

VEGAS: (A WIFE'S VIEWPOINT)

I'm sure most of the superintendent's wives were as excited as I was when the time for the Las Vegas Convention was drawing near. But this also brings about questions or uncertainties for some of us. For example, can we get time off from work, who will keep the children or pets, additional air fare and other concerns that have to be considered when a trip is planned.

We made reservations to fly out of Ft. Lauderdale on January 29th at 6:15 a.m. We boarded the plane on schedule but once on board, the servicemen had problems fueling the plane. We were not able to depart until 7:45 a.m., which made us late for our connecting flight in Atlanta. We did not know if we would be able to get another flight to Las Vegas that day, but fortunately they held the connecting flight. As we were preparing to land in Atlanta, the plane lunged straight up to avoid another plane on the runway hidden by the heavy fog. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as we touched solid ground.

The scenery to Las Vegas was breathtaking, especially to someone who had not been out west before. Enroute to our destination we flew over the Rocky Mountains, the Continental Divide and Lake Mead. We also got a good view of the Grand Canyon as our pilot tipped the wings of the plane for us.

Inside the Las Vegas airport, the atmosphere was set early with the slot machines and the clanging of the coins.

We then went to the MGM Grand Hotel where we had reservations. Seeing all of the bright lights, slot machines, blackjack tables and the crowds of people was an appropriate initiation to Las Vegas.

After settling into our room, we began to make plans for our activities. We decided to visit the Hoover Dam on Sunday. The drive through the desert-like terrain and rocky hillsides, was definitely a change from Florida. We took the tour under the dam where we learned a lot about its actual construction. For example, it was scheduled to be built in six years, but was completed in four years. There is enough concrete in the dam to build a highway from San Francisco to New York City eight inches thick. They say the estimated cost to replace the concrete today would be 240 million dollars. The water is approximately 500 feet deep. There is enough water in Lake Mead (created by the dam) to sustain the natural flow of the river for two years. The turbines that drive the dam (approximately 12-14 of them) are seven stories tall and the two pipes that supply the water for the turbines are 30 feet in diameter. The water travels through the pipes at 45 m.p.h. and a three-story

house on a train could fit inside them.

With the exception of the Hoover Dam, the activities I shared with my husband had to be planned in and around his conference schedule. Since Tim was the voting delegate for the state of Florida, most of our nights were spent interviewing candidates or fulfilling his association duties. His days were very busy attending conference sessions, the equipment show and carrying out his association activities.

In the meantime, I managed to squeeze a day of shopping in at the Fashion Mall. Shopping is one of my favorite hobbies so I felt right at home. Tim and I had agreed that we wouldn't spend any money on shopping but somehow, in a beautiful mall, that was soon forgotten. I did bring back some unusual souvenirs, which I hope to have a long time.

Something else I enjoy doing, that I'm sure most women do, is dining out. We had dinner at Barrymore's inside the MGM. It was a very enjoyable evening and mid-way through dinner we looked over to the table next to us and saw Dom Deloise and Ava Gabor. We also had dinner at Caruso's which was a delicious Italian restaurant.

We wanted to go to a show while we were there, so we decided to see Siegfried and Roy's Magical Show. It would be hard for me to describe in words just how amazing this show was. People and things literally disappeared before our eyes. They did all sorts of exciting magical illusions. They say people go there time and time again to try to figure out how exactly they do these illusions.

One of the most amazing sights was driving down the strip of the old part of Las Vegas at night. It was as if it was day with all the bright lights. They say it is the only place where you don't have to have a flash on your camera at night.

Also mixed in with all the fun was going to the equipment show and attending some of the seminars. Participating in these functions, allows me to become more involved with my husband's career. I really enjoyed attending and being a part of these educational programs because they were interesting and informative. Being the wife of a golf course superintendent is not always easy (with all the pressures and responsibilities that they have), but taking an interest can assist in understanding the daily routine of being a golf course superintendent.

We enjoyed our stay in Las Vegas very much, and though we were sad to leave, we were glad to get back home to Florida. ■