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**Highway News**

Notes on California  
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Splendid time can be made over the Blythe-Mecca route at the present time. A good graded road is traversed from Blythe to Desert Center, then a graded gravelled road over which excellent time can be made is found to Shavers Well, with a good desert road through scenic Box Canyon to within four miles of Mecca, balance of route fair oiled macadam. Desert flowers are scarce on this road, due to the fact sheep have been grazing over portions of same.

A short detour is still in effect on the Valley boulevard at Spadra, just west of Pomona. Bridge construction is under way at this point.

The San Marcos Pass between Goleta and Santa Ynez is now open and in good condition.

The following report of road conditions over the National Old Trails route in Arizona is supplied by the touring department of the National Automobile Club: Ash Fork to Williams, 20 miles, good graded highway; to Winslow, 84 miles, fair to good; to Holbrook, 85 miles, good; to St. Johns, 67 miles, good; to Springville, 31 miles, good graded highway. Holbrook to Gallup, New Mexico, fair to good.

Three and a half miles of paving have now been completed on the Mountain Springs grade in San Diego County. A control is still in effect on this grade and machines are not allowed to pass over same from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A one-way control is in effect from the Mountain Springs store to a point two miles below, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and lasting until 7:30 a.m. This stretch is a dirt road in fair condition.

The road from Ramona to Santa Ysabel and Warner's Hot Springs is passable but very rough. This is also true of the road from Ramona to Mesa Grande via Black Canyon.

Laurel Canyon is quite rough and rutty at the present time. It is quite narrow in places where recent slides are being removed. Motorists should use care in driving where construction work is in progress. Topanga Canyon is in good condition from the ocean to the summit but from that point to Mulholland drive it is extremely rough. Construction work is in progress on that section and a steam shovel and numerous trucks are in evidence.

Bridge construction on the Coast highway 1 1/2 miles north of Santa Maria has now been completed, and the detour has been eliminated at this point.

Improvements at George's Creek between Little Lake and Manzanar have been completed. The work consisted of the relocation and surfacing with crushed rock of four miles of highway and the elimination of right angle turns and replacement of a timber structure with dangerous approaches at a crossing of the aqueduct, with a steel bridge. Surveys are now in progress for the relocation of the highway for a distance of 50 miles between Little Lake and Lone Pine. Resurfacing with decomposed granite, together with alignment changes, is in progress between Fish Springs and Big Pine and south of Lone Pine. The highway into Mono County is scheduled for opening about May 1, and sanding of the snow on Deadman grade to hasten the melting of the snow is now in progress by state forces.

There is no snow at Camp Baldy at the present time. Road conditions are practically always good leading to this camp, for the road is paved to within four miles of the camp and the balance is gravel. The grades are easy, none averaging more than 12 percent.

Snow covers the north slope of Sierra Madre San Gabriel range at the Big Pines recreation camp located in the evergreen forests of Swarthout Valley, and sledding and tobogganing may be enjoyed. Under present weather conditions there will be plenty of snow until May. The roads are in excellent condition leading to this delightful camp. A new dining room and hotel cabins are available at this point, known as the Swarthout Valley Lodge. The new postoffice address of the camp is Swarthout, Calif., located within the camp. Big Pines recreation camp is operated by the County of Los Angeles and is open to all lovers of the great outdoors. Campers may choose camp sites in almost any elevation ranging from 2000 to 7500 feet. Stone stoves, tables and benches have been constructed and water is piped to each camp site. Electrically furnished to light all roadways and trails and in each section of the camp.

The chambers of commerce of Lancaster and Palmdale have posted direction signs through Mint Canyon indicating the route to the fields of poppies which are now so abundant in that district, according to information received from the touring department of the National Automobile Club. The signs start at Saugus and lead through Palmdale and Lancaster to the west side, where the best views of the fields may be had. The recent bountiful rains combined with the desert sun have produced a spectacle well worth seeing. Thousands of acres in Antelope Valley are aflame with their copper-hued flowers.

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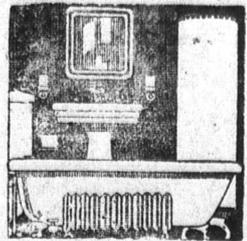
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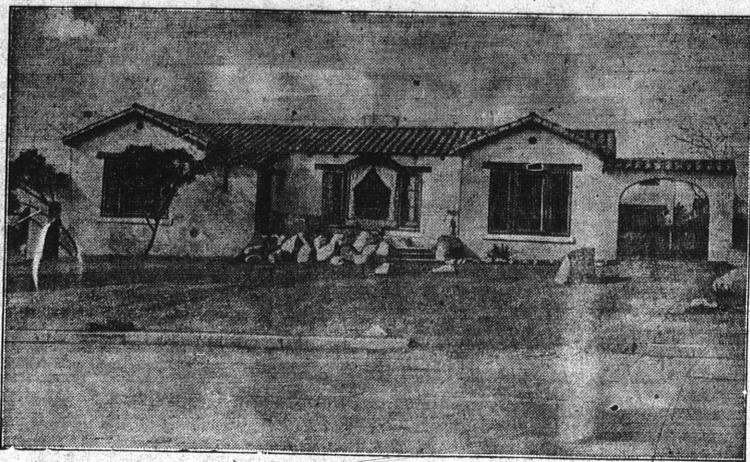
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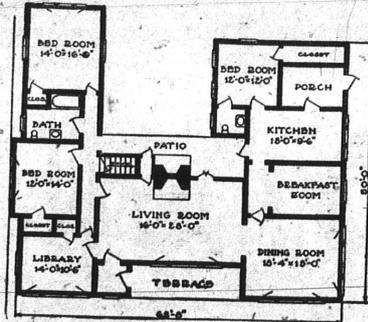


The original and interesting treatment of this bungalow's design makes a distinct appeal to those who are endeavoring to avoid the commonplace. Pleasing touches of Mission style in its general profiles testify to its California origin, but the house will grace any site.

For the exterior wall covering portland cement stucco was chosen because of its especial adaptability to this architectural style. Applied on walls of concrete masonry, the tinted stucco harmonizes completely with the brightly colored tile roof. Such construction assures an even temperature throughout the entire interior, for the hollow concrete units provide desirable insulation.

The entrance to this charming home is through a terrace into a small hallway leading to the exceptionally large living room. The right side of the home is given over to two good-sized bedrooms with bath between and a library with four spacious windows. On the left is another bedroom, the well-appointed kitchen and breakfast and dining rooms.

All eight rooms are planned and laid out with a view to saving many steps. The central location of the living room gives access, with minimum steps, to all other rooms, while the kitchen, breakfast and dining rooms adjoin. Built at Altadena, California, this house is one of which the owner must be proud and is an excellent example of a carefully planned home.



C. S. Frye, Owner and Architect, Altadena, California

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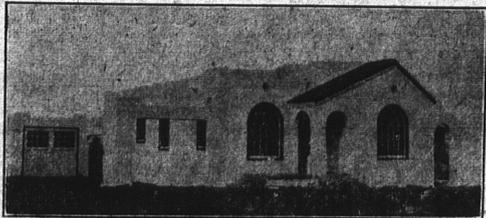
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