

\$100,000 Gem 'Ghost Hotel' in Las Vegas Snatch Foiled By Hotel Cop

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A hotel detective foiled a \$100,000 diamond robbery attempt yesterday, seizing a man with the jewels.

Detective Louis Chevalon leveled his pistol at George Johnson and captured him as he fled down the hotel stairs.

Johnson, 28, of New Orleans, was held on a charge of vagrancy pending investigation of armed robbery.

A second man, officers said, was believed to have fled down a fire escape.

Victim of the robbery was William Wolff, 51-year-old owner of a New York store. Wolff was reported in satisfactory condition with multiple head bruises.

Police said two men entered Wolff's room when he went downstairs to get the jewels from the hotel safe. They emerged from a closet when he returned and hit him on the head with a pistol.

The hands scuffled with Wolff, grabbed the briefcase and fled. Wolff screamed and one man fired two shots at him. Both missed.

Officers said a loaded pistol was found in Johnson's pocket, with two bullets fired.

'Ghost Hotel' in Las Vegas Soon to Become Favorite Spa

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Hollywood Writer

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UP)—A "ghost hotel" that's been Las Vegas' glamorous white elephant at last is coming to life as the gambling town's most supercolossal spa.

A year ago Las Vegas had rolled snake eyes and the town sang business blues while hotels opened, closed and changed hands giddily. Today the community appears to be more prosperous. The Royal Nevada and Dunes hotels, once shuttered, are open again. The airport reports it's handled 10,000 more visitors so far this year than it did the first two months of 1956.

Now another new hotel, the \$15 million Tropicana, finished but sitting empty for a year, will open its doors to take advantage of the better business.

Most Elegant

Visitors who've toured the Tropicana rave that it's the most elegant in the country—and the most costly of this resort area. One booster claims it makes Miami's famous Fontainebleau "look like last year's tract house."

Ground was broken on the Tropicana in April of 1955. But authorities objected to one of the owners and turned down the hotel's application for a gambling license. New owners have taken over, and the Tropicana is set to open April 3 with Eddie Fisher singing in Las Vegas for the first time.

Touring the "ghost hotel" is eerie, even though the place is beginning to live up with re-hearing chorus girls. The 300 rooms feature tasteful regency-modern decor—marble coffee tables, grecian statues, antique-looking chaise, crystal chandeliers

Catholics Call Off Their Bus Service Fight

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—The heat is off, temporarily at least, in Augusta's dispute over proposed use of public school buses by parochial students.

Catholic parents voted 293-121 yesterday against going through with their threat to send 600-odd children into the already crowded public schools if bus transportation isn't provided by the city today.

They accepted Catholic Mayor H. Lloyd Carey's advice to wait for a court test.

Lawyers for both factions will confer on getting the test to Maine's Supreme Court.

Last Wednesday the City Council made a token appropriation of \$100 to provide bus service to the city's two parochial schools—simply as a foundation for the legal challenge.

Claude Bourget, city solicitor and a Catholic, told a parents meeting they would have "absolutely nothing to gain" legally by enrolling their children in the public schools before the test case is decided.

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Newsman Fly Nation on 707

SEATTLE (AP)—William Allen, president of Boeing Airplane Co., told newsmen boarding the 707 jet airliner for a possible four-hour coast-to-coast flight today they were headed for "the greatest experience of your lives."

The 707, which flies at 550 to 600 m.p.h., was scheduled to take off from Boeing Field for a nonstop, 2,230-mile speed run to Friendship International Airport 10 miles south of Baltimore.

More than a year ago the 707 flew to Washington, D. C., in 3 hours and 58 minutes. Aided by strong "jet streams" or high altitude winds, it attained a peak speed across the country of 662 m.p.h.

Little Rock, formerly an independent team, now has a working agreement with the Kansas City Athletics.

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