### **OUR LETTER BAG**

To the Editor of the Planet

If the man, who furnishes the brains for the town, and "Plain Facts" for the Leader, will publish the facts in his possession and sign his little name to them, I will answer them.

#### W.N. Monroe

To the Editor of the Planet:

"Observer," in the Leader a week ago. Takes the position that ministers should do nothing except to work for the small salary that their congratulations are able to give them. I am proud to be able to say that our minister have worked hard to establish homes for themselves and to aid in every way to build up Monrovia. Who has done more for the good of Monrovia than Revds. D.H. Colcord, J.H. Reider and William Stevenson? We are proud of them; yes, we love them for the good work they have done and are doing. Let "Observer" and his scribe attend our churches once in a while and they will be convinced that the good people of Monrovia love their ministers and are satisfied that they earn all they get. "Observer" assumes to dictate what a minister's duties are, and what he should do to earn his money, and yet "Observer" is one of those who neither attend church nor give a cent towards the support of a minister! Now, "Observer" speaks of ministers sneaking around real estate offices and taking advantage of what is going on. My office was the one referred to. My friends all know that my office and my house have been, and are, always open to all my friends and to all the friends of Monrovia, and anyone can, at any time, obtain any desired information by asking, if it is in my power to give it. No less than fourteen ministers have, so far, invested in Monrovia, and all of them are among our best men. God made this country; he also made the ministers; and none has a better right to own some of this rich land and glorious climate than our ministers. If "Observer" will attend church his observations will be much better in the future. The businessmen of Monrovia donated the money to start the Leader, for the advertisement and upbuilding of Monrovia, and our ministers have sent away more papers to eastern friends than anyone else. Let "Observer" size up the people who associate with and help to support the ministers and then see if he would not like to be one of them

The Dr, Graves article in the Leader was not what the doctor's friends expected. Mostof the Monrovia people know how hard he labored to help build up the church here. His son bought out the office of one of the properties of the Leader and it would have been no more than courtesy had the proprietor of the Leader given the young man a fair "send off" after he bought the office.

W.N. Monroe

There is a good prospect that Southern California will have a better mail service beginning with the new year. It certainly is time. The post offices in this section return large revenue to the government, while the amount paid out for assistants in the post office is very meager. Representative Vandever, in response to his request for increased postal facilities, has received a communication from the Postmaster General saying that the business of the Los Angeles office has been adjusted on a basis of the receipts for the year ending October 1<sup>st</sup> to take effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and that an examination is now being made to fix clerk hire and lights for the winter months. This means a better service for all places in this county, as all mail matter is received and distributed at Los Angeles. Now if we could only be taken off the "star route" we would be happy. Just think of a city being kept on the star route.

We see that the Long Beach, Whittier & Los Angeles Railroad has filed articles of incorporation. The directors are Leland Stanford, Charles F. Crocker and other prominent Southern Pacific stockholders. As these gentlemen are at the head of it there is no doubt that it will be built. The road will run from Whittier to log Beach. There is a probability that a road will connect with this line at Whittier from Monrovia. There was considerable talk of it a while ago, and a meeting held of gentlemen interested. It would be a grand thing for this city should this line be constructed.

## **CITY TRUSTEES**

A meeting of the City Trustees was held on Wednesday afternoon. All the members of the board were present but Trustee Myers.

Four ordinances were passed. The one, which the people are particularly interested in, is the "saloon" ordinance, as follows:

SECTION 1. It shall be, and it is hereby made unlawful. For any person or persons, either as owner, principal, agent, servant or employee to establish, open keep, maintain or carry on, within the corporate limits of the city of Monrovia, any tippling house, dram shop, cellar, saloon, bar room, sample room or other place where spirits, vinous, malt or mixed liquors are sold or given away, or any bawdy house, gambling room or other place of indecent or immoral character; or any slaughter house, powder house, or other place dangerous to the public health or safety of the inhabitants of said city; provided, that the prohibitions of this ordinance shall not apply to the sale of liquors for medical purposes by a regular licensed druggist upon the prescription of a physician entitled to practice medicine under the laws of the State of California; nor shall such prohibitions apply to the sale of such liquors for chemical or mechanical purposes.

SECTION 2. Any act in violation of this ordinance, for each day of its continuance, shall be constructed as a separate offence. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding three months, or by fine, not exceeding three hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

E.W. Little, city attorney, was appointed to examine the sewerage system of pasadena and report at the next meeting.

The mayor was appointed to make arrangements for special police.

The meeting adjourned to meet again next Wednesday.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page Column Identification No. 12241887 – 71

On Tuesday afternoon some debris was set on fire at the rear of the Badeau block. About 2 o'clock in the morning a wind sprung up and scattered the burning embers around so that the block was endanger of catching fire. J.C. Morris luckily saw how affairs stood and succeeded in putting it out or we might have had several buildings less in the city the following morning.

Under new freight rates canned goods of every variety will be shipped east at one dollar per one hundred pounds.

# STEALING ORANGES

Fruit growers in Duarte have suffered greatly at the hands of thieves of late. People go along the road and help themselves to oranges in some cases carrying them away in sacks. This is not right. You might as well put your hand in the fruit grower's pocket and take his money as steal his fruit. It amounts to the same thing. A Fruit Grower's Union has been formed and a effort will be made to have some of the miscreants arrested and convicted. Many of the orchards are now guarded and it will not be safe to enter them unlawfully.

# BORN

Wilde – at Monrovia on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant to the wife of L.J. Wilde a son.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 3 Column 4 Identification No. 12241887 – 64

A regular old-fashioned dinner will be given at the Monrovia Hotel on Christmas Day. The bill of fare will include turkey, chicken, plum pudding, mince and pumpkin pies etc.

## DEATH OF "UNCLE BILLY" MONORE

One of Monrovia's oldest and most respected citizens W.M. Monroe departed this life and has been taken to a better home. He was known by everybody as "uncle Billy." He was 76 years of age and apparently hale and hearty. For the past 2 and a half years he has been employed carrying the mail: first between Duarte and San Gabriel and the past year in Monrovia between the post office and railway. He was a cousin on Mayor Monroe's father, was a pillar in the Baptist church and beloved by everyone who knew him. Many a time did the editor enjoy a ride with Uncle Billy from San Gabriel to Duarte. He was good natured and jovial and had a good word for everyone.

He was taken ill on Saturday last. His trouble being heart disease. Dr. Stewart was called but saw that his patient could not live long and informed his friends so. He died early Wednesday morning. The funeral services were held in the Baptist church on Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock and the remains interred in Live Oak Cemetery.

# TO OUR PATRONS

On and after January first Johnson & Parker will conduct their business on strictly cash principles. A reason for this can be summed up in a few words that upon a cash basis goods can be sold much closer and at a less profit which will be of a decided benefit not only to the purchaser but also to the seller for any reasonable person can readily perceive that goods for which you receive cash can be bought for the same at a much reduced rate than if you had to wait for same an unreasonable length of time.

In presenting the above to the public we intend to treat everybody alike. We shall be no respecters of persons in this matter and we sincerely believe that it is the best method of doing business and we cannot help but think that you will agree with us. We have come here to stay with you and we hope that most if not all of our patrons have also.

For your past favors we sincerely thank you and we hope to continue the same mutual feeling and patronage but only on a cash basis.

Respectfully yours, Johnson & Parker.

A party consisting of C.A. Campbell, L.J. Wild, M.S. Monroe, G.R. Pierson. Fred Lane, E.R. Pirtle, G.O. Monroe, Ira Lingofelt and Walter Monroe, will leave on Monday for a hunting trip down the coast about 75 miles. They will be gone about a week.

J. W. Robinson, of the noted Boston store, Los Angeles, will open a dry goods store in Monrovia upon the completion of the Spence block, on Myrtle Avenue. He says he will put in as well a selected stock as he has in the Boston, which is saying a good deal.

# **NEW YEAR'S CALLS**

The gentlemen of Monrovia are thinking of making New Year's calls this year. But they do not know if the ladies intend receiving and wish the *Planet* to call the attention of the ladies to the matter. We will publish a list next week of the ladies who intend to receive. The names should be sent in no later than 3 o'clock on Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>. If the ladies will be kind enough to send in their names it will confer a favor upon the gentlemen. If you are to receive with any other lady at her residence please mention the fact of course. Monday will be the proper day.

A new bakery will shortly be opened on Myrtle Avenue by H. Zerell.

It is not often that we are favored with as good a temperance lecture as that given by Dr. Goodwin, who spoke in Barnes' hall last Saturday evening. After the close of the lecture a temperance league was formed, with the following officers:

President – W.C. Badeau First Vive President – Oliver Smith Second Vice President – Mrs. Griffith Treasurer – L. Barnes

J. M. Studebaker was to have arrived here last Tuesday or Wednesday but the death of his brother compelled him to return from La Junta. He will be here later.

By advertisement on the first page it will been seen that A.W. Holtzkom of Greenville, Illinois, has opened a Harness shop on Orange Avenue. First door west of the First National Bank building. He announces that he will keep in stock everything in the harness line.

A new barbershop has been opened on Myrtle Avenue.

Monrovia has a new tailor shop.

Another plumbing shop will be opened soon.

An accident occurred to Miss. Little at the depot Tuesday evening, just after the arrival of the train. As usual, everything was darkness around the platform. The lady stepped down from the car to the platform as she thought, but there was no platform there and she slipped and fell on her hand dislocating the wrist. She was also thrown on the track across the rails. If the train had been in motion the lady would surely have been killed. Let there be more light.

If the California Central Railway people understood their interests at this point they would place lights around their depot so that passengers would not be in danger of breaking their limbs in getting on and off trains after dark.

Frank Wright, who has carried on a successful carriage business in Pasadena for some time is going to open a branch in Monrovia in a new building which has been commenced at the corner of Walnut and Myrtle Avenue.

The names of the streets of the city should be put up at the corners.

A fractious gasoline stove took fire at the Bazaar Wednesday. Not much damage.

We were shown some very fine views in and around Monrovia made by best and Baldwin, the photographers

Dr. G. R. Walworth, dentist, recently from Ohio, has his office at present with Dr. George until his new rooms are completed. He would be pleased to see anyone wishing work done in his line.

E.W. Little, city attorney was appointed to examine the sewerage system of Pasadena and report at the next city trustee meeting.

At last Monrovia has secured recognition from the powers that be in Sacramento E.W. Little whose appointment of Notary Public was solicited some time ago by both our banks and all our real estate brokers. Together with many other citizens in the different walks of business has been commissioned and our city will have a notary as soon as it is practicable for him to qualify as required by law.

The policy of limiting by legislative dictation the number of notaries to be appointed in each county of the state is one that does our law makers little credit and the bestowal upon residents of Los Angeles of nearly all of the few appointments allotted to our county was a gross abuse of power by former governors — one we are glad to say which the present republican executive is correcting as fast as he can. Mr. Little's appointment would have been made long ago if there had occurred an available vacancy.

It is amusing and exciting for even an old resident to drive in company with new comers. Take for instance, a party of intelligent ladies or gentlemen from the northern states who have been hurled from the frozen fields of that bleak district down into our mellow sunshine within a few hours. They cannot control their emotions; the continuous surprises in the countless species of topical vegetation are sure to charm and our fashionable friends casting aside their dignity, become as clamorous as children. They behold the century plant with its enormous sabres and towering spike; the palm and palmetto; the tree cactus and arbors of trained cypress; and while passing the shady homes of the contented people the astonished visitors are brought to silence a the sight of the blooming roses, geraniums and calla lilies, and pampas plumes. Stately rows of bananas fence the avenues on either side, waving their fringy forms to the fragrant December breeze. We reach the orange grove. Every tree is in line, trimmed to perfect symmetry and laden with its golden globes, all gleaming forth from the lustrous green like planets from a deeply colored sky.

"What a wonderful winter picture!"

The carriage no longer contains the new comers. They are out and gone, each rushing forward to pick his first orange. Eagerly they snatch one each and return with a look of contentment, willing to pay a dollar for the privilege they have taken and the satisfaction they feel in the possession of their first orange thus obtained.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6 Page 1 Column

Identification No. 12241887 – 5

As we said before a fire department is a necessity in Monrovia. The attention of the city fathers is called to the fact.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page Column Identification No. 12241887 – 7

Saloon men of Los Angles want to bribe the city fathers of Pasadena. They say if they are granted the privilege of starting a saloon there they will pay a sum of \$50,000 for a 5 years permit. There must be money in the business.

A Budget of Questions – Such as are Commonly Asked by Intelligent Eastern People, Answered by a Practical and Observing Citizen of Monrovia

Q – How old is Monrovia, where situated and what railroads have you?

A – Monrovia is a "Yearling." The first lot on the site of the town was sold on May 17, 1886. It is situated in the famous San Gabriel Valley, on the Santa Fe route from Kansas City to Los Angeles, being seventeen miles from the latter place. Monrovia is also the terminus of the Rapid Transit Railway running from Los Angeles to this point, the grading of which is now almost completed. We have also every assurance that the Southern Pacific line will within a few months, be in operation within our corporate lines.

Q. – What is the altitude of Monrovia; is it healthy?

A. – The center of the town is about 1200 feet above sea level. The location of the site is on a naturally drained plateau at the base of the Sierra Madre range and we have its protection on the north from cold winds and yet have full benefit of the southern and western breeze from the ocean, distant about thirty miles. Strange as it may seem to you there is not sufficient frost during the winter months to blast the most delicate of plants. We doubt that the world can produce a more equable climate or one more conducive to good health. It is a notable fact that native Californians have but little use for doctors.

Q. – What depth do you go for water and is it good?

A. – We do not go down for water but on the contrary go up for it. A short distance north and about 250 feet above the town, at the mouth of the Saw Pit Canyon is an immense concrete reservoir containing the supply, which is drawn from a mountain stream. Very few, if any, softer, colder streams are to be found. By the use of ordinary soap the water is easily brought to a suds without heating and it is free from objectionable substances. The pressure is equal to that of any stand pipe system and less expensive – the water being already elevated. It should be especially borne in mind that no one person, company or corporation controls our water system; but it is the property of the people, deeded with the lots and the purchaser is forever free from water taxes, other than the repairing of pipes which will not exceed 75 cents a year per lot.

Q. – What are the productions of the San Gabriel Valley? Does everything have to be irrigated?

A. – Oranges, lemons, limes, figs, apricots, grapes, peaches, and pears comprise the leading fruit productions, though all the small fruits do well.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 1 Column Identification No. 12241887 – 2

A Budget of Questions – Such as are Commonly Asked by Intelligent Eastern People, Answered by a Practical and Observing Citizen of Monrovia - Continued

Bee keeping is a favorite and profitable business and the "bee ranches" are seen along the foothills. The honey product for 1884 exceeded 8000 tons.

Wheat, corn, oats, barley and alfalfa clover are grown in the valley where the land is moist. Stock is supported and fattened on the great forage during the entire year.

Gardening seems to be in his hands of the Chinese who make it a special business. They grow and deliver at the door nearly every garden product, including strawberries, the year round.

The citrus fruits, also vegetables require irrigation. Nearly all the other products grow well without. The cereals are never irrigated.

Q. – What is the cost of living?

A. – About the same as in the east. Coal and wood are high, but little needed. Oil and gasoline are largely used for cooking and make cheap fuel.

Flour, meats and groceries are sold at reasonable prices. Fruits and vegetables are cheap.

Q. – What is the population of Monrovia?

A. - Nearly 200 and rapidly growing.

Q. – Is the society good?

A. – Yes. It is made up principally of an intelligent, industrious eastern and southern people.

Q. – What churches have you?

A. – Methodist, Baptist and Congregational.

Q. – Are your schools good?

A. – The schools are in charge of an experienced corps of teachers in a building that cost \$18,000.

Q. – I am satisfied that your winters are beautiful. How are the summers?

A Budget of Questions – Such as are Commonly Asked by Intelligent Eastern People, Answered by a Practical and Observing Citizen of Monrovia - Continued

A. - The summer heat is not oppressive; sunstroke is unknown. The thermometer indicates from 76 to 96 degrees above zero, but 96 degrees here is not so severe as 76 degrees would be in the eastern states. The sultry nights so common there are unknown here. Our nights are invariably cool --- the thermometer running from 66 to 76 degrees – and a nights lodging means a nights rest, without the aid of a fan.

Yes, the dust is annoying during the summer months, but only then and the wind is seldom-strong enough to raise it. Foothill towns are never muddy.

Insects are less numerous than in the east. Mosquitoes rarely appear. Flies do not bother horses and bed bugs are unheard of. To be sure we have the tarantulas and centipede but they, like wild beasts remain in wild places.

Q. - Is there any wild game? Any pastime for pleasure seekers?

A. – In the valleys are found the jack-rabbit, quail and duck and the mountains are a dwelling place for bear, deer and mountain lions, coyotes, squirrels and pigeons. The mountain streams contain their millions of spotted trout. The north and south avenues of Monrovia run into the base of the Sierra Madre Mountains. A few minutes walk takes the lover of nature into a wild and lonely canyon where he may lift his eyes to granite walls and cascades that will incite him to go on and on into the solitude where the rays of the noonday sun are subdued to a twilight.

WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM

A man named Alexander was found lying alongside the road near Azusa with his throat cut. He was taken to the country hospital.

The Planet will contain an interesting article next week, which is now almost prepared. It will give a list of all the new buildings erected during the year 1887 and their cost as near as possible. It will be a good issue to mail to your friends in the east, showing them the progress of the town in one year. There have been a large number of buildings erected and their total cost will foot up into the hundreds and thousands. Our building boom is different from the one we read of the other day wherein the newspaper was blowing because 4 new buildings had been erected during the year.

The mayor was appointed to make arrangements for special police.

J. H. Hargrave has commenced his store on Olive Avenue.

A cement sidewalk is being laid in front of the Granite Bank building.

Captain William Smith has some good bargains in city lots and acre property.

Blue grass seed, fancy clean at Chappelow's Nursery or of Smith & Morton, Myrtle Avenue, Monrovia.

M.S. Monroe is having cement sidewalks laid in front of his handsome residence on Banana Avenue.

Popular prices in fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery and plant at Chappelow's Smith and Morton agents.

A shoe shop is to be opened in one of the new stores on Myrtle Avenue adjoining the Monrovia Hotel.

It is wonderful. The number of new businesses, houses that are opening up almost every day in this city.

A change will be made in the real estate firm of Monroe and Son at the beginning of the New Year.

The appointment of E.W. Little as notary public is an excellent one. The citizens of Monrovia are to be congratulated.

Ye editor and family will go to Los Angeles for Christmas dinner and attend a meeting of the remnant of the Harvey Clan.

The *Planet* would like to have several hundred more new faces around its journalistic fireside cannot each one of our subscribers send us a new one to open the new year with?

Marshall Tom Herbert is ill.

Mrs. S.E. Russell of Duarte is ill.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 3 Column 2 Identification No. 12241887 – 40

Captain Oglesby and wife have returned from their trip to Texas.

George P. Bates of Topeka, Kansas, and wife are on their way to Monrovia.

A.G. Miller and family are settled in their new home, corner of White Oak and Magnolia Avenues.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 3 Column 2 Identification No. 12241887 – 43

J. H. Bartle and wife this week moved into J. Patten's new brick house, corner of Whit Oak and Magnolia Avenues.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 3 Column 2 Identification No. 12241887 – 44

Joh Lessenech of Lemars, Iowa, is in Monrovia at present and will spend the winter in Southern California. He owns some valuable property in this city.

Sammy Wilson is spending Christmas vacation at his home in Duarte. He has been attending the Baptist College at Los Angeles.

Lyman Naugle, ex-editor of the Irrigator, Garden City, Kansas, and Mr. Dix, a builder, also from the windy state, were in the city on Thursday. Looking over the "Gem" visiting their friends the chess brothers and eating oranges. Mr. Dix will locate in Monrovia and assist J. A. Case in the construction of their many buildings he has under contract. Mr. Naugle is looking up a location to establish a newspaper.

## THE SYNDICATE

The above is the title of the company who have purchased the office of the Venderink Improvement Company on Myrtle Avenue. They will commence business on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January their business will be real estate commission negotiation of loans, subdivision large tracts, building houses for sale and rent and insurance. The syndicate will be under the management of L.T. Graves son of Dr. Graves. The company is going to spend a lot of money in Monrovia and expect to build up a large and permanent business here the *Planet* be speaks for them a large measure of success.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6

Page 3 Column 3 Identification No. 12241887 – 52

The Duarte school gave an entertainment in the church last evening, a report of which we were unable to get this morning. There was an excellent program and the young folks acquitted themselves creditably.

Read J.B. Nichol's ad this week. He is selling lace curtains, portiers and \_\_\_\_ at eastern prices. He will also sell you Brusells carpets, sew, line and lay it for 85 cents per yard. He has a fine stock.

The editor of the Planet received a present of a fan palm and an ailanthus shade tree from R.H. Wilson, of the Pioneer Nursery, one day this week, for which thanks are returned.

Monrovia Planet, December 24, 1887 Volume 2, No. 6 Page 3 Column 3

Identification No. 12241887 – 55

R. White will open a furniture business in Spence's block as soon as it is completed.

The stock is being placed in Jay & Hotchkiss' new drug store in Monroe & Son's block.

A social will be held in the Methodist church on Monday evening next. Everybody is welcome. No admission fee.

From \$5,000 to \$10,000 loan on good security. Apply to A.C. Thomson, Monrovia Hotel.

B.F. Coulter, Los Angeles, will preach Sunday morning and evening in Barnes' hall.

Stamping done for embroidery, on Lime Avenue, second door west of the Belmont.

## THE PIONEER NURSERY

A Planet representative had the pleasure of looking through the hothouse and nursery of R.H. Wilson on Thursday. Mr. Wilson is the pioneer nurseryman of Duarte, having commenced the business about eleven years ago, therefore he is well up in its various branches, as may be seen by a visit to the place. He has recently set aside ten acres of land, which he will devote exclusively to the propagation of fruit trees, shrubs and flowers. He has now in stock 5,000 pepper trees one year old, 20,000 tow-year old bearing fruit trees of different kinds, a few hundred choice Washington Navel orange trees, various kinds of palms and rose bushes, besides a large selection of deciduous shade trees, such as sugar maple, slippery elm, ailanthus, red bud and others. The large hot house id tastefully arranged and is filled with thousands of young plants of different kinds, which we could not begin to name. The nursery is situated at the corner of Buena Vista and San Gabriel Avenues. Those who are in need of anything to make their homes beautiful should not fail to give the Pioneer Nursery a call. Mr. Wilson will open a depot in Monrovia to be under the charge of Albert Robbins, on Orange Avenue.

## DEATH OF REV. CHARLES SHELLING

Rev. Charles Shelling died at Alhambra last Saturday evening after a protracted illness. Mr. Shelling was for many years a prominent member of the Brooklyn, New York, Methodist clergy after removing to California. He was stationed at Los Angles but after a short time was superannuated and he went to live at Alhambra when Monrovia was first laid out. Mr. Shelling interested himself in organizing a Methodist church here and was largely instrumental in the erection of the beautiful church. For about a year he preached in the hall every alternate Sunday. Mr. Shelling was considerable of an orator a kind pastor and counselor and dearly beloved by all who knew him. He was suffering for years from rheumatism, his last illness being rheumatic fever. His remains were interred at Evergreen Cemetery Alhambra on Tuesday.

Send in your orders for New Year's calling cards as early as possible.

The Los Angeles world contains these truths: There would have been no Monrovia had there been no W.N. Monroe. He is one of the most energetic liberal-hearted men in Southern California. If all the people he has given a friendly lift were together they would make a good sized army.