

Lomita Has Exceptional School Facilities and Equipment



LOMITA SCHOOL GROUP

BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING
LOCATED AT
LOMITA CAL.
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

JULIUS W. KRAUSE
ARCHITECT

JULIUS W. KRAUSE, Architect.

The accompanying drawing shows the splendid new school erected a few months ago at Lomita, a credit to a community many times larger, and evidencing Lomita's progressive spirit.

The new building cost \$25,000.00, and is 99'0" x 67'0". The structure is a two-story brick building with basement.

The basement is so constructed that it receives as much natural light as any other section of the building and contains a modern gymnasium, nature study room containing small

animal cages, marine and fresh water aquariums; a furnace room, and two unfinished rooms which will be used in the future for laboratories.

The first floor contains the principal's room and supply room, 12x23 feet, and a private lavatory; four class rooms, 23x32 feet, and ward-ropes.

The second floor has two class rooms, 23'4" x 32'0". The remaining second story besides corridors and stairs is arranged for three class rooms.

There is a library room and rest

to the rear of the school grounds to and second grades has been moved into the second floor, also mezzanine floor and private toilets and lavatories and closets. These rooms are 20'0" x 21'0".

The entire building is heated with the Plenum system, cold and hot air.

The foundations are of concrete, blue brick exterior, Buttonlath and plastering, maple floors throughout class rooms; up-to-date electric wiring, painting and various fixtures.

The bungalow used for the first

the north and altered into a sloyd room.

The third, fourth and fifth grade bungalows have been moved to the rear of the schoolhouse grounds on the south and altered to cooking and sewing rooms.

The sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth grade building, (the old two-story frame school building) has been moved north close to the north line of schoolhouse premises, and has been altered to a kindergarten auditorium with a stage.

NARBONNE WATER COMPANY, PIONEER WATER CO. NO. 2 FURNISHES WATER AT HALF COST L. A. AQUEDUCT

NARBONNE WATER CO., NO. 2, SELLS DOMESTIC AND IRRIGATION WATER AT HALF THE COST OF LOS ANGELES AQUEDUCT WATER.

The Narbonne Water Co., No. 2, a mutual company, is the oldest plant on the Lomita tract. Its unflagging supply invariably coaxes bountiful crops upon the 365 acres which it serves. This company has an inexhaustible water supply; has a lift of only about 90 feet, and furnishes its stockholders at actual cost of operating expenses, or one-half the charges made for Los Angeles aqueduct water, or 50 cents per month per family for water for domestic uses, and one cent per inch per hour for irrigation purposes.

The plant is capacitated to amply irrigate at least twice as much acreage as it does now, or will ever have to do. The quality of the water is par excellence for the various uses to which it is put. It is pure, soft artesian water; is as palatable and healthful as it is magical incentive to the growth of crops and all vegetation. As before hinted, the first artificial water to quench the thirst of the soil of this tract and to quicken production was from this plant. In fact, it led the way and demonstrated the feasibility of transforming this then stupendous barley field into highly productive and consequently highly remunerative truck gardens, successful chicken ranches and ideal orchard homes.

The same splendid thing it showed upon its establishment eight years

ago, in intensifying this naturally fertile tract of land to the best possible service of the husbandmen, it is still showing in the communities' behalf by the excellent service it renders its patrons at the lowest possible charge.

Water is the life-blood of the land here, but this company, by no means, ever tries to take advantage of those to whom its water is indispensable. Because of this fact this company is generally recognized as a boon and blessing to its water consumers, and as a great factor in inducing settlers to the community.

The Narbonne Water Company, No. 2 plant stands for up-to-dateness, and represents an outlay of at least \$125,000. But despite the handsome sum tied up in the plant, its stockholders cheerfully step forth with their assessments to meet all the requirements of corporation housekeeping.

This company supplies all of the domestic water for the town proper and for those in its water district.

The company is officered thus: George W. Towne, president; E. Voris, secretary; and these together with J. D. Groat and C. E. Hooper, of Los Angeles, are its directors, all men who have done much to push Lomita to its present solid prosperity; all men who have infinite faith in the future of the town and tract, as their godly personal investments in both emphatically testify.

The company maintains an office in the town of Lomita, where a welcoming chair invites home-seekers to sit down and quiz the secretary about the Lomita tract, to their hearts' content.

an enticing little house of worship. It beckons those of all faiths into its pews and its interdenominational policy knits them all into the closest Christian comradeship.

It has a goodly church and Sunday school membership.

Four Stores

Three general merchandise stores, a meat market and a smoke, sweet and soft-drink shop, are here. They carry all of the necessities and not a few of the luxuries of life, and sell at prices which make merchants in neighboring communities take the Lord's name in vain.

Unlike most country merchants, Lomita merchants do not carry an ax for each other. On the contrary, they are working hand in hand for Lomita's advancement.

The tradespeople are as loyal to their home merchants as to their home community. Those formerly addicted to the mail order house habit have taken the cure and paid for it handsomely. They no longer steal away from the postoffice with big bundles under their arms and, upon opening them, exclaim, "Stung again, by Heck!" They now buy gilt-edged quality goods at home. They let the "bargain-hunters" of other communities have the exclusive pick of the faulty and inferior goods sold by masters of misrepresentation from elsewhere. Wholesale and retail mercantile fakers who once did a driving business in this district have now cut the district out of their itinerary, and are preying upon the gullibility of the unsuspecting public in other parts. (See special article elsewhere in this issue on Stores.)

A good garage and an excellent blacksmith shop are also here. (See special mention elsewhere in this issue.)

Business Openings

There is a crying demand for a cannery here, as this is the banner vegetable district, of its size, in our Southland.

Such an industry would be of incalculable profit and advantage both to its founders and to the community, as it would insure to the former fat dividends from the outset; would give a higher profitable market to the growers, and would mean that every idle acre in the district would soon be cultivated up to its greatest capabilities. Hence an exhaustless supply of raw material for the cannery for all time, and an enviable degree of prosperity for both the cannery and the district.

There is a need here, too, for a harness-maker and a shoemaker. There is trade enough in each line to support both.

There is need of an opening for a restaurant and a rooming house. Remarkably Good and Cheap Water

Irrigation water in this district only costs the consumer one-half of what the thousands who use the much-vaunted Los Angeles Aqueduct water must pay.

Pray, do not forget this fact, home-seeker, when the real estate men of the great scope of country watered by the Aqueduct swarm down upon you and try to induce you to buy their Eden tracts of sun-baked desert land.

There are four different mutual water companies in the district. Under each plant there are from 300 to 500 acres. The average cost of the water is one cent per inch per hour, or only one-half the cost of Aqueduct water.

Outside property ranges from \$500 to \$1250 per acre, according to improvements and location. Town property sells at from \$250 to \$500 per lot. Lots are 50x150 feet.

No industrious, frugal man is too poor to acquire these holdings, as they are sold on exceptionally easy terms.

Distances From Important Cities

Lomita is distant from Los Angeles by the new boulevard, ten miles. From San Pedro (Los Angeles Harbor), four and one-half miles. From Redondo, six miles. From Long Beach, nine miles.

Some sixty-five automobiles are owned in the district.

Charles Smith is the highly efficient and uniformly obliging postmaster.

L. J. Hunter is the able and equitable justice of the peace and E. Voris the vigilant and intrepid constable.

No saloon or similar unwholesome influence is here.

Lomita is but four miles to the sea and is the logical residential district for the harbor zone.

The Herald Its Voice for Progress

In the Torrance Herald Lomita has a vigorous voice for progress, harmony and cooperation. It is doing its utmost to inject more new, rich blood into the community and to attract needed capital to develop its great dormant resources.

Interviews With Leading Citizens

The Herald will now hint in a handful of words what some of the citizens think about Lomita District and what we think about them:

J. A. SMITH, BOOSTER

(Continued from page 1)

side here really values have been steadily climbing because of the improvements made upon the properties and the healthful growth of the section. Lomita's growth has never been by leaps and bounds, has by no means been a mushroom growth, but it has been as solid, steady and natural as the oak grows.

"Most of those who located here did it for the same or similar reason that I did. They looked over the tract thoroughly from every angle; were deeply impressed with its great natural advantages, and became convinced that because of its location and the great fertility of its soil, that the tract had a great future.

"From March, 1907, to May, 1909, I spent most of my time looking over the United States, Canada, and Old Mexico for the most desirable place for a home for my family and myself. I was in search of a home from an investment standpoint, as well as from other reasons. I wanted to settle where my property would not cease to increase in value, not only during my life time, but during the lives of the members of my family. In all my travels I did not find a community that I was convinced met the requirements I sought, until I saw and investigated the resources and prospects of the Lomita tract.

"I was in Los Angeles in 1886, when there were no business houses south of First street and its climate alone was all that was urged in its behalf. But the climate then meant little to me, as I thought it could in no way be commercialized.

"My mind was emphatically disabused of this fallacy, however, in the winter of 1908-9, whilst I was going from my Arizona home to the East. A prominent Providence, R. I., manufacturer, who was returning home from Los Angeles, told me why he had just purchased a factory site in Wilmington. 'It is only a matter of time,' said he, 'before Los Angeles and vicinity will become one of the largest manufacturing centers in the United States. A great variety of raw materials of exhaustless supply are in Southern California, and the call of common sense is not to ship those materials East to manufacturers and then to have them ship back much of their finished products, but to convert those raw materials into things of utility by manufacturing them at home and thus insure enor-

mal employment to multitudes of its people, and incalculable enrichment to Southern California. But the greatest inducement, probably, for the establishment of factories in Southern California is its climate. We of the East have spent vast sums every winter to heat our factories, and to spend no little in summer to cool them. The climatic conditions are such in and around Los Angeles that it is not necessary to spend money for either heating or cooling their factories.'

Says Mr. Smith: "This information made such an impression upon me that it incited me to come and thoroughly investigate all of this section.

"This done, I bought five acres for myself on the Lomita tract and took an option on 137 acres more for my friends in Arizona, most all of which they bought before I removed from Arizona.

"I came here in October, 1910, and the following July, was appointed Lomita Tract agent. The last of the original companies' land was sold by me three years ago last March.

"This was the first acre subdivision put on the market in the Harbor District. The tract was secured by a syndicate during the panic of 1907; hence they were able to sell for less than any other property on the market in this district.

"Ninety per cent. of our population are Americans, and no colored people live here.

"Our early tomatoes and winter lettuce are in the market from two to six weeks earlier than those of any other community.

"There is no place where lemons do better; apples likewise. The great bulk of our garden truck is shipped East, the overripe stuff, to Southern California cities. Our school teaches everything from kindergarten up to and through the High School grade. All deeds to our lands have restrictions against saloons or poolhalls.

"75 per cent. of our citizens are wage-workers here or elsewhere. On one quarter of an acre here one can raise all the garden stuff and small fruit that a family can consume.

"One-quarter acre of alfalfa here will keep a cow and a quarter-acre will keep 200 hens. There is no day in the year when one cannot get from his garden some kind of fresh vegetables. Lomita tract and district is the natural home place for all the Harbor and Industrial zone. In the next five years, I expect to see Lomita the home of from 10,000 to 15,000 population. For as fast as home-seekers realize its advantages they will flock this way.

"Here one enjoys the beauties of rural life and city conveniences at the same time. We have room and to spare for all who may come, and a welcome awaits them."

INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE W. TOWNE, PRESIDENT NARBONNE WATER CO. NO. 2 ROADMASTER AND PIONEER

One of The Oldest Pioneers in These Parts

When Mr. George W. Towne was asked: "What are the prime inducements the Lomita locality holds out to home and investment seekers, he with honest candor, in substance said: "The growth and development of Lomita and its tributary country has been solid and steady.

"It has more than held its own during the most depressed business periods.

"Its realty prices have never been in advance of the actual value of the land, from the standpoint of its commercial productiveness.

"The man who has a one-acre farm-home here and who works elsewhere can, practically, put all of his day's wage in the bank, as his small farm, if intelligently worked, will take care of his table for him and his family.

"And a three to five-acre farm here will, by proper attention, build up a small fortune for its owner.

"As the tract and its surroundings now has three or four times more cheap water than it can possibly use, and as the most modern methods are employed in its culture, its crops are bountiful and profitable.

"Our company sells irrigation water at half the charge made for Los Angeles Aqueduct water.

"I believe it a most conservative estimate when I say, that the soil of the Lomita country, cultivated up to its greatest productive capacity could easily support a population of 25,000 people, and that it would insure an independence, if not a small fortune to many of its farmers.

OUR PEOPLE INDUSTRIOUS AND THRIFTY

"We are particularly fortunate in our citizenship.

"There is not an undesirable person in the community. All are busy either at their own homes, or in the factories or places where they work

in Torrance, San Pedro or Los Angeles.

"The moral standard of the community is high and our school advanced in every way up to Los Angeles school standards, as they are an elemental part of that very school system.

"There is no better rural community anywhere for rearing children than here, as there is no saloon, pool hall or any unwholesome influence to mar their moral life nor to divert them from their studies."

So much for our interview with George W. Towne, a man who has lived in this section for 14 years.

There were not over eight souls on the tract when he first located on adjoining land, where he farmed 300 acres.

His faith in Lomita tract is hinted in the fact that he is the largest single owner of realty here, having 18 acres. His home place, fronts on Narbonne avenue, a part of Western avenue, the great new state highway from Hollywood to the sea.

Mr. Towne has been president of Narbonne Water Co. No. 2 for five years, and he has been Roadmaster for over eight years.

California has been his home for 23 years.

Illinois is his native state.

His attractive home houses his wife and their one son and one daughter.

LOMITA

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be the home of at least 5000 people within the next five years.

Lomita Civic Society

Like all forward-going towns Lomita has a civic society whose boosters have a willing shoulder and a generous purse to push every commendable public project along.

Union Church

In the Union Church, Lomita has

the eager passion of a zealot. Thus he has been in his thriving for Lomita's advancement; success has crowned his efforts and our people justly feel a pride in his civic performances. He is a man upon whom Lomita has long leaned and leaned heavily.

For 23 years, Mr. Smith devoted his exclusive time and attention to mining. Reliable report says: "He has a masterful knowledge of ores and of the practical workings of the industry in all of its departments. He embarked in mining at the age of 21, in Colorado; thence worked in the lead and zinc fields of Missouri; thence in Arizona for 12 years, and he now has a phenomenal piece of copper mining property in Arizona which promises to early develop into a bonanza, and which, by the way, is not for sale.

His life began in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas were, in turn, his home; thence he removed to Colorado, where he began the battle for bread in a mine; worked in mines there for about 10 years, and thence for 10 years engaged in mining in Arizona.

The seven acres in his home place in Lomita are every foot gilt-edged. A commodious and beautiful bungalow adorns the property and besides himself, houses his wife, two sons, three daughters, and contentment and happiness. One son, Charles M., is Lomita's popular young postmaster, merchant and real estate dealer.

Thus we find one of the most untiring, courageous and effective boosters and builders of the Lomita tract—J. A. Smith—who, at 53, has crowded three men's careers into one; who is still in the noonday of his usefulness, and who has paved the way for big things to happen for Lomita and her people.

W. A. RENN, MERCHANT

(Continued from page 1)

farm and that then an independence, if not a snug fortune, is assured them in old age.

"Lomita district is the home of the full egg-basket, of an immense acreage of flourishing commercial vegetables, and of goodly quantities of grain, alfalfa, oranges and lemons, and of enormous quantities of berries and small fruits.

"There are no saloons or pool rooms here and because of our health-giving climate one but rarely needs a doctor."

A Peep at Renn's Store and at Its Owner—Headquarters for Everything Good to Eat and Wear—A Metropolitan Store in Miniature.

The high-class and low-priced goods at "Renn's Store" is a household word in Lomita district.

In this unusually large store for so small a town, one finds everything that is good to eat and wear, and everything is sold at prices which make the pocketbook chuckle.

From the establishment of the store, three years ago, the motto of the proprietor has been: "The best is none too good for the people of Lomita district," and it has been a religion with Mr. Renn ever since to stock his store with the best merchandise obtainable and to sell it at the least living prices. By reason of this honorable and liberal policy tradespeople

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JUDGE HUNTER, JUST AND FEARLESS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Judge L. J. Hunter was one of the forerunners of civilization on the Lomita Tract. After probing deeply into the possibilities and probabilities of all of this locality he bought six acres on Beacon street, built a home and occupied it five years ago, next month.

He found the whole Lomita tract a barley field, scenically and climatically lovely, and with not only great possibilities but probabilities, in its soil.

A few invincibly spirited men of

to the core of justice, "Let the chips fall where they will."

And common report has it that even those whom his decisions have been against, eminently esteem him. As they and all who know him know, that he is of unbiased mind, of godly legal and keen common sense, and that his character is as white as linen, three times bleached. Everybody in his court gets a square deal.

His jurisdiction is over quite a large district, embracing Torrance and all the Lomita tract, and Palos



Verdes Hills and Weston Ranch.

Only about 50 misdemeanor cases have come before him in four years which hints how clean of crime this section is.

The Judge came to California in quest of health from Tracy, Minn., where he was in the drug business for 13 years. In brief time the climate here did for him what the doctors could not do there, restored him to robust health, and as a consequence, he forgot to go back. He scoured the West Coast country in search of the home of his heart's desire and found it in Lomita.

A Masonic emblem graces his person. Wisconsin gave him birth; Minnesota gave him business success, but Southern California gave him his opportunity to both recover his health and enjoy climatic comfort and to prosper at the same time.

His is an ideal Southern California home, fenced by hedges always gloriously green, and a cypress hedge, close to the side of his house, has grown 18 feet high since March, 1912. His lawn is radiant with flowers and plants.

His wife and a little daughter gladden his home.

In a word Judge Hunter is an enthusiastic booster for all of the Lomita locality. He has a great liking for its people, and they heartily return the compliment.

his type began intensive farming on the tract, and with the result that they, and those who came after, have transferred the crude country they found into a tiny empire of prodigiously producing acres. The great output of its many truck gardens is now almost wholly shipped to eastern markets, whilst the products of its family orchards, berry patches and vineyards are consumed in California.

Six Acres in Palate-Pleasing Products

Judge Hunter has a three-acre orchard in mixed fruit trees, with berries growing between the rows of these trees, and one acre in grapes. His peach, pear, plums, apricots and fig trees are all thriving and he grew about three tons of berries last year.

Justice of the Peace Four Years

Judge Hunter was first appointed Justice of the Peace and he gave such a good account of himself that upon the expiration of his term he was elected, two years ago, for the four-year term following. This fact is of itself the most eloquent tribute that could be paid to the eminent fitness of the man for the office. For those for whom he dispensed justice balloted him back to his seat of power.

That he has a judicial mind and temperament is strikingly manifest. It is a local tradition that he inexorably hews to the legal line and