.

Pittman was a thriving community but it had one very grave problem. Oddly enough, it had both too much and too little water. Too much under foot, where waste water from the huge BMI plant saturated the ground with seepage, and too little from the community's wells which were unable to produce enough water to keep pace with domestic needs.

In an effort to solve this problem, Pittman's first town meeting was held on August 29, 1944. Clark County Commissioner James Down, Sr. was present and served as temporary chairman. An election was held for an unofficial Pittman Advisory Board with Donnel V. Stark elected chairman; R. L. 'Bob' Zuber, vice chairman; and Howard Wilson, member. Wilson's wife, Helen, was appointed secretary and meetings were scheduled for once each month.

The first business of the Advisory Board was a resolution adopted at the September meeting in which residents agreed that if the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the Federal Government would allow them to obtain water from the BMI plant, they would pay \$5 per unit per month. It was further agreed that no profit would derive from the water and monthly payments would be used to pay for pipe lines, valves, installations, etc. with the cost to be decreased as the assessment was paid off.

The secretary was kept busy writing letters to everyone who could possibly help the town to obtain water. Everyone they contacted was sympathetic and promised "full cooperation."

Among those offering help and advice were: Guernsey Fraser, administrative assistant to the general manager of BMI; U. S. Senators, E. P. Carville and Pat McCarran; Congressman Berkeley L. Bunker; J. B. Allard, chairman of the Public Service Commission of Nevada; Hugh A. Shamberger, assistant to State Engineer Alfred Merrit Smith; and Charles B. Henderson, chairman of the board, Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Three months after the Advisory Board started work, production at the BMI Plant was stopped and the huge plant was closed. This changed the picture.

In a telegram to Chairman Stark, Senator Mc-Carran said: "Reconstruction Finance has impression that if arrangment is for other than temporary emergency, Nevada laws require that RFC be obliged to continue service forever. RFC may want to dispose of Basic by sale and may want no permanent obligation of supplying water.

The Senator suggested that Stark have Gerald L. Leaver of the RFC Loan Agency in Salt Lake City refer him to the loan agency counsel to work out complete recommendations for Washington and to notify McCarran when the recommendations are sent to Washington.

Public Service Commissioner J. G. Allard also brought up the subject of possible sale of BMI and suggested that Guernsey Fraser of Basic be contacted regarding use of an artesian well on the property owned by the RFC, from which an adequate supply of water could be obtained and would assure a permanent

Continued on Page 11

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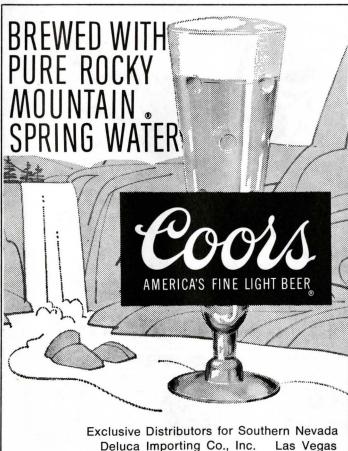
GOLDEN WEDDING — Henderson Mayor W. B. "Bill" Byrne, center, is shown presenting a loving cup to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Price on their Golden Wedding Anniversary, March 4, 1965, in the banquet room of the Skyline Casino in Pittman. The scroll was signed by more than 50 friends and neighbors who honored the couple with a surprise party on their anniversary. The Prices received a letter of congratulations from Governor Grant Sawyer.



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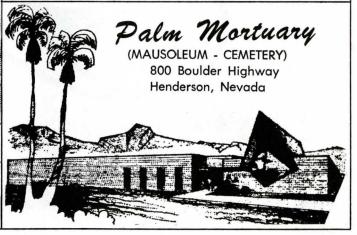


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Continued from Page 8

supply of water even if the Basic Plant was sold. This well had also been discussed in the Advisory Board meetings and was referred to as "the gravel pit well."

As the efforts to obtain water continued, so did the constant fight to overcome the seepage water.

The town was almost inundated early in 1945 and Ira J. Earl, chairman of the Board of Clark County Commissioners, visited the area and made a personal survey.

The Las Vegas Review Journal reported on Feb. 17, that Earl expressed the opinion that the water troubles, which the Pittman area had been forced to undergo in recent months, was the result of the residents' own activities and that the only solution would be the installation of a modern sewage system.

Earl declared that his survey had convinced him that the settlings ponds, installed by BMI at the start of construction, may have contributed to the problem but were not the underlying trouble, as the seepage continued in the area after use of the ponds was discontinued.

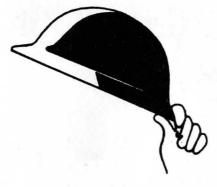
The Commission Chairman contended that the ground in Pittman had become saturated from the various cesspools in the area and said that an abandoned well was running wild and contributed to the excess of the water table.

Other members of the Board of County Commissioners requested that the State Engineer's office be asked to plug the well and make a thorough study of

Continued on Page 12



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Continued from Page 11

the problem. Some members of the board mentioned that the situation might be cleared up by the elements during the summer. (it wasn't)

Senator Carville wrote to the Pittman Board on

Sept. 21, 1945, stating:
"Yesterday I conferred with the Honorable Sam Husbands, head of Defense Plant Corporation, which now controls the pipe line from Lake Mead to the Basic Plant, in an effort to ascertain what steps can be taken to make available good and sufficient water for Pittman, and surrounding communities.

"Mr. Husbands informed me that your board should contact Mr. Gilling of the Montgomery Company at BMI. As you know, the Montgomery Company is operating the BMI property including the pipe line under contract and as agent for the U.S.

Government.

"Mr. Husbands told me that if you could obtain a recommendation from Mr. Gilling and the Montgomery Company relative to use of water from the pipe line that it undoubtedly could be arranged.'

A number of surveys were required by Montgomery Company. One of these showed that in 1945, the town of Pittman had three hundred residents, forty homes, nine clubs, one hotel, six service stations, six courts, two stores, six cafes, and two garages. It was calculated that by charging a maximum of \$5 per month for homes and \$10 for business would provide a monthly income of \$480 per month which would enable the repayment of a loan for installation of

Continued on Page 13

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Continued from Page 12

water lines in 20 years, Secretary John Corn of the

Advisory Board reported.

A survey and map of the Pittman water distribution lines and the proposed line from BMI was done by George Von Tobel. The cost of the pipeline from the plant was estimated by C. D. Baker at \$25,350 to \$26,344.42, depending on the type of pipe used.

Petitions were circulated and signed by all residents, releasing BMI and the Federal Government from any future claims for damage resulting from seepage of waste water from the Basic Project. The

release read, in part:

"We and each of us, agree not to file any suit or suits for damages against the Government of the United States, or any agency thereof, for damages of any kind or nature caused by seepage of waste water from said Basic Magnesium Project, and if any such suits have been filed by the residents or property owners in the Townsite of Pittman, Nevada, we, and each of us, agree to dismiss said suits or have them dismissed."

Negotiations continued through the next year and in 1947, Earl and Earl, Attorneys at Law, were employed to take care of the legal work necessary to the creation of the unincorporated Town of Pittman, the last step necessary before work could start on the pipeline from BMI.

Marion B. Earl met with the Pittman Advisory Board, the Board of County Commissioners and the District Attorney, and verified the legal description of the town boundaries. He also prepared petitions for the creation of the Pittman Water Improvement District, notarizing these and presenting them to the Commissioners.

The creation of both the town and the Improvement District were accomplished at the meeting of the County Commissioners on April 5, 1947.

Elected to serve on the first Advisory Board of the Town of Pittman were David F. Green, chairman; R. L. 'Bob' Zuber, E. E. Close, and John Corn, secretary.

(to be continued)



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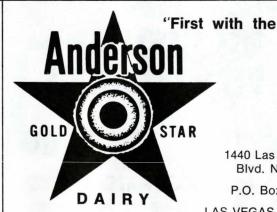
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DAVID AND MYRTLE GREEN — are shown, at their home in Pittman. Mr. Green was elected chairman of the first Pittman Town Board after the creation of the unofficial Town of Pittman in 1947, and they have worked on every community improvement project since that time.

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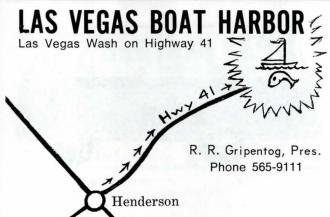
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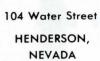
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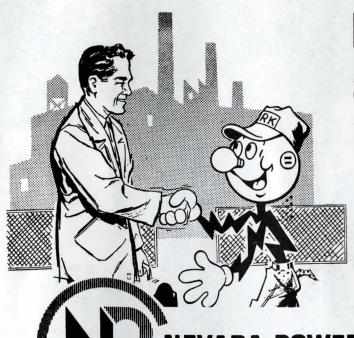
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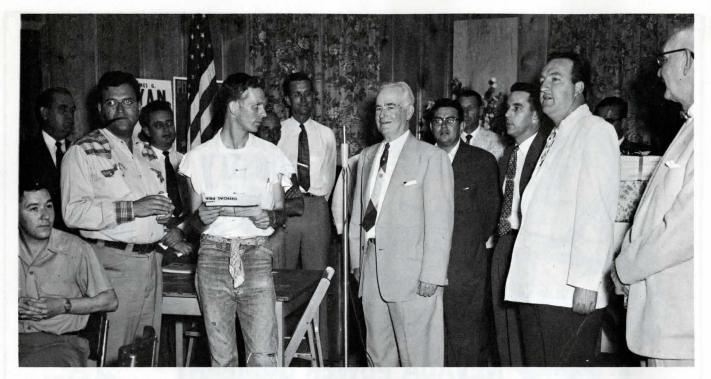
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GOVERNOR VAIL PITTMAN—for whom the Town of Pittman was named, is shown at the microphone at a meeting of the Henderson Democrat Club at the old Swanky Club. Shown, from left, are Aksel Barka, Assessor Jimmy Bilbray, Ernie Harsany, former assemblyman George Rudiak, unidentified, George Harmon, unidentified, Governor Pittman, Stan Lowe, Butch Leypoldt, former sheriff, Attorney General George Dickerson, former assemblyman Ted Dotson, Congressman Walter Baring and assessor Mac Oglesby.

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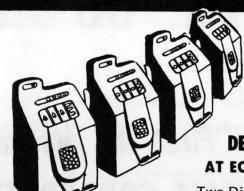
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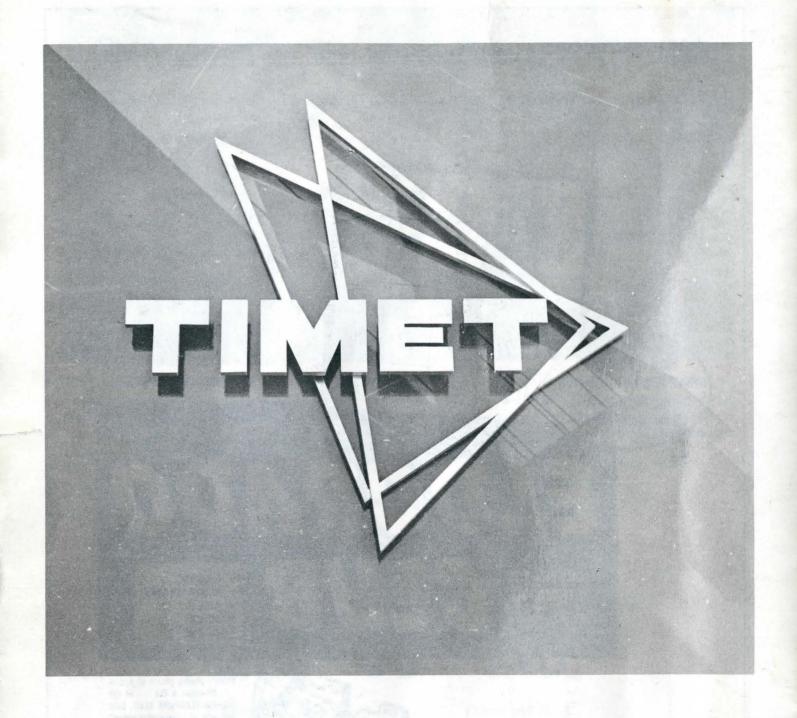
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

the state of the state of	FRIDAY, APRIL 17	Add Marks	
Community Night Talent Show	Henderson Jr. High (Lead St. gate)	7:30 p.m	
	SATURDAY, APRIL 18		
Horseshow (AHSA-NSHA)	Hc-c Arena, Black Mt. Water Tank	8:00 a.m	
46	SUNDAY, APRIL 19	DESCRIPTION OF THE STREET	
Horseshow (AHSA-NSHA)	Hc-c Arena, Black Mt. Water Tank	8:00 a.m.	
	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22	RESTANDED TO	
Carnival	Titanium Field	3:00 p.m.	
Beauty Contest	Henderson Jr. High	7:30 p.m.	
count digital	THURSDAY, APRIL 23	L KIL-Madies I	
Carnival	Titanium Field	3:00 p.m.	
	FRIDAY, APRIL 24	Miss Residen	
Tropical Fish Show	Henderson Jr. High (Lead St. gate)	9:00 a.m 7:00 p.m	
Arts & Crafts Show	Henderson Jr. High (Lead St. gate)	9:00 a.m 7:00 p.m	
Carnival	Titanium Field	3:00 p.m	
hild absorbs and tra	SATURDAY, APRIL 25	THEFT	
Industrial Days Golf Tournament	Black Mt. Golf Club	7:30 a.m.	
Arts & Crafts Show	Henderson Jr. Hight (Lead St. gate)	9:00 a.m 7:00 p.m	
Tropical Fish Show	Henderson Jr. High	9:00 a.m 7:00 p.m	
Chess Tournament	Henderson Jr. High	9:00 a.m.	
Carnival	Titanium Field	10:00 a.m	
Inter-Plant Bowling Tournament	Henderson Bowl	10:00 a.m	
Rodeo	Pittman Arena, Burns Road	10:00 a.m	
Dignitaries Pony Express	Swanky Club to Chamber Office	12:00 p.m	
Parade	Water Street	2:00 p.m	
Trophy Presentation	Channel 5 Television Studio SUNDAY, APRIL 26	6:00 p.m	
Industrial Days Golf Tournament	Black Mt. Golf Club	7:30 a.m	
Arts & Crafts Show	Henderson Jr. High (Lead St. gate)	9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.	
Tropical Fish Show	Henderson Jr. High	9:00 a.m 5:00 p.m	
Inter-Plant Bowling Tournament	Henderson Bowl	10:00 a.m	
Carnival	Titanium Field	1:00 p.m	
Rodeo	Pittman Arena, Burns Road	1:00 p.m	

Thanks to the Henderson Junior High School and Clark County Schools for their excellent co-operation and the use of their facilities.

Southern Nevada Museum is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

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CO-CHAIRMAN Glen C. Taylor
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT Robert O. Oseland
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DIGNITARY RELAY RACE Delwin Potter
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BANDS Dick Geuder
BEAUTY CONTEST Kiwanis Club, Don Richard
FRIENDSHIP HOUR Sam Boyd and Eldorado Club
BOOSTER BUTTONS Hal Corbin
PUBLICITY Gloria Castleberry
TROPICAL FISH John Dutra Chapman
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P. A. SYSTEM Phil Hubel and Bill Smith
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RODEO Ted Bird
INTER-PLANT BOWLING Jack Hanson
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