

A Very Brief History of the Salton Sea

WATER RESOURCE INSTITUTE

The Formation of the Salton Sea

Charles R. Rockwood

California Development Company



California Development Company
brings water to the desert.

Imperial Land Company
sells land to farmers.

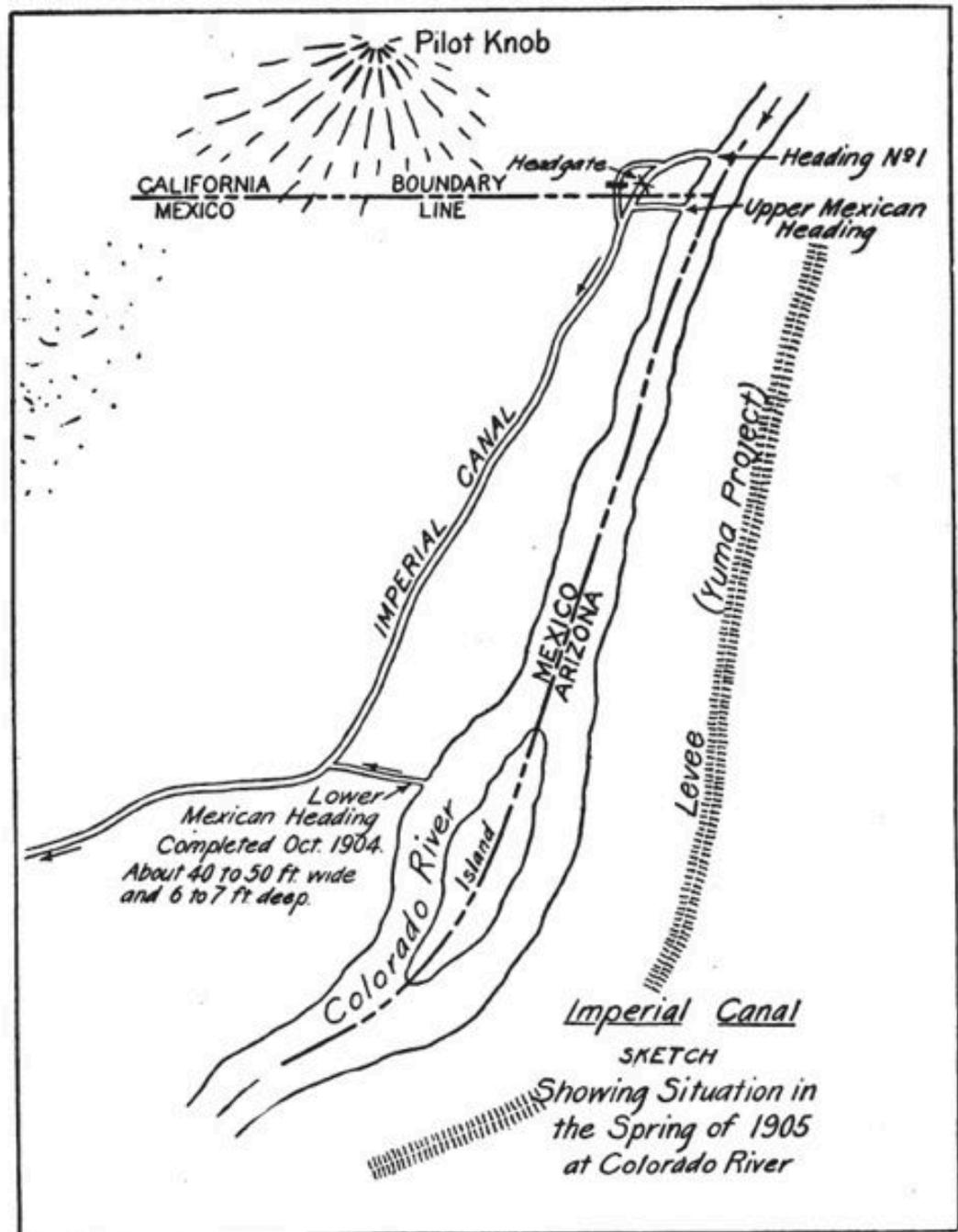
Imperial Valley Farming



Silt blocks original intake.

Unprotected cut made just below the border.

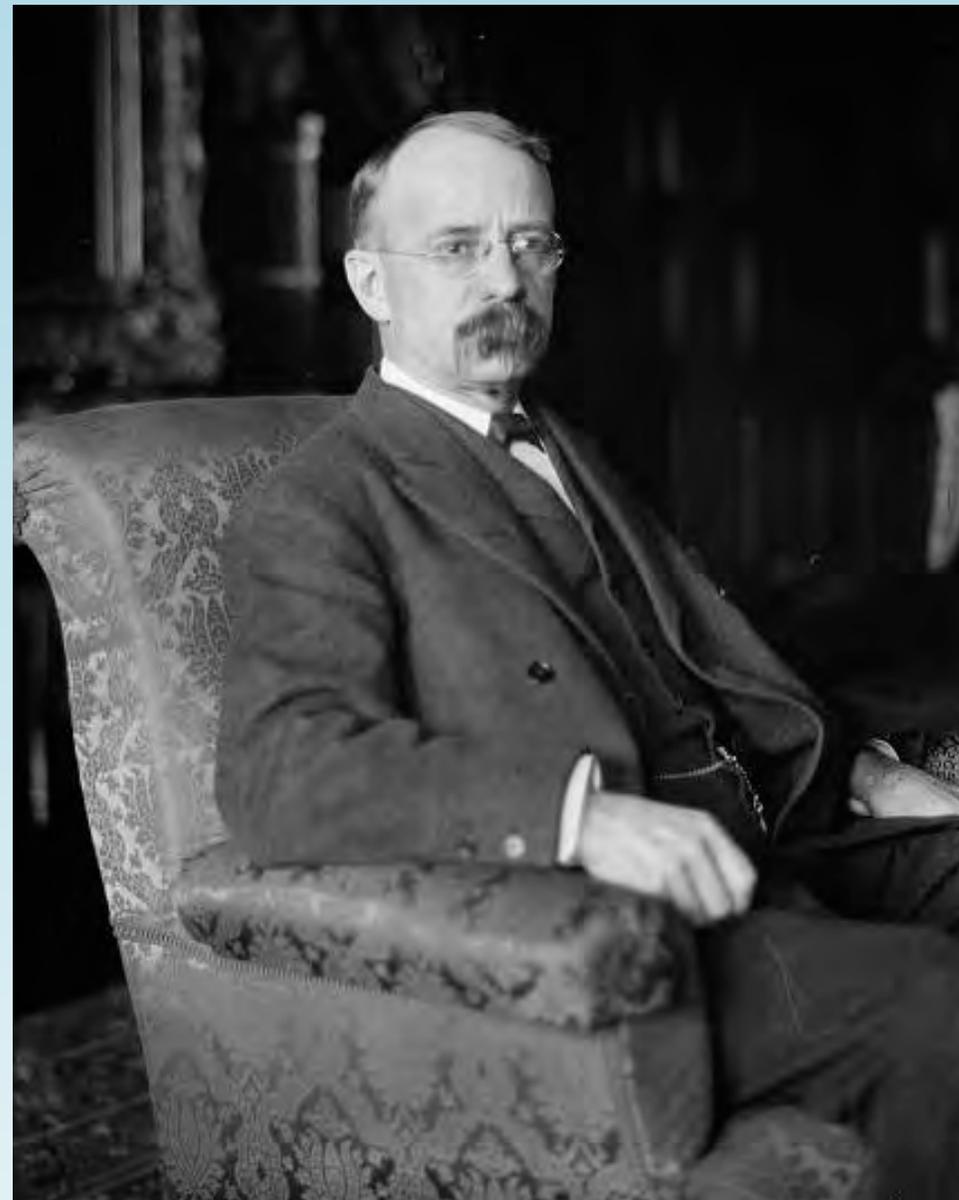
Additional unprotected cut made farther south.



The Three Headings (or Intakes), in Spring of 1905

E.H. Harriman

President,
Southern Pacific
Railroad Company



**Southern Pacific
spends millions
to control the
river**



The Pioneers

- Capt. Davis
- Gus Eiler
- Helen Burns

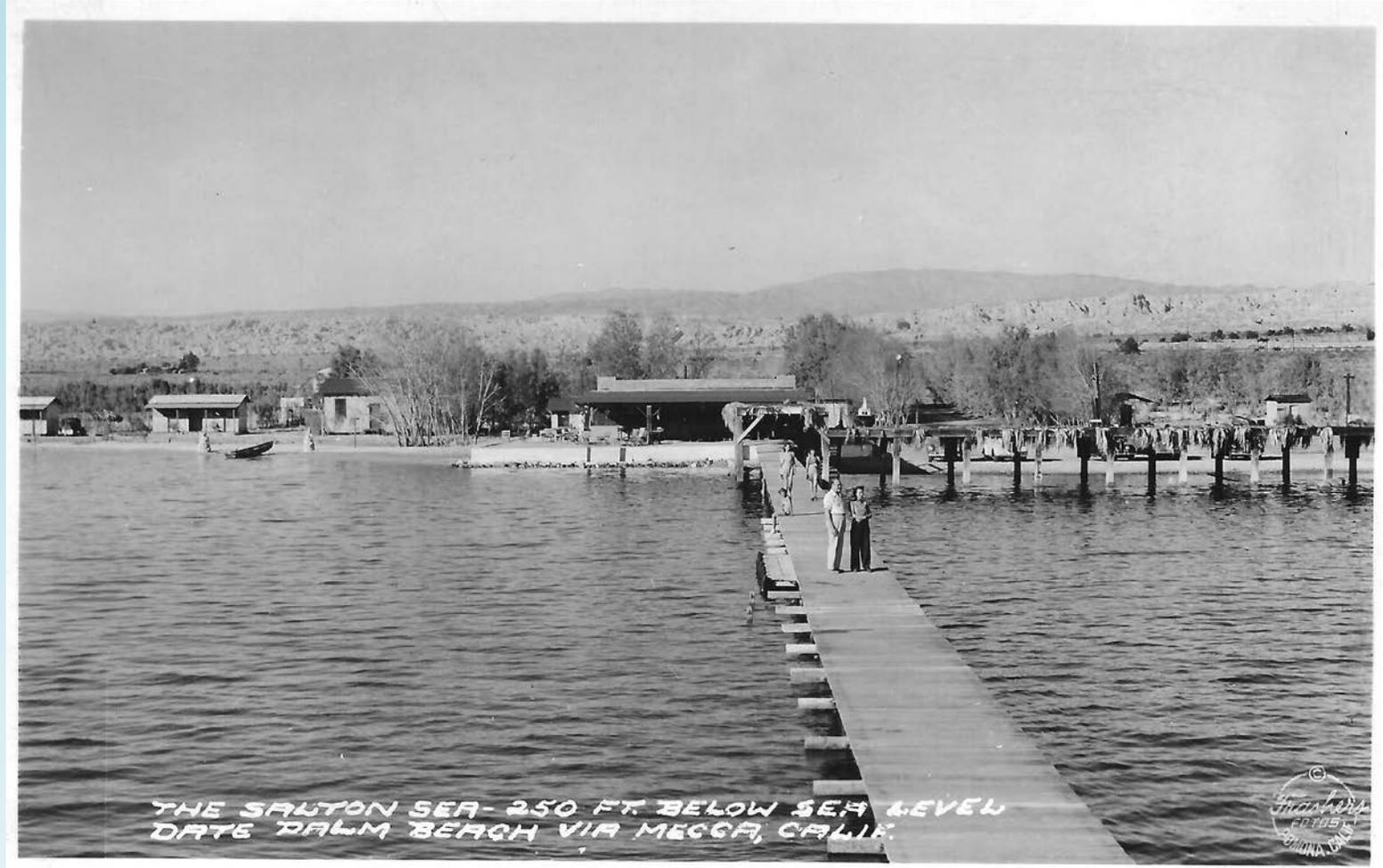
Captain Charles E. Davis



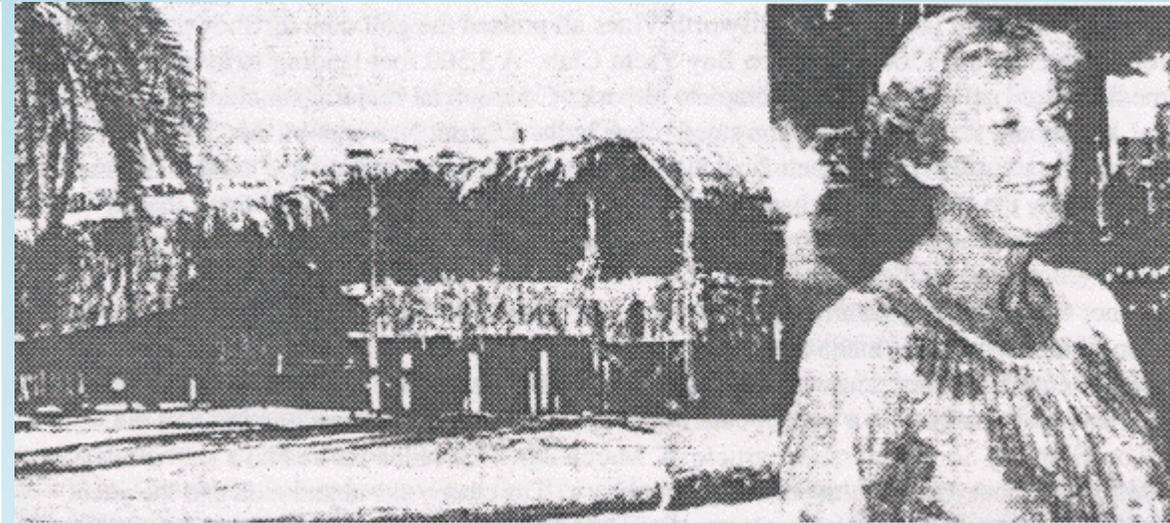
Hell's Kitchen, Mullett Island, Salton Sea, CA



Gus Eiler's, Date Palm Beach



Helen Burns, Salton Sea Beach



The War Years



Seaplane Operational Area, Salton Sea

Seaplane
Operational
Area,
Salton Sea
1939-1942

Date Palm
Beach Resort



Sandy Beach

Permanent Seaplane Base Site



Army Air Force Practices A Bomb Drops at the Salton Sea -1944/45.



Salton Sea Test Base (1946 – 1961)

- Army Manhattan District – Sandia Laboratory 1946
- Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) – Sandia Corporation 1947 – 1961



Salton Sea Facility taken over by NAF, El Centro in 1961 for parachute testing

- 1964 – U.S. Navel Aerospace Recovery Facility.
- 1973 – National Parachute Test Range
- 1979 - Parachute Testing Transferred to China Lake.

The Boom Times

- Real Estate Development
- The Yacht Clubs
- Water Sports
- Sport Fishing

North Shore Beach

- Yacht Club
- Motel
- Boat Landing/Marina
- Beach & Play Ground
- Landing Strip
- Proposed Real Estate Development

North Shore Beach Estates



NORTH SHORE BEACH ESTATES

RAY RYAN & TRAY ROGERS - OWNERS & DEVELOPERS

North Shore:

- * Beach
- * Yacht Club
- * Motel



2010



Salton Bay Yacht Club



Salton Bay Yacht Club - Salton City, California

South of Palm Springs, between Indio and El Centro via Highway 99



Salton Riviera (Salton City)

- 19,600 Acre Subdivision
- 260 Miles of fresh Water Lines
- 250 miles of Paved Roads
- Electrical & Sewer Service

Sales:

- 4.25 Million Dollars in Sales – 1958
- 32,000 Residential Units Sold between 1958 and 1964.



Salton City Today



Desert Shores:



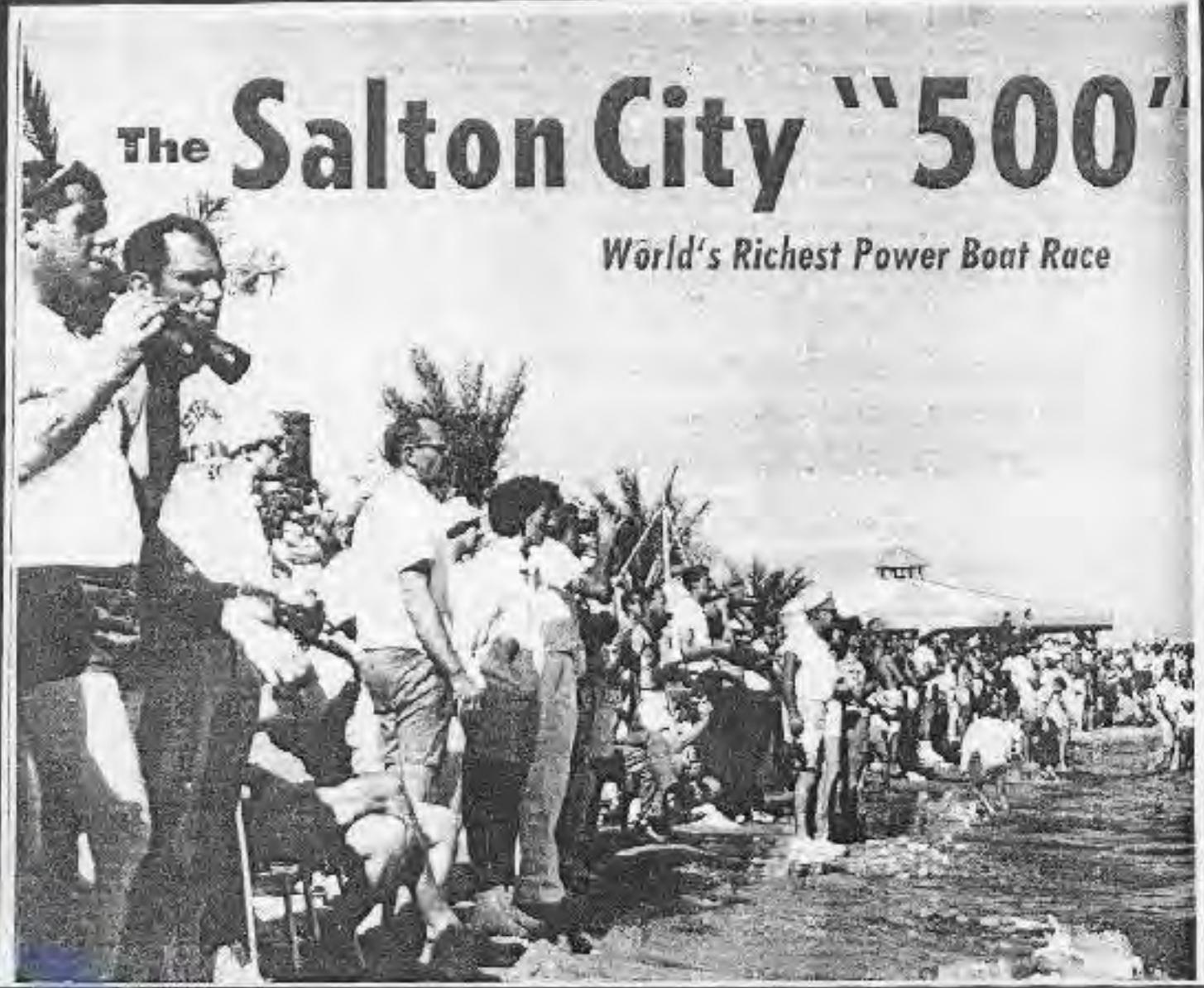


WELCOME
TO
BOMBAY BEACH

Water Sports at the Salton Sea

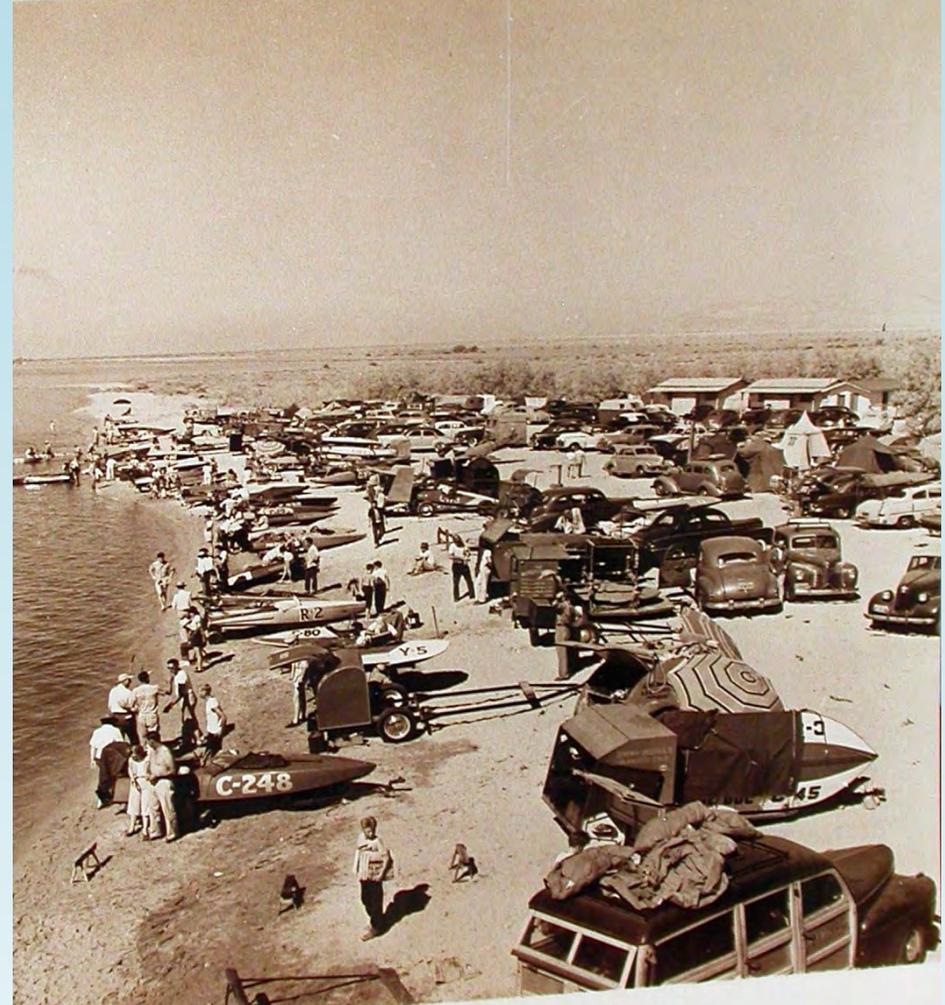


Boat Racing at the Salton Sea



PROGRAM

Boat Racing



Swimming & Picnicking at the Salton Sea



Boating



"The Harbor" DESERT BEACH on Salton Sea California E-4122



Water Skiing



Santa
skis
the
Salton
Sea



Fishing at the Salton Sea



**31+ Species of Fish introduced into the
Salton Sea in 1951**

**Only Corvina, Sargo, and Gulf Croaker
survived.**

Sport Fishing on the Salton Sea



The Bust Times:

- Floods
- Water quality declines.
- Sport fishing dies out.

Flooding

- Increased Irrigation
- Hurricanes/Tropical Storms:
 - Kathleen - 1976
 - Doreen - 1977

Flooding



**The Salton Sea
has never recovered from the
economic devastation
of the late 1970s.**



Thank You!

Sid Burks

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