

# ARTESIAN WATER

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

City Period

1900

1906

1910

1912

1915

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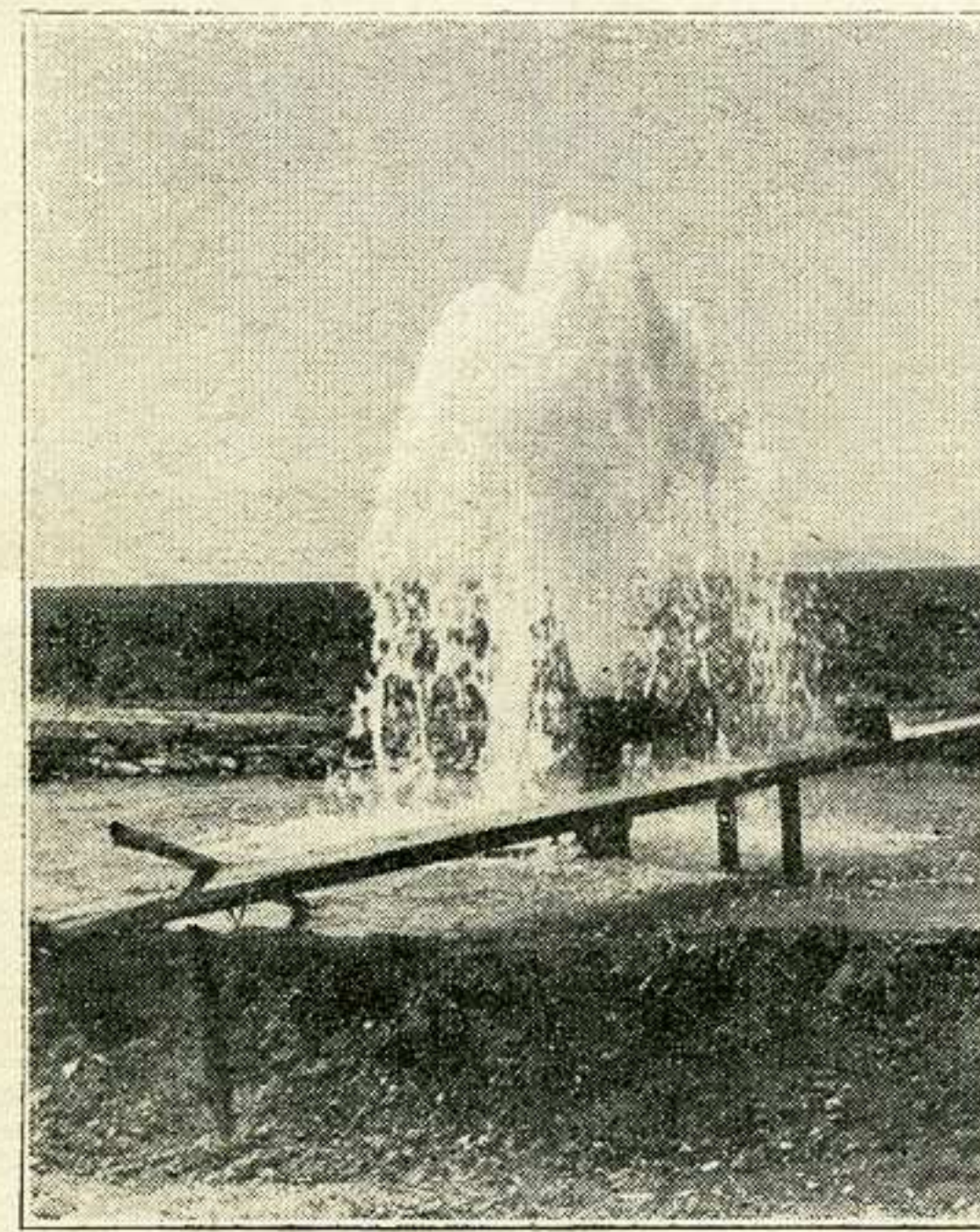
2010

Today



## Las Vegas, Nevada

Where Farming Pays



EGLINGTON WELL, NEAR LAS VEGAS  
OVER 600 GALLONS OF WATER PER MINUTE

The Artesian Belt of Semi-Tropic Nevada

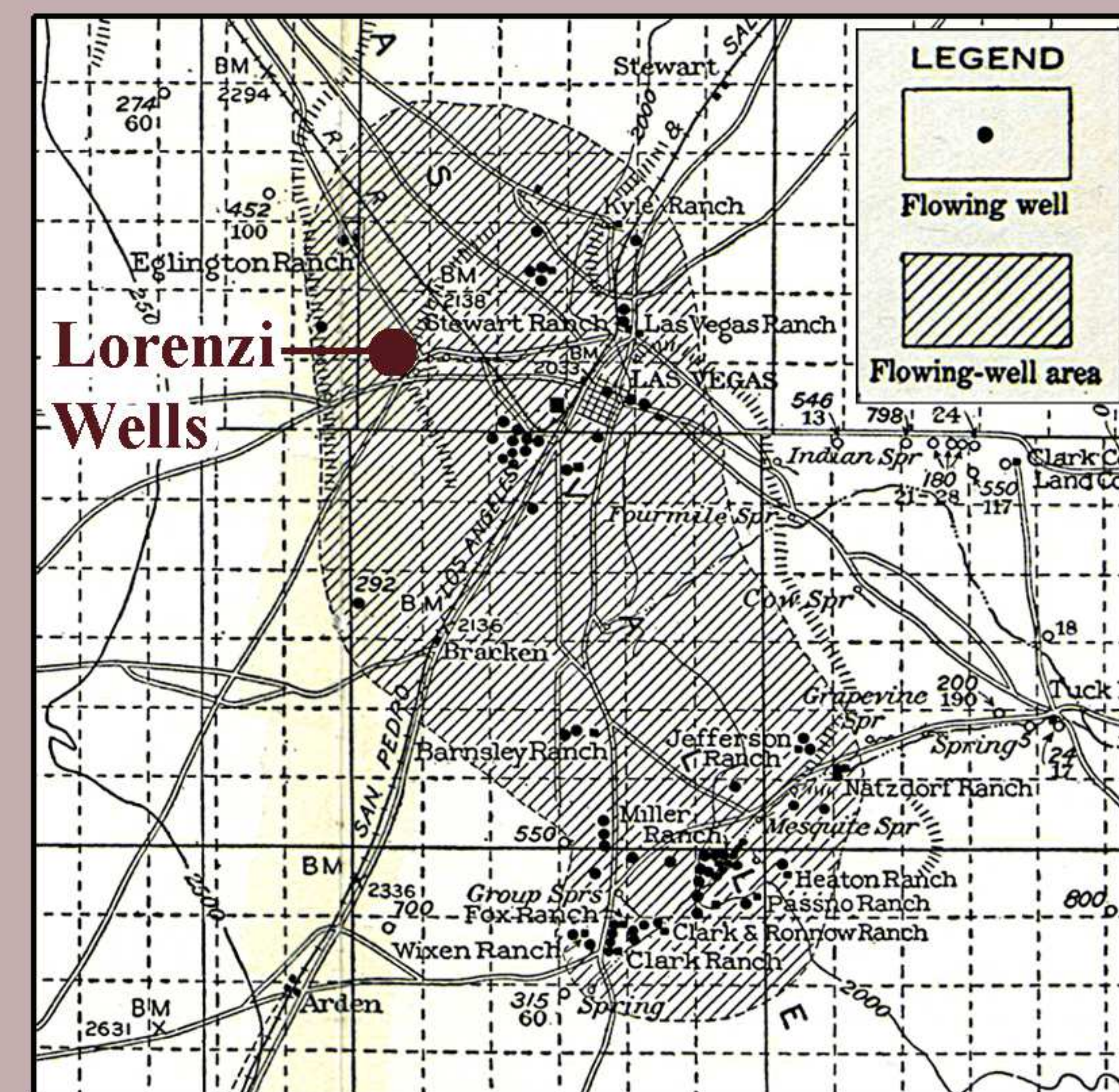
Issued by the  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

## 1910s

It was a Chamber of Commerce booklet like the one to the left that prompted Lorenzi to relocate here to farm. Promoters publicized the Las Vegas artesian water supply as cheap and inexhaustible.

Predictions were that more than 100,000 acres of local farm land could be irrigated and land owners were encouraged to sink numerous wells for irrigation. Lorenzi drilled three artesian wells from 300 to 600 feet deep. Two of the wells were located along the west high edge of his property so the water pressure could first generate electricity before feeding the vineyard, orchard, residences, pool and fish pond with the overflow going into the lakes where water was drawn to irrigate the fields below. As Lorenzi realized that the farming potential was not as advertised, he began to develop the property into a resort.



Carpenter, Everett. *Ground Water in Southeastern Nevada*.  
Washington: Government Printing Office, 1915, p. 32, Plate II  
Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Digital Collections

## 1915

By 1915 approximately 100 deep wells had been sunk in the valley with about 75 of these being flowing artesian wells. These wells ranged from 150 to 1,150 feet in depth.



The center photo is an artesian well drilled in 1924 at the Las Vegas Springs located just south of the park. There are no known photos of Lorenzi's flowing wells.

Photos courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, used with permission

November 17, 1944

Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, used with permission

## Water Wrangle Solution?

D. G. Lorenzi, pioneer resident of Las Vegas, in an open letter to the chamber of commerce, today offered suggestions for the solution of the water problem in the Las Vegas valley.

Declaring that "We face a dangerous situation and we must meet it with energy," Lorenzi traced the questions about water asked by possible investors in this area, and declared that until these questions could be answered with authority, the growth of Las Vegas would be stymied.

Lorenzi, in offering his solution, suggested a 60 inch pipeline from Lake Mead to a point where the water can be turned into two or more flumes and distributed to parts of the valley to be zoned.

He points out that 50,000 acres of tillable land can be supplied, each 10 acres of which will produce enough food for one family per year, or enough to support 10,000 families.

He says fruits and vegetables of unsurpassed quality can be grown in the valley soil, if properly irrigated. The land is rich in lime and the sun power in the area would produce the finest grapes in the world, he says.

"Water taken from Lake Mead, where it has been stored under the action of the air and algae, is vastly more suitable for agricultural purposes than artesian water," he says.

Lorenzi says the whole problem can be boiled down to a few words; "A pipe line from Lake Mead which will supply agriculture and industry; artesian wells must be capped for regulation and conservation of their flow for domestic use only."

He declares that \$5,000,000 can be borrowed from the RFC to finance the project and points out that the elimination of an expensive chlorination plant will lower the cost of the water works by 25 per cent.

"When we have created a new and efficient water system, then and then only can we feel safe," Lorenzi declares.

## Water Waste IS Prohibited By Law

Numerous complaints are being received at the police station regarding lawns being allowed to overflow into the street, undermining the oil bound pavement, creating mud-holes and breeding places for mosquitoes.

**CITY ORDINANCE DECLARES THE FOLLOWING TO BE UNLAWFUL:**

"Permitting a hydrant to leak, or permitting water to drain from a person's premises into any street, alley or road."

A uniformed officer has been assigned to police the residential and business districts for violations of this ordinance.

Your co-operation is requested to keep water from overflowing into the streets and gutters.

**Harry E. Miller**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 28, 1945

Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, and the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, used with permission

## 1940s

By the 1940s the focus had moved from drilling new wells to water conservation and bringing water from the Colorado River as it became clear that the ground water supply was not infinite.

The Eglington artesian well shown on the cover of the booklet above had a flow of 615 gallons per minute in 1915. By 1938 it had dwindled to such a low flow that they resorted to punching holes in the well casing near ground level in an effort to keep the well flowing as long as possible. The Eglington well was located less than two miles northwest of here near Decatur Boulevard and Lake Mead Boulevard.

## Today

The remaining active well pumps water from a depth of 300 feet into the lake which is then used to irrigate the park.

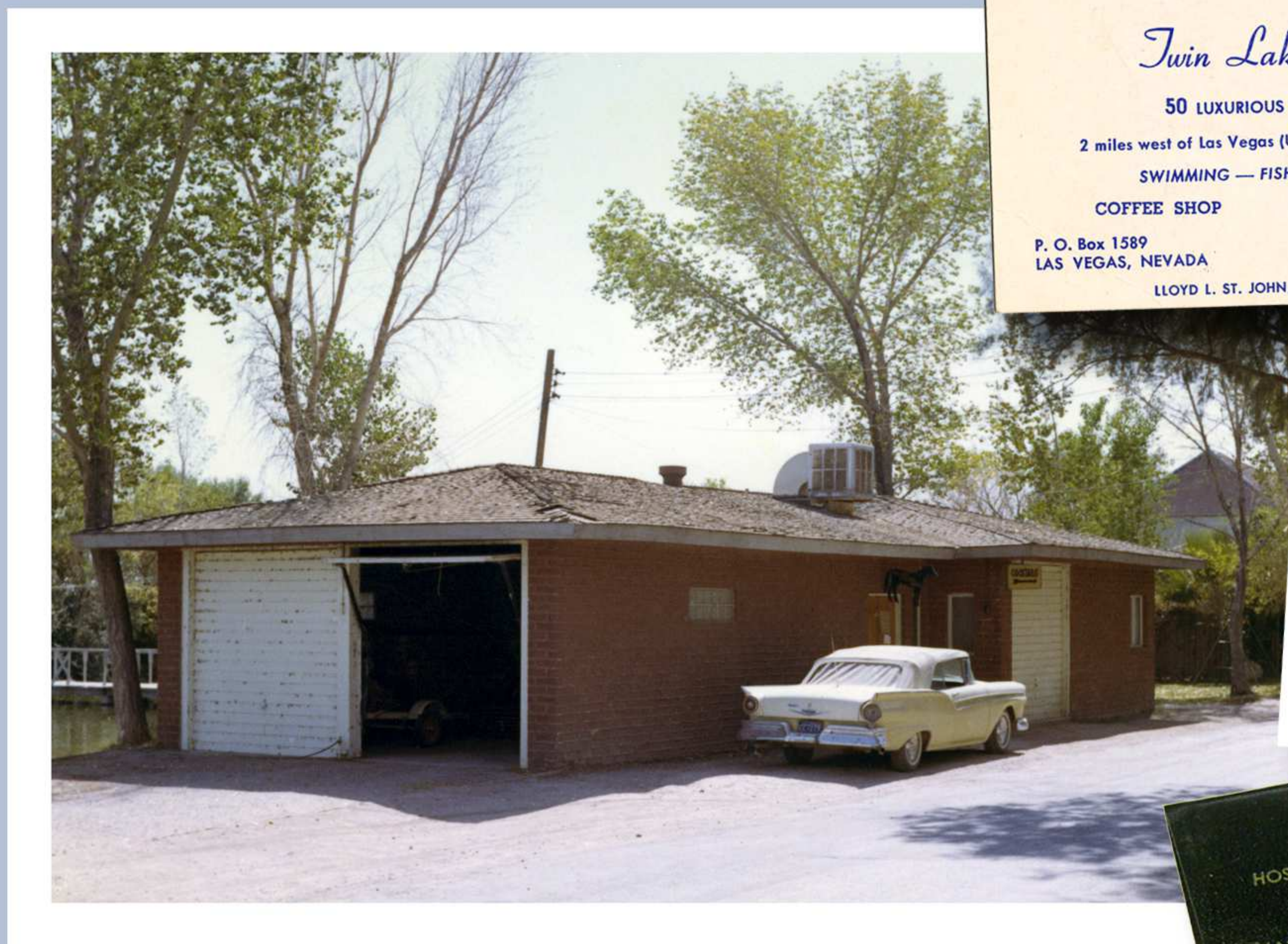
The lake is a necessary irrigation reservoir since the well cannot deliver water at a rate that is able to irrigate the entire park during the evening hours when the park is closed. The wellhead is located behind a wall to the left of the entrance to Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza.



# BOATHOUSE

St. John Period

City Period



AIR COOLED      CENTRAL HEATING

*Twin Lakes Lodge*

50 LUXURIOUS VIEW ROOMS

2 miles west of Las Vegas (U.S. 95) through underpass

SWIMMING — FISHING — BOATING

COFFEE SHOP      BAR

P. O. Box 1589      Tel. 6700  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

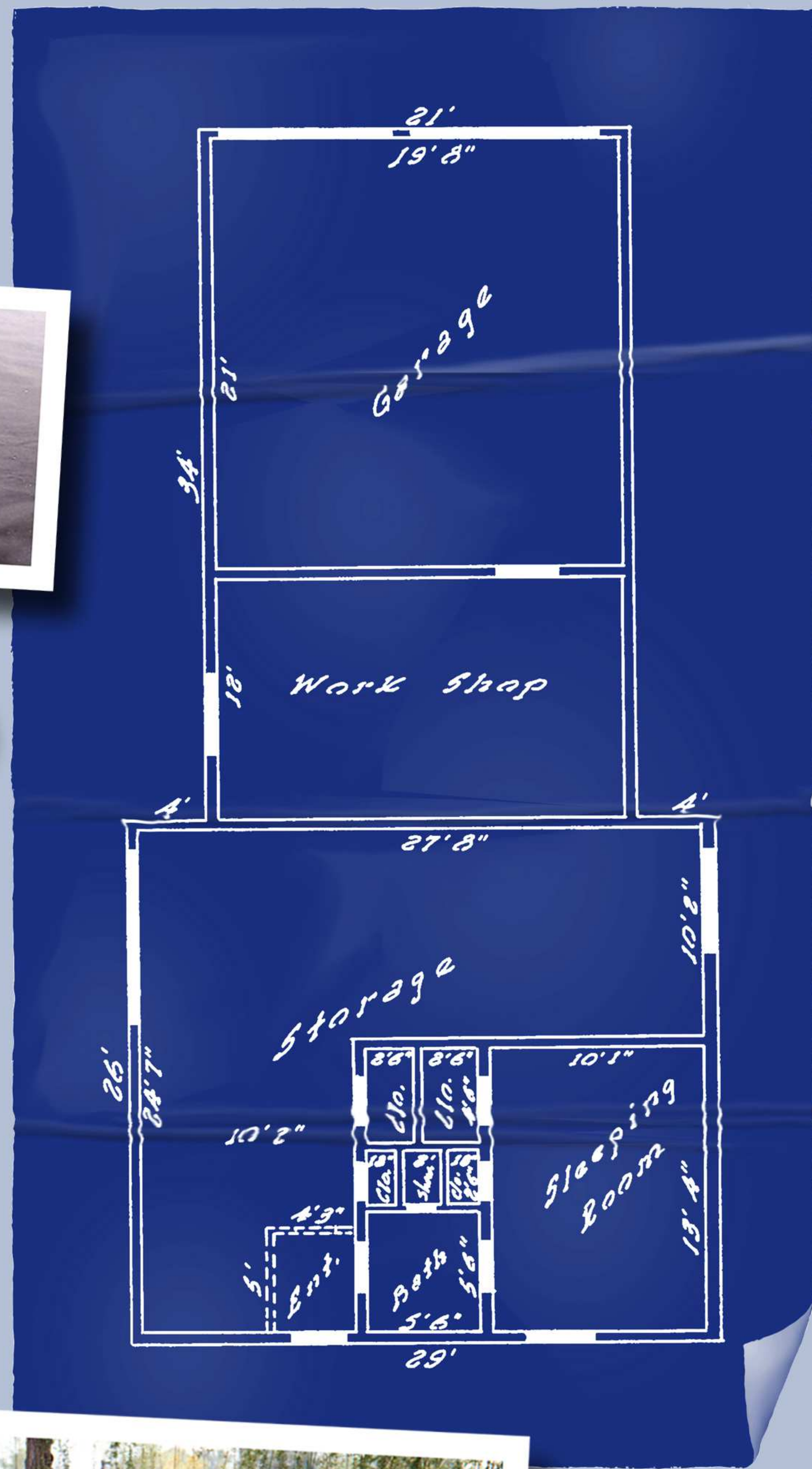
LLOYD L. ST. JOHN, Managing Director

Courtesy of the St. John family; used with permission



Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission, 1964

Anderson-Stanton Company 1964 Appraisal Report  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas



Courtesy of the St. John family; used with permission, 1960

PLAYBOY toasts:

**Twin Lakes Lodge**

"There are free boats for guests... much rodeo-type activity, lots of horses in the stables, an archery range, and a 100' x 100' swimming pool. Tuesdays and Fridays during the winter and every summer evening there are barbecues.

in the big March  
"Playboy On The Town  
In Las Vegas"

feature

**PLAYBOY**  
the nation's smartest entertainment magazine for men

## 1952 to Today

The building by the lake is a boathouse and garage constructed by St. John in 1952 that is still used by park maintenance for boat storage.

The workroom in the middle of the building was a saddle shop that serviced the rodeo and stables.

The boathouse and motel buildings were constructed using a masonry technique called weeping mortar, which was popular around 1950 and can be seen in houses around town built during this time period.



Courtesy of the St. John family; used with permission



Courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, used with permission, 1950s

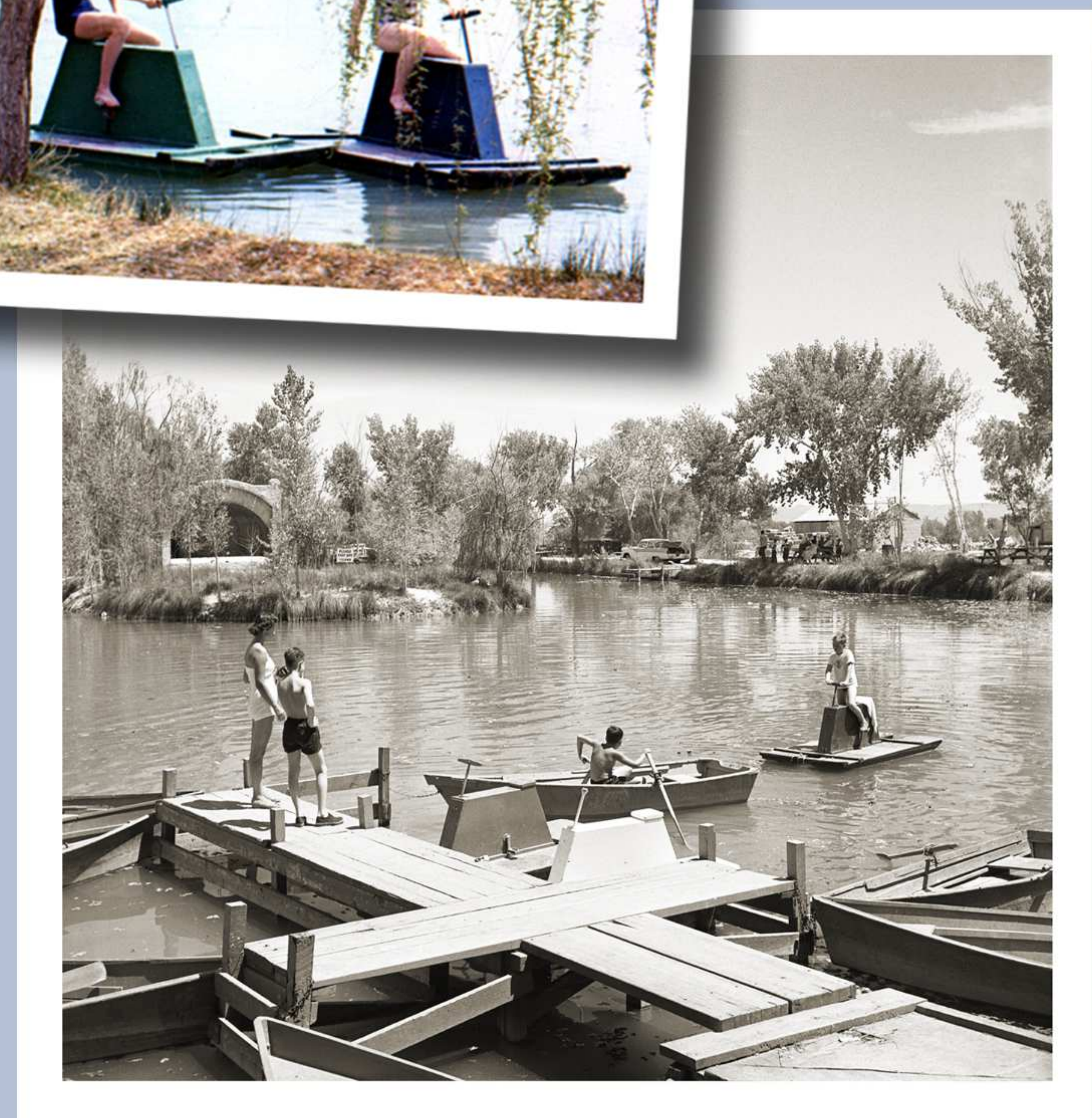


Photo by Cliff Segerblom courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission, 1955



# BUNGALOWS

St. John Period

City Period

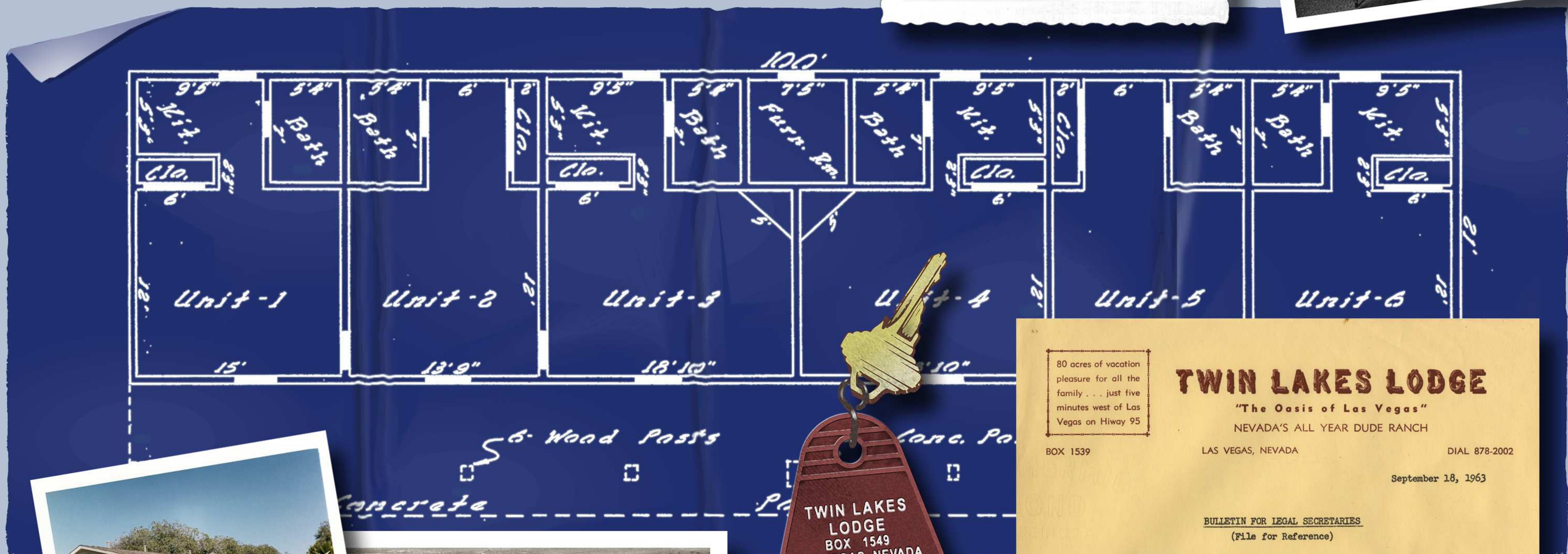
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- 1992
- 2010
- Today

## 1951 to 1965

The eight bungalow buildings were constructed by the St. Johns soon after they assumed management of the resort. The construction of these motel rooms helped St. John market the resort for dude ranch vacations, conventions, reunions, and as a home for Nevada Test Site workers and out-of-state divorce seekers in need of a six-week residency. Most of the units contained kitchens and some had fireplaces, the chimneys of which can still be seen at the middle of each building.



Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



The resort as divorce ranch was featured in the 1963 movie *Women of the World* (a.k.a. *La donna nel mondo*), one of the shockumentary mondo films.

80 acres of vacation pleasure for all the family... just five minutes west of Las Vegas on Hwy 95

### TWIN LAKES LODGE

"The Oasis of Las Vegas"

NEVADA'S ALL YEAR DUDE RANCH

BOX 1539 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA DIAL 878-2002

September 18, 1963

**BULLETIN FOR LEGAL SECRETARIES**  
(File for Reference)

Each year we take time to tell you about the benefits of TWIN LAKES LODGE for your divorce clients.

Residence at Twin Lakes Lodge is not just six weeks of existence in a four wall room on a city lot surrounded with asphalt and cars. Here, within minutes of Downtown Las Vegas or the Strip, is a pattern of living that is fast disappearing in metropolitan areas.

Our guests have a pleasant vista of trees, waterfalls and lakes from their picture windows. Large porches and comfortable lounges for sun bathing or passing the time. There are rowboats on the lake, wonderful fishing and swimming—all free to our guests.

The stables are stocked with good riding horses, and there are many rodeo and equestrian events in the arena, and always free admission to Twin Lakes' guests. The Las Vegas Country Club with the most economical golf in Las Vegas is adjacent.

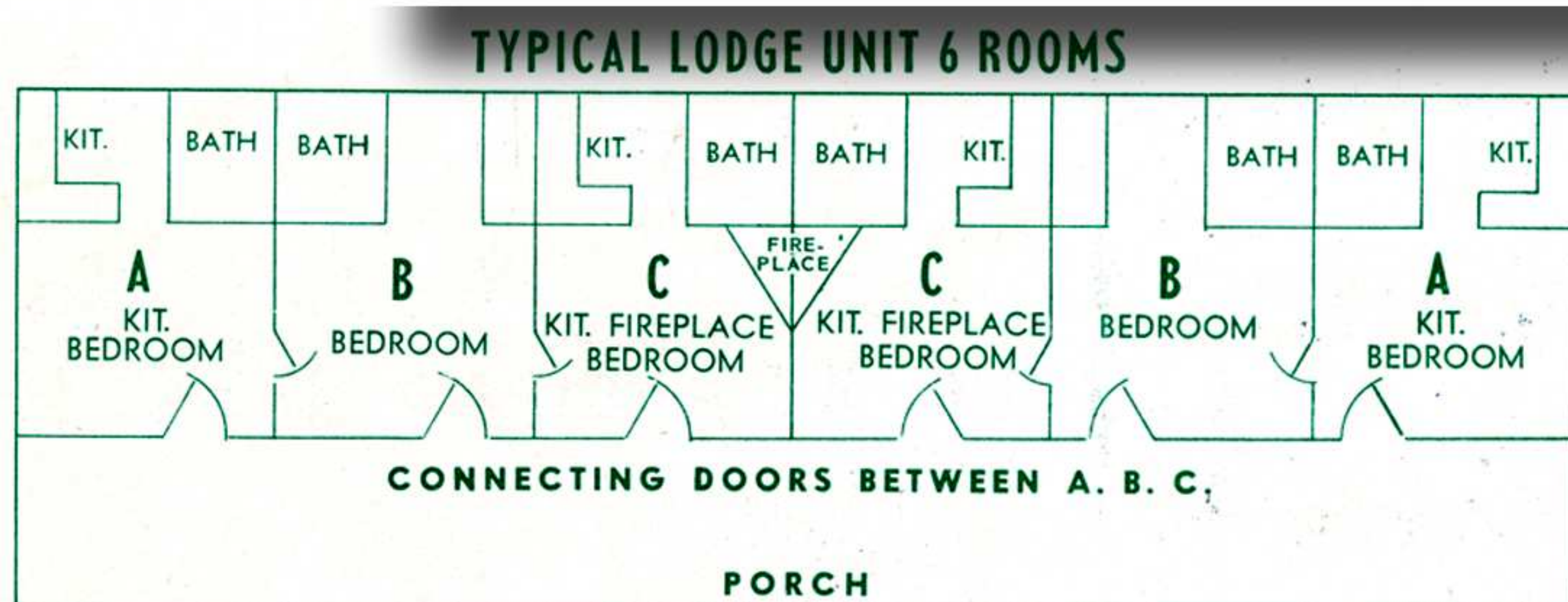
Our congenial Fireside Cocktail Lounge is open daily. Here we have many social events and pleasant evenings of relaxation. We have room telephone service.

**1963 Winter Rates**

Large bedroom with shower - 6 weeks - \$150.00  
Large kitchenette with tub and shower - 6 weeks - \$180.00  
(We provide a court witness without charge.)

It is worth your effort to see that your clients have a Las Vegas residence that will make their stay a pleasant interlude.

Sincerely,  
*Lloyd L. St. John*  
Lloyd L. St. John



Effective September 1, 1961

All rooms with private bath, air conditioned, central heat, telephone

Rates: Type A—Kitchenette bedroom \$10 Daily  
Type B—Bedroom (when available) \$6 Single—\$8 Double  
Type C—Fireplace Kitchenette \$12 Daily  
Honeymoon Cottage on private island—\$25 a day. Bedroom, Fireplace, Living Room, Kitchen, Bath.

Connecting Suites A & B—B & C—or A, B & C—Available  
Quoted rate 2 to room—extra bed or crib—\$2 Daily  
Weekly Rates—Seventh day is free

Winter weekly and monthly rates upon request  
Baby sitters available Check in 1 p.m.  
Show reservations made Check out time 12 noon  
Pets accepted upon owner's responsibility, \$1.00 per day service charge

Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission

## 1965 to Today

After taking ownership of the resort in 1965, the city followed the recommendation in the property appraisal report and demolished three of the motel buildings, keeping the remainder for community uses.

Over the subsequent decades, the remaining five buildings have undergone interior upgrades and remodels including the removal of their interior walls, as well as the connecting of the two west buildings, to accommodate various community groups and city programs. The building exteriors remain largely unchanged from the original construction.

Lloyd St. John greets a guest in 1954  
Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission



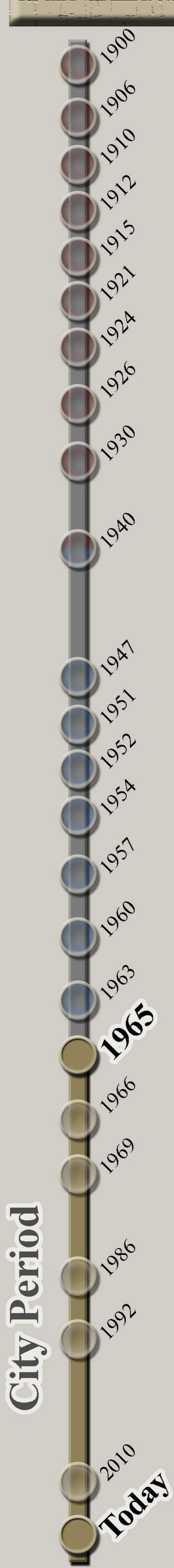
The resort's lone slot machine is shown on the right edge of the photo.

Anderson-Stanton Company 1964 Appraisal Report  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

Courtesy of the St. John family



# CITY DEVELOPMENT



## 1965 to Today

After the city's purchase of the resort's 80 acres in 1965, the east 20 acres were sold for commercial development.



Courtesy of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, 1980, used with permission



Similar to the way Lorenzi discarded the Native American artifacts on the property, the city swept away the Lorenzi improvements in the conversion of the dude ranch resort into an urban public park.

These photos show the park as it was developed prior to the major renovations in 2009 (east) and 2013 (west). As part of these renovations, the newly lined lake was reshaped back into twin lakes surrounded by picnicking like in Lorenzi's day



2006

**Gazebo Garden**  
1992

**Garden Clubs Building**  
1969

**Derfelt Senior Center**  
1951 Bungalows

**Adaptive Recreation Center**  
Bungalow & St. John Residence

**Tennis Courts**  
1973

**Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza**  
1992

**Nevada State Museum**  
1982-2011

**Lake Reconfigured**  
1969

**Softball Fields**  
1969

**Basketball Courts**  
1979

**1965 - 2007**

View of the park prior to the 2009 and 2013 renovations



# DANCE PAVILION

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

City Period



## 1926

The outdoor dance pavilion opened in 1926, anchored to the shore and extending out over the water. The pavilion was later enclosed and advertised as the largest in Southern Nevada accommodating up to 2,000 guests. Dances were held on Wednesday and Saturday nights to the music of the house orchestra and traveling troops of musicians.



*Las Vegas Age newspaper advertisement, used with permission, 1928*

**GRAND OPENING**  
of the  
**LEGION DANCING PAVILLION**  
at  
**LORENZI'S RESORT**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 12**  
\$1.00 Admission - - 9:00 p. m.

**BIG DANCE CELEBRATION**  
AT LORENZI'S RESORT  
**Saturday Night**  
SEPTEMBER 7  
Staged by Lasky's Shoe Store  
**\$500 IN TRADE COUPONS \$500**  
GIVEN AWAY  
**F-R-E-E**  
Three Prizes at 10 O'Clock  
Let's Turn Out and Make  
**BOW WOW!**

*Las Vegas Age newspaper advertisement, used with permission, 1929*

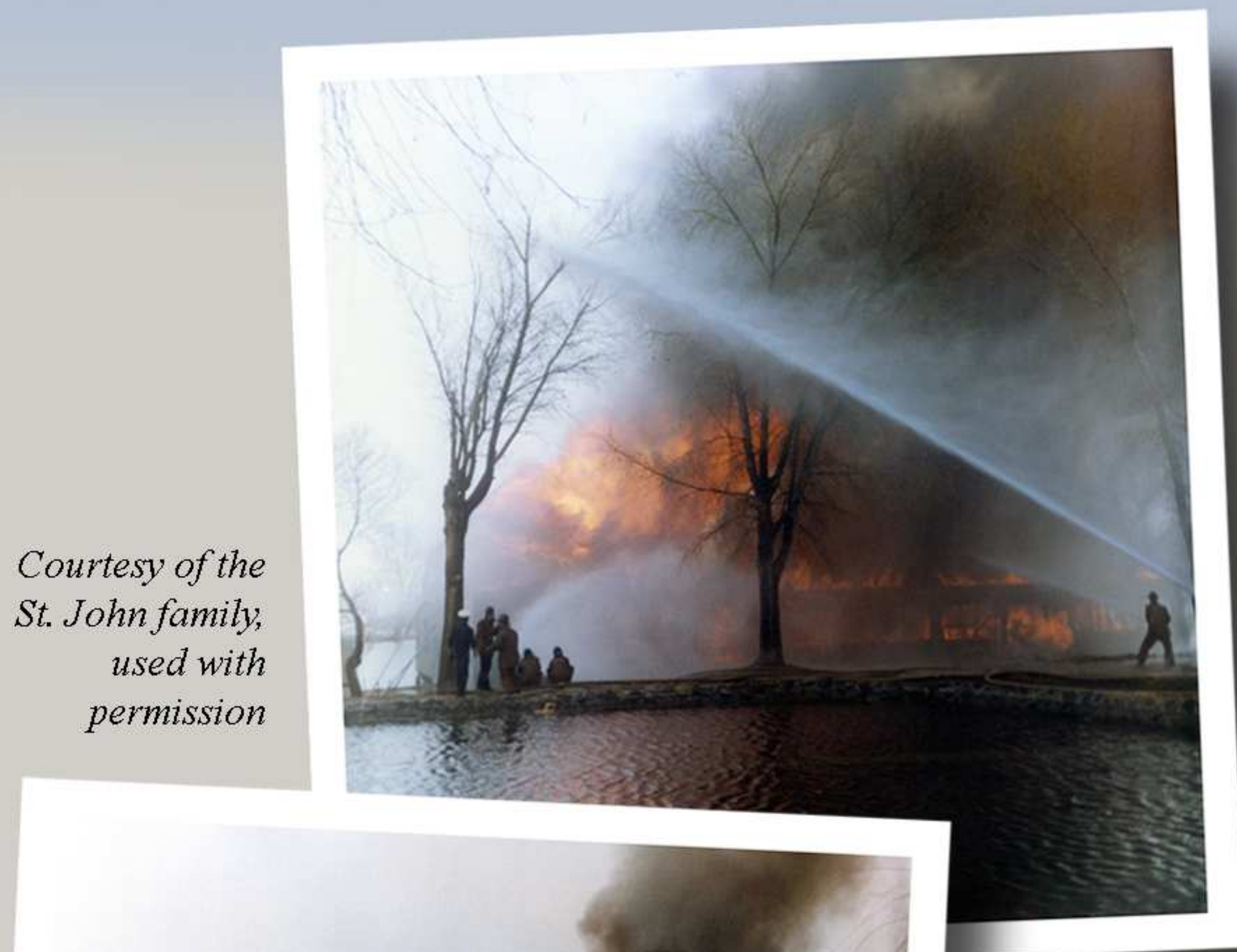
*Photo by G. L. Ullom circa 1931  
Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, used with permission*



*Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission*



*Photo above courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission*



*Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission*



## 1966

By the time the city acquired the property, the pavilion was in need of substantial work. The structure had not seen dances since Lorenzi's time, being relegated to storage for 25 years. In spite of public criticism, the city demolished the building by allowing the fire department to use it for a controlled burn training exercise. The pavilion was located on the west shore to your left.



*Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission*



# ISLAND BANDSHELL

*Las Vegas Age newspaper advertisement, used with permission, 1934*

## LORENZI LAKE PARK

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY**

**Admission to Park**  
**10¢**

Which Gives You the Privilege of Using  
Picnic Grounds and Other Facilities  
Without Further Charge

---

**- FREE TALKING PICTURES -**  
DEVIL'S MATE  
*Preston Foster — Peggy Shannon*

---

BOATING — SWIMMING — DANCING  
*Bring the Family and Enjoy Yourselves*

## 1926 to 1940

After constructing the dance pavilion and swimming pool, Lorenzi went to work improving the islands he had formed in the lakes. The south island featured a bandshell with a movie screen. Visitors could listen to the music or watch a film while leisurely rowing the lake. In addition to bands and movies, the south lake was the site of private poker parties and a women's prizefight fought to a knock-out finish in front of 4,000 cheering spectators.

The south island was also the site of the spectacular Fourth of July fireworks displays attended by thousands. The reflection in the lake was proclaimed to more than double the enjoyment of the display.

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

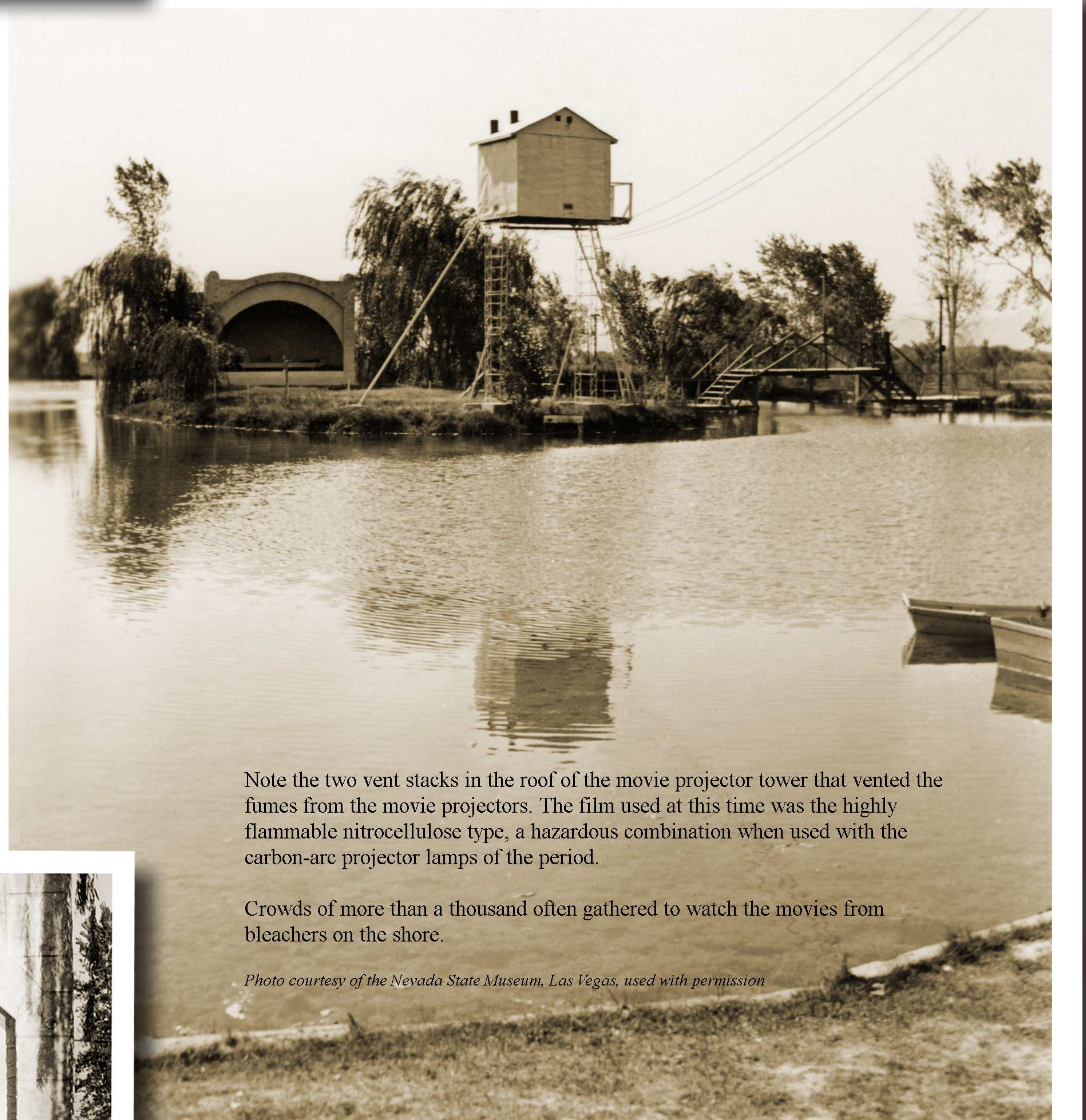
City Period



Bridge to the island  
c. 1931  
Photo by G. L. Ullom  
courtesy of UNLV Libraries,  
Special Collections,  
used with permission



c. 1964  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum,  
Las Vegas,  
used with permission



Note the two vent stacks in the roof of the movie projector tower that vented the fumes from the movie projectors. The film used at this time was the highly flammable nitrocellulose type, a hazardous combination when used with the carbon-arc projector lamps of the period.

Crowds of more than a thousand often gathered to watch the movies from bleachers on the shore.

*Photo courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission*



1930s Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, used with permission

## 1940 to 1969

After Lorenzi sold the property, the bandshell was not used and the bridge to the island was removed. The city demolished the bandshell during the lake reconfiguration in 1969 but brought back a new version with the renewed island access in 2013.





# ISLAND CLUBHOUSE

Lorenzi Period

1900

1906

1910

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1940

St. John Period

1947

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City Period

1986

1992

2010

2013

## 1926 to 1940

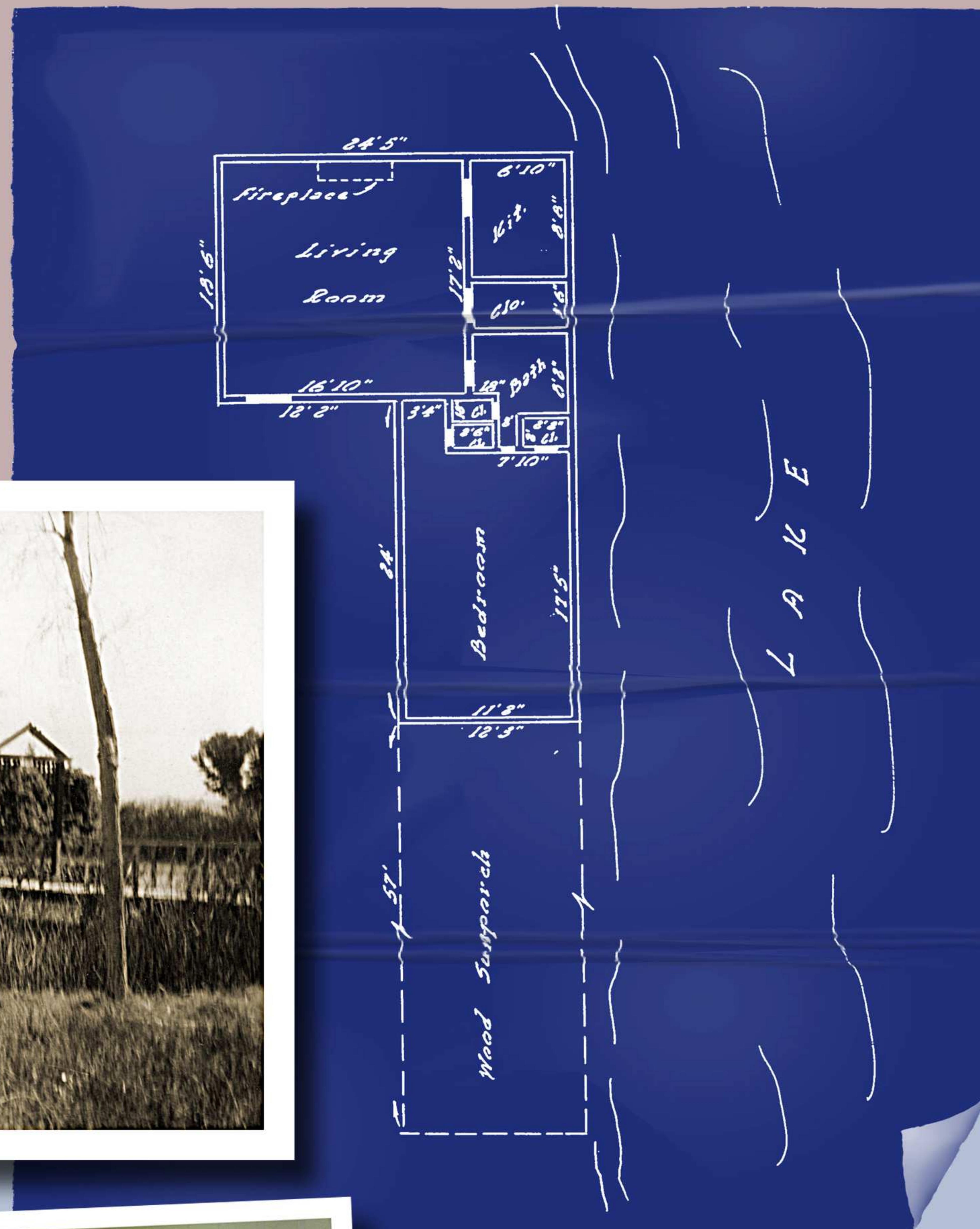
On the north island, Lorenzi constructed a small building where leading citizens socialized. This structure has been described as an informal card den, a gentlemen's key club with locked walkway gate, and a Prohibition speakeasy with a trap door in the floor to hide alcohol.



Prohibition in Nevada ran from 1918 (two years before National Prohibition) until 1933.

*Las Vegas Age newspaper cartoon, used with permission*

*Anderson-Stanton Company 1964 Appraisal Report  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas*



*Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission*

## 1940 to 1969

The island house, after the addition of a bedroom in the sunporch, was marketed by Lloyd St. John as a honeymoon Shangri-La Island Cottage. This "Island in the Sun" continued to host wedding ceremonies and receptions into the 1960s when Lloyd and Rita moved from the old Lorenzi house into the island house.

Rita would fish out of the kitchen window for snapping turtles to make soup saying "One more duckling saved!" with each catch.

The city demolished the house in 1969 when the north island was converted into a bird sanctuary as part of the lake reconfiguration.



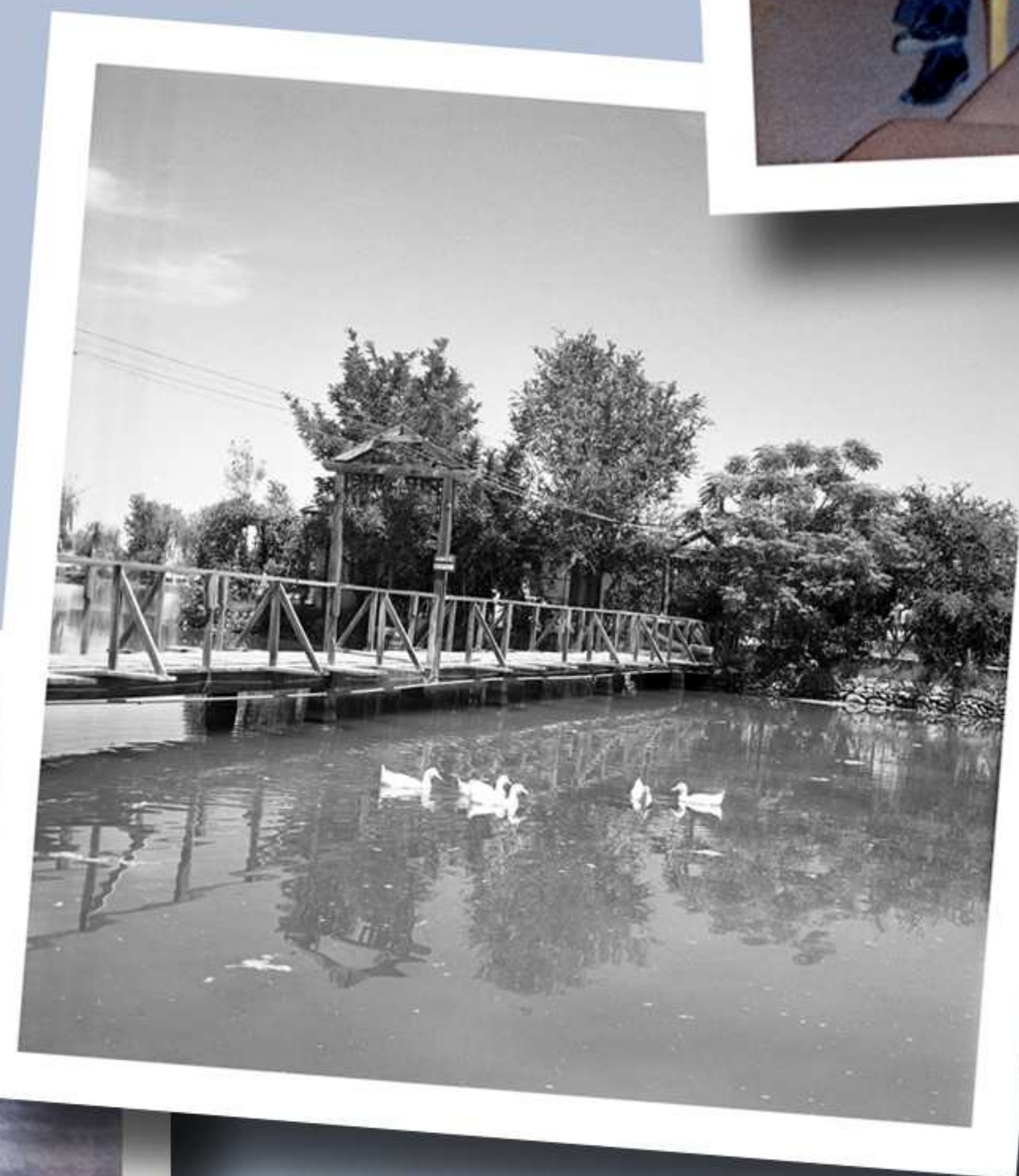
Left: Lloyd and Rita St. John in the living room of the island house with son-in-law Homer Stanley, Analou's second husband

Right: Analou on the bridge to the island 1960s

*Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission*



*Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission*



*Bridge to the island in 1955  
Photo by Cliff Segerblom courtesy of Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission*



*Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission, 1964*



# LORENZI DEVELOPMENT

Lorenzi Period

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- 2013



The Lorenzi family during the resort's Hoover Dam construction heyday. Left to right: Julia, D. G., and their daughters Louise and Pauline. Photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission. Photo of D.G. courtesy of the Lorenzi family, used with permission.

## 1912 to 1940

In 1912 D. G. Lorenzi, a French immigrant with Italian heritage, purchased this 80-acre parcel of land containing mesquite, grape vines and a small spring. So began Lorenzi's 28 years of development of the property from desert spring into a farm and then into a country resort providing a community retreat from the summer heat.

This was the place to celebrate July 4th from 1926 through 1935. Thousands of locals and dam workers made the dusty drive to the resort to see the spectacular fireworks displays. After the completion of Hoover Dam in 1935, resort attendance fell on hard times.

Lorenzi semi-retired in 1940 when he sold the property to Thomas Sharp. Sharp, an Australian immigrant and wealthy businessman in San Diego, began using the name Twin Lakes but did little to promote or maintain the improvements through the war years. The resort was given a new life when Sharp leased the property to a corporation in 1947, which brought in Lloyd St. John to develop the resort into a dude ranch.



Las Vegas Age newspaper advertisement, used with permission, 1926



Resort photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission

## Lorenzi Lake Resort 1930s

None of these structures survive.



# MUSICAL ENTERTAINERS

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

City Period



**ANNOUNCING  
THE INFORMAL OPENING  
OF  
LORENZI'S  
LAKE PARK  
DANCE PAVILION**  
SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 19

**AL JOHNSON AND HIS SIX GREEN JACKETS**  
DIRECT FROM LOS ANGELES

Under the New Management of L. McDonald  
MAKE IT A POINT SATURDAY NIGHT TO COME OUT TO SOUTHERN  
NEVADA'S FINEST DANCE PAVILION, EXTENDING OVER A  
BEAUTIFUL LAKE - AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF  
REAL ENTERTAINMENT.

The Dance Floor Has Been Sanded and  
Repolished and the Whole Interior  
Has Been Beautifully Decorated.  
A Special Watchman Will Take Care of  
All Automobiles During the Entire  
Evening in Our Large Electric Light-  
ed Parking Grounds.  
DANCING EVERY TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

Our Dining Room Will Be Available by  
Appointment to Clubs, Banquets,  
Private Parties, Etc.  
All Dances Will Be Straight Admission  
OF \$1.00 with Ladies Free.  
DANCING EVERY TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS

THE MANAGEMENT HAS SPARED NO EXPENSE TO PUT AT YOUR SERVICE  
ONE OF THE FINEST, CLEANEST, MOST COMPLETE AMUSE-  
MENT PARKS IN THE STATE.

**LORENZI'S LAKE PARK DANCE PAVILLION**  
THE MECCA OF THE DESERT

## 1926

Beginning with the completion of the dance pavilion in 1926, evening music was broadcast over the lakes through the 1930s.

This ad in the *Las Vegas Age* newspaper from March 17, 1932 promoted a special watchman to take care of your car in the large electric lighted parking grounds. Lorenzi had his own power plant supplied by artesian water pressure before rural electricity became available.

**SPECIAL  
AL JOHNSON  
AND HIS  
SIX GREEN  
JACKETS  
WILL  
BROADCAST  
EACH  
TUESDAY,  
THURSDAY  
AND  
SATURDAY  
9 TO 10 P. M.  
OVER  
K G I X  
FROM  
LORENZI  
LAKE  
PARK  
DANCE  
PAVILLION**

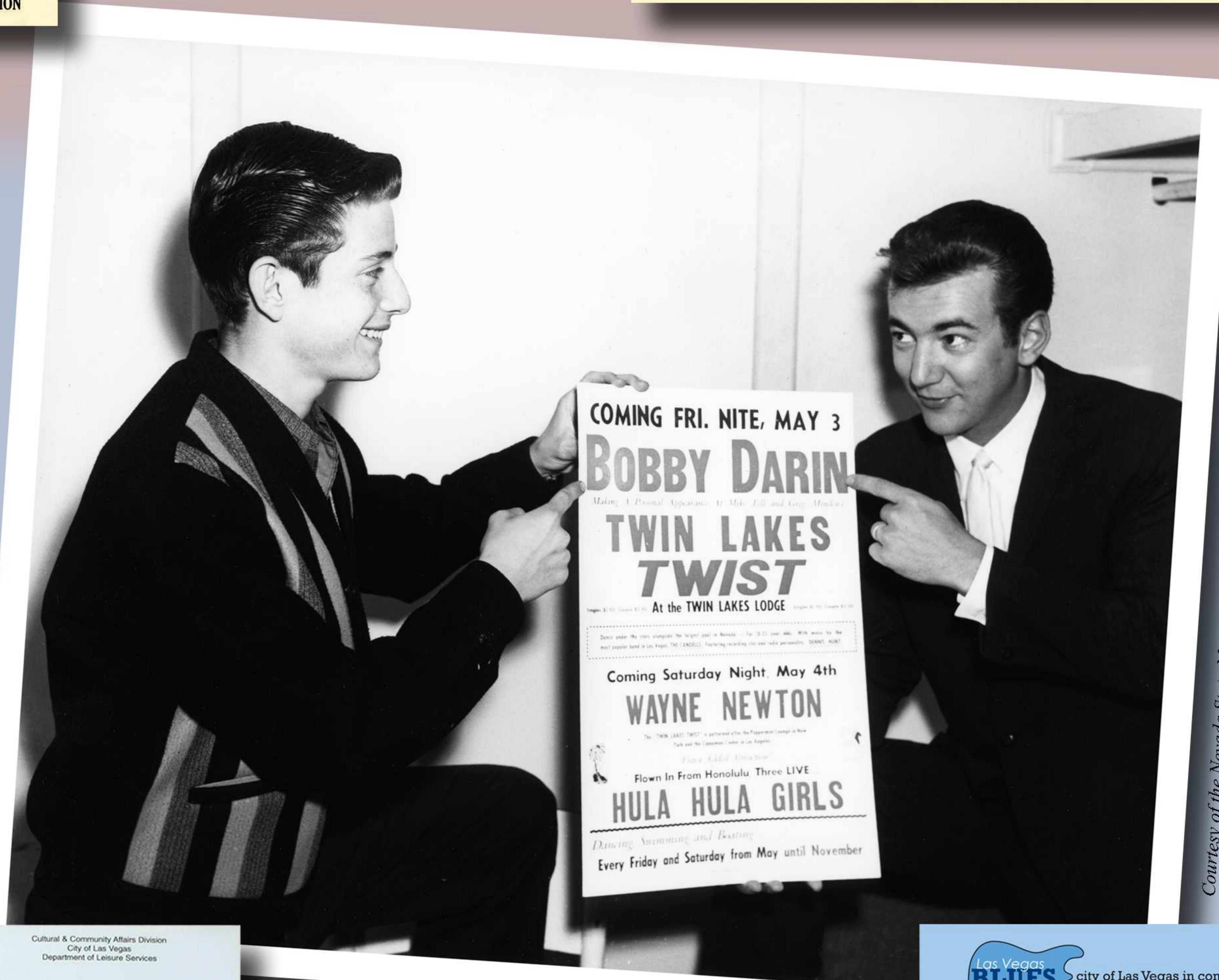
**AL JOHNSON AND HIS SIX GREEN JACKETS**  
DIRECT FROM LOS ANGELES

Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission

## 1963

The Twin Lakes Twist, an over 18 years of age teenage night club, operated every weekend through the summer of 1963 at the Twin Lakes pool area.

The first night was headlined by Bobby Darin, followed by the next night's performer, Wayne Newton, performing for the first time solo without his regular singing duet brother and the first time he sang "Danke Schoen."



Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum - Las Vegas, Michael Tell, and The Bobby Darin Estate, used with permission

Promoter Mike Tell (left) is pictured with Bobby Darin. Mike is the father of actor Sean Astin.

The event was advertised as the best answer to "What to do on Friday and Saturday Nights" for young people and featured live music, hula girls, refreshments, dancing, boating and swimming.

Bobby Darin did the gig for free since he was under contract at the Flamingo, as well as arranging for Wayne Newton to perform, also without pay.

*Beyond the Neon*  
Cultural & Community Affairs Division  
City of Las Vegas  
Department of Leisure Services

Jazz Legend & 6-time Grammy Winner  
**Eddie Palmieri & Orchestra**  
*The Sum of Latin Music*

featuring vocalist Herman Olivera  
Jose Clausell, timbales  
Richie Flores, conga  
Conrad Herwig, trombone  
Michael Mossman, trumpet  
Ivan Rento, saxophone  
John Rodriguez, bafijos  
Joe Santiago, bass

**Saturday • May 19, 2001 • 8:00 PM**  
**Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza**  
in Lorenzi Park  
720 Twin Lakes Drive, south of West Washington

Six-time Grammy award winner Eddie Palmieri, one of the most prolific and innovative composers who continues to challenge all musical boundaries. His musical career spans more than four decades of salsa and jazz orchestras. This concert includes many Palmieri favorites and a special collaboration with the late great Tito Puente. Masterpiece was awarded the Grammy for Salsa Album.

Tickets: \$12 door/\$10 advance, cash or check only  
Box office opens at 7 pm, phone 229-2395  
Tickets also available at Reed Whipple Cultural Center  
821 Las Vegas Boulevard North  
For information, call 229-6211.

## 1992

The completion of the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in 1992 has provided the city with a venue to continue the musical entertainment tradition at the park.

This facility is the city's only fully contained and operational outdoor amphitheatre with a commercial kitchen, green room, cast dressing rooms, a sprung dance floor/stage, and complete lighting and sound accommodations. The Plaza has hosted such legendary greats as Eddie Palmieri's Jazz Orchestra, Poncho Sanchez, and Little Joe y La Familia, just to name a few.

Las Vegas Blues Festival  
city of Las Vegas in conjunction with the Las Vegas Blues Society  
Presents

**Las Vegas BLUES Festival**  
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009  
Noon - 6 p.m. Gates open at 11 a.m.

Come on down for a full afternoon of Las Vegas' finest blues, brews and barbecue.

- H & H BBO available for purchase
- Beverage sales provided by the Las Vegas Blues Society
- Bring your own blanket or lawn chair
- No outside food or beverages
- No pets allowed

**Michael Grimm and Delta Bound with the Big Easy Horns**  
**The Andy Walo Trio**  
**Ronnie Rose**  
**Glenn Patrik**  
**The Lucky Cheats**

**Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza in Lorenzi Park**  
720 Twin Lakes Drive, Las Vegas

Actual line-up subject to change.  
For event information, call 229-1087 or visit: [www.artslasvegas.org](http://www.artslasvegas.org) or [www.lasvegasblues.org](http://www.lasvegasblues.org)



# RAILROAD TIE BUILDINGS

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

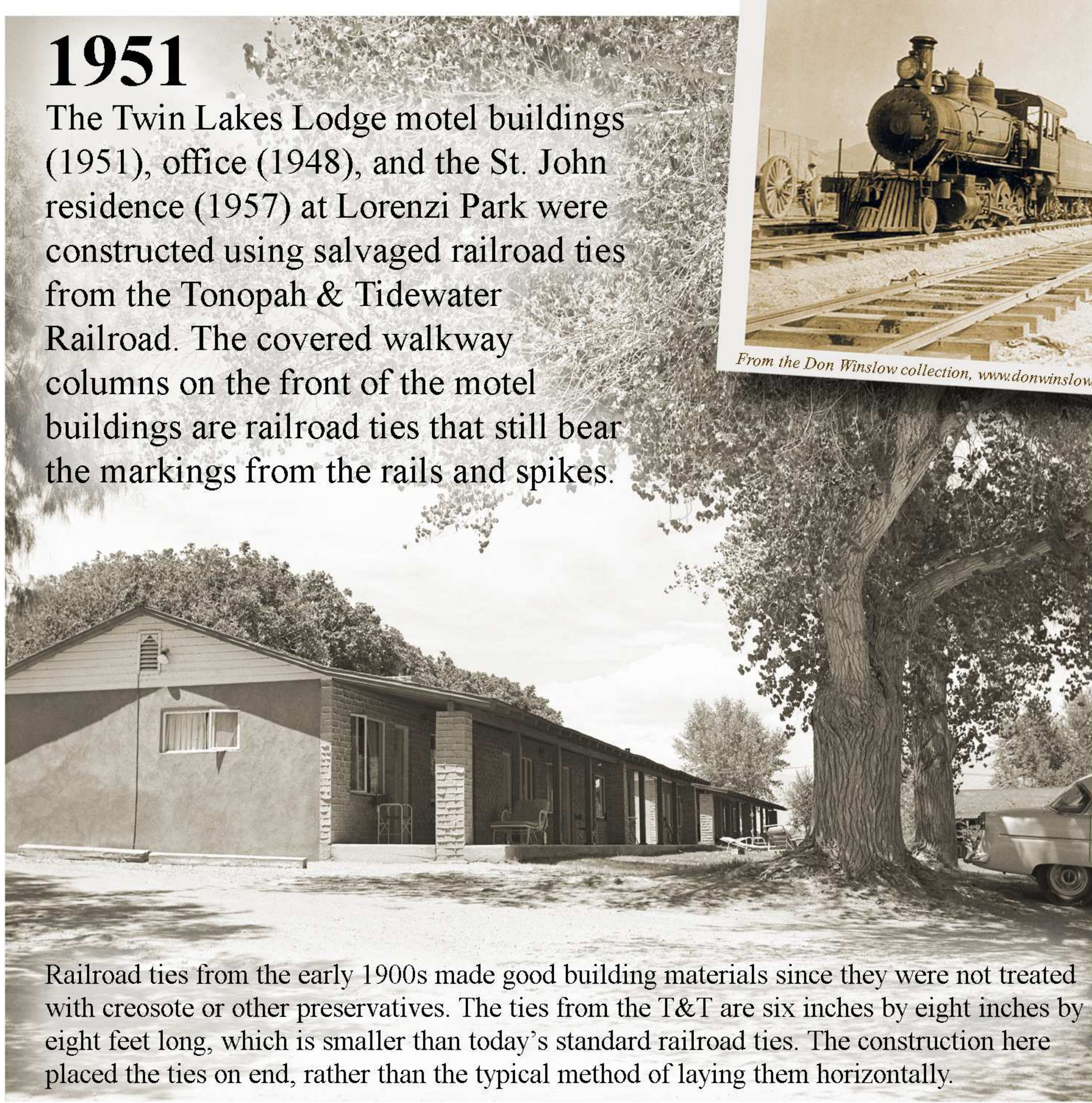


## 1906 to 1940

The Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad (T&T) operated from 1906 to 1940 between Ludlow, California and Gold Center, Nevada. The rails were requisitioned in 1942 under the War Powers Acts, after which the remainder of the railroad was sold for salvage. It is estimated that more than 400,000 cross ties from the T&T became available for 10 cents apiece or less as locals began their own appropriation of the ties. The best ties were already gone by the time the railroad was officially abandoned in 1946.

## 1951

The Twin Lakes Lodge motel buildings (1951), office (1948), and the St. John residence (1957) at Lorenzi Park were constructed using salvaged railroad ties from the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad. The covered walkway columns on the front of the motel buildings are railroad ties that still bear the markings from the rails and spikes.



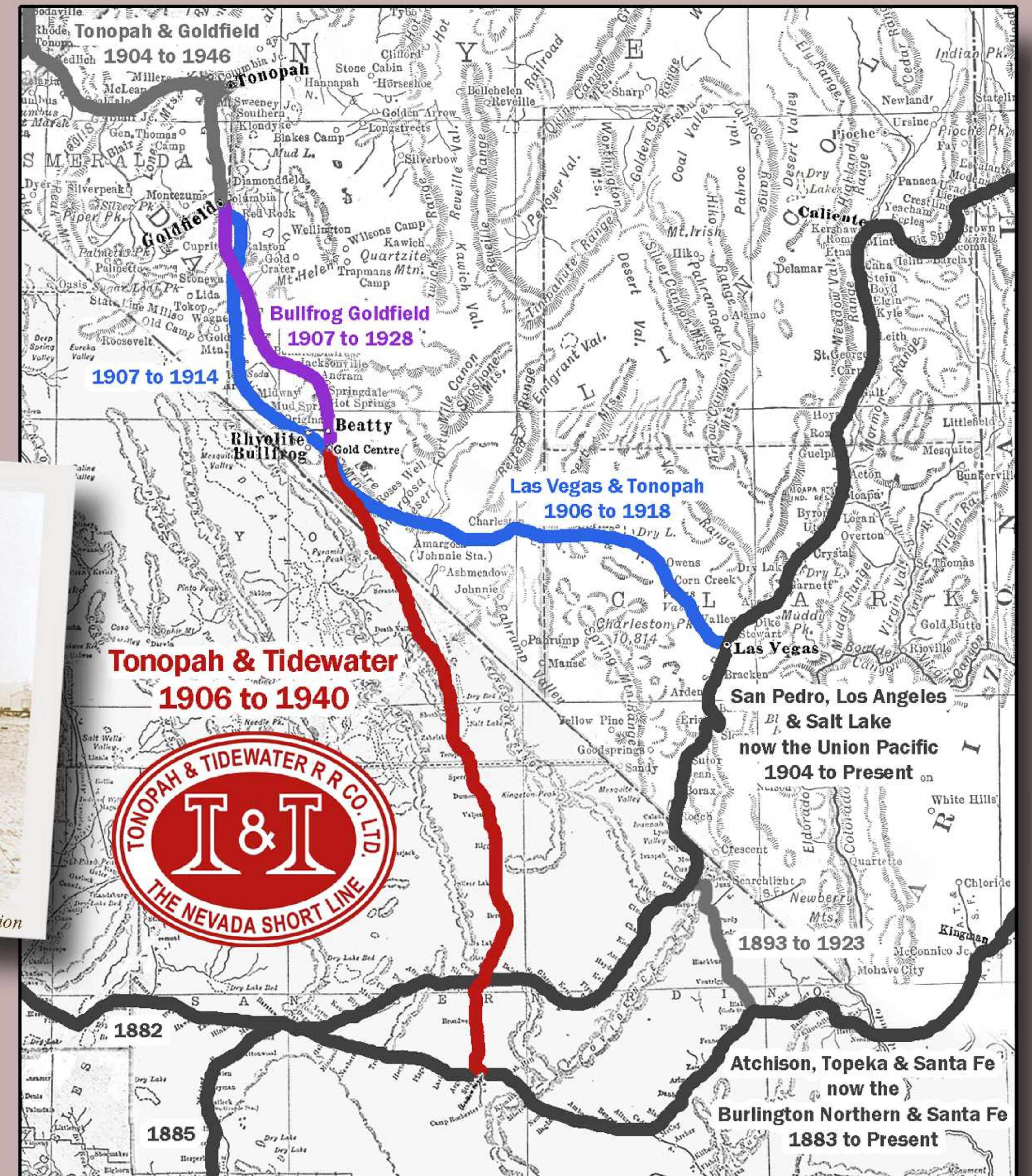
Railroad ties from the early 1900s made good building materials since they were not treated with creosote or other preservatives. The ties from the T&T are six inches by eight inches by eight feet long, which is smaller than today's standard railroad ties. The construction here placed the ties on end, rather than the typical method of laying them horizontally.

Photo by Cliff Segerblom courtesy of Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission, 1955



T&T No. 6 with local freight at Zabriskie, June 1907

From the Don Winslow collection, www.donwinslownet, used with permission



Area railroads

Base map courtesy of FCIT <http://etc.usf.edu/maps>, c. 1911



Railroad tie columns



Cut away view of the railroad ties behind the stucco

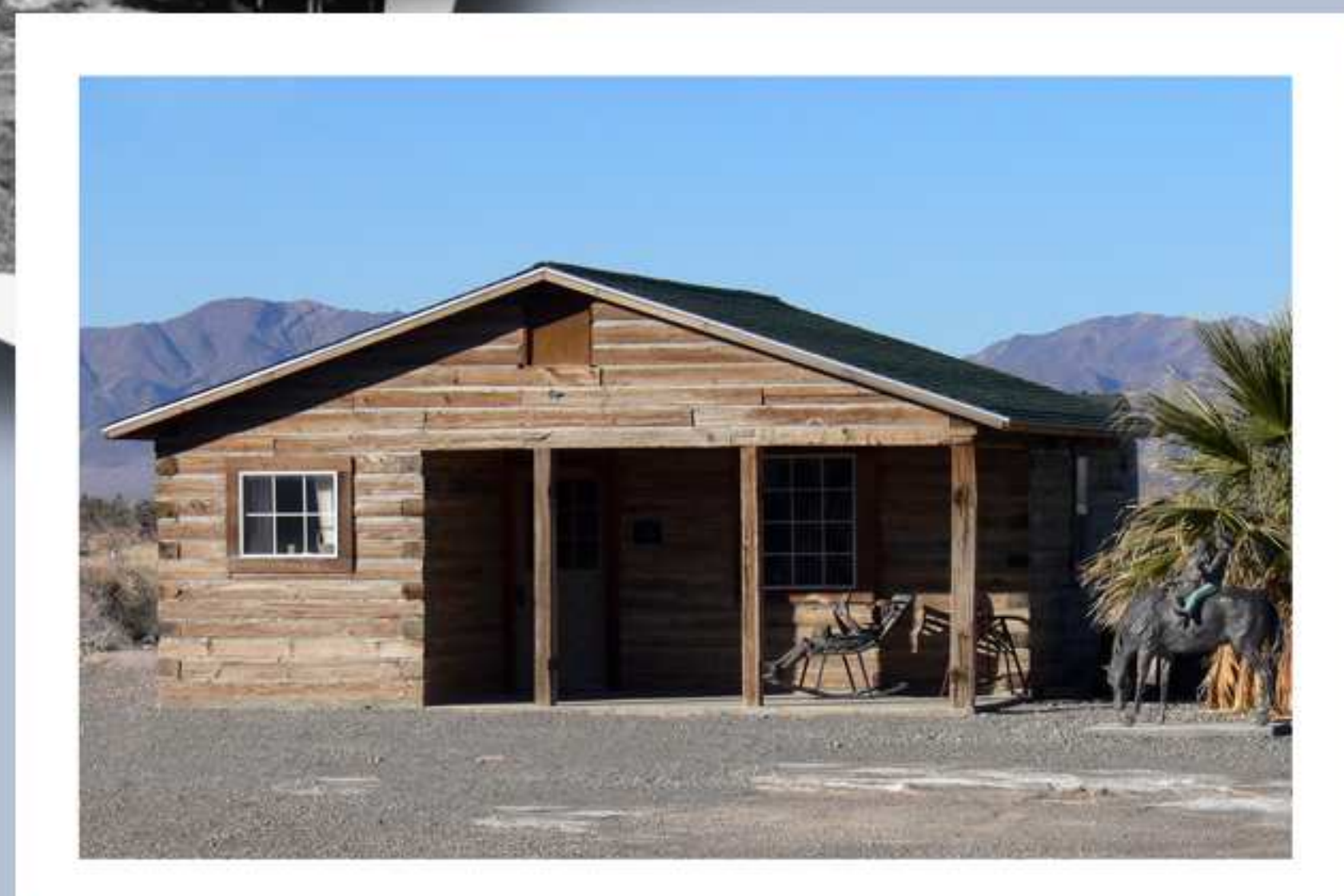
## 1900 to 1960

During Southern Nevada's railroad construction and decommissioning years, railroad ties were used for many purposes including fencing, buildings, shoring and firewood. The first jail in Las Vegas was constructed of railroad ties with a steel cage inside.

The T&T Railroad ties availability coincided with motel construction activity after the Second World War resulting in the use of T&T Railroad ties in the construction of the Twin Lakes Lodge at Lorenzi Park (1951), the Tecopa Hot Spring Resort in Tecopa, California (1945-50), the Apple Valley Inn, Apple Valley, California (1948), and the El Rancho Motel in Barstow, California (1947). In addition to these motels, numerous houses and other structures in California and Nevada were constructed with T&T ties during this time period (see photos to the left).

The Lorenzi's home at Lorenzi Park and the Corn Creek Tie House located north of Las Vegas (see photos to the right) were constructed with ties from the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad (LV&T) that was taken up in 1919. The route of the abandoned LV&T railway was developed into Rancho Drive located just east of the park and continued north as U.S. 95 to Beatty.

Courtesy of the Pahrump Valley Museum and Carol Abate, used with permission



Raycraft Tie House in 1953 and today, Pahrump, Nevada  
The house was constructed in 1946 from T&T ties.

Courtesy of HRA, Inc. and the Worts family, used with permission



Corn Creek Tie House in 1936 and today  
Corn Creek Field Station, Nevada



# ST. JOHN DEVELOPMENT

St. John Period

- 1900
- 1906
- 1910
- 1912
- 1915
- 1921
- 1924
- 1926
- 1930
- 1940
- 1947
- 1951
- 1952
- 1954
- 1957
- 1960
- 1963
- 1965
- 1966
- 1969
- 1986
- 1992
- 2010
- 2013

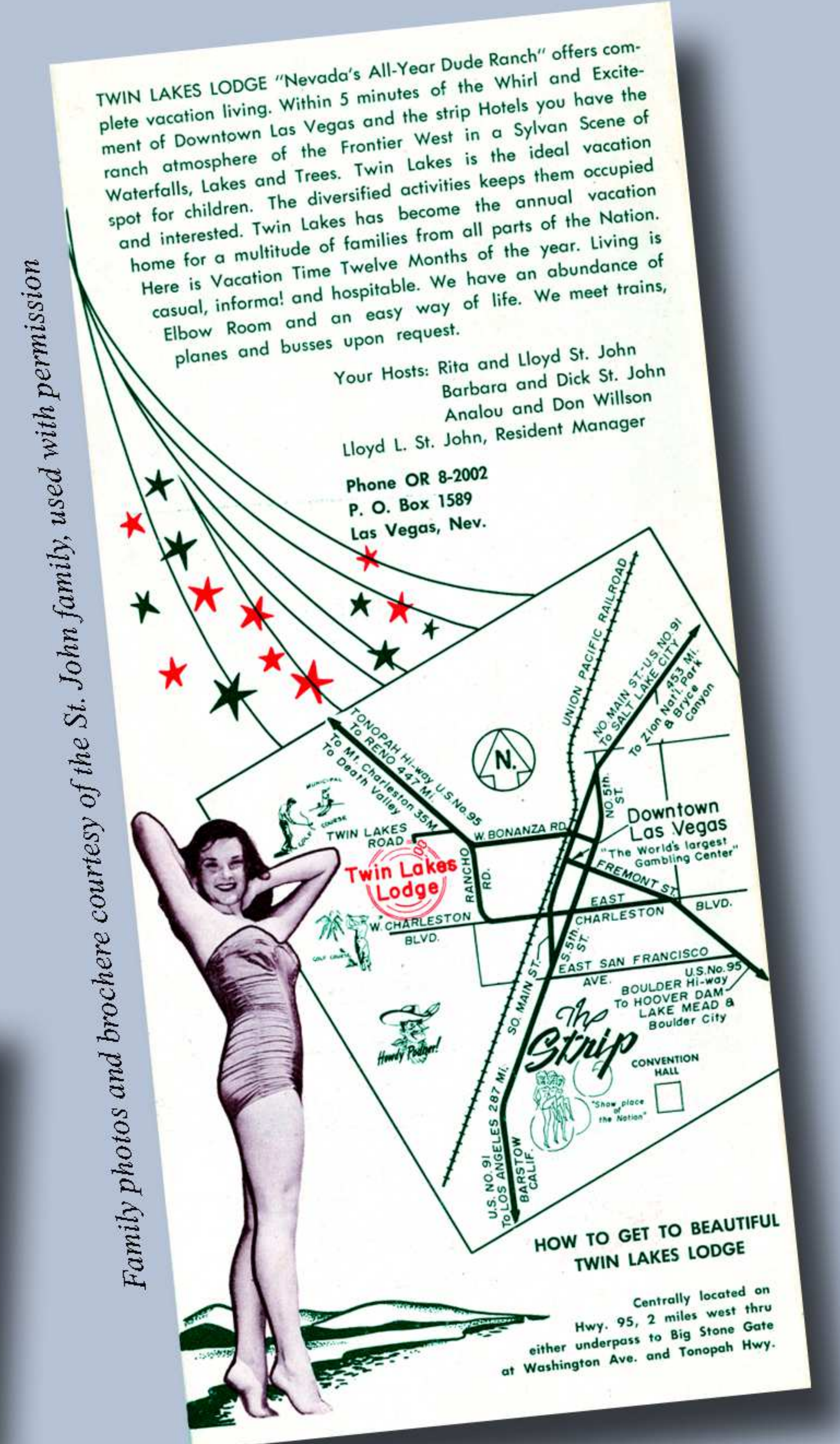
## 1947 to 1965

After years of neglect following the 1940 Lorenzi sale of the property to Thomas Sharp, Lloyd St. John was brought in to renovate and establish the resort as a dude ranch in 1947. St. John came initially as the resort manager for a corporation leasing the property and eventually assumed ownership of the west 40 acres containing the lakes and buildings. Lloyd's son and daughter, together with their families, lived here and worked for the family business until its sale to the city in 1965 when Lloyd retired.

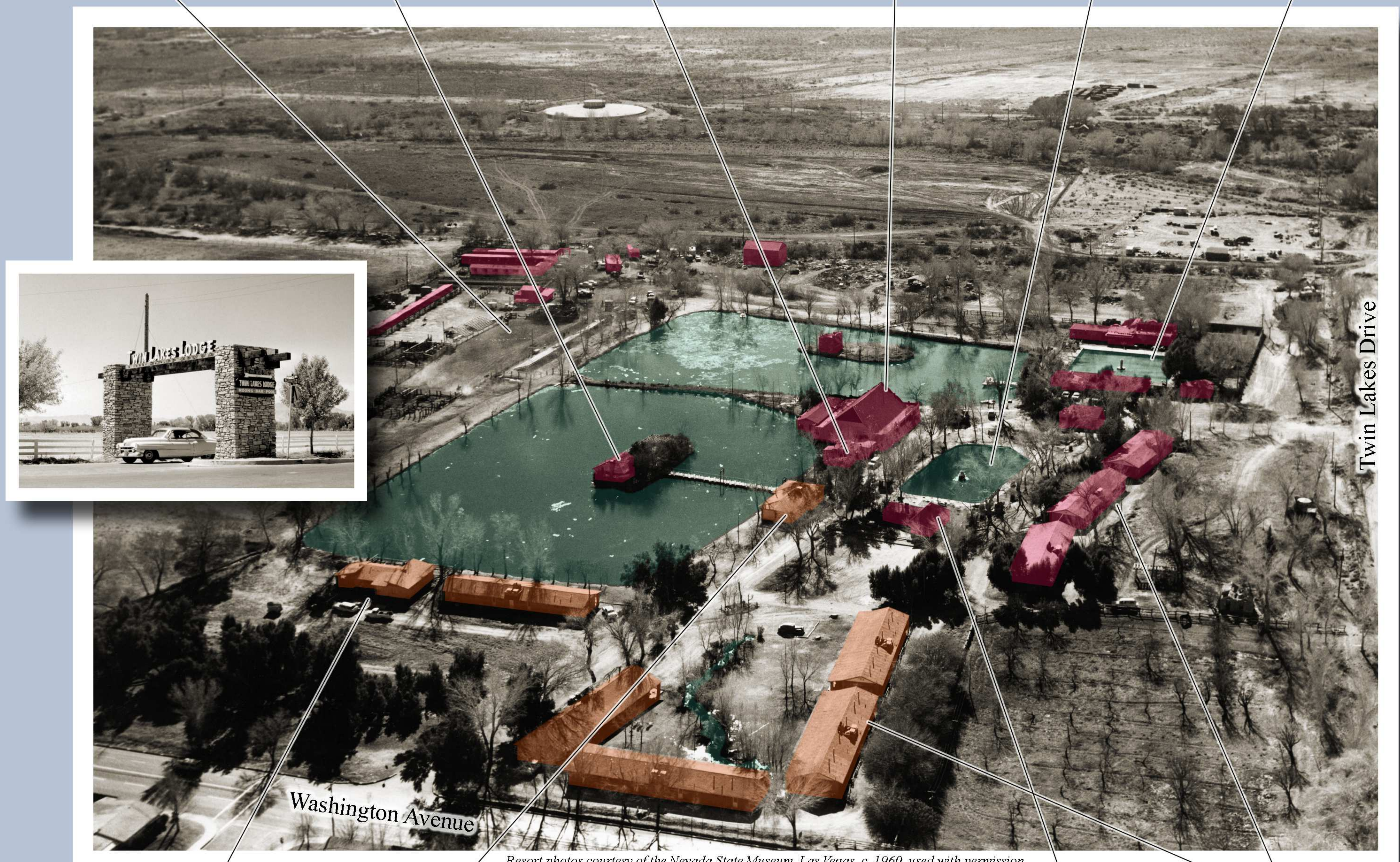
The St. John family on Easter Sunday, 1957, left to right: Kathy, Dick (Lloyd's son), and Barbara St. John, Rita and Lloyd St. John, Analou (Lloyd's daughter), Don, and Lori Willson



Dick and Barbara, and Analou and Don, were married in a double wedding ceremony on the north island in 1955.



- Stables & Rodeo Arena
- Lloyd & Rita St. John Residence (Former Island Club)
- Analou & Don Willson Family Residence
- Dance Pavilion (Used for Storage)
- Trout Pond
- Swimming Pool



- Dick & Barbara St. John Family Residence
- Boathouse
- Buildings that remain today
- Lodge Office, Restaurant & Lounge
- Bungalows

*Resort photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, c. 1960, used with permission*



# ST. JOHN RESIDENCE

St. John Period

City Period

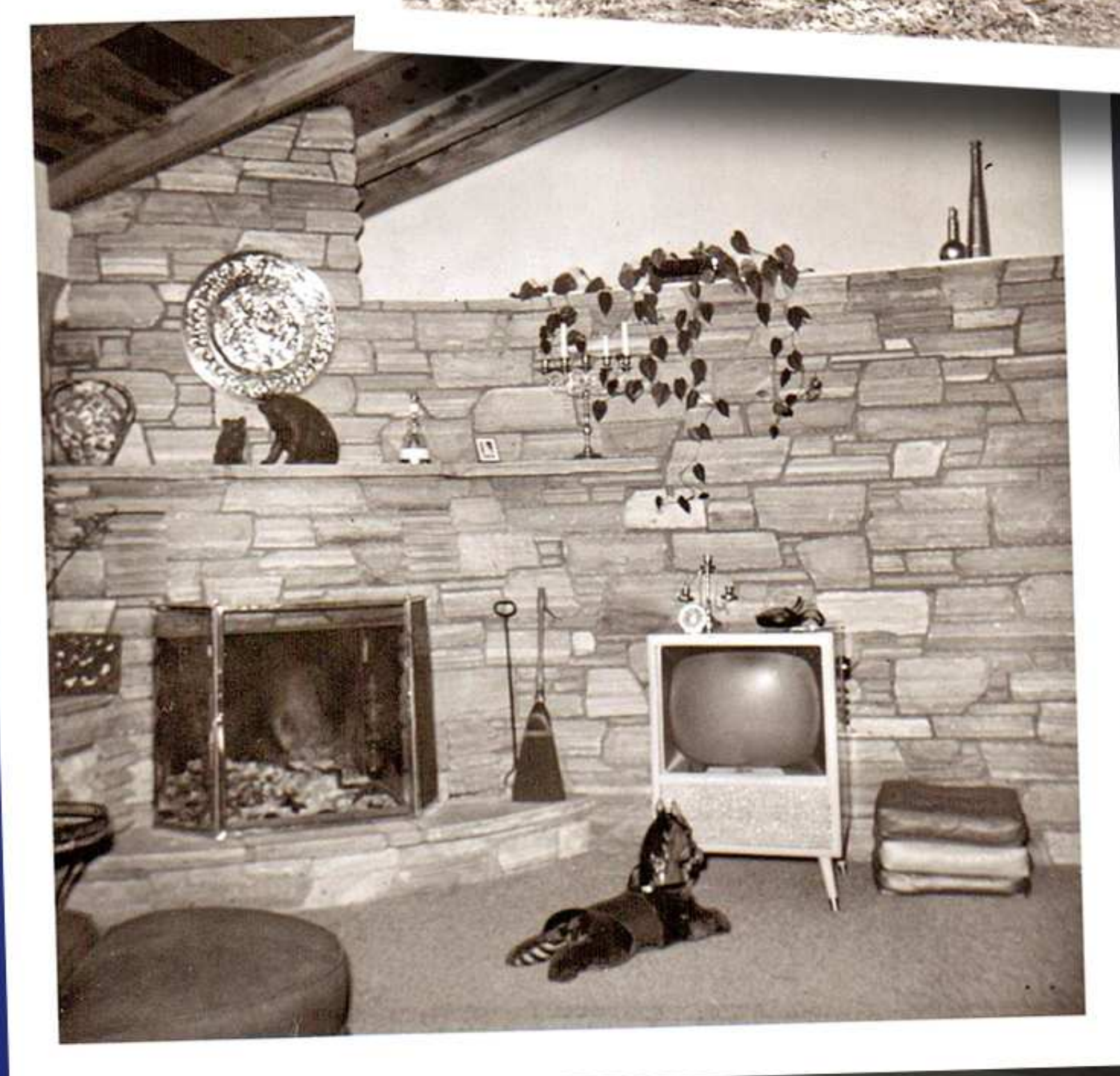


Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



## 1957 to Today

The building to your right is the lakeside home constructed by Lloyd St. John's son Dick for his family. Other than the enclosure of the original carport on the east end, the house remains the best preserved building in the park.



Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission



Anderson-Stanton Company 1964 Appraisal Report  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas



Photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



The St. John and Willson children are enjoying Christmas in the early 1960s with Rosebud the burro. The children living at the resort describe it as a wonderful place to grow up. They would leave the sliding glass door open and the ducks would come in the house and bed down under the coffee table.



# STABLES AND RODEO

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

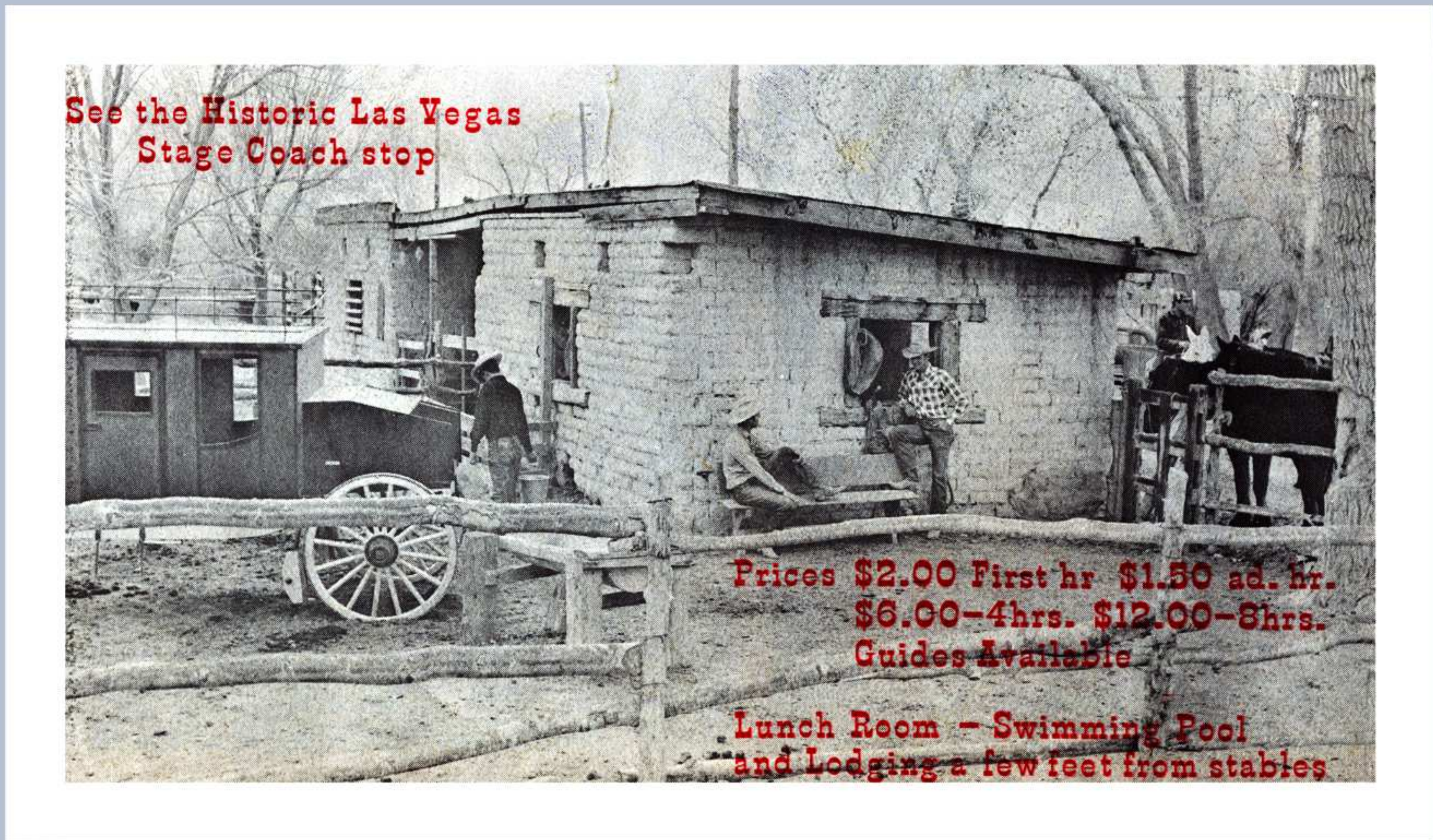
- 1900
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- 1986
- 1992
- 2010
- 2013

## 1954

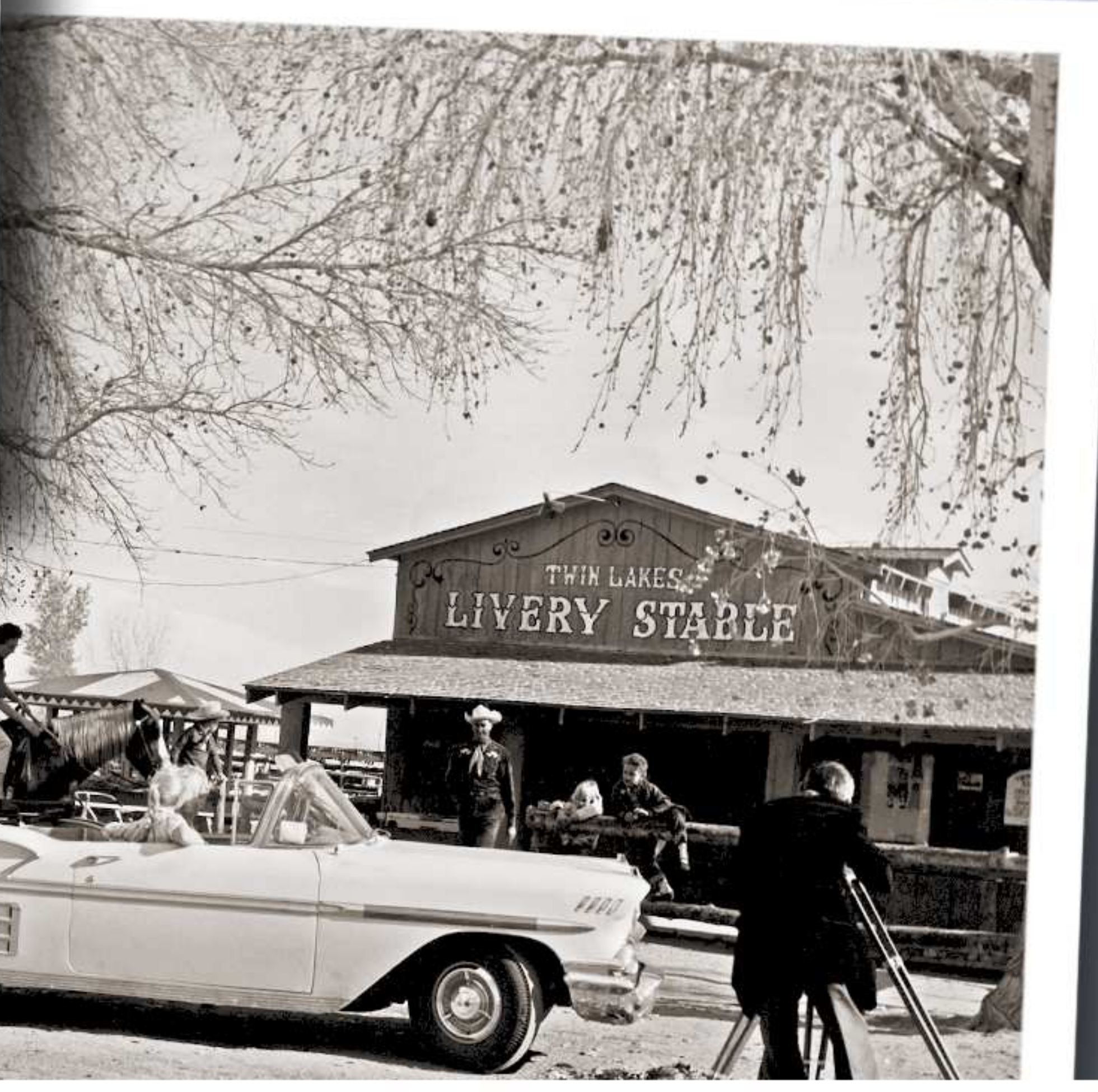
During the 1920s and 1930s, Lorenzi provided rodeos and the area's first regularly scheduled horse races on a half-mile track.

The equestrian activities at the resort really took off after 1954 when the stables at the Hotel Last Frontier relocated to the resort. By the mid-1950s Twin Lakes Lodge had 60 to 100 saddle horses for desert excursions and was hosting Sunday afternoon rodeo contests in the only rodeo arena with fixed chutes in Southern Nevada. The arena and stables were located in the lower grass area to your left.

Advertisement courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission

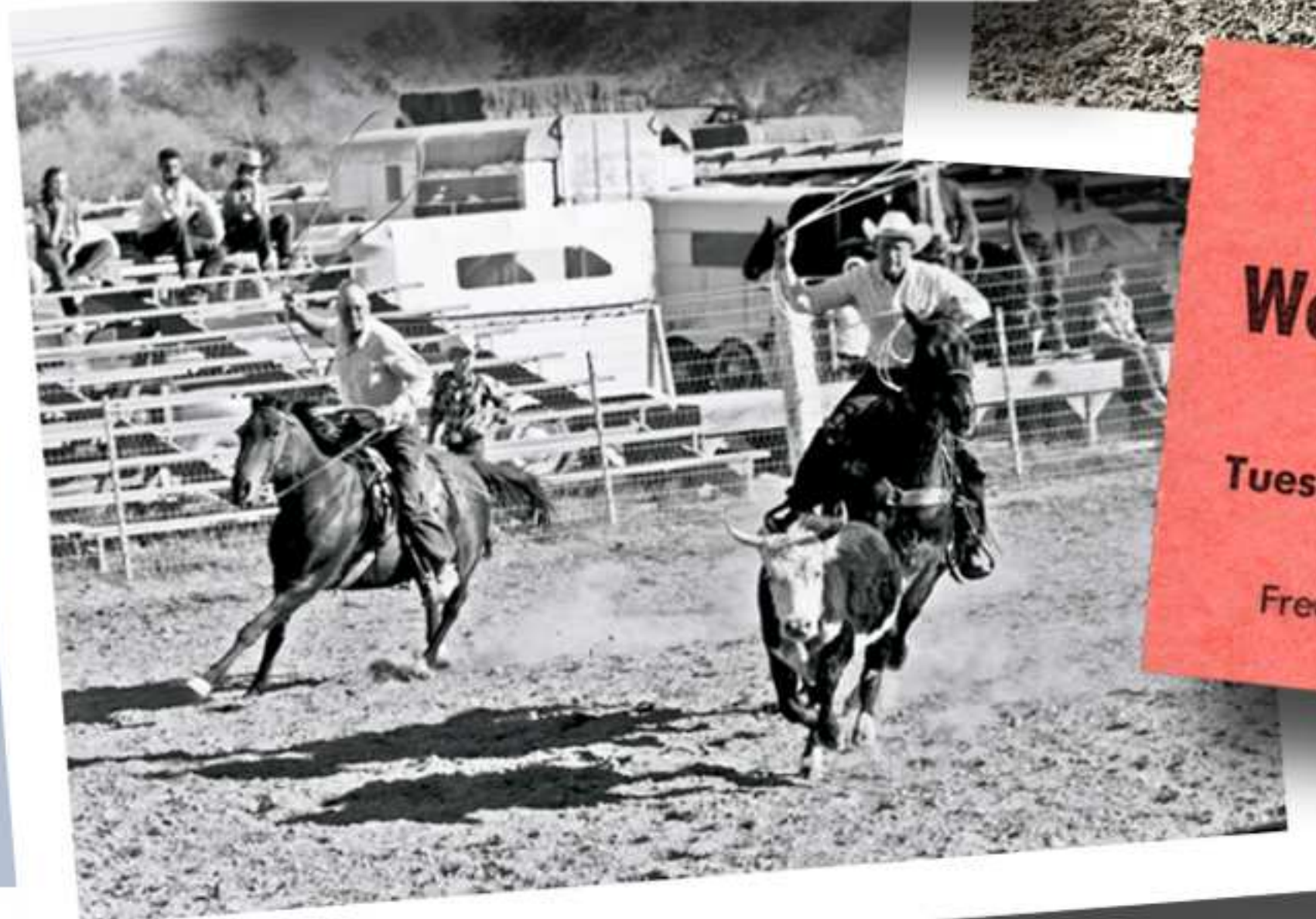
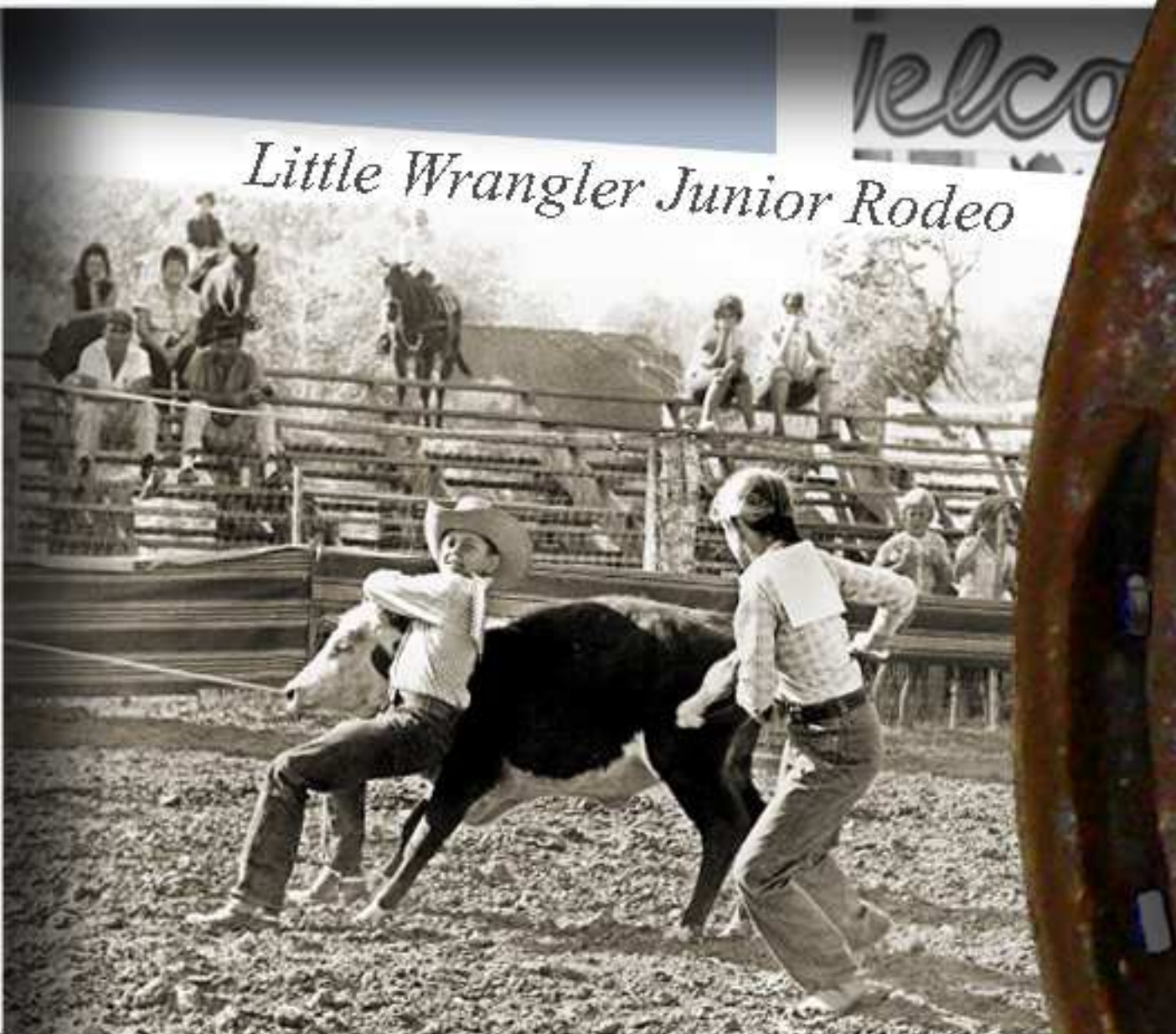


Color photos and ticket stub courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission



Other photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, the Las Vegas News Bureau, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, and George L. Gobel, LLC, used with permission

Photos circa 1954 to 1964



The photo to the left is the George Gobel family around 1958. "The George Gobel Show" ran on TV from 1954 to 1960. Celebrity sightings were common at the resort.





# SWIMMING POOL

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

City Period



## 1926

To further Lorenzi's plan to provide a refuge for Las Vegas seeking coolness and refreshment from the day's dust and heat, in 1926 he constructed the largest swimming pool in the state measuring 97 by 113 feet and a depth of 3 to 9 feet with a fountain in the middle. The pool was fed from an artesian well at a rate of 250 gallons per minute with the overflow going into the lakes and fields for irrigation.

*Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Review-Journal, used with permission*



*All photos courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas except as noted, used with permission*

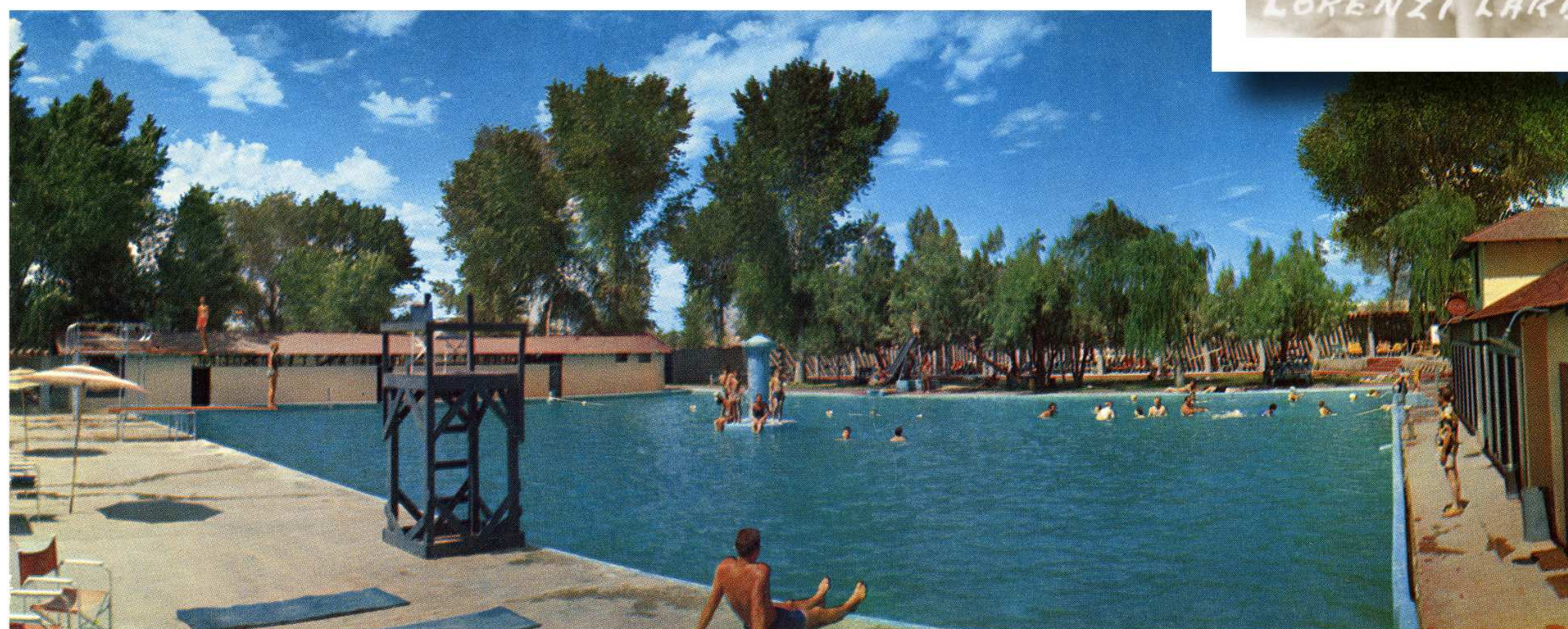
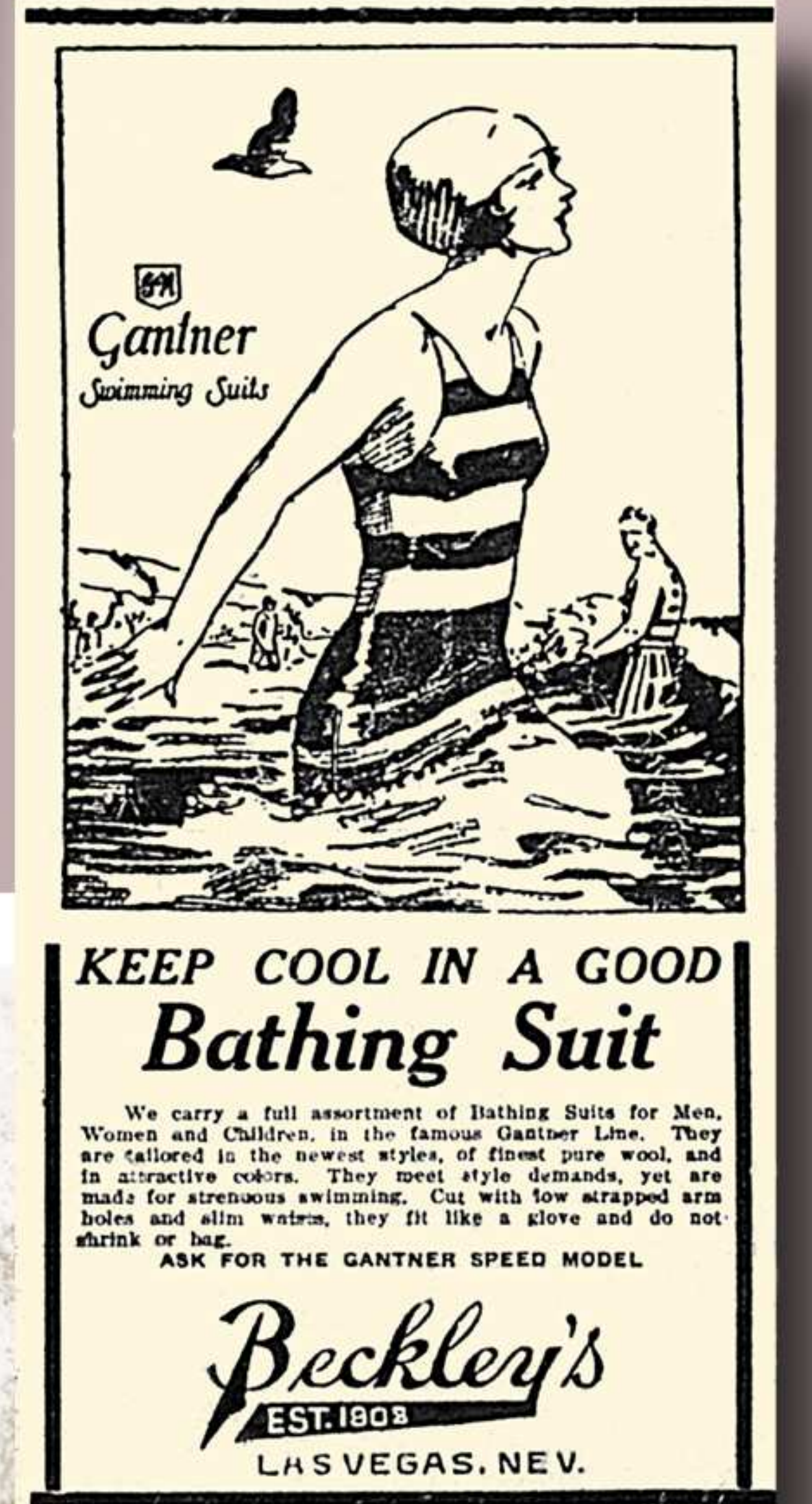
The tall young man in the above photo is Ed Fountain. After hitchhiking from Georgia to work on the dam, he married Lorenzi's daughter Louise in 1936. He went on to a successful local business career and served as a City Commissioner for 12 years. A city park northwest of here is named after him.



*Photo below courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collection, used with permission*



The ad below is for bathing suits made of the finest pure wool from the 1927 *Las Vegas Age* newspaper. Bathing suits were commonly rented during the 1920s and 1930s at the bathhouse and washed in boiling water each night. Men did not begin going topless until the 1930s. Advertisement courtesy of Melissa Akkaway; Beckley boutique, used with permission



*Beauty Contest 1961  
Courtesy of the Las Vegas News Bureau, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, used with permission*

## 1986

The pool continued to operate through the Twin Lakes Lodge period under Lloyd St. John who improved the swimming facilities and adjacent area to host special events. The city also kept the pool in operation under its ownership until finally in 1986 the County health officials forced its retirement after 60 years. The pool still exists as it was filled in and the Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza constructed over it in 1992.



*As the town grew around it in the 1950s, the Twin Lakes Lodge allowed families in the neighborhood to buy seasonal summer pool passes.  
Courtesy of James Mathis, used with permission*



# TROUT POND

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period



## Before 1921

Before Lorenzi dug the first lake out of the desert with his mule team in 1921, he built a rock lined pond that was located in the grass area to your left and stocked it with bluegill.

Lorenzi stocked the twin lakes with bluegill, crappie, black bass and gigantic bullfrogs. When Lake Mead began to form behind Hoover Dam in 1935, it was initially stocked with 30,000 fish spawned at Lorenzi's lakes.

Courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission



## 1924

Lorenzi and his partners entered the ice delivery business in 1924 with the construction of the town's first local ice manufacturing plant located on the south edge of the fish pond.

By 1931 ice production has ceased and on May 19th a raid discovered 2,500 gallons of illegal Prohibition beer in the old ice plant. Lorenzi declared his tenant leasing the building had left the country and the charges against Lorenzi were later dismissed.

The photo to the left shows the foundation of the ice plant in 1965. The building behind it is the Lorenzi railroad tie house, which featured a fireplace constructed by Lorenzi of petrified wood.

Photo by Ray E. Vincent and Western Studio  
Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



## BIG BREWERY IS UNCOVERED ON LORENZI LAND

One of the largest breweries taken in the recent foray of dry raiders in this section, was uncovered late yesterday afternoon at the Lorenzi Resort, west of the city and resulted in the arrest of D. G. Lorenzi, proprietor of the place and his later release on bond. The brewery was located in one of the buildings formerly used to house the ice manufacturing plant owned by Lorenzi, and some 2,500 gallons of beer ready to bottle was found in the place, all being confiscated by the raiding officers.

Lorenzi declared this morning that he had no idea the building was being used to house a brewery, and stated that he had leased it some time ago to another party who said he wanted it to store machinery.

He said the leaser had the lock changed on the door and that he had not been inside the place since it was leased. The first intimation he had that beer was being manufactured was when the federal officers raided the former ice-house yesterday afternoon.

Lorenzi stated that following the raid, when he attempted to locate his tenant, he found he had left the country and couldn't be found. "I've always made a strong effort to keep my place clear of liquor," Lorenzi said, "and have been successful up to now."

Lorenzi is charged with possession and manufacture, according to W. J. Hooper, U. S. commissioner. He pled not guilty and preliminary hearing was set for July 6, the defendant taking bond in the amount of \$2,000.

Courtesy of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, May 20, 1931, used with permission



Photo above (1965) and advertisements (right and below from 1956)  
courtesy of the St. John family, used with permission

## TROUT FISHING - TWIN LAKES LODGE

Here in the heart of Las Vegas you have one of the finest TROUT fishing pools in the West. Here you have a challenge to the fly fisherman. In the crystal clear cascade pool you can see the trout and the trout can see you. Teach your children to fish - there is no better recreation for them. . . Free casting practice in the lakes is available. . . Fishing daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. No License. No Limit. . . You pay for the trout you catch - we dress and package them free. Barbecue grills and picnic tables are available for your use or we will prepare the trout at the coffee shop.

### TROUT BARBECUE EVERY FRIDAY 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Catch your own trout. We prepare them over the open barbecue pits and serve all the trimmings. Total cost - Adults \$2.50, Children \$1.50 - all the trout you can eat. Twin Lakes Trout Pool is the place for a club or group outing.

### FIRESIDE COCKTAIL BAR

Your winter holiday spot in Las Vegas. 2 miles West thru either underpass.

### COFFEE SHOP

DUdley 2-3722

**NO LICENSE REQUIRED!**  
**FISH FOR MOUNTAIN RAINBOW TROUT at TWIN LAKES LODGE**  
 TACKLE AVAILABLE  
 You pay for your catch by size - 50¢ to \$1.25 per trout  
 FREE PACKAGING • WE EVEN COOK YOUR TROUT  
 cocktail lounge TWIN LAKES LODGE coffee shop  
 30 SCENIC VIEW ROOMS - RELAX AT TWIN LAKES  
 2 MILES WEST, HIGHWAY 95 PHONE DU 2-3722

## 1947

Lloyd and Dick St. John renovated the pond and stocked it with rainbow trout as part of the resort's resurrection begun in 1947.

Dick also constructed a stone fountain (visible today directly to your right) that circulated water into a stream that flowed under a small wooden bridge (see the color photo above) and into the trout pond. A similar stone fountain was built near Washington Avenue that continues to flow water today into a stream between the remaining bungalow buildings.

The photo on the left shows the rock steps that led from the trout pond up to the bungalows. The remnants of three sets of rock steps can still be seen, one to your right near the Garden Clubs Building, and two on your right as you continue along this path by the splashpad.

Even though the trout pond is no more, the Nevada Department of Wildlife carries on the fishing experience at the park by stocking the twin lakes with channel catfish and rainbow trout for licensed fishing.



Photo by Cliff Segerblom courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, 1955, used with permission



Photos courtesy of the St. John family (above and upper left) and the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas (upper right), used with permission



# URBAN GROWTH

Lorenzi Period

St. John Period

City Period



## Before 1900

The small spring that attracted Lorenzi to this parcel of land was part of the adjacent Las Vegas Springs Preserve system of springs that had been attracting Native Americans for thousands of years before their discovery by Euro-Americans.

At the time the Euro-Americans arrived to claim the water and land in the valley, the Paiutes from the Spring Mountains were using the area for winter encampments. During Lorenzi's development of the property, numerous ancient artifacts were revealed and freely given to treasure hunters.

The springs area was also a popular campground and rest stop for travelers on the Old Spanish Trail during the 1800s. The trail skirted the park on the south, approximately where U.S. 95 is today.

## 1930

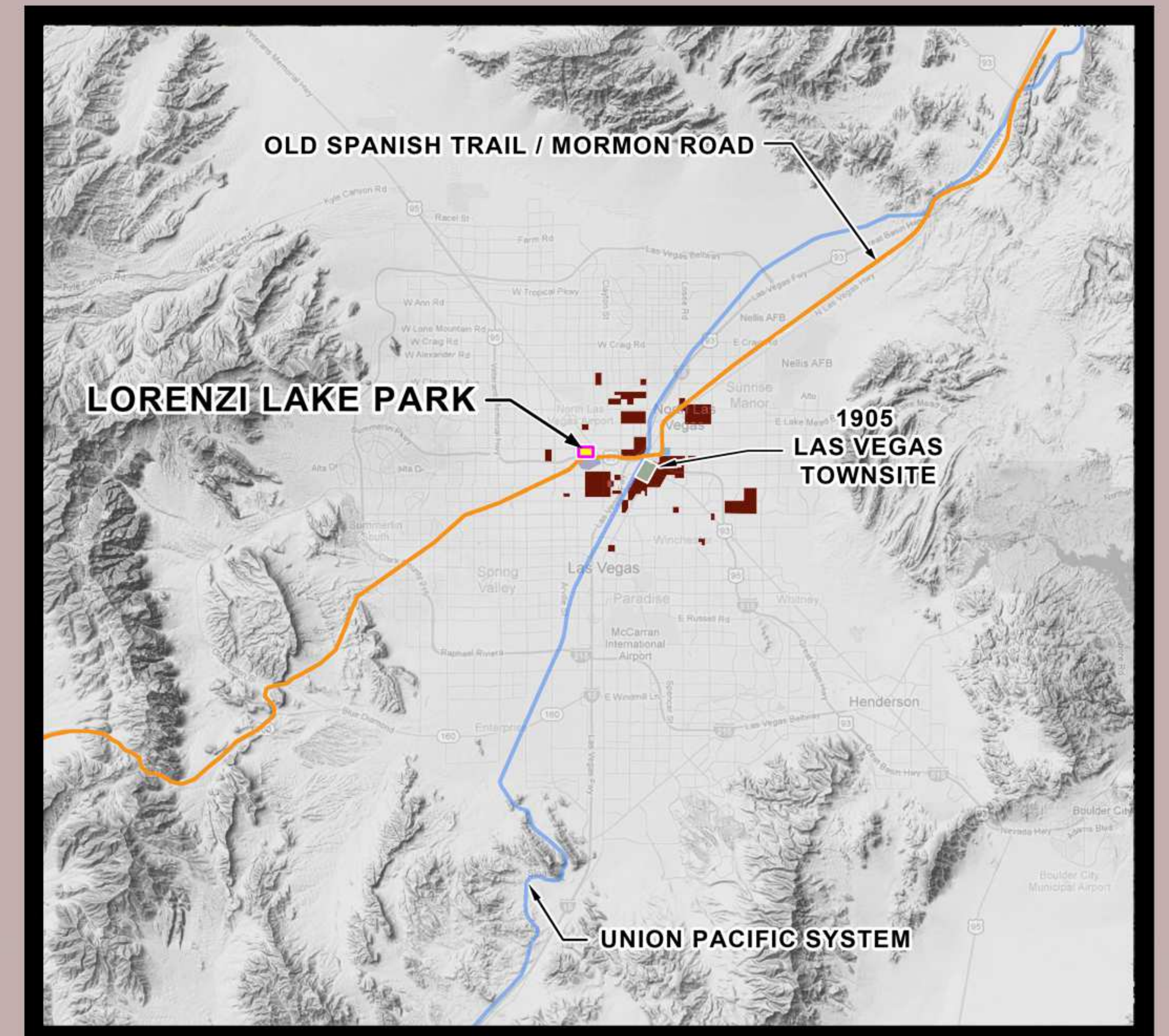
In the 1930s the resort was a country oasis in the desert two miles from the small town of Las Vegas.



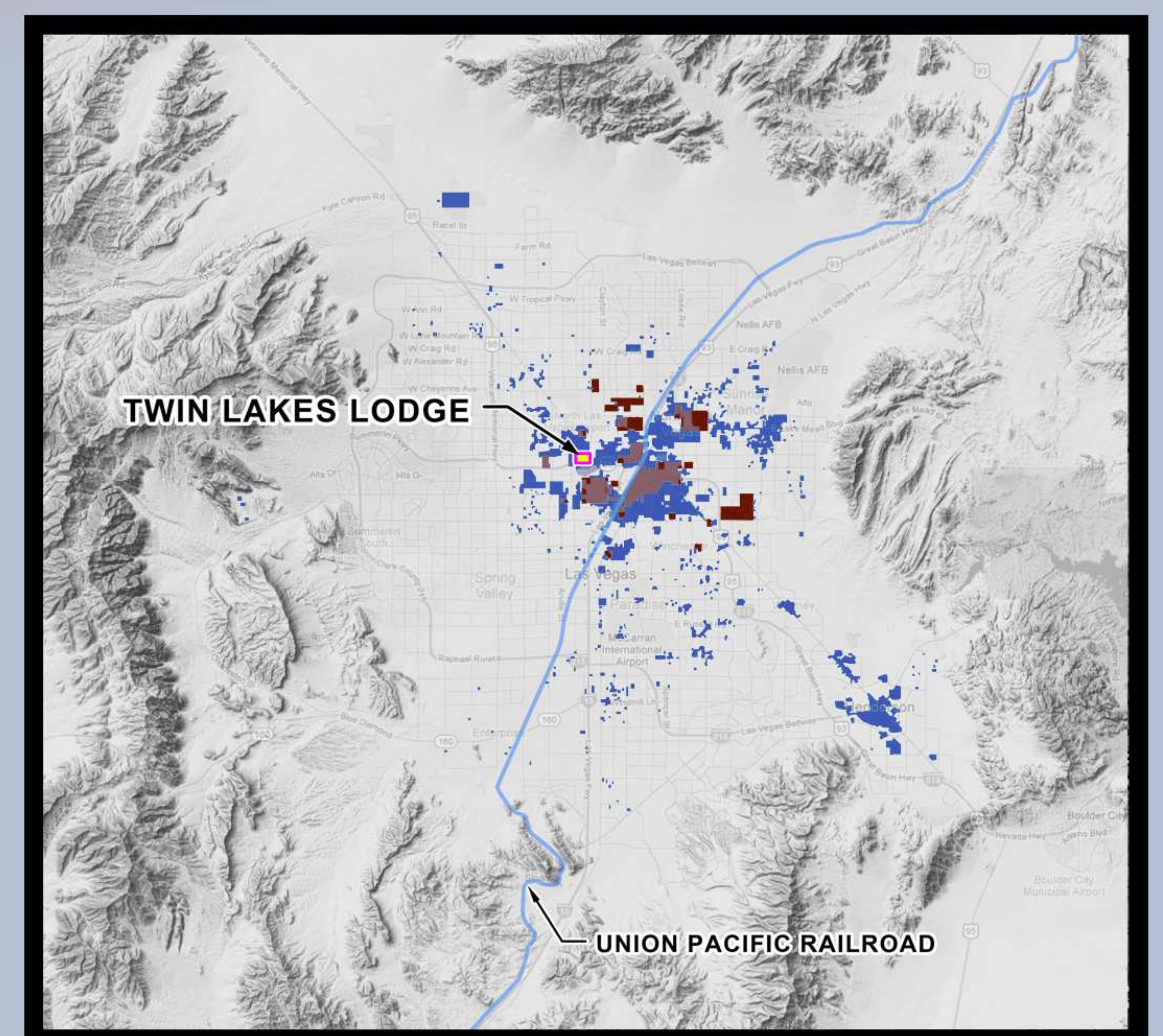
Las Vegas in 1930 with Lorenzi Lake Park in the distance  
Photo by W. A. Davis courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, used with permission



Lorenzi Lake Park



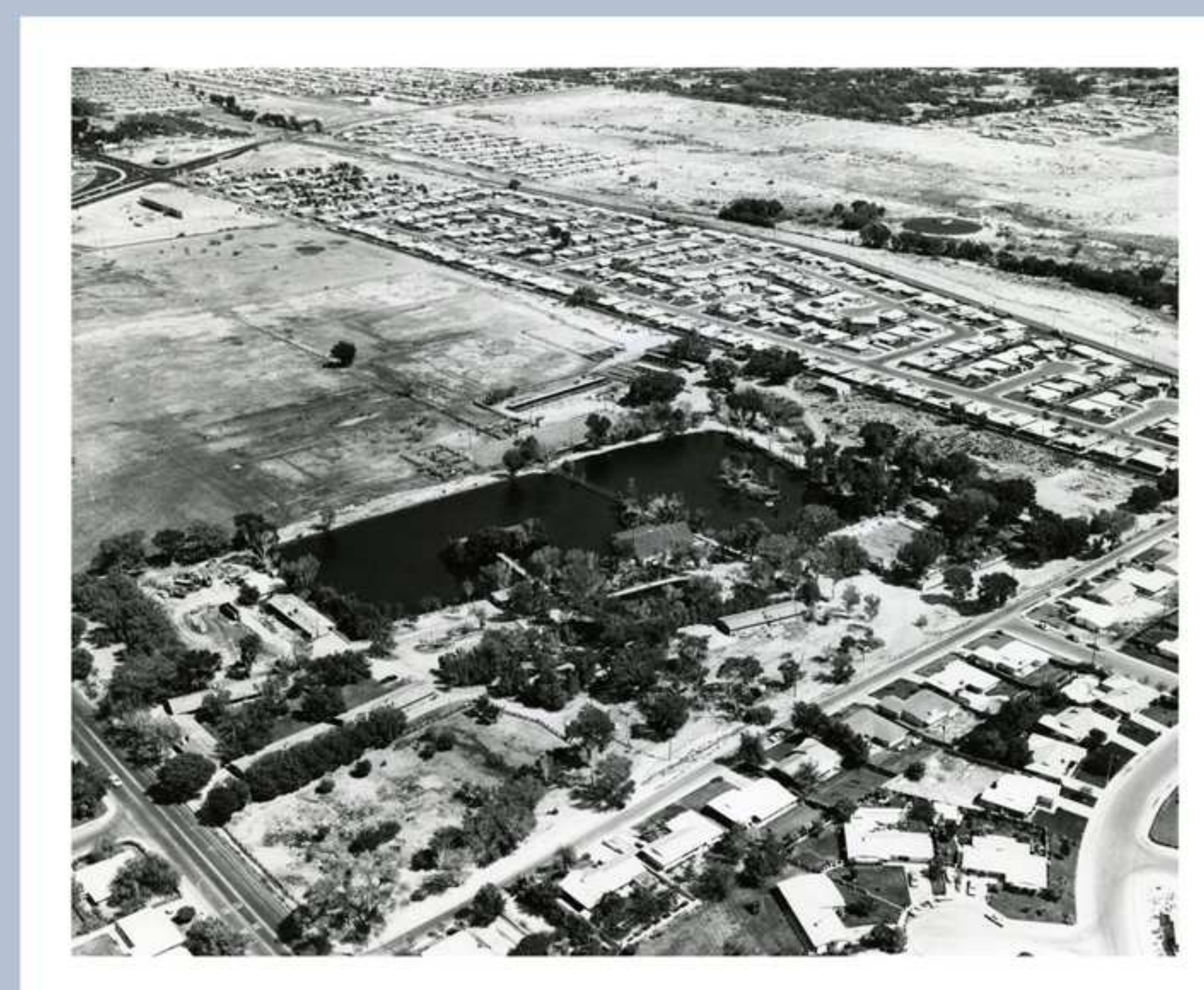
1930 Population 5,952  
1930 Census Las Vegas Township



1960 Population 119,280  
1960 Census Las Vegas and Henderson Townships



1953 Courtesy of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, used with permission



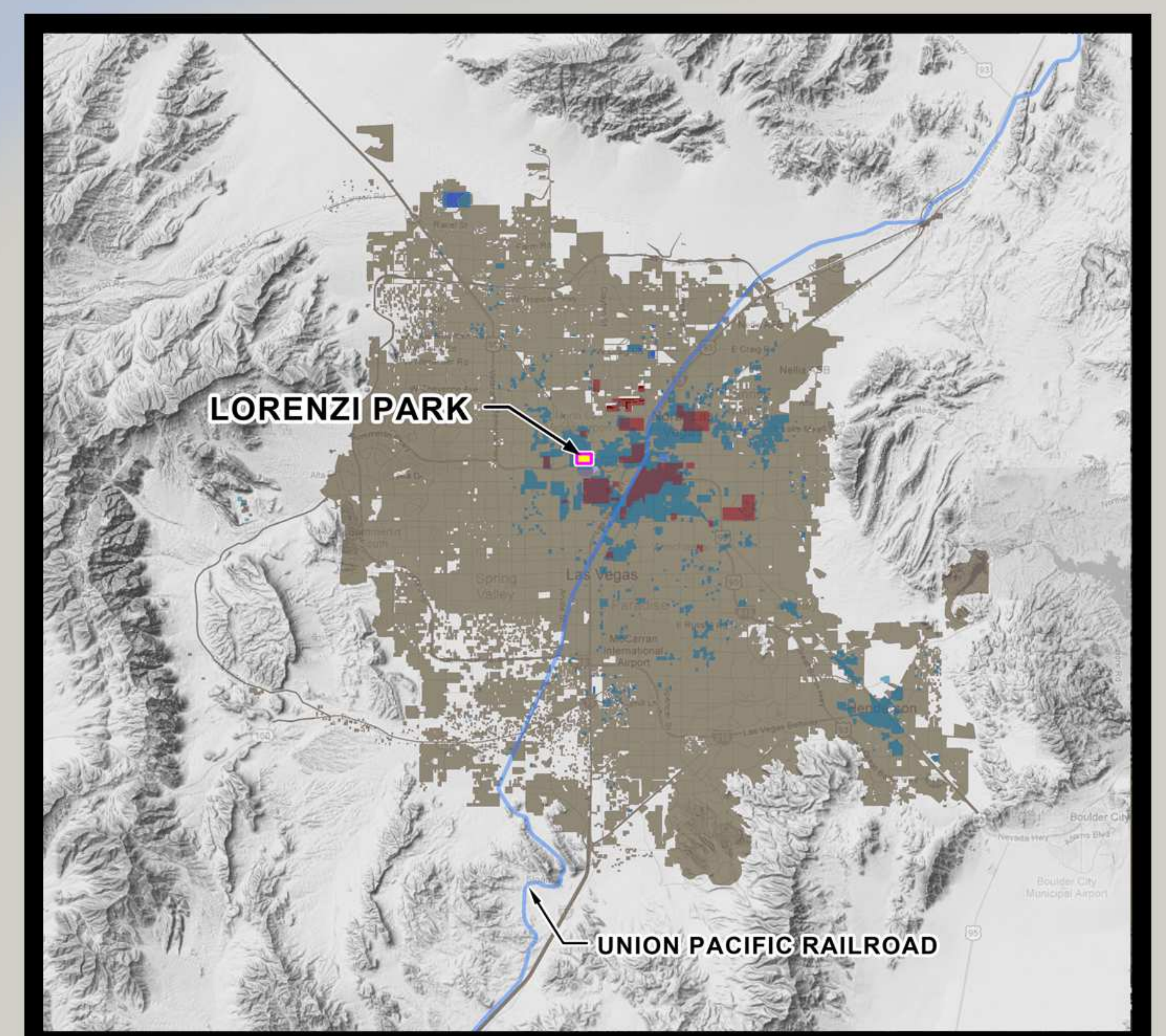
1965 Courtesy of UNLV Libraries, Special Collections, used with permission

## 2010

By 2010 the park had been transformed from a rural country retreat located adjacent to the headwaters of the Las Vegas Creek into an inner city urban park, all without moving an inch.



2006



2010 Population 1,851,696  
2010 Census Designated Places