

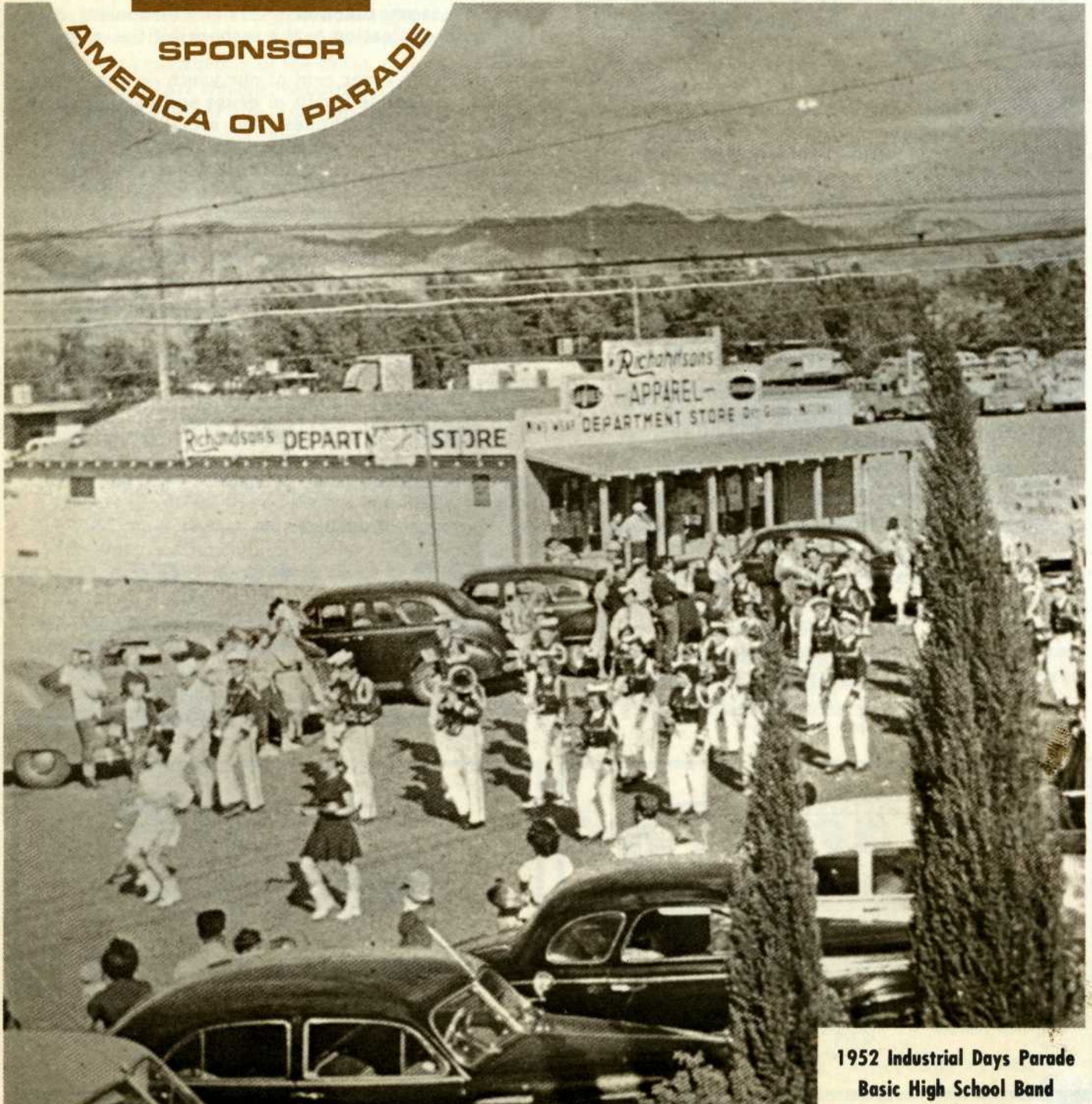
HENDERSON INDUSTRIAL DAYS

APRIL 17-25, 1976



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History of Henderson 1942-1960



1952 Industrial Days Parade
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THE HENDERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - A HISTORY

by Dennis Havens

Nearly thirty-one years ago, under modest circumstances, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce was born. Almost from the beginning, it has played an influential role in the development of our city; growing as the town did, from a raw temporary village in the desert to the comfortable, middle-sized city it is today.

As most know, Henderson itself was born - or perhaps conceived would be more accurate - on September 15, 1941, when bulldozers turned the first earth for construction of the Plant. Even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, people were living on the site of the present city, and before 1942 was much underway, the original one thousand frame houses called the Townsite were built and occupied.

World War II claimed most of the energies of Henderson's first three years. The city had a school system, a theatre, and its first newspaper, "The Basic Bombardier," printed for the workers at the Plant.

The atomic bomb had been tested in New Mexico during the summer of 1945. Germany had already surrendered; Japan was reeling under round-the-clock bombing and Marine landings coming ever closer to the home islands. Finally, on the ninth of August, 1945, a mushroom cloud appeared over the city of Hiroshima; a second came over Nagasaki, and the end of Japan's war was days away.

In Henderson, where our plant had done so much to insure the downfall of Germany and Japan, August 17, 1945 must have been a typical hot summer day, with swamp coolers pumping away. As twilight came, sometime around eight-thirty, many residents might have been sitting on their front porches, relaxing and hoping for a desert breeze to come and cool them. By that hour, the temperature would have retreated into the low nineties.

To a small group of pioneer Henderson businessmen, all of whose lives were somehow tied up in

the destiny of a town that wasn't meant to live past the end of the war, it wouldn't be a typical summer night. It would be one of the most important evenings of their lives; for they had gathered together at the old Townsite School (where the Southern Nevada Museum and City Hall Annex now stand) to discuss the feasibility of organizing a Henderson Chamber of Commerce.

We have the minutes of that first meeting, and in the terse language of such documents they tell us that "the meeting was well represented by the business and professional citizens of Henderson." William Byrne was appointed Chairman Pro Tem for the evening, while Preston Austin was named Secretary Pro Tem.

Byrne, fired up even then with enthusiasm for the future of Henderson, spoke for a long time on the advantages of forming a Chamber of Commerce. He added to his own opinions written comments from citizens unable to attend in person. There was a consensus. A Chamber of Commerce would be formed.

It took three such meetings for the Chamber to pass from the "Pro Tem" status it gave itself to a full-fledged organization. On September 7, 1945, days after the formal surrender of Japan, the bylaws and constitution were adopted, and the officers of the organization set up an election for the Board of Directors.

That September 7th meeting had a full agenda. An article from the Las Vegas Review-Journal was discussed. It was concerned with the future disposition of the Federal housing projects of Victory Village and Carver Park. Yes, in the summer of 1945, plans were already underway to get rid of those twin developments across the highway from Henderson proper. The wheels of fate grind slowly, they say. It wasn't till the 1970's that Victory Village and Carver Park were leveled.

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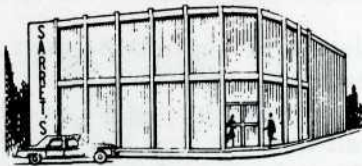
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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 3

One final decision was arrived at on that late-summer evening thirty one years ago. It was agreed that the State Highway Department be contacted "for the purpose of obtaining signs on the Boulder Highway to designate Henderson Township. Motion carried."

The Chamber of Commerce had acted, and its first positive move was to announce to one and all traveling along the highway that they were passing through the town of Henderson!

William Byrne officially became president of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce on September 21, 1945. His tenancy of office saw the Chamber (and the city, of which one day he would be mayor) through some of its most desperate days. As 1946 arrived and the Chamber of Commerce wrestled with diverse issues: the growing school system and its financial woes; postwar industry; the extension of roads; plans for a public library; a shadow of doubt loomed over Henderson and the minds of everyone concerned with its future. No one knew whether the town was to have a future at all.

1946 was a year of fear and doubt for the young Townsite. It was a child of necessity, born in the middle of a hostile and ugly desert chosen not for

municipal convenience, but rather the exigencies of war. It had none of the green, soothing charm of Boulder City, none of the wide-open pleasures of Las Vegas. One couldn't even buy a drink within its Federally-imposed town limits.

The Chamber, even then, had the realistic outlook to see that compared with its neighbors, Henderson had little to offer its residents, not to mention any possible tourists. Aside from its schools and a movie theatre and a thousand look-alike wooden boxlike houses, what was there to Henderson? It had a primitive telephone system. Most private dwellings had no phone at all. The population had begun to drop at war's end, and that meant declining revenues. Some businesses went under. A few bravely went on. Worst of all, the future of the town: its very existence was in the hands of an amalgam of Federal bureaus, on whose whim Henderson could live or die.

The Chamber held its last meeting of 1946 on the day before eleven Nazi war-criminals were to be hanged in Nuremberg. This fact wasn't given mention in the minutes of that October meeting, but the much more immediate issue of those road signs was. It was decided to ask a representative of the Highway Department to survey the intersection of Boulder Highway and the Henderson-Victory Village Road

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**Look Up America - See What
You've Got!**

Continued from page 2

involving but a minute per cent of the world, both in terms of population and size and number of nations involved. In reality, a positive view of the world situation today reveals a level of peace, harmony and international co-existence between the major nations never before equaled in the history of the world.

This identification of the good things that constitute our American way of life are endless, we need only to recognize and sincerely appreciate these values and to be on constant guard to escape the tendency to accept these hard won advantages as a gift of our heritage.

The Henderson Chamber of Commerce, through its presentation of the Twenty Fifth edition of the Henderson Industrial Days Celebration, invites your participation in this community activity designed to emphasize the positive accomplishments of Henderson City life, government, business and industry.

To this end, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce dedicates the 1976 Henderson Industrial Days Celebration to--America - Look Up and See What You've Got.

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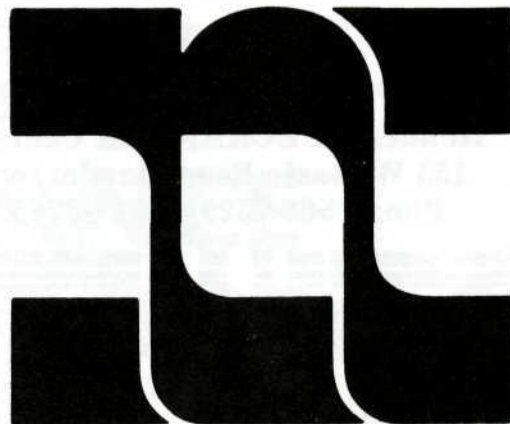
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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 5

to determine the need for a sign. That intersection is now the boundary of the Rasco-Safeway Shopping Center.

1947 opened with things still muddled and unsure. At the January meeting, President Byrne was forced to go over the Victory Village issue again. No decision had yet been made; it was hoped they could be kept, due to the increasing housing shortage.

The next meeting of 1947 was on March 13. The issue of the Victory Village dormitories was the main business at hand. In the presence of Mr. Marl Hopkins of the OPA, (the Office of Price Administration: one of the many governmental agencies whose power and influence affected the lives of every American during those confused days of the 1940's) the Chamber made one of its boldest moves to date: a proposal, to be delivered by a committee of three, on the fate of Victory Village. It is worth reproducing here, in full.

RESOLVED, that the Clark County Housing Authority be requested to immediately take necessary action for the reactivation of the dormitories at Victory Village, Henderson, for at least 30 days as a test period, to the end that employees at Basic

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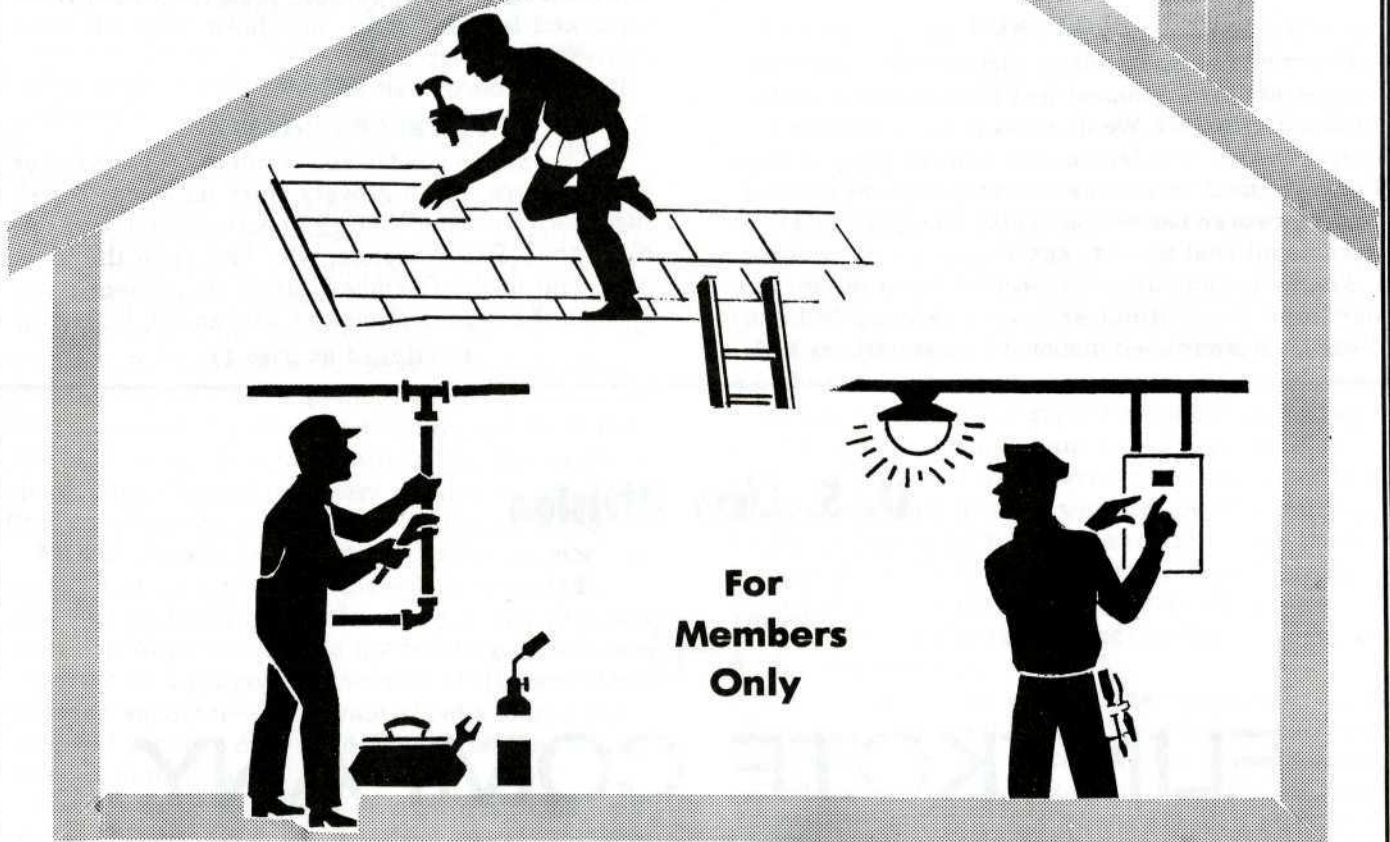
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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 8

Project be permitted to rent these facilities, which are direly needed at this time, and that the Clark County Housing Authority also be requested to immediately make a survey and investigation of the sanitary and plumbing facilities not only at the dormitory buildings but at the project as a whole, so that any unsatisfactory conditions at present complained of by the tenants at that project, be corrected.

And as if exhausted by that final action, which led to the revamping of Victory Village and Carver Park, keeping them functioning as viable living quarters into the early 1970's, the Chamber of Commerce quietly passed out of existence for sixteen months.

INTERREGNUM

It is next to impossible at this late date to determine exactly what caused the Chamber of Commerce to dissolve in 1947. We do know it was a most trying period for all Hendersonians, and the people who had been members of the Chamber were as harried and overworked as everyone else. Everyone had one paramount goal then: to survive.

The early Chamber of Commerce had foreseen the development of Henderson as a gateway to Lake Mead; had mentioned it at meetings as early as 1945.

They had seen its potential, looking past a grubby collection of white wooden houses and bleak dormitories across the highway. But they were only men, albeit enthusiastic ones. They were fighting through a maze of governmental bureaus and commissions, each staffed with men bloated by petty authority and self-importance. Henderson was but a pawn, something of an eyesore and an embarrassment. It had no autonomy, no municipal power. In the prejudiced eyes of the bureaucrats, it was a sorry sight, next to the likes of Boulder City. They forgot it had been their own generosity and willingness to spend money that made Henderson's older neighbor the green, well-manicured place it was. They had subsidized it and made it a governmental showplace: something of a tourist stopping-place. Looking at drab, monochromatic Henderson, with its pitiful little trees and its half-asleep downtown, they felt little motivation to help.

It was a time of wait-and-see.

THE REORGANIZATION

Bill Byrne, who had been president of the Chamber of Commerce, ran a grocery store on Army Street, just down from the Victory Theatre, which was run by Nathan Van Wagenen, who had been the vice-president of the Chamber during its pioneer days. Though the organization had broken up, both men

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INDUSTRY

CHAMBER HISTORY

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remained in Henderson, and their influence was always strong. As 1948 moved along and spring yielded to summer, they called together as many members of the old Chamber as were still around, and some new people as well. On Friday, June 4, 1948, the Chamber of Commerce held its reorganization meeting.

"Meeting was called to order by William Byrne, last elected president."

So start the minutes of that historic meeting. It is an illuminating document, for from that date onward the Chamber of Commerce and its role in the story of Henderson form an unbroken thread.

WILLIAM DOAK

The first president of the reorganized Henderson Chamber of Commerce was William Doak. He presided over his first meeting on July 20, 1948, and his last on September 21 of the same year, at a special meeting.

At the August 19 meeting, almost unbelievably, the old issue of road signs and a stop-light for the intersection of Boulder Highway and the Henderson-Victory Village Road was brought up again!

At the September meeting, John Mueller of the Colorado River Commission spoke. The most salient point of his talk was a plan by which residents of the town could be allowed to purchase their own homes, to keep them from falling into the hands of speculators. It was a landmark opinion, perhaps the first great turning-point in the history of the town.

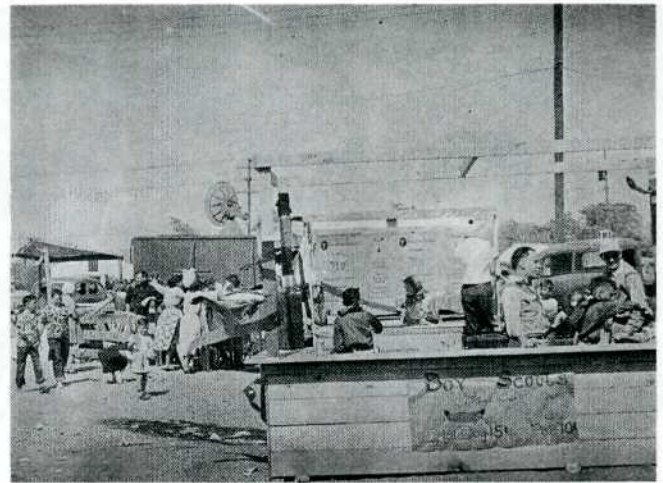
William Doak did not preside over the last meeting of his short term of office. (Indeed, he presided over only two, and only one of those was a regular meeting!) Van Wagenen chaired the meeting. Jack Wood reported on a proposed extension of Highway 91 to Whitney, saying the Plant wanted not a tourist highway, but a heavy-duty road for trucks, connecting directly to the Plant.

The first efforts at a trade-at-home campaign were made, pointing up a problem that haunts the city to this day: keeping its citizens interested in spending their money here rather than Las Vegas.

JACK WOOD

The short and spotty tenure of William Doak was over. On November 18, 1948, Jack Wood, winner of the election, took over as president.

Jack Wood served the first full term as president of the reorganized Chamber of Commerce, leaving office following the meeting of October 20, 1949. His tenure coincided with many of the events that would assure Henderson's future, even if at the time these events seemed anything but momentous.



1952 INDUSTRIAL DAYS-exhibit area (Where Eldorado Club now stands).

A plan was brought forth to open up Victory Village and Carver Park to house two hundred servicemen and their families. A "Welcome Stranger" brochure was suggested to kindle interest in local merchants and the town itself.

On January 20, 1949, C.W. Davis of the Bureau of Mines in Boulder City discussed the importance of manganese, saying that the supply of high-grade manganese could be cut off at any time by Russia. It would lead to the refining of manganese at the Plant: the beginning of an industrial renaissance for Henderson.

Victory Village and Carver Park were once again on the agenda. Action, said James Farndale, was required at once to save them. They came under the Lanham Act, and as such were temporary housing. Unless action were taken immediately, they could be torn down by January 1950. This was only disclosed at the Chamber meeting of April 21, 1949.

In August, the plans for zoning the city were discussed for the first time.

Harve Perry, who opened the original Perry's Men's Wear that his son Bill now operates so successfully, was introduced to the Chamber at the meeting of October 20, during which elections for the new term were held. Fittingly, Nathan D. Van Wagenen, who had served the Chamber so faithfully from its inception, was to be the new president.

N.D. VAN WAGENEN

Back in 1943, the Victory Theatre opened its doors for the first time. A contemporary photograph shows a huge line standing to see the premiere film, "Presenting Lily Mars." If there was, in those days, one social center that cut across all lines: social, religious, age, economical or cultural, it was the Victory Theatre. When I went to my first movie there as a youngster of nine, in 1947, the price of admission

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CHAMBER HISTORY

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was fourteen cents for children! N.D. Van Wagenen ran his theatre for countless weeks of fast-changing programs that always included an action film and serial on Saturday afternoons for the kids. Aside from running the town's only regular source of entertainment other than the radio, he was acutely interested in the development of the city of Henderson. He became the Chamber of Commerce president just in time to see the dawn of the 1950's.

As the 1940's finally drew to a close, optimism at last was in the air. At the Chamber's last meeting of the year, a letter was read from Al Cahlan, then editor-publisher of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. In it, Cahlan stated that greatly increased activity at the Plant could be expected soon.

How prophetic those words were to be. On June 25, 1950, the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel, and America found itself involved in another war, with the concomitant need for war material that the long-dormant Plant could provide.

THE 1950's

N.D. Van Wagenen's presidency of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce began in late 1949, but most

of it took place during the first year of the new decade.

Morry Zenoff had brought the Henderson Home News to our town by then. A mercurial, enigmatic man, Zenoff probably offered more good (and bad) ideas for the city in his column, "Morry'Story," than any ten men could be expected to do. To this day he remains at the helm of his paper, and to this day he speaks out, alternating as he always has between sparks of brilliance and flights of fancy; yet always, let it be remembered, with the sincere desire to do what is best for Henderson.

At the first meeting of 1950, the Chamber minutes reflected a change. The membership was becoming involved in area activities more and more, going beyond the limits of Henderson itself to participate in things affecting Lake Mead fishing and the allocations of the Southern Nevada Power System. The Chamber threw its weight behind plans to improve and enlarge bus service between Henderson and Las Vegas.

In March, the Chamber of Commerce voted to take over the utilities serving Henderson from the government, acting as utility company until such time as a municipal government could be set up. At the same meeting, Daylight Savings Time was discussed. In

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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 13

1949, Nevada had remained on Standard Time all year, causing such problems as 3:15 AM sunrises in June and July. The Chamber as well as the companies at the Plant: U.S. Lime and Stauffer Chemical; favored Daylight Savings, and it came to pass that the 1950 Nevada Legislature reinstated it.

When the Chamber reconvened in August, (There having been no July meeting,) the Korean conflict had broken out. Governor Vail Pittman spoke to the members on the BMI complex and its power allocations.

By September, the effects of the war were being felt in an increased tempo at the Plant, and this was reflected in the order of business at that month's meeting and the following one.

PRESTON AUSTIN

Preston Austin, who had served the fledgling Chamber of Commerce in 1945 as its first secretary, was elected the new president of the Chamber in October 1950, and took office in November. At his first meeting, a new dues schedule was drawn up, making it easier for small businessmen to join the Chamber. A problem Austin inherited was the unsatisfactory bus service between Henderson and Las Vegas, and his initial efforts to see an improvement met with failure.

In February 1951, the Chamber threw its support behind an effort to get Bond Road paved between Boulder Highway at Whitney and McCarran Airport. Bond Road, of course, indeed became paved, and not too many years later received its present name: Tropicana Avenue. Further progress was reported in the move to have the water and power services in Henderson become municipally-owned.

In early 1951 there was talk of a junior college being established in Henderson. The Chamber of Commerce eagerly backed the idea; but it had come before its time.

The biggest news in July was the break in the long-standing impasse on the future of the Townsite homes. At last it looked like individuals might be allowed to purchase them. Could incorporation be far behind?

In November 1951, two county commissioners: Rodney Coulton and Herb McDonald, were guests of the Chamber. N.D. Van Wagenen stated that our plans for incorporation should get underway at once. McDonald asked if Henderson wished to become part of Las Vegas, and the Chamber replied vigorously in the negative. Or, as the minutes read, "Chamber said NO!"

The housing situation was growing more critical. A letter was to be sent to the Housing and Home



CLOUD FROM A 1951 A-Bomb Test taken at dawn from Tungsten St.

Finance Agency in Washington, D.C., showing the desperate need for housing in Henderson. Such was the frustration of dealing with myriad government agencies.

At the December meeting, two items dominated. Mainly, the Chamber pursued all the ideas and problems involved in the town's incorporation. But there was time also to lay plans for an anniversary celebration for Henderson. More than ten years had passed since those first bulldozers disturbed the desert morning on September 15, 1941. 1952 would represent ten years since people moved into the Townsite homes. Though the celebration wasn't yet named, it was to be in April.

In February and March, plans went along for the first anniversary celebration of Henderson. The city's premiere "Industrial Days" would consist of a parade, a fireworks display, and a games and concession area downtown. The city's merchants swung solidly behind the idea.

In January 1952, two banks had shown interest in locating in Henderson: the Bank of Nevada and the First National Bank. However, it was the former that seemed to have the inside track, since they had made application to the Colorado River Commission for two lots as site of a bank building.

HERSHEL TRUMBO

On May 20, 1952, Chamber of Commerce president Preston Austin announced his resignation. He had to leave the area, as he'd accepted a job in Wichita, Kansas. Hershel Trumbo, the man destined to bring Henderson's telephone system up to modern times, was elected as Austin's successor. The new president, still hamstrung by the plethora of federal agencies governing Henderson, had to write letters to the Colorado River Commission and Basic Management, just to ask for a park and playground area.

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CHAMBER HISTORY

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Trumbo wasted no time working on the incorporation issue. He asked for a clarification of just where Henderson stood in the eyes of the county commission, so they could be ready when the Colorado River Commission stepped out and Henderson took over for itself. This was in June 1952, and at the same meeting plans were laid for the cutoff road to join Henderson with the L.A. Highway, bypassing the necessity of going through Las Vegas first.

The rest of 1952 was almost anticlimax for the Chamber. Every meeting was devoted to the serious business of preparation for the day when Henderson would be on its own. In October, Hershel Trumbo was elected to a regular term as president.

1953 started off with talk of a hotel for Henderson. The entire January meeting was devoted to this, though only 97 of 300 people polled on the matter wanted a hotel for Henderson. There seemed to be a strong lobby in the town to keep it small and relatively isolated.

The March meeting was divided evenly between plans for the second Industrial Days celebration, the ever-speeding mass of ramifications associated with incorporation, and the first discussions of a city swimming pool. Member Lou LaPorta stated he didn't want the pool in the city limits until the city was more settled. By April, many of the incorporation plans had jelled. It was decided to bring Pittman into the incorporated area, so bars and casinos could be zoned there and not in Henderson itself. This did not sit too well with many of Pittman's residents; they had had their own city before Henderson was thought of, and they didn't want to be brought into the larger area as an automatic slum.

In the fall of 1953, Hershel Trumbo was elected to another term as president of the Chamber of Commerce. His terms were to coincide with the birth of Henderson as an independent city, the establishment of the utilities and financial institutions that

support its economy; and, while all this was going on, Trumbo managed to turn the ragged leftovers of the old government telephone system into the Henderson Telephone Company, which brought us dial telephones a full year ahead of Las Vegas, and direct-distance dialing ahead of the big town to the Northwest by more than a year, before finally selling out to Continental Telephone in the 1960's.

The Bank of Nevada finally came to Henderson. In 1954, bank manager Colvin Smith said the bank was putting up signs reading, "I BANK IN HENDERSON. DO YOU?"

The mid-1950's turned out to be years of growth and consolidation. The first mention of a Christmas parade was made in 1954. The Chamber, during Trumbo's last term, turned from the necessary energies of getting the city going to the more pragmatic issues of supporting business, getting behind projects beneficial to the city, and in general the much less spectacular but necessary details of serving the city and its merchants.

Television had come to Southern Nevada in 1953, and in 1954 KLRJ-TV Channel Two, (now KORK-TV, Channel 3) was assigned to Henderson. Though the Chamber of Commerce began a Herculean effort to keep the station identified with Henderson, its owners from the beginning managed to circumvent every attempt to make it live up to its FCC licensing agree-

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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 15

ment. Grudgingly, the station included Henderson in its identification announcements, though eventually they would escape even this minimal obligation and identify themselves exclusively with Las Vegas. No one can say that the Chamber did not do everything possible to keep KLRJ-TV in line with the conditions of its licensing, but in the end they failed.

Henderson had a radio station by 1954, though. Morry Zenoff, in addition to his many contributions through the Henderson Home News, put KBMI on the air in a converted bomb-shelter on the grounds of the Plant. This 250 watt station quickly became immensely popular throughout the Southern Nevada area, as it was the first independent, non-network radio operation in the area. It soon spawned imitators in Las Vegas, and eventually a second Henderson station, KTOO. (Now KVOV.) Zenoff also was the man who put KSHO-TV, Channel 13, on the air, bringing ABC network programs to the area for the first time.

COLVIN SMITH

Colvin Smith, Jr. was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce in November 1954, succeeding Hershel Trumbo, who had served 2½ terms. Like

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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 16

his predecessor, he inherited his share of problems, especially the fight over KLRJ-TV, whose manager said a studio would be built in Henderson "if and when one was needed." Smith also worked hard for the building of the University of Nevada's southern branch in Henderson. It was during Smith's tenure that the controversial Nevada sales tax went into effect. In fact, an explanation of the tax rates took up the entire June 1955 meeting.

Colvin Smith's term ended on an optimistic note. At the meeting of October 18, 1955, discussions were held on the establishment of a truck terminal for the Las Vegas - Needles - Phoenix truck line, with Hershel Trumbo reporting that this company was seriously considering building such a terminal here. The Chamber agreed that it would be an asset, and went on to the annual election of officers.

BOB WOODRUFF

Bob Woodruff, pioneer businessman, proprietor of Basic Photo from its inception, was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce and assumed the job November 15, 1955. One of his first major problems was talk of constructing a new highway which would, of course, disrupt the balance of zoning in

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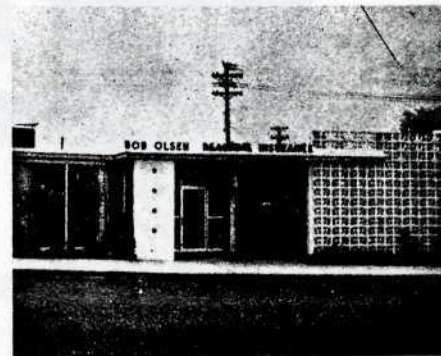
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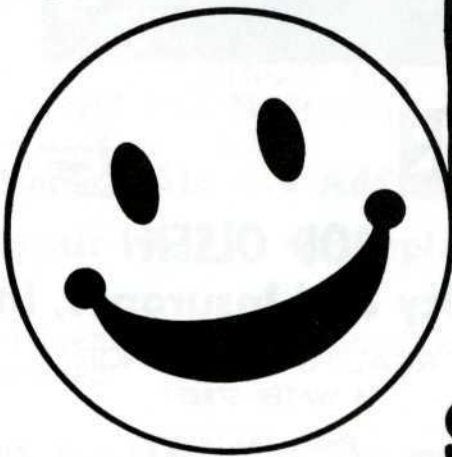
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SMILE

CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 17

Henderson. This highway would replace the present Boulder Highway, and to Woodruff and his fellow Chamber members fell the task of convincing the Highway Department not to build anything which might isolate Henderson from the main flow of automobile traffic.

On the subject of transportation, Tri-City Transit, the bus line serving Henderson and Las Vegas, presented new plans to serve Henderson. A committee was formed to investigate the matter.

Odd as it may seem now, it wasn't till 1956 that Henderson was guaranteed a place on the map! In March of that year, a meeting in Caliente of the Executive Association of the Nevada Chamber of Commerce decided that Henderson should be included on all road maps henceforth.

The fifth Industrial Days celebration took place in 1956, bigger and better than ever. It was such a success, in fact, that the Chamber and President Woodruff called for special thanks to those who helped make it work so well.

Regarding the two proposals on the ballot of the upcoming November general election, the Chamber of Commerce took a position that its members vote "no". One question would have repealed the "right

to work" law, the other would have made union membership mandatory before a person could secure employment in Nevada. As things turned out, the people of Nevada voted as did the Chamber.

JIM GUNVILLE

Appliance dealer Jim Gunville succeeded Bob Woodruff as president on December 18, 1956. This happened just in time for announcement of a public meeting on the assessment district being set up.

The 1956-57 period saw the Chamber take a serious interest in advertising of the city.

In June 1957, the Chamber began looking for a per-

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CHAMBER HISTORY

Continued from page 19

manent location; it had been meeting all those years in various locales, most recently the banquet room of the Royal Club, which had been Henderson's first major casino in the downtown area and the immediate predecessor of today's Eldorado and Rainbow Clubs.

With some of the Townsite homes being converted to business use, the need was becoming rapidly more acute. After the original spurt of new housing in 1953-1954, things had slowed to virtually no new building in the city.

It was decided the 1958 Industrial Days celebration would have the theme "Henderson's New Look."

J.O. VAN VALEY

Longtime businessman J.O. Van Valey was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 1957.

As colorful and universally liked as Van Valey was (and is), his presidency coincided with something of a lull period in Henderson affairs.

Perhaps the best explanation of the paucity of important Chamber activity during the Van Valey presidency is that it was the time of a very serious economic recession, nationwide.

Van Valey, who had long ago proved his astuteness as a businessman and promoter, had the poor fortune to hold the presidency of the Chamber of Commerce during one of the worst economic years since World War II. He surely went on to continued success in his own business after retiring from office at the completion of one term.

BOB OLSEN

Henderson realtor Bob Olsen was the next president of the Chamber of Commerce, presiding over his first meeting on October 16, 1958. He was the last Chamber president to serve his term entirely in the 1950's.

The term of Bob Olsen ended with a new problem for his successor and a growing problem it would become in the 1960's: traffic. Phil Hubel recommended that the parking setup on Pacific St. be left alone for the time being, and Hershel Trumbo went farther, saying that no traffic alterations at all be undertaken till more parking space was made available. Thus the problem didn't go away, but it would be something for the new administration: the first to extend into the 1960's, to deal with.

So the Chamber of Commerce passed its first fifteen years, from an improvised organization back in 1945, through all of Henderson's greatest periods of struggle; to falter in 1947 and come back in 1948 as a force never again to be absent from our lives.

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William Doak



1948-1949
Jack Wood

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Past Chamber of Commerce Presidents



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N.D. Van Wagenen



1954-1955
Colvin Smith



1956-1957
Wendell Gunville



1950-1952
Preston Austin



1959-1960
Louis F. LaPorta



1957-1958
James O. Van Valey



1952-1954
Hershel L. Trumbo



1955-1956
Robert W. Woodruff



1958-1959
Robert A. Olsen



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- 1958 - BASIC HIGH SCHOOL (Desertaires)
- 1959 - HENDERSON PHONE COMPANY
- 1960 - HENDERSON PHONE COMPANY
- 1961 - BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1962 - BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1963 - BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1964 - HENDERSON JAYCEES
- 1965 - HENDERSON JAYCEES
- 1966 - BASIC MANAGEMENT, INC.
- 1967 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1968 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1969 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1970 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1971 - BASIC MANAGEMENT, INC.
- 1972 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1973 - ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1974 - CUB SCOUT PACK 18
- 1975 - CONTINENTAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

1975

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Henderson Industrial Days