

DESERT DUST

Carlin Historical Society - Carlin, Nevada

When FDR Came to Call

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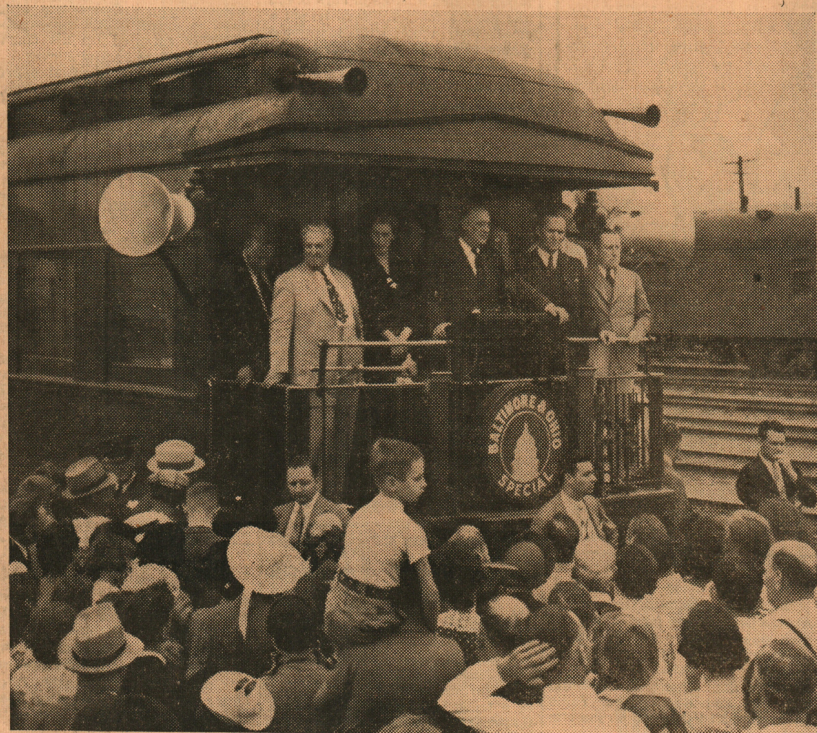
Today our politicians fly to important campaign stops but in 1938, the President traveled by train. He was making his way across the country on what he called a “look-see” trip and his journey took him across Nevada on the lines of the Southern Pacific Railroad. His stops along the way? Montello, Carlin, Imlay, and Sparks. Sounds exciting! Of course, these locations were chosen not because of their importance in politics but because they were where the train carrying the president could stop to be serviced. The length of the stop in Carlin was scheduled for a whole whopping 15 minutes! The President invited Nevada politicians, including the governor, to join him on the train as it crossed Nevada and they were offered the opportunity to speak to the crowds at the stops.

A photo of Roosevelt's visit taken by an unknown Carlin resident in 1938.

But, there was hope that the President would make an appearance. The train was not stopping in Elko so the *Elko Daily Free Press* reported that many from Elko would travel to Carlin to see if they could catch a glimpse of the President. But, apparently, someone was being difficult because the next day it was announced that the schedule would be changed and the President would in fact stop very briefly in Elko. But, in the end, the President did not stop in Elko but he did wave from the platform of the last car as it rolled slowly through Elko. The *Elko Daily Free Press* pointed out the moment as special because so many people had seen the man's face in print for so long but never in the flesh. More than 100 cars traveled from Elko to get a closer view. I wonder where they all parked?

So, what happened in Carlin? Not only did the train stop as planned but the President did in fact have something to say. He first greeted the crowd and then touched upon the lack of water being an obstacle to the growth of Nevada's population. He jokingly said that "Nevada's population is altogether too small" but that he wasn't referring to the children present. He then said that he needed to get back to work but he didn't leave the platform immediately because the Carlin band which had greeted him with a tune upon arrival began to play the nation's anthem for their President. He then thanked the band and returned to the work of running a country via telephone and radio which he commented was much easier to do than it had been previously thanks to the advance of technology.

The President of the United States Talks In Carlin



(Elko Daily Free Press Photo)

Recommending the intelligent use of water in Nevada, President Roosevelt spoke to several hundred Elko county residents gathered around the observation platform of his special train in Carlin Wednesday. Shown above on the platform with the president are several well known political figures in Nevada, relatives of the president and secret service men. Standing on the platform, left to right, are one of the president's aides, Senator F. A. McCarran, Mrs. John Boettiger, daughter of the president, the president, George Swartz (looking over the president's shoulder) John Boettiger, Albert Hilliard (in white suit in back of Boettiger) and another of the president's aides. Note G-Men with backs to car, facing crowd.

The *Elko Daily Free Press* noted that "every precaution was taken to guard the president's special as it passed through Nevada." That all switches were manned by railroad crews and track walkers watched rails and bridges. Interestingly, it would be only a little over a year later when the infamous sabotage of the lines would cause the wreck of the *City of San Francisco* streamliner on the same tracks.

News and Gossip
Our 3rd Annual Kidsploration

Program kicks off on June 29th.

Check our website for more information if you have kiddos who need some fresh air!

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A NEW EXHIBIT ON JULY 4TH!

COME LEARN ABOUT CARLIN'S FOUNDING FATHERS AND HOW

THEY INFLUENCED CARLIN'S

GROWTH.

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