

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

from

A HISTORY
of
CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles and Environs

Volume III

HISTORIC RECORD COMPANY

Los Angeles
1915

HERBERT JOHNSTON EVANS

One of the prominent citizens of Monrovia is H.J. Evans, dealer in real estate and insurance, interested in oil lands especially, and closely associated with municipal affairs in the beautiful little city at the foothills.

Mr. Evans is a native of London, England, having been born there November 8, 1869, the son of Edward J. and Caroline (Taylor) Evans. His education was received at Vermont College, Lower Champton, London, and at the age of fifteen he entered the law office of E.H. Burkett, of Curriers Hall, 6 London Wall, in London. Three years later he left there to enter the shipping offices of Hopcraft & Broadwater, of Frenchchurch avenue, London, where he continued until 1891. At that time he left England and came to the United States, locating at Muskogee, Indian Territory (now the state of Oklahoma), where he was bookkeeper for J.A. Patterson & Co., general merchants, which firm was later incorporated under the name of the Patterson Mercantile Company. Here he remained for nine years, and in 1900 removed to New Mexico on account of ill health. In 1901 he went to Denver, Colo., and from there in 1905 he came to Monrovia, Cal., and ever since has made his home here.

Mr. Evans became heavily interested in real estate in Oklahoma, and still retains his interests there, besides which he has valuable holdings in Monrovia, all of which investments show rare judgment and foresight.

Since coming to Monrovia Mr. Evans has been prominently associated in the various municipal activities, and is recognized as a man of public spirit and wide awake to all questions of civic betterment and social progress. He was a member of the board of city trustees from 1908 to 1910, was re-elected in 1910 for a term of four years and is now serving as president of the board. He is also prominent in fraternal circles and served as grand master of the grand council of Royal and Select Masters of Oklahoma in 1902-03; as grand high priest of the grand chapter of the Royal Arch Masons in 1903-04; as grand commander of the grand commandery of Oklahoma (then Indian Territory) in 1903-04; also he is a member of the Granite Club of Monrovia, of the B.P.O.E. of Muskogee, Okla. He is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine.

The marriage of Mr. Evans took place in Muskogee, Okla., on September 5, 1894, uniting him with Miss Jane Louise Berry. Both Mr. and Mrs. Evans are popular with a wide circle of friends in Monrovia. They are members of the Episcopal church.

HABEN HOSPITAL

This modern and fully equipped hospital was established by the Haben sisters--three in number--at Monrovia in the fall of 1912. The sisters are all trained nurses and were well prepared for such an undertaking before they formed their plans. Miss Sophia Haben is a graduate of the Clara Barton Hospital in Los Angeles, class of 1909; Miss Mamie Haben is a graduate of the Los Angeles County Hospital, class of 1912; and Miss Lillian Haben is a trained nurse having received her instruction and training in Los Angeles hospitals, but not completing her course for graduation.

The hospital, which is modern in every respect and fully equipped with the latest appliances of science in every department and detail, was started from a very modest beginning, and has grown to its splendid proportions with almost phenomenal rapidity. It was first opened in a small five-room cottage on Olive avenue and soon grew to such proportions that larger quarters were necessary. A lot on the corner of Heliotrope and Lime avenues was purchased, and a modern fifteen-room hospital building was erected in May, 1913, less than a year after the opening of the first institution. Here may be found all the latest in surgical appliances, and the most sanitary conditions are maintained. There are high pressure sterilizing appliances for water, dressings and instruments, and the operating rooms are designed on the very latest lines and fitted with the newest products of science.

Miss Sophia Haben has made a specialty of surgical nursing, and held the position of special surgical nurse at the Clara Barton Hospital for some time and it was under her direct supervision that the new building was designed and erected.

The sisters deserve much credit for the establishment of such an institution, and their splendid success is a tribute to their ability and also to the confidence and esteem in which they are held by the people of the community. They are all natives of Los Angeles, and have grown to womanhood in this county. They have been especially happy in their selection of a site for their hospital and their work of healing is greatly aided by the bounty of nature. Their location is especially suited for hospital purposes--it is high and dry, being one thousand feet above sea level, and is surrounded by orange groves, flowers to rest the eye, and fresh air and quiet to soothe tired and fretted nerves. They make a specialty of surgical cases, and of cases where a rest cure is required, their broad verandas are designed for such.

The Haben Hospital is the pioneer hospital of Monrovia, there being no similar institution nearer than Pomona. The sisters take pardonable pride in their establishment and are especially careful to keep abreast of the progressive times in the matter of new and modern equipment and appliances.

CAPT. ALBERT H. JOHNSON

One of the prominent citizens of the beautiful little city of Monrovia is Capt. Albert H. Johnson, who has been a resident of that vicinity since 1887, and during all that time has been closely associated with the activities of the community and a prominent figure in the municipal life of the city. Progressive and wide awake to the best interests of the general public, he has served the people in various offices of responsibility and trust, and has always won the respect and confidence of his constituency by the character and quality of his service.

Captain Johnson is a native of New York state, having been born on a farm near Weathersfield, Wyoming county, April 23, 1836. When he was a lad of twelve years the family removed to Wisconsin, where they thereafter made their home. When he was still quite young Captain Johnson worked on the railroad in his home state, and also in Illinois and Iowa. Later, in Colorado, he was employed in the mines at Leadville, from 1860 to 1863. The call for volunteers in 1863 found him anxious to serve his country, and returning to Iowa he enlisted in the Seventh Iowa Cavalry, at Fort Dodge. He received several promotions within a short time for gallant service, being first made sergeant, in the spring of 1864 regimental commissary sergeant, and a little later in the same spring he rose to the rank of captain. After the close of the war Captain Johnson returned to his former occupation in railroad work. He took an extensive contract for the supplying of ties and lumber for the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad and also for the Northern Pacific at a later period.

It was in 1887 the Captain Johnson came to Monrovia to make his permanent home, and since that time he has resided there. He is a prominent factor in the life of the little city, and is recognized as one of its leading citizens. He has for many years been a director of the First National Bank of Monrovia and also the Monrovia Saving Bank. He has served on the board of the town trustees for a long period, and for one term was chairman (mayor) of the board.

Captain Johnson was one of the earliest orange growers of the section. Buying a tract of twenty-two acres and planting it to orange trees, he built a home and otherwise improved the property, this continuing to be the family home for many years until it was sold in 1910. At present he owns several valuable tracts of land near Monrovia which he purchased at an early date, paying merely a nominal price, and which are constantly increasing in value.

The marriage of Captain Johnson took place at Fort Dodge, Iowa, February 7, 1872, uniting him with Miss Lavinia Dwelle. They became the parents of four daughters, all of whom are now deceased. Both Captain and Mrs. Johnson are prominent members of society in Monrovia, where they have many warm friends. Mrs. Johnson is an active worker in the Episcopal Church in Monrovia and is a member of several well-known societies and clubs, being president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Saturday Afternoon Club. Captain Johnson is past commander of Stanton Post No. 55, G.A.R., and is a Royal Arch Mason, Knight Templar, a member of the Scottish Rite and of the Shrine. Mrs. Johnson is also a member of the Eastern Star and Stanton Post Relief Corps of Los Angeles. In politics Captain Johnson is a Republican, but is an independent thinker and a true progressive.

DR. FRANCIS MARION POTTENGER

As the first ethical physician on the Pacific coast to limit his work to the study and treatment of tuberculosis, Dr. Francis Marion Pottenger has been a pioneer in a field where he has been able to render invaluable aid to suffering humanity, and has blazed the way for splendid work in the study, prevention and cure of this terrible scourge, the white plague. His training in the beginning was along broad lines of general practice, with an avowed intention to specialize in obstetrics and the diseases of children, but the death of his first wife from tuberculosis caused him to awaken to the crying needs in this line, and he determined to make this his life work. As a part of this work he opened at Monrovia, in 1903, the Pottenger Sanatorium for Diseases of the Lungs and Throat, and is there working faithfully to master this dread disease. The institution has grown from a very small beginning, at the time of its establishment having accommodations for only eleven patients and now housing one hundred. The Pottenger Sanatorium is known throughout the world as one of the most successful of its kind. Dr. Pottenger has literally lived with his patients at the sanatorium and by his close association he learned to know them and their peculiar needs, and, being an original observer, has been able to add many new facts to the knowledge of this disease.

Dr. Pottenger was born at Sater, Ohio, September 27, 1869. His father, Thomas Pottenger, was also a native of that place, born February 16, 1840, while his mother was Miss Hannah Ellen Sater. His father attended public schools of his native city and later engaged in farming, until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Ohio Infantry, on the one hundred day service, and then returned to Sater and again engaged in farming. He remained there until 1904, when he disposed of his interests and came to California, locating at Monrovia, where he has since lived in quiet retirement. Francis Marion Pottenger also attended the public schools of Sater until he was sixteen years of age, when he entered the preparatory department of the Otterbein University, of Westerville, Ohio, attending during 1886-88. He then entered the collegiate department of Otterbein, graduating in 1892 with the degree of Ph.B. In 1907 he obtained the degree of A.M., and in 1909 was awarded the honorary degree of LL.D. Following his graduation from Otterbein he matriculated at the Medical College of Ohio, where he attended for a year, following this with another year at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, where he received his degree of M.D., graduating with the highest honors of his class and winning the first gold medal.

On April 5, 1894, two days after his graduation, Dr. Pottenger was married to Miss Carrie Burtner, Of Germantown, Ohio, and left immediately for study abroad in the hospitals of Europe, much of his time being spent in Vienna. Returning in December, 1894, he opened a practice at Norwood, Ohio, and later became assistant to Dr. Charles A.L. Reed, a noted surgeon of Cincinnati, and was shortly after made Assistant to the Chair of Surgery in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. In 1895 Mrs. Pottenger developed tuberculosis and Dr. Pottenger gave up his practice and came to California, locating at Monrovia, where he opened a practice. His wife's health, however, failed to improve, and he again gave up his practice and returned to her home in Germantown,

Ohio, where he devoted his time to her care until her death in 1898. It was at this time that he determined to make the study and treatment of this dread disease his life work, and returned to Monrovia to resume his practice there. In 1900 he went to New York, where he did post-graduate work along this line, returning in 1901 to open his office in Los Angeles as the first ethical physician on the western coast to limit his work to tuberculosis. Two years later he opened his sanatorium at Monrovia, and since that time has given untiring personal effort to this work. He has been abroad several times, visiting the most famous sanatoriums of Europe as well as of America, studying with the world's greatest scientists in an effort to better fit himself for the work he has outlined, namely, the waging of an unfaltering war against the white plague. He has written three books dealing with different phases of tuberculosis, and has also compiled about seventy-five papers and numerous lectures on the subject.

It was through Dr. Pottenger's efforts that the Southern California Anti-Tuberculosis Society was formed, and for three years he was its president. He is keenly interested in all scientific subjects and has given his support and co-operation to various societies whose efforts are for the conserving of human health and life. Among these may be mentioned the following: The Los Angeles County Medical Association (of which he has been president), the Los Angeles Clinical and Pathological Society, the Southern California Medical Society (of which he has also been president), the American Climatological Association, The Medical Society of California, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Medicine, the American Therapeutic Society (of which he has also been president), the Mississippi Valley Medical Association, the Los Angeles, California, National and International Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, and the American Sanatorium Association. Other scientific organizations of note with which Dr. Pottenger is associated are the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the Archaeological Institute of America and the International Geographic Society. He is also a member Society of the Sons of the Revolution and the Society of Colonial Wars.

The second marriage of Dr. Pottenger occurred in Sacramento, California, August 13, 1900, uniting him with Miss Adelaide Gertrude Babbitt. By this union there are three children, two sons and a daughter, all now students in the public schools of Monrovia. They are: Francis Marion, Jr., aged fourteen years; Robert Thomas, aged eleven, and Adelaide Marie, aged seven. Dr. Pottenger is a member of several clubs, including the University Club, California Club and the Gamut Club, of Los Angeles. In August 1911, he was honored by the appointment as first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army.

JOSEPH F. SARTORI

Los Angeles has been brought forward as a financial center through the sagacious leadership of the men who, at the head of its vast banking interests, have wisely guided affairs to the end that the welfare of the community may be best promoted and the prosperity of the people preserved. With the coming to the city of Mr. Sartori and the organization by himself and associates in 1889 of the Security Savings Bank (now the Security Trust & Savings Bank) a most important factor entered into the banking history of the metropolis of the southwest. From that date to the present Mr. Sartori has been largely instrumental in outlining and carrying forward those policies which have made the "Security" the largest, as well as the oldest savings bank in the southwest, and the fact that the institution has attained its present magnitude may be attributed, in no small measure, to his far-sightedness and sound financial policies. The building in which its business is conducted is also the product of the same minds and energy that have so successfully controlled the destinies of the bank since its inception and fittingly conveys the impression of strength and stability which make it a proper home for this great institution.

The president of the Security Trust & Savings Bank comes from an honored German family whose record for honesty and integrity is unimpeachable, and upon entering the field of banking he received an unexpected and hearty support from a great number of persons who were acquainted with the family on the continent and with their reputation for probity and business acumen. While of European parentage and family, he himself is a native of Iowa, and was born at Cedar Falls on Christmas Day of 1858, being the son of Joseph and Theresa (Wangler) Sartori. After he had graduated from Cornell College at Mount Vernon, Iowa, in 1879, he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, and continued his studies until graduation in 1881. Meanwhile, he had spent one year (1877-78) in the University of Freiburg, in Baden, Germany. Upon the completion of his college course he entered the office of Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, at Dennison, Iowa, where he studied for eight months. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1882 he formed a partnership with Congressman I. S. Struble, of Iowa. In June of 1886 he married Margaret Rishel of Lemars, Iowa, and on the 19th of March, 1887, they came to California, locating in the then new town of Monrovia. From 1887 until 1889 he was cashier of the First National Bank of Monrovia, which he assisted in organizing and of which he is now a vice president and director.

At the time of his removal from Monrovia to Los Angeles and the organization of the Security Bank the remarkable boom of the preceding few years was beginning to collapse, prices were falling, money was scarce and financial conditions generally unsettled. The new bank, organized in February, 1889, not only weathered the storms of financial depression and business failures, but constantly gained strength and prestige until at the present time it has a capital and surplus of more than \$3,700,000 and resources exceeding \$43,000,000. The high ideals, untiring energy, and superior executive ability of Mr. Sartori, together with the loyal cooperation and support of his co-workers, have developed, in the Security Trust & Savings Bank, an institution remarkable not only for its financial stability and strength, but also for the universal feeling among its customers that they will at all times be

accorded fair, honest and courteous consideration. This confidence has never been violated and no one of its vast army of depositors has ever suffered a loss through his dealings with this great banking house.

The remarkable insight of Mr. Sartori into banking and economic conditions was never better illustrated than in his fight before the state legislature in 1911 for real reforms in the state banking laws and proper supervision of state financial institutions. As the leader for improved banking conditions he was repeatedly before the committee on banks and banking, the effect of his arguments appearing in the resulting legislation. His knowledge of national financial and industrial conditions also received recognition in his appointment as a member of the currency commission of the American Bankers Association, and in his election as president of the Savings Bank section of the same Association for the year 1913-14. In addition to his important banking interests he is a director of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. Growing business enterprises have enlisted his co-operation and he has served as a director of the Los Angeles Brick Company, secretary and treasurer of the Central Fireproof Building Company, secretary and treasurer Century Building Company, and secretary-treasurer of the Commercial Fireproof Building Company. The fields of finance and commerce have not engrossed his attention to the exclusion of all participation in social functions and recreative organizations. On the contrary, he has been the leader in a number of clubs, notably the Los Angeles Country Club, of which he is a charter member and in which he has been honored with the presidency; the California Club, of which he has served also as president; and of the Los Angeles Athletic, the Jonathan, Annandale Golf, and Craggs Country Clubs.

CHARLES E. SLOSSON

One of the most prominent citizens of Monrovia and one who for almost thirty years has been a vital factor in the life of the beautiful city, is Charles E. Slosson, veteran real estate dealer and president of the Monrovia Steam Laundry Company. During his long residence in Monrovia he has been closely allied with the affairs of the city and has been active in all movements for the up-building and development of the best interests of the municipality. He is broad minded and progressive in the truest sense of the word, and his business judgment and foresight have enabled him to so invest his earnings that he has reaped therefrom a handsome profit, principally on the increased value of real estate.

Mr. Slosson is a native of Iowa, born at Northwood, September 25, 1861, and there he received his education in the common and high schools. After he had completed his schooling he gave his attention to farming, work with which he was already familiar through having assisted with the work on the home farm during vacations and before and after school. Later he became interested in a creamery near Northwood and gave this enterprise his attention for a number of years.

It was in 1887 that Mr. Slosson came to California, locating at once in Monrovia and engaging in the real estate business. Since 1910, however, the greater part of his time has been given to the management of the Monrovia Steam Laundry, of which he was one of the promoters and original organizers. For a number of years he was president of the Messenger Publishing Company of Monrovia and was one of the heaviest stockholders. He was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Monrovia Board of Trade, of which for many years he served as secretary, and was for a number of years president of the San Gabriel River Rock Company.

Real estate, however, has been the principal interest of Mr. Slosson since he came to Monrovia. His faith in the locality has been firm and abiding and he has so managed his affairs and temporary depressions in real estate have not seriously affected him. He has bought much local property and several of the best known subdivisions have been put on the market by him and successfully handled. Among these may be mentioned the Oak Park Tract, the Valley Vista Tract, Orange Avenue Tract and many others of equal merit. Besides his larger holdings in or near Monrovia, to which he is adding from time to time, he also owns a ranch of one hundred and sixty acres in Riverside county, and another of the same acreage in Utah. The laundry of which he is now president is housed in a strictly modern structure, which is a credit to the city, and its equipment is of the latest improved design. It is proving a profitable investment for the stockholders, and is doing a splendid business in Monrovia and the surrounding community.

Aside from his business interests, Mr. Slosson has a wide circle of friends in his community, and is influential in the governmental affairs of his city and also of the county. He was the first notary public in Monrovia. A Republican in his political affiliations, for three terms he served as a member of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County, for two terms being a member of the executive committee thereof, for three terms was city clerk of Monrovia, and for two terms served as a member of the town trustees. Before coming to Monrovia he was interested in public affairs in Northwood, Iowa, where he served first as deputy county treasurer

and later as deputy county auditor. For a number of years before leaving Northwood Mr. Slosson was in the abstract business, and was acknowledged to be an authority on the question of land titles.

The marriage of Mr. Slosson took place in Monrovia October 2, 1889, uniting him with Miss Anna MacColloch, a native of Kingston, Pa., the daughter of William and Christine (Hutchinson) MacColloch. Mr. and Mrs. Slosson have a daughter, Arline, born in Monrovia, where she is receiving her education.

DON ABEL STEARNS and DONA ARCADIA BAKER

Don Abel Stearns, as he was called by the people of his adopted state, was for many years the leading American in Southern California. He was a native of Salem, Mass., where he was born in 1799. He had been for several years a resident of Mexico and had become a naturalized citizen before entering California. In 1829 he came to Monterey, where he remained about four years, then removed to Los Angeles. Soon he became one of the most prominent and influential citizens of the old pueblo, devoting himself to its interests, both as a public officer and private individual, through a long life.

His home was on the site of the present Baker block, at the south east corner of Main and Arcadia streets. Here he built a substantial, wide spreading adobe surrounding a large courtyard. When the gates were closed this was a citadel of itself capable of withstanding a siege. On several occasions its strength was put to the test. In this commodious house, which by the common people was denominated "El Palacio de Don Abel," his beautiful young wife, Arcadia, daughter of Don Juan Bandini, and her lovely sisters, dispensed a noble hospitality. Don Abel Stearns had the honor of sending the first gold from California's soil to the United States mint. It came from a ranch belonging to the San Fernando Mission, and was sent in a sailing vessel around the Horn. Altogether about one million dollars' worth of gold was taken from the San Fernando mines.

Had it met with success no action of Mr. Stearns would have been considered so creditable as his earnest endeavor, during the years preceding the Mexican war, to win the misgoverned, neglected province of California to consent to a peaceful annexation to the United States. As the confidential agent of the government at Washington, Mr. Stearns worked in the south, as did Mr. Larkin in the north, toward this end. They had almost succeeded, when the untimely ebullition of Commodore Jones of the American navy in assuming that there was a state of war and taking possession of Monterey, made the Californians suspicious of the brotherly intentions of the United States. The American commodore, when he discovered what a grave mistake he had made, he did all that was within his power to undo the harm. Patiently Mr. Larkin and Mr. Stearns went on with their plans for a peaceful solution of the difficulties that were troubling California. So wise were their plans, so strong their influence over the prominent men of the territory, that they began to have hopes of success, when the episode of the Bear Flag and the events which followed that movement precipitated war.

Mr. Stearns was devoted to the interests of the Californians. He was a member of the famous convention which drafted the constitution of 1849, representing the district of Los Angeles; later he was assemblyman, supervisor and councilman. In 1868 he built the Arcadia block on the Los Angeles street front of his property. It was the largest business block in town, and around it centered the interests of the city for many years. In its second story was Stearns hall, where took place many social and political events of interest in the history of the pueblo. Mr. Stearns was one of the largest land owners of California, and at his death, which occurred in 1871, left a large estate to his widow.

No account of the life of Don Abel Stearns or of the history of

the city of Los Angeles would be complete without mention being made of his wife who was the late Arcadia Bandini de Baker. One spring morning many years ago the ceremony took place at the San Gabriel Mission, which united this lovely young girl of sixteen to a man older than her father, whose features were considered by the people of his time to be unusually homely. One might naturally exclaim, "What a sacrifice!" but, although Mrs. Stearns became the social leader of Los Angeles and vicinity, acknowledged by Americans and Californians to be one of the most beautiful women in a country renowned for its lovely women, yet the match was a happy one. Through his life Don Abel was proud of the attention paid his wife, whose beauty it was his delight to adorn, while Mrs. Stearns was fond and proud of her genial and clever husband. Mr. Stearns' herders made up a little song over which their master often chuckled; translated it was something as follows:

"Two little doves sang on a laurel,
How lovely Dona Arcadia, how homely
Don Abel."

After the unfortunate flag raising of Commodore Jones, he hastened to San Pedro and there waited on his ships while he sent a messenger up to his countryman, Don Abel, urging him to mediate between him and Governor Micheltorena, who was at that time living in Los Angeles. Mr. Stearns succeeded in arranging a meeting at his house, and the following is the account given by Dona Arcadia of the historic event:

"We gave a dinner to the governor, the commodore and their attendants; everything was very friendly; they seemed to enjoy themselves and the uniforms of the two countries were most beautiful. On the next day but one the governor gave a ball, which was to be at his house, the only two story house in Los Angeles. To show the Americans how patriotic were the people of California, the governor requested, in the invitations, that all the ladies wear white with a scarf of the Mexican colors, red, green and white. Of course we gladly complied, though some of us had to work hard to get our costumes ready.

"The day of the ball came, but with it came rain, such a storm as I have never seen. As it drew toward evening the water came down faster and faster. The governor had the only carriage in California, and this he was to send for the Commodore, Mr. Stearns, Ysidora, and myself, but the poor young officers had to walk, and their faces were long when they looked at the rain, then at their fine uniforms and shiny boots.

"Our California horses were unused to pulling loads, and in the storm refused to work, so the cholo soldiers of the governor served as horses; they took us as safely, and we had a delightful time. Everybody was happy; the commodore and the governor sat together and exchanged courtesies and compliments."

Some years after the death of Mr. Stearns his widow married R.S. Baker, a native of Rhode Island, who had large sheep interests in Southern California. Mr. and Mrs. Baker built the Baker block at the corner of Main and Arcadia streets, which is a model of substantial construction. Mr. and Mrs. Baker and Senator Jones gave the land, three hundred and fifty acres, for the Soldiers' Home, near Santa Monica. After Mr. Baker's death Mrs. Baker resided in Santa Monica until she passed away.

G. R. TIFAL

A native of Germany and a resident of California only since 1907, G. R. Tifal has nevertheless been an important factor in the development and upbuilding both of Los Angeles and Monrovia, and much valuable residence and business property has been owned and improved by him. With his home located in the beautiful little city of Monrovia, and with offices there and Los Angeles for the conduct of his business of designing, contracting and building residences and business blocks, and for the promotion of various real estate enterprises, Mr. Tifal is well known in both cities and is accredited as one of the leading citizens of the county.

The native city of Mr. Tifal is Posen, Germany, he having been born there December 18, 1878. At an early age he came to the United States with his parents and settled in Montecello, Wis., where he was reared and educated. Later he went to Beaumont, Texas, where he learned the planing-mill business and after a time engaged in this line for himself, owning his own mill. At a still later period he went to Mexico City, Mexico, where he was employed in a planing mill for some time, but his health failing in 1907 he came to Monrovia, where he has since made his home. Two years were spent in recuperating and in looking over the conditions of the country, and in 1909 he opened his present business of contracting and building, making a specialty of fine residences, bungalows and office buildings. Later his younger brother, C. H. Tifal, joined him and since that time the firm has been known as Tifal Brothers, with offices at No. 5204 South Park avenue, Los Angeles, and at 628 South Myrtle avenue, Monrovia.

In addition to their contracting and building business the Tifal Brothers also have a variety of other interests. They own and conduct a planing-mill at Monrovia, and have been heavily interested in real estate. They subdivided the Tifal Brothers East Fifty-second street tract of nine acres in Los Angeles, which consisted of fifty-eight residence lots and seven business lots and was put on the market in 1911. At the present time it is built up and most of the lots are sold. The brothers have constructed some three hundred residences in Los Angeles and more than eighty in Monrovia. Prominent among the latter are the homes of P. E. Hatch, Charles Ainley, Fred Ainley, Mrs. Eva Busch, Paul Bachert, C. H. Holmes, Frank Miller, O. N. Bryant and many other handsome residences. They have also erected for sale some thirty houses in Monrovia, ranging in value from \$2300 to \$8000, and in Los Angeles they have built and owned more than sixty-four houses and business blocks. They also constructed the Frank L. Chase block at Glendale.

G. R. Tifal has been prominent in the local affairs of Monrovia since he first established his home there. He is an active worker in the cause of temperance and has taken an interest in all municipal affairs. For a number of years he served on the board of town trustees and for a part of this time has been chairman (mayor) of the board.

The marriage of Mr. Tifal took place in Beaumont, Texas, January 1, 1902, uniting him with Miss Clara E. Zacharias, the daughter of John and Rosalie Zacharias, and a native of Wisconsin. She has borne her husband three children, one son and two daughters, Chester, Adela and Beatrice.

The junior member of the firm, C. H. Tifal, is a young man of

promise. He does the designing for the firm and is one of the leading bungalow designers in Southern California, which is equal to saying, in the world, for it is an acknowledged fact that this part of the state leads the world in the construction of this type of dwelling.