

JOHN L. WILEY

History of
MONROVIA

By JOHN L. WILEY

ILLUSTRATED

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CHAPTER X

THE CITY FROM 1917 TO 1926

WHILE Monrovia was making a little stir in the movie world with "The Argonauts of '49" and "The Days of the Dons," other companies were attracted by the opportunity of finding good locations here. Early in 1917, a new company located here and prepared to screen a Biblical play which they first styled "Israel" and later rechristened "The Chosen Prince." A Palestine village was built in Clover Leaf Canyon and the location was congested with goats, camels borrowed from Universal City, and other concomitants of an ancient Hebrew city. The story depicted the life of David—his pastoral youth, his combat with Goliath, and finally his long and glorious reign over Israel.

The play was written by Judge Lyman I. Henry, who spent eight years in its preparation. The piece did not excel in sensational climaxes, but carried its story of deep spiritual truth with a calm and graceful beauty.

CASS WATER CASE

In 1891, F. O. Cass, owner of land in Sawpit Canyon, had brought suit against the City of Monrovia for water rights to the canyon water.

The case was finally tried in October, 1917, and a judgment rendered in favor of the city, except that the court ruled that as the plaintiff possessed no land of an irrigable nature, he was not entitled to water for that purpose, but if he should build a home there, he would be entitled to water for domestic purposes.

Relying upon this decision Walter Rheinschild and others purchased this land of Cass and opened a subdivision of mountain cabin homes.

February 1, 1917, the Neville Pharmacy, Thomas Neville proprietor for the last fourteen years, sold to C. J. McLaughlin, of Hollywood.

February 24, C. J. McLaughlin sold the pharmacy to Nelson and Fancher, the present owners, located on the north-east corner of Myrtle and Olive Avenues.

February 8, Monrovia Hardware Company, by its manager, C. L. Daniels, took a lease in the American National Bank Building formerly occupied by S. A. Schillings and transferred his stock from 617 South Myrtle Avenue.

March 8, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, the famous poet, was a visitor at the home of W. A. Spinks, in Duarte.

June 21, Arthur Dixon, Monrovia boy, who joined the Canadian forces a year and a half before, was killed in action.

July 16, the J. J. Renaker Furniture Company was sold to A. J. Hurrel, of Long Beach. This store was established by E. P. Large in 1887, one year after the founding of the city, and included an undertaking business. In 1894 Mr. Large sold his store to J. J. Renaker, who conducted both lines of the business until his death, July 17, 1904. Since that date, the business was carried on by members of the Renaker family until the furniture business was sold to Mr. Hurrel. The undertaking business was retained and operated by C. T. Renaker, who was later joined by his brother, Lesley Renaker, who continued to operate the business at the north-east corner of Lime and Myrtle Avenues.

A BOTTLE OF MILK

A "Snookums" incident which would do justice to a Sunday comic section was perpetrated upon the famous California Limited, one of the Santa Fe's crack continental fliers, in which its cross-country flight was halted in Monrovia and held for twelve minutes, while trainmen indulged in graphic but subdued monologues and passengers made eager inquiries about the cause of delay.

Just as the east-bound flier pulled out of Pasadena, a man rushed upon the platform with frantic gestures and gave the station agent to understand that he must catch the train at all hazards. This information was ticked into the office of

the train dispatcher and he, sensing a matter of the highest importance, ordered the Monrovia agent to stop the train. The signal board went up against the approaching twelve-coach train.

When the engineer sighted the "board," the brakes went on, the wheels ground along the track, and the big engine halted, impatient, at the station. Explanations were made wherein the conductor was advised that an affair of the highest consequence made it necessary for a passenger, delayed at Pasadena, to take passage on the train, and that he was hastening to Monrovia in an automobile. The conductor and engineer said things to themselves and paced the platform, frequently scanning the roads for the approaching auto. The passengers oozed out of the cars and inquired about "the wreck." The conductor was losing his patience and wired to the train dispatcher for orders. "Wait five minutes longer," came back the answer. The conductor strode up and down the platform, watch in hand; ten minutes passed, and no car was in sight. The nervous little jigger on his chronometer ticked off sixty more seconds, and when he was about to pull out and let consequences take care of themselves, an auto rounded the curve on two wheels and the excited occupant rushed up to the train.

"Where is car number four?" he cried excitedly.

"It is here," directed the conductor sharply. "Get on quick, we have waited an hour for you already."

"Oh, I am not going to take the train. You see, when the Missus and the baby got on the train this morning, a bottle of especially prepared milk was overlooked. Baby can't eat anything else, and they would have been in a terrible fix without it."

The conductor, speechless with amazement, took the bottle and crawled limply onto the car. The engineer directed a few choice compliments to everything in general, and viciously pulled the throttle. The baby cooed contentedly when it saw the bottle, and cuddled itself up for a cozy little nap, so all was well.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Jane Eachus Sandefur, mother of Felix Sandefur, then a member of the Monrovia city council, passed away at her home in Duarte, July 17, 1917. She was one of the pioneers of Duarte, having moved there with her husband in 1876.

John McWilliams in 1852-3 was a pony express rider for Wells Fargo Company, carrying mail and express on horseback in northern California and Nevada points. He later went to Texas, where he engaged in the lumber business for a number of years, after which he returned to the east, making his home in Chicago. The family moved to Monrovia in 1887, and Mr. McWilliams served as manager of the L. W. Blinn Lumber Company for a number of years. He passed away at his home, 146 West Huntington Drive, November 27, 1917, aged eighty-eight.

W. R. BEARDSLEE

W. R. Beardslee came to Duarte with his father, N. Beardslee, in 1855, from Bell County, Texas. He was then six years of age. His father was the first Lower Duarte white settler and purchased with his lands an old adobe house with walls three feet in thickness. The family resided in this structure for a number of years. N. Beardslee built the first irrigation ditch to utilize the water of the San Gabriel River and planted the first English walnut grove in the valley. His son, W. R. Beardslee, planted the first orange grove in this section, and many of the trees still produce.

W. R. Beardslee died September 28, 1917, aged sixty-eight. At the time of his death he was president of the Duarte Mutual Irrigation and Canal Company. He was survived by his widow and two sons, F. Claude Beardslee, then of San Bernardino, and Roy Beardslee, then of Calexico.

JOSEPH COMBS

Joseph Combs was born August 26, 1845, in Pennsylvania of Dutch ancestry. His parents died during his early infancy

and his guardian permitted him to select his own name. He had a boy friend named Joseph, and liking the name, selected it for himself. He lived a while in Indiana and later he and a sister moved to Missouri, where he worked on farms until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the 7th Missouri Cavalry, Company M, in 1862. Being under seventeen years of age at the time of his enlistment, he was assigned to messenger duty. He was wounded several times in the line of duty but his hardy constitution pulled him safely over the rough road of crude battle-field medical care.

In 1872 Mr. Combs went to Nevada, where he married Nettie Banning, a sister of James Banning, one of the pioneers of Monrovia. Mrs. Combs died in Nevada, and in 1886 Mr. Combs moved to Duarte, later in the same year moving to Monrovia, which had been founded that year. He invested in Monrovia realty and erected some of the first houses in the city, one of which was the James Banning home at 120 East Walnut.

In 1890 he married Rettie Fitzgerald. In 1892 he was elected city marshal and tax collector, and later was appointed water superintendent and in these capacities served the city for about ten years.

He passed away April 8, 1917, after a lingering illness. He was survived by his widow and one son, Arthur B. Combs.

THE YEAR 1918

City Officials

Trustees, Chester O. Banks

Edward F. Spence

Robert G. Harvey, to Oct. 7, 1918, resigned

Walter F. Dunn

J. P. Daniel

Arthur J. Everest, appointed Oct. 7, 1918, to fill vacancy

City Clerk, Lewis Black

City Treasurer, Wm. J. Rockwood to June 7, 1919, office vacated by death

City Treasurer, W. H. Evans, from June 11, 1919

DALE JONES THE BANDIT

The killing of the notorious bandit, Charles Forbes, alias Dale Jones, and his consort, Marie Celano, in Arcadia, was one of the most exciting incidents in police annals of this part of the country. Dale Jones was the last of the famous Lewis gang that had operated for three years in the Middle West and elsewhere, robbing many banks and committing other desperate crimes, often adding murder to their list of offenses. Jones was suspected of complicity in the robbery of a Culver City bank, and other local crimes, and detective agencies and the sheriff's office were in search of him. It was believed that the Celano woman was in his company. People occupying every avenue of observation were notified to be on the lookout for him, and to inform the sheriff's office of the presence of suspicious characters.

A clerk in the oil station at the corner of Foothill Boulevard and Double Drive knew Marie Celano from early youth. One Fall day this woman and a man purchased some gas at this station. The clerk identified Marie Celano and observed that the man answered the general description of Jones. The sheriff's office was notified and two deputies, George Van Vliet and C. A. Anderson, were detailed. They secured a nearby hiding place and had a signal arranged, so the clerk at the oil station could notify them of the approach of Jones. They maintained a constant vigil day and night for several days, and their patience was rewarded about five o'clock in the evening of November 19, 1918, when a Cadillac roadster with the Celano woman at the wheel drove about one hundred and fifty feet past the oil station. Jones jumped out of the car and scanned the surroundings. Everything seemed all right. He returned to the car and was driven back to the oil station, where gasoline was obtained. The signal was given and the deputies emerged from their hiding place and approached the car from each side. Upon command being given to throw up his hands, Jones answered stolidly, "Well, boys, you have me this time." He dropped to his knees, drew two pistols and began firing, and Deputy

Anderson got into action also. Instantly the woman began shooting from the car. It appeared to Anderson that this was no time for delicacy of sentiment, so he emptied a load of buckshot from his sawed-off shotgun into the car, and the woman fell dead. In the meantime Van Vliet had been mortally wounded, presumably by a shot from the woman's rifle. Anderson then shot and killed Jones.

Forbes and his consort had gone through a marriage ceremony at San Bernardino the previous Summer, notwithstanding that she was at that time legally married to another. They had been living under the name of Milano at 90 South Sierra Madre Avenue, Sierra Madre, in a house isolated from the neighbors, where defense would have been easy.

The place was like an armed fortress, with many rifles, revolvers and shotguns, and an abundance of ammunition for each weapon. A great deal of plunder was found at the residence but no cash. There were but a few pennies found on his person when killed, yet he had displayed ample funds in neighboring stores.

There was one defensive feature about their auto equipment which probably accounted for the fact that the woman was a dead shot. A swivel attachment had been adjusted to the car that would hold the rifle in a rigid position, permitting accurate aim in any direction.

The home, its surroundings, and the adjacent hills were searched for the cash of the outlaw, but none was ever found. He was thought to have hidden the fruits of his many robberies near his home, but nothing was ever discovered.

Dale Jones was a dead shot and a desperate character, and orders had been given to take no chances whatever with him, but to kill him at the first show of resistance.

Deputy Sheriff Van Vliet died of his wounds the night of the battle.

MISCELLANEOUS

A man is supposed to be expressing himself with some force and vigor when he says he can "lick his weight in wild cats," but Ben Overturff's Airedale, "Chum," brought

into question the significance of that expression by trailing a bob-cat into the tangles of the under-brush and killing it without receiving a scratch. This feat was performed early in January of this year and elicited the information from Ben that this is a common achievement for an Airedale. He says that they have been known to kill a mountain lion in a fair fight.

The Monrovia Feature Film Company reached the end of its brief career in the early part of this year. A. R. Clifton, W. E. Hicks and Sol Rehart were appointed a committee to investigate the financial condition of the company. Its affairs, which failed to prove prosperous, were closed out this year with a substantial loss to all of those financially interested in it.

THE YEAR 1919

The quality and fairness of price of Monrovia's groceries and bakery goods were paid as high a compliment in February of this year as one might well want. The essence of this statement lies in the fact that Henry Ford, inventor of the famous "tin Lizzie," motored daily from Pasadena to Monrovia to do his shopping. Slick's Grocerteria and the Monrovia Bakery were the recipients of his patronage. The great manufacturer made a surprise call at the offices of Nelson and Mosher, then agents for the Ford machines, and personally demonstrated to Mr. Mosher the operations of the Fordson tractor, then in the early stages of its development.

Mr. Ford drove one of his own numerous creations and was as unassuming in manner as any disciple of the simple life could ask.

MRS. ANNETTE NYE

Mrs. Annette Nye, *nee* Wardall, was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1844. She taught school in Wisconsin at the age of fifteen years, later moving with her parents to Northwood, Iowa. Here she continued her vocation until her marriage to Abel N. Nye. In 1884 she moved with her husband and family to Duarte, coming in search of health for her

husband. Mr. Nye, however, died the following year, and Mrs. Nye returned to Northwood, where she remained until 1887, when she moved with her children to Monrovia.

She was one of the organizers of the Saturday Afternoon Club, which later adopted the name, Woman's Club, and served as its second president. She was a woman of brilliant mental attainments and high character. She passed away February 14, 1919, and was survived by three children, Forrest A. Nye, Roy V. Nye, and Allen H. Nye, then of 740 Kensington Road, where she was residing when she passed away.

JAMES W. HARVEY

James W. Harvey came to Los Angeles from Strathway, Ontario, Canada, in 1885, and came to Monrovia the following year, the date of the founding of the town. He was the founder of the Monrovia *Weekly Messenger*, which he possessed and edited at two different times. He was postmaster of the City of Monrovia two terms, a member of the Monrovia W. O. W., and a past master of the Monrovia Masonic Lodge. After closing out his interests in the *Messenger* the second time, he operated the Harvey Print Shop, which he was conducting on East Orange Avenue at the time of his death, which occurred after a protracted illness at his home on East White Oak Avenue, June 26, 1919, at the age of sixty-two years.

He was survived by his widow and four children, Eva Kenneth, Bartle, and Marion. He rests in Live Oak Cemetery.

COLONEL I. H. POLK

Colonel Isaac Hilliard Polk came to California from South Carolina about 1880. He was connected with the United States Land Office a number of years and later was managing editor of one of the large Los Angeles dailies.

He married Miss Minerva Bradbury, sister of Louis Bradbury, and took up his residence south of Monrovia about 1903.

He passed away October 14, 1919, in the city of Los Angeles.

Mr. Polk came from a distinguished family that numbered among its members James K. Polk, eleventh president of the United States, and Leonidas Polk, a famous Confederate general. He was survived by his widow and three children, Hilliard, Lewis Bradbury and Minona Polk.

MISCELLANEOUS

March 14, 1919, A. Foster sold the Pioneer Nursery to J. R. Millikin, of Alberta, Canada.

April 28, A. Schilling closed out his store and moved to Long Beach. E. T. Randall bought the remainder of the stock and continued the business.

April 3, Mrs. T. R. Crandell, mother of J. A. Crandell, passed away in Monrovia in her eighty-second year.

March 10, word was received of the death, on March 4, of Rev. Clark Marsh, pastor of the Christian Church, in a French port while waiting to take passage to America.

June 3, H. P. Lingo bought the business of C. F. DeBaun Electric Co. Mr. DeBaun had operated the business four years with Mr. Lingo as assistant.

June 3, the business of A. A. Tanner & Co. became the business of A. F. Tanner & Co., the new proprietor being the son of the former owner. Two years previous, A. A. Tanner, a wealthy grain and lumber dealer of Lincoln, Nebraska, bought the Monrovia Book and Music Store. In August, Mr. Tanner bought the Jewell Stationery and Art Shop and combined the two stores.

THE YEAR 1920

City Officials

Trustees, Walter F. Dunn, *President*

Chester O. Banks

Edward F. Spence

J. P. Daniel

Arthur J. Everest

City Clerk, Lewis P. Black

City Treasurer, W. H. Evans

COUNT ARMOND D'ALERIA

In the early part of this year Count Armond D'Aleria, a twenty-one-year-old Castilian nobleman, surprised the political and social world of California by wooing and wedding Mrs. Kate Nixon, the fifty-year-old widow of former Governor Nixon of Nevada.

The young Spaniard was a handsome and high-spirited caballero and the bride was a very wealthy woman. She purchased the Ernest B. Rivers estate, which lies just east of the Sawpit Canyon wash and about two hundred yards north of the eastern terminus of White Oak Avenue, now in the district known as the Bradbury estate.

Many thousand dollars in improvements were spent upon this estate by the Countess, in remodeling and redecorating the house, and in a very elaborate system of landscape gardening.

However, the domestic barque soon was tossed upon troubled waters. A little detective work on the part of agents of the Countess supplied her with the basis of an action for divorce, which was begun in May of this year. This never came to trial as a reconciliation followed, but the Count's extravagance provoked a second action for divorce in November of the same year. He caused their beautiful ten thousand dollar automobile to be silver coated and sent her the bill. This was the last straw and again the court's machinery was set in motion. Their residence in Monrovia, on their ranch known as Los Rios Rancho (the Rivers Ranch), was brief, and the city was soon compelled to yield the distinction of their titled presence.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REALTY BOARD

The Monrovia Realty Board received its first organized impulse Friday night, December 17, 1920, when a number of the local operators met at St. Luke's Parish Hall and formed a temporary organization following a dinner.

Charles W. Stewart was made temporary chairman and E. E. Rives temporary secretary. A committee of five was

appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws consisting of the following named members, C. H. Clark, E. C. Ott, J. J. Hoffman, Rex. Harbert and J. A. Crandell.

President Dunkerley of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Dorn of the Pasadena Board of Realtors, and other visitors were present to encourage and assist the organization.

Those who attended the dinner and expressed an intention to join the organization included Seth Winquist, H. J. Evans, Rex Harbert, E. C. Ott, Albert H. Love, J. J. Hoffman, J. A. Crandell, J. Frank Wilson, C. H. Clark, A. Parmalee, S. C. Bennett, Charles W. Stewart, F. G. Ainley, C. L. Keiser, E. E. Rives, William Snearley and F. A. Owen.

THE SAN GABRIEL DAM

On December 27, 1920, one of the initial steps in the construction of the big San Gabriel dam was taken by the board of supervisors, after a conference with the directors of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the San Gabriel Valley.

The supervisors announced that they would cause preliminary surveys to be made and take soundings of the canyon walls to ascertain the depth to bedrock. The dam was proposed to be located several miles above the mouth of the canyon and in flood seasons would form one of the largest lakes in Southern California. The cost was then estimated at \$20,000,000. It has since been increased to \$35,000,000, which covers other dams and engineering projects.

That a spirit of optimism prevailed among the promoters of the project is evidenced by the following claims made for it, namely, that it would—

Create the largest lake in Southern California;

Generate 40,000 electric horse-power;

Remove all dangers from floods from the San Gabriel Valley;

Provide a great and immensely fertile area with ample irrigation water;

Raise the water table in the whole San Gabriel Valley by regulating the river-flow, and

Actually revive artesian wells that have failed to flow.

Some of these projects have since been abandoned as it is now claimed the dam is only a flood control measure and in no manner a conservation measure.

When this dam is finished, Camp Rincon and a number of other mountain camps will be under one hundred and fifty feet of water during storm seasons.

BUILDING PERMITS

The year 1923 established a high record for building activities compared with the previous years. There had been a steady decline in the total of building permits from 1912 to 1916 when it reached the low-water mark of \$57,822 for the year. After that there was a more or less irregular increase until the total of 1923 sent the record far beyond that previously registered. The World's War caused a practical stagnation in building activities, but this was relieved at the close of 1918 when the Armistice was signed.

The following is the record to date:

1912	\$220,227	1920	\$353,132
1913	146,098	1921	590,732
1914	162,313	1922	1,023,808
1915	112,527	1923	1,750,530
1916	57,822	1924	1,613,900
1917	91,962	1925	1,360,390
1918	58,934	1926	886,780
1919	158,011		

MISCELLANEOUS

S. W. ("Span") Palmer, a pioneer painter and decorator who came to Monrovia the year it was founded, died on the morning of the 5th of January, 1920, at the fire station, where he frequently spent a social evening. The old man was an eccentric personage who built a little shack in the alley between Olive and Orange and dubbed it "The Palmer

House." During his almost thirty-five years of residence in Monrovia he never left town for a day, and wrote but one letter each year, which was directed to an Illinois town where he held a life membership in the I. O. O. F. Lodge.

Richard Bullock, referred to as the original "Deadwood Dick" of dime novel fame, who lived for a number of years at 117 East Lime, died February 7, 1920, at Thornycroft Hospital, Glendale, at the age of seventy-five years.

He lived with his niece, Charlotte Beamer.

He would delight in telling tales of his exciting experiences to his Monrovia friends. He claimed that he drove the Deadwood stage in the Dakotas, often carrying large shipments of bullion from the rich mines. So great was his reputation for fearlessness and his skill in the use of arms, that bandits permitted his stage to go by, at times when others were held up weekly.

The Rev. John Wilton Cunningham, the last remaining charter member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South Ministerial Association, died January 13 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Ella Taylor, 123 Melrose Avenue. He was ninety-six years of age.

On February 18, Worth Mollenkopf, owner and manager of the Gem City Transfer Company, purchased of F. H. Boden of Duarte the old brick and frame structure formerly used by the Monrovia Furniture Company. It was located at 135-137 West Orange Avenue. During the occupancy of the building by the Monrovia Furniture Company a thriving business was done in the manufacture of high-class furniture.

The new Colonial Theater opened February 20 with "Judy, of Rogues' Harbor," starring Mary Miles Minter.

Jane Eliza Jackson, wife of I. A. Jackson, passed away on the morning of March 12. Surviving members of the family were Harold Jackson and Mrs. Florence Draper.

On June 4, Frank Alexander, of Hollywood, bought the Colonial Theater.

Eli T. Hargreave, pioneer, passed away July 22, at the

age of seventy-two, at San Bernardino. He planted one of the first citrus orchards in the Monrovia district and afterwards bought the Wistaria Hotel. He was born in Texas, but came to Monrovia from Arizona.

On December 22, Mrs. Annie V. Bowerman, wife of Stephen Bowerman, passed away at their home, 310 West White Oak Avenue. Mrs. Bowerman was seventy-seven years of age and a pioneer of Los Angeles. Death came after a protracted illness of several years.

The surviving members of the family were Mr. Bowerman, her husband, three daughters, Mrs. John H. Bartle, Mrs. J. W. Harvey and Mrs. M. L. Hutchinson, and two sons, Kenneth V. Bowerman and Clarence C. Bowerman. The husband still survives at ninety-one years of age.

Don Walters, fifty-five years of age, local manager of the Los Angeles *Times* agency, passed away suddenly December 24, at his home, 119 South Heliotrope.

Mr. and Mrs. Walters and son John came from Washington, D. C., and for the preceding four years Mrs. Walters had managed the *Times* agency. He was a former resident of Ohio where he served as a state legislator, being prominent in Republican politics of his district.

His business has been continued by Mrs. Walters, who has proven a highly efficient business woman and has developed a very prosperous agency. Their son John passed away in 1924, after establishing a high record in school athletics.

William Sackett, Monrovia pioneer, first master mechanic for the Los Angeles Rapid Transit Railroad, died November 14, 1920. When the Southern Pacific road took over the line he was superseded as master mechanic and remained in Monrovia as a plumber.

The old Duarte Methodist Church South, that had been a religious center for over forty years, was closed in December, 1920, not to be opened again. The old church was established when Duarte was but a sparsely settled farming district in a semi-arid region and it had seen the section develop

into one of the most fertile garden spots in all California. The small congregation of the church became dispersed or affiliated with other churches, and the financial difficulties of maintaining a pastor were too great for the few remaining members. So the church was dismantled, and the site sold. Rev. Geo. C. Harris was the last pastor.

EDMUND E. KNEPPER

Edmund E. Knepper, superintendent of city schools for a number of years, a trustee of the Presbyterian Church, director of the Granite Club, 32nd degree Mason and Shriner and instructor in Masonic work for the sixty-first district, died in November, 1920. He was a scholarly man of great activity, who interested himself greatly in all of the intellectual and cultural movements of the city.

THE YEAR 1921

C. E. Perkins, of Okmulgee, Oklahoma, established a department store at his present location, 523 South Myrtle Avenue, in September, 1921. The Monrovia Hardware Store, that had been occupying that location, moved to West White Oak Avenue, where they continued to operate the store under that name, until January 1, 1926, when they moved to 410 South Myrtle.

On July 11, the Home Dairy, which Robert W. Thompson started on East Avenue about 1915 or 1916, found a new home on the corner of Walnut and Sixth Avenues. The site contained over thirty-six acres with a barn sixty by one hundred feet ready for use. Mr. Thompson started the Home Dairy with thirty head of cattle, but this herd had grown to one hundred when it was moved to its new location.

The first business to be started at White Oak and Myrtle Avenues was a filling station established by Milton Steinberger, of Sierra Madre, in 1914. This was located on the southeast corner of the intersection, upon the residence lot of C. H. Anson. The next year the residence building was removed a few feet to the east on White Oak Avenue, where it still remains.

The next business to seek this neighborhood was that of Charles Varian, who bought the small office building of the defunct Monrovia Film Company and in 1916 opened a small fruit, vegetable and grocery store at 115 East White Oak, where his present market is located. Mr. Varian's modest beginning in a permanent location was preceded by two years of peddling of fruit and vegetables throughout the city. His present market store was built in 1920.

The construction of the Anson Building, now used by the Buick Agency, was commenced in October, 1919, and finished in February, 1920. This was built to include the filling station on the corner, then operated by Stanley Moore. Upon completion, the building was occupied by Sapp and Mildren with the Buick Agency, and by the garage of Fred Ruechel and the filling station.

W. H. McCune started erecting the building now occupied by the Ford garage in 1920 and J. E. McIntyre and Joe Rhoades built the business block on the northeast corner in 1921. Upon completion it was occupied by the Klein Pharmacy, the Sam Seelig grocery and the Monrovia hardware store.

These were the first stores to start White Oak Avenue as a business street and others quickly followed at Ivy and White Oak.

John Reagan, the builder and owner of the Reagan Block on South Myrtle Avenue, was one of the old-time pioneers of this neighborhood, though not a resident of Monrovia.

About 1890 he obtained employment of Professor Thaddeus Lowe, for whom Mt. Lowe was named. He took charge of the mule transportation line by which people were carried to the summit. In like manner he carried lumber for the construction of Echo Mountain Hotel, and served also as a guide to tourists visiting the Mount Lowe district.

He was appointed watchman for the Pacific Electric Railway Company, and though at all times receiving a modest wage exemplified the value of thrift, for out of every paycheck he reserved some for real estate investments, and so

great was his confidence in Monrovia, that much of his savings were expended here, the Reagan Block being a testimonial to his thrift.

He passed away June 15, 1921, in Pasadena, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

RECREATION PARK

The initial steps for the establishing of Recreation Park were taken in November of 1921, when the Monrovia Day Association presented to the city council a petition bearing the names of over eleven hundred voters, asking that a bond election be called authorizing the acquisition of sufficient ground suitable for a recreation park. This action finally bore fruit in 1924, when after a second election the park bonds were authorized and the present site of Recreation Park purchased at an agreed price of eleven hundred dollars per acre.

THE YEAR 1922

City Officials

Trustees, Walter F. Dunn, Chairman

Edward F. Spence

J. P. Daniel

Arthur J. Everest

Chester O. Banks

City Clerk, Lewis Black

City Treasurer, W. H. Evans

City Engineer Henry S. Gierlich had been serving the city as water superintendent, street superintendent, and purchasing agent. In March, 1922, these offices were separated. C. W. Given was appointed water superintendent and Clint Sergeant street superintendent, and in June R. L. Wathey was appointed purchasing agent. Mr. Wathey later resigned to join the Davisson Contracting Co., and Clyde Daniels, a former Monrovia hardware merchant, was appointed to the position, which he still holds.

WILLIAM F. MARSHALL

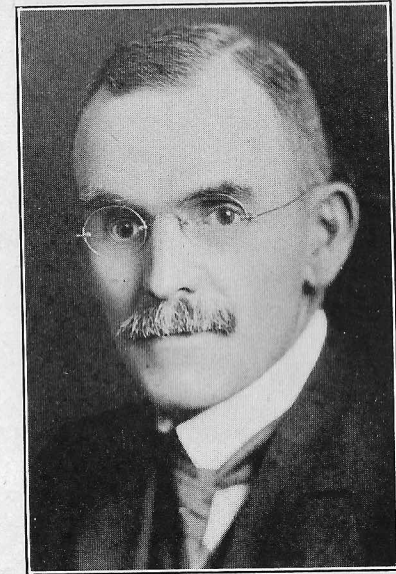
William F. Marshall was born in Maryland, August 27, 1851. While a child he moved with his parents to Wilmington, Delaware, where he grew to manhood. In 1876 he came to Los Angeles and in 1877, with J. A. Henderson, went into the hardware business which later developed into the California Hardware Company, of which he was president at the time of his retiring from business and chairman of the board of directors at the time of his death, January 24, 1922.

Monrovia had a charm for Mr. Marshall from the time of its earliest beginning in 1886, which was in no way lessened by the purchase of land at high prices, even though, when the boom collapsed in 1887, it could hardly be given away. This charm increased with the passing years, and in 1896, for health reasons, a move from the family home at 410 West 7th Street, Los Angeles, was necessary, and Monrovia was the choice for the new home.

While he had a deep interest in the welfare of Monrovia, his business in Los Angeles prevented his doing as much for the town as would have been his pleasure. Still he served four years as secretary of the school board with Mrs. E. A. Wheeler as president and G. A. Lawrence the third member.

When the library board was trying to secure the land which is now known as Library Park, as a site for the library building, it had secured options upon all of the lots hoping that the money from the sale of the bonds would be available in time to take up the options; however, it was not, and as the givers of some of the options would not extend the time, Mr. Marshall, in order to save the property to the city, suggested that money be borrowed to take up the options, so he and Captain Johnson—whom old Monrovia well remember—went to the bank and borrowed ten thousand dollars, thus holding the options and giving Monrovia the present Library Park.

The last three and a half years of Mr. Marshall's life were spent in total darkness, from the loss of the sight of both eyes, but not in darkness of spirit. The light of the spirit made a shining way in which he walked to the end.



W. F. MARSHALL

MUNICIPAL ACTIVITIES

Among the important acquisitions of city property at this time, was fifty acres of land near the sewer plant which was purchased from the Bicknell estate.

One of the most serious problems that has confronted the city officials and the public mind generally has been the matter of regulating the establishment of tubercular sanitarium in the city. This issue has been before the people of the city almost from its inception and has proven a perplexing matter.

In order to give opportunity for a public hearing upon this question, the city council appointed a committee to make an investigation and report what locality, in its opinion, would be available and least objectionable for the purpose. After several more or less excitable sessions, the committee reported and recommended the establishment of a zone where such sanitarium should in the future be placed. They selected for this purpose some territory lying in the northeast part of the city, some of which is in the Sawpit Canyon wash, and other sections lying north of that on higher land back of Pottenger's Sanitarium.

An advanced step in municipal life was taken in March of this year with the creation of the Planning Commission. Ever since cities were first builded they had been permitted to grow haphazard, each property owner being permitted to consult his own interest in his own way. This rule was modified only in prohibiting the establishing of a nuisance in a residential district. With the coming of planning commissions, came the matter of zoning a city in which certain areas are set apart for business, others for light industrial, heavy industrial, and residential districts. Zoning was at first attacked as being an invasion of the natural right of the owner of property to use it as he sees fit. This fight has been carried to the Supreme Court of the United States and the right of a city to zone has been finally established by the highest court of our land.

The first Planning Commission of this city was composed of Thomas R. Hayes, E. E. Rives, H. F. Scoville, A. J. Little

and J. P. Daniel. The personnel has been changed frequently since, the present body being Clarence R. Jones, president, Harry Kellogg, secretary, C. Price Holmes, Fred Schwartz and A. J. Little.

On November 5, 1923, the city embarked upon a managerial form of government in the appointment of Harry F. Scoville as city manager.

This form of government is now undergoing probation in various parts of the United States. It cannot be said to be safely established in the State of California, as up to date the tenure of office of city managers has averaged less than two years. However, this system has within it elements of efficiency in centering at least the knowledge of municipal activities at one point. It is believed to be well for someone within the official ranks to have an eye upon the whole field. It may prove that the city manager's tenure in office will be in the inverse ratio of his political power. Of all positions, a municipal office is the most sensitive to public criticism and most subject to public review. A city manager may make the science of municipal government a study and thus become an important adviser to the city council, or he may be merely a ministerial agent to execute the duties placed in his hands by the city government—in either case it depends upon the man, the council and the people, what he is permitted to be.

Mr. Scoville resigned the office February 28, 1927, after which the city council abandoned this form of government. Some of the duties performed by the city manager are now performed by the purchasing agent, Clyde Daniels.

The present site of the Civic Center, now containing the police and fire stations, was purchased of A. E. Cronenwett for \$30,000. This location has been famous in the history of Monrovia as it was the scene of many activities when La Vista Grande Hotel stood upon it.

On July 1, 1923, the Monrovia *Daily News* changed hands. Mr. and Mrs. George Barry had been editing the paper for nearly eighteen years. In the later years the editorial function had fallen upon Mrs. Barry.

C. C. Howard, of Kirksville, Missouri, purchased the plant and continued the publication of the paper at the same place, 115 East Lime Avenue, for a couple of years, and until the construction of his own office building at 119 West Palm Avenue. H. W. Fredericks, an experienced newspaper man of Washington State, is business manager, and Wallace C. Blakey, a newspaper publisher of Oklahoma, is city editor. Each has served throughout the operation of the paper by Mr. Howard.

C. C. HOWARD

C. C. Howard was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, February 3, 1879. He received a high school education and professional training in the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri.

He was married at Brashear, Missouri, on May 23, 1899, to Miss Dora Thrasher, and has one child, Mrs. Grace Howard Mullen.

Mr. Howard has spent all of his adult life in the newspaper business. Previous to coming to Monrovia in 1923, he published a number of papers in Missouri, among which are included the Kirksville *Daily Express*, the Kirksville *Daily News*, the Macon *Daily Herald* and the Columbus *Daily Times*, all of which were built up to be prosperous papers.

On July 1, 1923, he purchased and assumed the management of the Monrovia *Daily News*. This was operated for a couple of years at the old location on East Lime Avenue, and in 1925 Mr. Howard built a new office building at 119 West Palm Avenue. This plant has been conceded by all newspaper men who have visited it to be thoroughly modern and one of the best equipped of the small daily papers in Southern California. A complete leased wire service of the United Press has been added and the latest news of the world appears in its columns.

Mr. Howard is very active in civic, lodge, church and club life. He is a member of the First Methodist Church of Monrovia, of the Elks Lodge, of the Modern Woodmen, and of the

Unity Club; was one of the organizers and first president of the Exchange Club; is a member of the University Club and a director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Howard was fascinated with the City of Monrovia at first sight and has always been a persistent and consistent booster for its advancement. He has the courage of his convictions and backs up his faith in its future with his funds, as all of his realty holdings are now of Monrovia property.

The Monrovia *Daily News* has grown extensively under his management and has been made one of the best papers in its class in the community.

THE YEAR 1924

City Officials

Trustees, Arthur J. Everest, President

Chester O. Banks

J. P. Daniel

E. F. Spence

Thomas R. Hayes

City Clerk, Lewis P. Black

City Treasurer, Annetta Monroe

W. H. Evans, the former city treasurer, who had been suffering from a lingering illness for a number of months, resigned April 1, 1924, and his daughter, Mrs. Annetta Monroe, was appointed in his place. She submitted her name for the position at the April elections and has since held the office.

W. H. Evans, heretofore noted as city recorder of a former day, was a unique character. He came to Monrovia at a very early day and was one of the pioneers, operating one of the first tailor shops in the city.

In his later years, he dressed in immaculate white and was a familiar figure upon the streets of the city. So genial was his disposition that he stopped every stranger he saw upon the streets, shook hands with him and welcomed him to the city, without waiting for a formal introduction.



C. C. HOWARD

The Monrovia *Evening Post* was established July 1, 1924, at its present quarters, 411 South Myrtle Avenue. It is one of the Kellogg interests in Los Angeles and is published in connection with the Los Angeles *Express* and Pasadena *Evening Post*.

Charles A. Davis, who has had many years' experience in newspaper work in Monrovia in connection with the Monrovia *Daily News* and the Monrovia *Messenger*, is the editor and general manager, and Miss Elavera Nelson, who has also served with marked success on the Monrovia *Daily News* and the *Messenger*, is the assistant editor.

John P. Dunn, Jr., city attorney of Monrovia, a young man of great popularity and great promise, died in February, 1924. He came to Monrovia in 1890 with his father, who established a residence in Duarte. The elder Dunn established a distinguished name for himself in the politics of the State, and when he retired sought the seclusion of ranch life in our neighboring settlement.

JOHN P. DUNN, SR.

John P. Dunn, Sr., was born in Ireland in 1852 and at the age of three months came with his parents to America and settled at Cohoes, New York. He received his education in New York and in 1877 came to California and engaged in the fire insurance business in San Francisco. He soon became interested in local politics and in 1879 was elected auditor of San Francisco. In 1881 he was elected State comptroller on the Democratic ticket, and re-elected in 1885. During his eight years in office he led a long, arduous and successful fight against large tax evaders and secured the payment of many thousand dollars into the State treasury and established a permanent reputation as a fervent and militant reformer and enemy of corrupt politics.

In 1881 he bought twenty acres of land in Duarte, ten of which were planted in oranges and the balance uncultivated. When he retired from office in 1890, he established residence upon this ranch. However, he was not permitted to retire

entirely from politics, as he was drafted in 1892 as secretary of the Citizens Defense Association, a reform organization chiefly sponsored by Senator Phelan and the San Francisco *Examiner*. In 1894 he was appointed register of the United States Land Office at San Francisco, which position he held until 1898.

At the close of this period of service he returned to Duarte and from 1900 until 1906 was secretary of the Duarte Fruit Exchange.

Mr. Dunn was an able business man, a fearless advocate for right and justice, a member of the old Mission Church at San Gabriel, and a life-long Democrat.

In 1880 he married Miss Mary Mahoney, a native of New York. All of their four children were born in California and received the best of educational advantages. Walter F. Dunn, the oldest, was educated at Ignatius College, San Francisco; he is a graduate of the Monrovia High School and of Stanford University, and since 1906 has been a member of the bar practicing in Monrovia. He served as president of the Board of Trustees from 1916 to 1924, and from 1908 to 1910 was city attorney. He has served both El Monte and Arcadia as city attorney for a number of years.

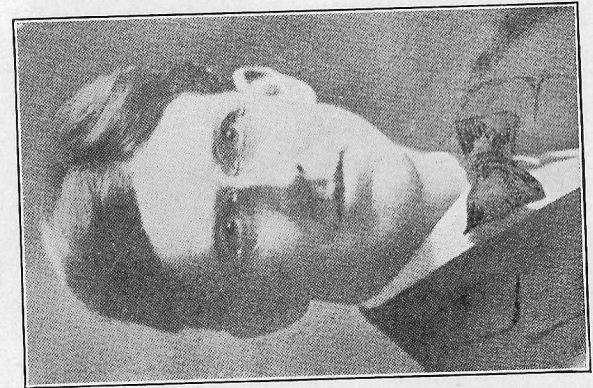
John P. Dunn, Jr., the second son, whose picture appears herein, is considered under a separate heading.

Mary Alice Dunn, the oldest daughter, is a graduate of the Monrovia High School and of Stanford University. She is the wife of Dal M. Lemmon and they have two children, Vincent and Richard.

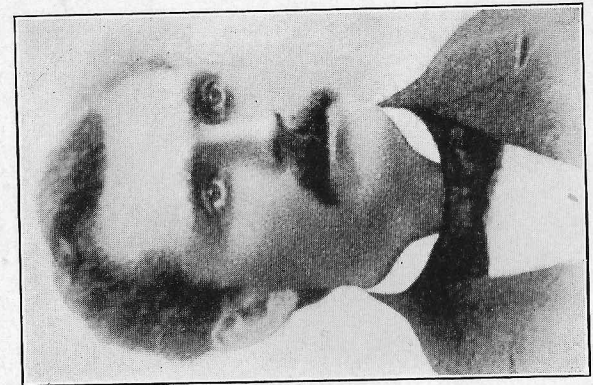
Miss Theresa Dunn is a graduate of Monrovia High School and Stanford University and for several years has been a teacher in the Monrovia High School.

JOHN P. DUNN, JR.

John P. Dunn, the second son of John P. and Mary Dunn, was born January 24, 1883, in San Francisco. He came with his parents in 1890 to live on a Duarte orange ranch. He was educated in the Citrus Union High School and in Stanford



JOHN PAUL DUNN



JOHN PATRICK DUNN

University. During the years between 1906 and 1910 he managed the Myrtle Hardware store, of which he was part owner, and afterwards fitted himself for the practice of law and established an office in Los Angeles and practiced there until the time of his death, which occurred February 14, 1924.

From 1916 until the time of his death he was city attorney for Monrovia and served a term as president of the City Attorneys' Association of Southern California.

Mr. Dunn enjoyed the confidence, esteem and affection of his friends and acquaintances to a very high degree, and the mourning occasioned by his passing was profound and universal. His sagacious counsel was deeply appreciated by the city trustees and his high character made him beloved by all.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK MERGER

On April 24, 1924, the First National Bank of Monrovia, the oldest and most powerful banking institution in the city, consolidated with the Security Trust and Savings Bank of Los Angeles and became the First Monrovia Branch of that bank.

As has been heretofore noted, this bank was formed in the year 1887, and ever since February 27, 1894, its affairs have been directed by John H. Bartle, who was elected president on that date. Mr. Bartle had a genius for safe and prudent banking and weathered all financial storms that beset the city and country. While other banks were tottering to their fall, the First National was growing stronger, and while this strength was accruing to the bank, it was extending the strong arm of financial aid to all Monrovia industries.

A short time after the consolidation of these banks, W. A. Chess, then cashier, who had served the organization since 1890, retired to private life.

William J. Ellery, a banker, formerly of Miami, Arizona, but then with one of the branches of the Security Trust and Savings Bank in Long Beach, was transferred to the Monrovia Branch as assistant vice-president. Mr. Ellery is a man of great energy and industry and has taken a prominent part in all of the civic affairs of the city.

The Monrovia Savings Bank, owned by the same interests that controlled the First National Bank, was also absorbed at the same time and continued business under the name of Second Branch of the Security Trust and Savings Bank.

The present officers of the First Branch are: John H. Bartle, vice-president; W. J. Ellery, assistant vice-president; George H. Anderson, assistant manager; and C. L. Nichols, assistant manager.

The officers of the Second Branch are: John H. Bartle, vice-president; W. J. Ellery, assistant vice-president; K. E. Lawrence, assistant manager; and Gerald Bartle, pro manager.

The combined deposits of the two Monrovia branches are approximately \$3,000,000.

JOHN H. BARTLE

John H. Bartle was a native of Michigan. At the age when most boys are in school, he started out to make his own way in the world, working at various undertakings at first and later devoting his energies to acquiring a thorough knowledge of the mercantile business. When still a young man, he opened a store of his own and for a number of years conducted very successfully a general merchandise house.

In 1886 he came to Southern California, and after making a careful survey of the grounds with a view to locating here, selected Monrovia as a most desirable place for a future home. Returning to Michigan, he disposed of his interests and the following year came to California and settled in Monrovia, where he has since made his home. Mr. Bartle has been most keenly interested in banking enterprises, in which he has made for himself a most distinctive reputation. April 13, 1888, shortly after coming to Monrovia, he accepted a position as bookkeeper for the First National Bank, which had been established in 1887. His services were of such a high character that he rapidly rose in rank, first being made assistant cashier; later, January 24, 1891, cashier, and on February 27, 1894, he was elected president of the institution, an office he continuously filled until the merger of the



JOHN H. BARTLE

bank with the Security Trust and Savings Bank, in 1924. In this enterprise he has been associated with the most prominent financiers of the southwest. The directorate was composed of such men as I. W. Hellman, J. A. Graves, J. F. Sartori, H. S. McKee, Lewis Bradbury, Joseph Fowler and W. A. Chess, the latter of whom served as cashier of the bank for thirty-five years.

Mr. Bartle assisted in the organization of the Security Trust and Savings Bank of Los Angeles; he organized the First National Bank of El Monte, the First National Bank of Arcadia, the Monrovia Savings Bank, and the Santa Monica Savings Bank, which was merged with the Security Trust and Savings Bank. He also assisted in the organization of the First National Bank of Covina.

During his entire residence in Monrovia he has been actively interested in all movements that have tended toward the upbuilding of the beautiful little city and has been intimately associated with its history. He has held various offices of trust and responsibility within the gift of the people and rendered excellent service in all such capacities. For three years he served as city trustee and was chairman of the board. When the present water system was built he was active in forwarding that valuable improvement. He was city treasurer for seven years, having succeeded J. F. Sartori in that position.

Mr. Bartle has been actively interested in real estate and other developing enterprises during his long residence here, being closely associated with the affairs of the community.

The marriage of Mr. Bartle took place in Port Arthur, Canada, in August, 1885, uniting him with Miss Amelia Bowerman, the daughter of Stephen and Annie Bowerman. They are the parents of two children, Kathleen and Gerald, both of whom are well and favorably known to the younger social set.

J. F. SARTORI

Joseph Francis Sartori was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, on December 25, 1858. His father, Joseph Sartori, emigrated

from Freiburg, Baden, Germany, following the Revolution of 1848. His mother was Theresa Wangler, daughter of the burgomaster of Freiburg. Although born in Germany, the elder Sartori was of Italian descent, of several generations back, however, since the churchyard at Freiburg reveals that numerous Sartoris lie buried there.

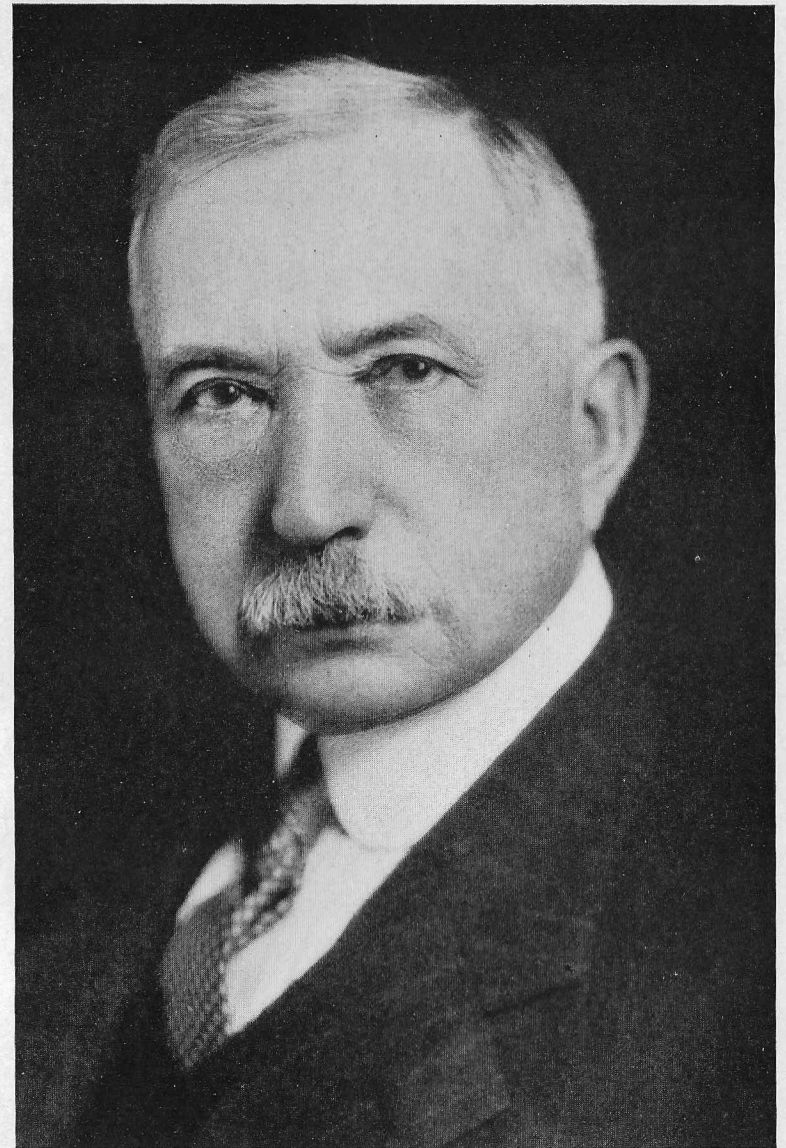
In Cedar Falls, Iowa, there stands today a fine free hospital and nurses' home, erected by J. F. Sartori as a memorial to his parents. A more fitting tribute to their helpful lives is not conceivable. During her years in her adopted city, the mother was a ministering angel to the sick and distressed of that region.

Young Sartori received his early education in the grade schools of Cedar Rapids and then entered Cornell College at Mt. Vernon, Iowa, in 1874. In 1876 he went to Germany for one year to attend the University of Freiburg, situated in his father's native town. He returned to Cornell in 1877, graduated in 1879, and then entered the University of Michigan Law School, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1881.

He began his career as an attorney in the law offices of Leslie M. Shaw, former Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, who was then practicing in Dennison, Iowa. Years later when Shaw assumed the guidance of the government's finances he invited the young banker, by that time already established in Los Angeles, to accept the post of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, an honor he declined.

From 1882 to 1887, Mr. Sartori practiced law in Le Mars, Iowa, in partnership with I. S. Struble, a well-known attorney and member of the United States House of Representatives.

In 1887 he moved to Monrovia, California, where he was active in subdividing land. He established the First National Bank of Monrovia, and served as cashier of that institution from the time of its founding until 1889, and from that date was vice-president until the bank was merged with the Security Trust & Savings Bank, in 1924. His home was one of the early residences built in Monrovia.



J. F. SARTORI

Moving to Los Angeles in 1889 he organized the Security Savings Bank, which has since taken the name of the Security Trust & Savings Bank. He was cashier until 1894, and in 1895 he became president and a member of the board of directors. He has been head of this institution ever since.

From 1913 to 1918 he was a member of the Currency Commission of the American Bankers Association, and during 1914 he was president of the Savings Bank Division of the American Bankers Association. Since 1908 he has been a member of and is at present chairman of the Legislative Committee of the California Bankers Association. He is credited with the authorship of the California Bank Act, a model of legislation since copied in many States. Bank failures in California since its passage are said to have been the smallest in number of any State in the Union.

Mr. Sartori is president of the following organizations: The Los Angeles Clearing House Association; the Security Company, the investment subsidiary of the Security Bank; the Subway terminal Corporation of Los Angeles, and the Security Bank of Alhambra. He is vice-president and director of the Central Investment Company. He is a director of the following institutions: Los Angeles Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Morris Plan Company of Los Angeles, Central Fireproof Building Company, Century Fireproof Building Company, Chester Fireproof Building Company, and Commercial Fireproof Building Company. Mr. Sartori called and presided over the group of men who built the Biltmore Hotel and was the dominant figure in the conception and erection of the Subway Terminal Building.

His social activities are centered in the Los Angeles Country Club of which he is president and the California Club of which he is a past-president. Mr. Sartori helped found the former club and has been re-elected president for fifteen terms. He is also a member of the Jonathan Club, University Club, Midwick Country Club, Los Angeles Athletic Club, Crage Country Club, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, and the Historical Society of Southern California, and is

a director-member of the Automobile Club of Southern California.

Mr. Sartori was married in June, 1886, to Margaret Rishel at Le Mars, Iowa. Mrs. Sartori is a regent of the University of California in Los Angeles and is active in the affairs of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

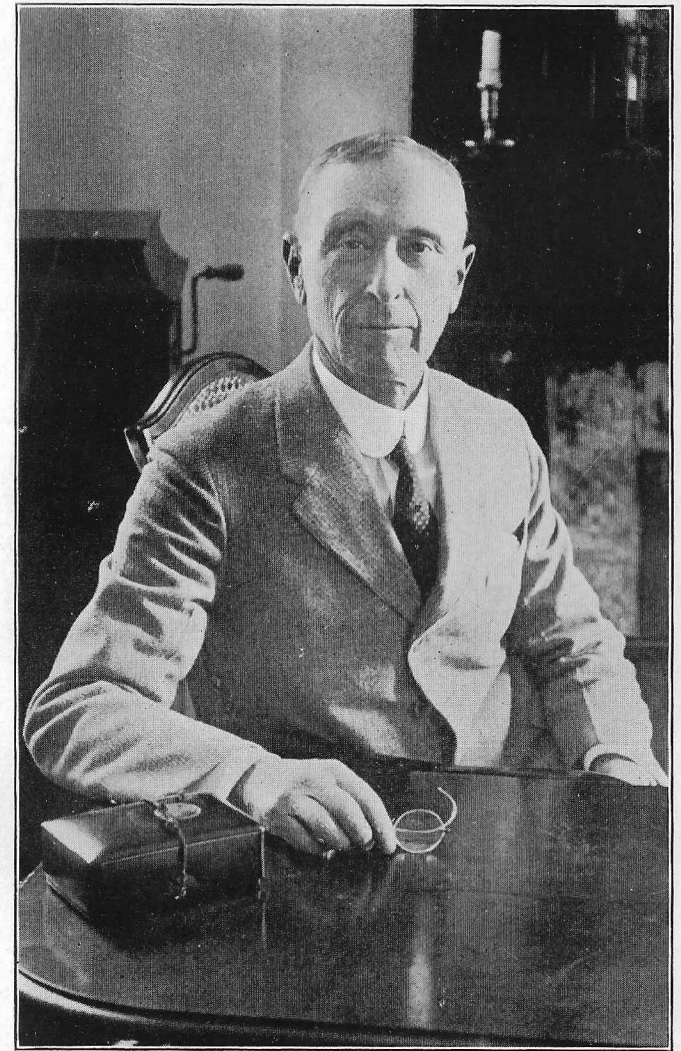
Mr. Sartori, as president of the Security Trust & Savings Bank, with resources of more than a quarter billion of dollars, is head of the eighth largest bank in the United States, outside of New York City. It has fifty-three branches in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. He has achieved a notable place in financial circles through his keen insight, his exceptional grasp of the broader principles of finance, his sound judgments and his sterling integrity.

WILLIAM ALBERT CHESSE

William Albert Chess was born near Brownsville, Michigan, June 9, 1853. He received a public school education and at the age of seventeen became a clerk in his father's general store. After completing a course in business and commercial law in Clinton, Iowa, he returned to Michigan and worked in Cassopolis, near Brownsville, where he was married to Miss Minnie B. Smith, November 22, 1881.

Being possessed by the western fever he moved to western Kansas and engaged in the sheep business. Later his brother Edward joined him there, and in 1885 they closed out their sheep business and opened a hay, grain, feed and seed store in Garden City, Kansas.

The lure of California's charms attracted the two brothers, and in 1887 a younger brother, Frank, was sent out to scout around. He came to Monrovia and was so possessed by its charms that he sent the now famous wire to his brother, "If you want to go to heaven before dying come out to Monrovia." They closed their affairs in Garden City and came out that year, and W. A. Chess has been here ever since except a few months when he accepted a position in a bank in Arizona. He returned in 1890 and took a position in the First National



WM. A. CHESSE

Bank as bookkeeper, and remained with the bank in association with John H. Bartle, for thirty-five years, serving as cashier for many years before it consolidated with the Security Trust and Savings Bank in April of 1924. Mr. Chess made an application to retire from the bank on January 1, 1925, which was granted with a life pension based upon his long service with the First National Bank.

As deputy assessor, Mr. Chess made the first assessment of Monrovia. He served two terms as city treasurer and has been a member of the park and library commissions.

Mr. and Mrs. Chess have two children, Claude S. Chess, a radio dealer, and Edna A. Chess, a teacher of art in Monrovia High School, both of whom are prominent in the life of the city.

While Mr. Chess's long and eventful career in Monrovia was chiefly associated with the First National Bank, of which he was a highly valued official, yet he always found time for study and the expression of a poetic feeling for which he possessed a genius of no small order. During his odd hours he composed a number of poems and essays, which he assembled into a gift book under the name of "Fireside Fragments." These poems carry in pleasing meter a wholesome and cheerful philosophy and bring a message of cheer to help us over the rugged path of life. His home was located on the northwest corner of White Oak and Magnolia Avenues for a number of years but he sold the site to the Aztec Hotel Association for the erection of that building and purchased a home on Highland Place.

Mr. Chess's genial disposition, unwavering integrity, high ideals and self-sacrificing efforts to be helpful to the community and to those of his fellow men with whom he came in contact, gained for himself and the institution he served a host of loyal friends who regretted his retirement to private life.

Now with the fullness of days at his command he is spending the afternoon of life enriching his mind with broad reading and keeping it active with the common things of life, and

thus in the simplicity of his interests and pleasures living the philosophy he eulogizes in his literary creations.

THE YEAR 1926

City Officials

Trustees, J. P. Daniel, *President*

Thomas R. Hayes

A. J. Little

E. C. Crump

W. W. Horton

Lewis Vollmer, appointed

City Clerk, Lewis R. Black

City Treasurer, Annetta Monroe

At this election, three trustees, Chester O. Banks, Ed. F. Spence and Arthur J. Everest, declined to submit their names for re-election and closed a distinguished and harmonious career of service for the city.

Chester O. Banks, a successful wholesale citrus dealer, was elected in 1918 and served continuously, giving the city the benefit of his fine business training.

Ed. F. Spence, a nephew of Ed. F. Spence, Sr., one of the founders of the city, a citrus grower and packer, elected in 1918, gave especial interest to the acquisition of water for the city and retired from the council when an abundant supply had been secured at the San Gabriel well.

Arthur J. Everest, appointed October 7, 1918, a financier and accountant, was the "watchdog of the budget" and kept the council advised at all times of the financial status of the city. Mr. Everest had extensive business affairs, being for many years a director of the First National Bank of Monrovia, and his keen business judgment was one of the safe anchors of the municipal ship.

The new council early adopted a progressive movement for an extensive highway improvement, announcing that it favored the early widening and paving of White Oak Avenue, the paving of Myrtle Avenue, the paving of Orange Avenue

and the widening and paving of Huntington Drive and Duarte Avenue. These improvements had been the subject of considerable discussion and the general sentiment favored their early completion. The policy of the council as announced was a popular stroke and the property owners along each highway became active in forming associations for the speedy progress of the work. An action to widen White Oak Avenue to eighty feet has now been pending in the courts for about two years. There is recent agitation to have this further widened to one hundred feet, to meet the plans of the Regional Planning Commission.

Another matter which came into prominence this year was the promotion of a new high school. To meet the wishes of Arcadia it was agreed to place the school as near the common limits of the two cities as was practical. This agitation bore fruit the following year when a bond issue was voted to purchase a school site and erect a fine modern structure to cost approximately \$650,000. Two sites were named on the ballot at the bond election, one on 5th and Orange Avenues in Arcadia and the other on 6th and Orange Avenues in Monrovia. The majority of the votes favored the Monrovia site.

THE CITIZENS BANK OF MONROVIA

The Citizens Bank of Monrovia, the latest banking institution to be formed in the city, is rapidly taking a prominent place in the financial life of the community. Its directors and stockholders are all men of substantial means and of mature business experience and judgment and their counsel is a guarantee of safe banking.

The bank opened its doors for business May 29, 1926, at the northwest corner of White Oak and Encinitas Avenues and enjoyed a prosperous business from the start. The opening day's deposits totaled \$214,045.50. This was raised to \$246,057.02 the first quarter, to \$296,664.38 the second quarter and to \$362,829.45 the third quarter. On June 30, 1927, this had mounted to \$510,661.62.

This splendid record reflects the confidence of the people

in the officers and directors who stand back of the institution to guarantee its solidity.

The present directorate is composed of T. C. Rogers, Treasurer of the Union Rock Company and a man of extensive business holdings.

Colonel R. E. Frith, a retired United States Army officer, who was Prohibition Administrator for Southern California and Arizona for over a year and made a record of aggressive administration. He is now connected with the office of the sheriff of Los Angeles County as Contact Officer, whose duty it is to find employment for people who have served jail and penitentiary sentences.

James G. Maxwell, secretary of the Holmes Supply Company, and an old resident of Monrovia.

C. H. Banks, vice-president of the First National Bank of Baldwin Park, a man of wide banking experience.

Harry E. Klein, proprietor of Klein's Pharmacy.

C. H. Anson, a Monrovia realtor and capitalist.

W. H. McCune, Jr., a contractor and builder of Monrovia.

J. H. Milligan, an oil operator and capitalist of Monrovia.

Otis Sayre, a Monrovia capitalist.

C. B. Johnson, California Tours representative of the California & Northwestern and Union Pacific Railways.

Louis Menge, a prominent furniture dealer.

Frank K. Berry, president of A. B. Stove Company, Detroit.

Herbert J. Evans, State senator; orange grower and real estate and insurance broker.

The officers of the bank are: T. C. Rogers, president; R. E. Frith, vice-president; James G. Maxwell, vice-president; C. H. Banks, vice-president and cashier; F. R. Schallert, assistant cashier.

T. C. Rogers, the president of the bank, is a man of wide and extensive property holdings in Los Angeles County. As treasurer of the Union Rock Company he has assisted in building up an enormous organization in that company. His name at the head of an institution is a responsible guaranty of its solidity.



C. H. BANKS

C. H. Banks, vice-president and cashier, is in active management of the bank. He has had over seventeen years' experience in the banking business, having spent ten years in it in Kansas before coming to California. His first experience in this line of work was with the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Oxford, Kansas, where he served six years. He was next with the Oakland State Bank of Topeka, which he served four years. His first California experience was with the First National Bank of Baldwin Park, where he remained for six years, until he came to Monrovia to take charge of the Citizens Bank of Monrovia.

Mr. Banks is the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Monrovia, and is a married man, with a daughter who will enter Pomona College this Fall.

THE BANK OF ITALY

A financial operation of the highest importance was the sale of the First National Bank in Monrovia and the Granite Savings Bank to the Bank of Italy, which occurred in December, 1926. The Bank of Italy is one of the largest financial institutions in the country, having about one hundred branches scattered throughout the State.

To avoid possible confusion in bank names, it should be explained that when the First National Bank *of* Monrovia merged with the Security Trust and Savings Bank in 1925, the National Bank of Monrovia changed its name and became the First National Bank *in* Monrovia. The First National Bank *of* Monrovia was headed by John H. Bartle, and the First National Bank *in* Monrovia was headed by A. I. Mellenthin. The Granite Savings Bank was headed by Arthur Graf who, upon the sale to the Bank of Italy, became the head of the local branch of the Bank of Italy.

ALFRED IRA MELLENTHIN

Alfred Ira Mellenthin was born in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, August 10, 1885. He received his education in the high school of Sleepy Eye, in the University of Minnesota, and in

the Southwestern University of Los Angeles where he received his B.C.S. degree, and in the University of Southern California where he received his degree of LL.B.

Mr. Mellenthin has spent his life in the banking business since early manhood. He served seven years in the First National Bank of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, rising to the position of assistant cashier, after which he was appointed State bank examiner of Minnesota by Governor A. O. Eberhart, which position he occupied for three and a half years, and then entered the banking business in St. Paul, Minnesota, for four years. He left there in 1919 to come to California and on November 20, 1919, took over the National Bank of Monrovia and the Granite Savings Bank. The name of the former institution was changed to the First National Bank in Monrovia in the Spring of 1924. In December of 1926 the First National Bank in Monrovia and the Granite Savings Bank were sold to the Bank of Italy, it also taking over the First National Bank Building then owned by a subsidiary company.

Mr. Mellenthin was elected vice-president of the Bank of Italy and placed in charge of the Bank of America office of the Bank of Italy, located in the Chapman Building on the corner of 8th and Broadway, Los Angeles. March 1, 1927, he entered upon the duties of this office, which involves the management of one of the large branches of the Bank of Italy in Los Angeles.

Mr. Mellenthin is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega college fraternity; is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar, and a member of the Shrine. He is a member of the Monrovia Elks Lodge and of the Sons of Herman.

He was married in Minneapolis and has one child, a young daughter, Betty.

When Mr. Mellenthin took charge of the National Bank of Monrovia and the Granite Savings Bank in 1919, their total assets were \$650,000. This amount he had augmented to over \$2,000,000 when the two banks were merged into the Bank of Italy.



ALFRED I. MELLENTHIN



ARTHUR F. GRAF

Mr. Mellenthin's management of the two Monrovia banks was marked by ability of a high order. He was alert, active, aggressive, forceful and successful. He built up the two institutions rapidly and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the prominent financial men of the country.

ARTHUR FREDERICK GRAF

Arthur Frederick Graf was born in Buffalo, New York, September 9, 1895. He received his education in the public schools of Buffalo, graduating from Technical High, Public School No. 54, and from the Bryant and Stratton Business College. He entered the private banking business in 1912 at the age of seventeen and continued in that line until 1920. During this period he acted as appraiser for banks and was connected with the Jefferson Loan Association of Buffalo.

In 1920 he moved from Buffalo to Hollywood and spent several months examining business opportunities. He then moved to Sawtelle and later built a fine home in Brentwood and occupied himself in private investments.

He came to Monrovia in November, 1922, and purchased a controlling interest in the Granite Savings Bank and a third interest in the First National Bank in Monrovia. He was elected president of the Granite Savings Bank and vice-president of the First National Bank, at the age of twenty-seven years being one of the youngest bank presidents in the State of California.

When the First National Bank and Granite Savings Bank were purchased by the Bank of Italy, Mr. Graf was made manager of the local branch.

Mr. Graf was married in Buffalo and has one son, five years old, Arthur Frederick Graf, Jr. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, having taken both the Scottish Rites and York Rites degrees, and is a member of the Shrine and a Knight Templar.

Mr. Graf's business career has been marked with careful and prudent judgment, and his unusual success achieved at so youthful a period had its foundation in a clear insight

into business affairs and familiarity with financial matters. The Granite Savings Bank made splendid progress under his management and the local branch of the Bank of Italy, now under his direction, is a thriving institution.

DR. JOHN S. ALLISON

Dr. Allison was born near Paris, Missouri, April 25, 1862, and at the age of two years moved with his parents to Boone County. He was one of nine children, one of whom died in infancy; the remaining eight all chose the teaching profession. He received his education in the public schools of Sturgeon, Missouri, MaGee College in Missouri, and the State Teachers College at Kirksville, Missouri, of which institution he became principal. He later took up the study of osteopathy in the Kirksville school and graduated in 1905, being preceded by his fiancee, the present Mrs. Allison.

Dr. Allison came to Monrovia in 1905 and from 1905 until 1909 was connected with the Pacific College of Osteopathy of Los Angeles, where he took a post-graduate course and received his degree of Sc.D. He practiced in Los Angeles until the World War, when he entered the service as Y. M. C. A. secretary, being stationed at Mare Island in charge of the marines as athletic instructor. After the outbreak of the "flu" epidemic he was appointed chaplain and served four months, until the armistice.

At the close of the war he returned to Monrovia where he sought to limit his practice and devote much of his time to literary work. While his practice has been heavier here than it was in Los Angeles yet he has found time to devote odd hours to writing. He has a book in the course of preparation he styles "The Restoration of Id," being a religious dissertation upon baptism. The treatment is highly erudite, bold in conception and unique in theory. It is destined to elicit much comment in the ecclesiastical world.

Dr. Allison is a progressive member of the community and has improved every piece of property he has purchased in Monrovia. His home, erected according to plans designed



Ed F. SPENCE



DR. JOHN S. ALLISON

by himself and Mrs. Allison, was the first large residence in the town and still remains one of the most prominent in the business section, after seventeen years.

Their home bears the air of hospitality and Mrs. Allison's fame as a genial hostess extends far beyond the limits of the city.

Dr. Allison has always been active in public affairs and lends his efforts and substance generously to the promotion of all worthy objects. He is the President of the Park Board, in which position he has always labored diligently for the beautification of our parking system.

ED. F. SPENCE

Ed. F. Spence, orange grower, fruit packer and ex-councilman, was born in Enniskillen, Ireland, and came to America in 1894. He is a nephew of Ed. F. Spence, one of the founders of the city of Monrovia, and he came direct to Monrovia to live.

Mr. Spence found employment in the orange groves and early interested himself in fruit culture. He became an extensive holder of orange groves and fifteen years ago established the Spence Fruit Packing plant. His brand, "The Golden Harp," is known in every market in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Spence was appointed to the city council in January, 1918, to fill a vacancy. He was elected in April of the same year and re-elected in 1922. His primary interest in the council was to provide an abundant water supply for the city and when that was accomplished he retired from public life in 1926 refusing to submit his name for re-election.

He is the Past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 308, is active in all public affairs and a successful business man.

JAMES L. QUIGGLE

James L. Quiggle was born in Coffey County, Kansas, July 15, 1876. His first trip to California was in 1902, when he remained until 1903. Returning to Kansas in 1903, he

made his second and final journey to the Southland in 1904 and established permanent residence in Los Angeles County. He secured employment in the dairy department of the Los Angeles County Farm. In 1905 he came to Monrovia and took charge of Pottenger's Dairy, which he managed for about a year.

Mr. Quiggle's long term as police officer commenced in the Fall of 1906, when he was appointed deputy constable under John Thomas and also became private night watchman for the merchants of Monrovia under Frank Miller, the city marshal. In 1907 he was appointed night patrolman for the City of Monrovia and in 1910 was elected constable of Monrovia township, which position he held in conjunction with the work for the city as night watchman.

In May of 1914 Mr. Quiggle was appointed city marshal and served until July 1, 1915, when he went under civil service in the county as constable. He again, in August, 1925, accepted the office of city marshal under the urgent request of the city trustees and agreed to hold the office until his successor could be appointed. He served until May, 1926, when the newly elected trustees selected Frank Scott, a police captain under Mr. Quiggle.

Mr. Quiggle has established a permanent and enviable reputation as an honest, able and fearless officer. He has been highly successful in bringing malefactors to justice for crimes committed within his jurisdiction and has always been diligent in the pursuit of them. His long experience as a police officer has advised him of local conditions and when a crime bears evidence of local origin, Mr. Quiggle has a "mighty good hunch" where to look.

He was married to Mabel M. Mapes, of Monrovia, January 3, 1911, and the couple have two sons, William and Arthur, aged fourteen and fifteen years respectively.

ERNEST A. BOVEE

Mr. Bovee was born on a farm near Green Mountain, Marshall County, Iowa, where he resided until he was twenty-

one years of age, when, on December 12, 1891, he came to California with his parents and located in Arcadia. He engaged in the cultivation of orange groves and planted one of the first orchards in the Santa Anita Colony.

In 1900 he was united in marriage to Winnie A. Valentine, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Valentine, of Long Beach, and in the same year moved to Monrovia.

A long period of official service with the City of Monrovia began August 1, 1908, when he was appointed *zanjaro* in charge of the irrigation system of the city. This position he held for four years, when on December 1, 1912, he was appointed deputy constable under James L. Quiggle, constable, and on August 28, 1914, he was appointed deputy city marshal under the same officer, who had been appointed city marshal. Mr. Quiggle retired as city marshal and Mr. Bovee was appointed to the office July 1, 1915, when he entered upon a ten-year period of distinguished service as a successful police official.

On August 24, 1925, the office of deputy city treasurer and deputy city tax collector having been created, Mr. Bovee was tendered the position. This work had been borne by the police department and Mr. Bovee's splendid record secured him the appointment to the new post, which he still retains.

In all civic enterprises and public endeavors, Mr. Bovee has always been active and has always given his best efforts and the weight of his influence for all municipal bond issues and other city activities.

The following lodge and club associations will attest his interest in such matters:

Past District Deputy Grand Master, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Lodge No. 330, Monrovia.

Monrovia Rebekah Lodge No. 151 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Gem City Encampment No. 116, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Past Consul Commander of Monrovia Camp No. 477, Woodman of the World.

Gem City Lodge No. 72, Knights of Pythias.
 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge, No. 1427.
 Monrovia Chamber of Commerce.
 Monrovia University Club.
 The Exchange Club of Monrovia.
 Southern California Academy of Criminology.
 California State Division International Association for
 Identification.
 Peace Officers' Association of the State of California.

CHAPTER XI

THE GREAT FOREST FIRE OF 1924

THE greatest and most destructive forest fire known to have visited the local mountain range started on the afternoon of Sunday, August 31, 1924, and was not conquered until September 18, during which time it swept almost at will from the west bank of the San Gabriel Canyon to the fire-break above the east side of Clamshell Canyon, just north of Monrovia.

Andy Gunsalus, a Los Angeles baker, with his wife and children and brother Carlos, were spending the afternoon on that date in O'Melveny's Canyon, a small offshoot from San Gabriel Canyon, extending to the west. After lighting a cigarette Andy Gunsalus threw the match upon the ground, believing he had extinguished the light. He had not progressed ten feet when he was attracted by the sounds of a roaring fire emanating from the point where the match was thrown.

The flames leaped into the forest and spread with terrific speed. A dense undergrowth had sprung up owing to immunity from fire for a number of years and the woods were as dry as tinder. A crew of men was quickly assembled and rushed to the scene under the direction of L. H. Anderson, deputy Forest Supervisor of the Los Angeles Forest, who was assisted by E. V. Lackey of the Los Angeles bureau and Lieutenant C. P. Kane of Ross Field. No headway was made against the flames until a fire-break was cut from the head of Robert's Canyon to the West Fork near Bear Canyon. This was finished on the 4th of September and a successful back-fire instituted. When these two long lines of flames met and died in their common tracks, it was announced that the fire was out and most of the men were brought in from the fire lines. The estimate of damage at that date was set at eight thousand acres. A crew was left to patrol the lines as the fire was still active in a number of small isolated canyons.