

The catalysts

by A.D. Hopkins

With all the Boulder Dam pioneers who still live in, or have returned to Boulder City, two relative newcomers have been primary organizers of the city's 50th Anniversary celebration, and the new sense of history pervading the town.

Bob Ackerson, who formed the steering committee that got the ball rolling toward more than four years of commemorative events, has only lived in Boulder City for three years. And Angela Brooker, a historian working at the Boulder City Library to organize events for the anniversary, doesn't even live there.

"I don't think it's so strange," said Ackerson, a 45-year-old retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. "It's a young town, and a lot of the most active people haven't been here so long . . . I had been coming to Lake Mead for 20 years because my parents had a trailer there. I didn't come into town much, but I did decide to retire here."

Always a collector (stamps and coins), and the father of a collecting son (Big Little Books and comics), Ackerson opened a shop selling antiques and pop-culture collectibles. And as an after-



R4J photo by Scott Henry

Antique dealer Bob Ackerson is recent addition to Boulder City population, but primary organizer of city's historical society and projected museum.

tives from business, government, and the private sector. That group grew into the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association, and began evolving a celebration plan, beginning with the March 14 anniversary of Boulder City's founding, and ending on Sept. 30, 1985, anniversary of Hoo-

after the book, financed by the Humanities Committee, will be given away free at the Boulder City Library. With the help of the Nevada Historical Society and local educators, she is also designing a program to teach local history to Boulder's seventh-graders.