

# LOMITA THEATRE

Admission, 10c and 15c  
Show Opens Promptly at 7:00 P. M.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY, NOV. 10-11  
If You Love a Laugh, see

## "FINNEGAN'S BALL"

A First Division Picture with a Star Cast  
Also Comedy, "One, Two, Three Kick"  
and News Reel

## SATURDAY, NOV. 12 "BLUE BLOOD"

Comedy, "1:00 P. M."  
Felix Cartoon, "Buffed Banjos"

SUNDAY and MONDAY, NOV. 13-14

## "DEATH VALLEY"

An Epic of America's Hell  
Most Colorful Drama of the Greatest of Deserts.  
Better than "Chang," Stronger than "Stark Love"

Comedy, "Hot Tires"; Scenic, "Speed"

TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15-16

## BIG DOUBLE BILL

"THE CLIMBERS" "SIMPLE SIS"

Mutt and Jeff Cartoon, "Roaming in South Seas"

### THEY'RE OFF!



The first six-day bicycle race ever staged by women is now under way at the Illinois Women's Athletic Club, Chicago, Ill., with the contestants pedaling away on stationary machines. Each contestant rides 15 minutes a day on the wheel-less bicycle on which a rate of 40 miles an hour can be attained. The mileage is kept on record and the woman grinding out the greatest number of miles in an elapsed time of six days will be declared the winner.

Photo shows some of the riders—Left to right, Anita May, Peggy Pirnat, Nellie Todd, Catherine Hoppe and Peg Teffe.

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**LOCAL NOTES**  
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Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Smith attended the pageant at Palm Springs, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Robb were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ghririk of Long Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Randles of Torrance were guests of relatives here Sunday.

Guests Sunday of Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Hess of Poppy street were Mr. and Mrs. William Bellas of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Walter Tappan senior, is recovering from an illness of several weeks duration.

## THE OWENS VALLEY DISPUTE

The Story of Owens Valley, Its Dealings With the City of Los Angeles and the Dynamiting Attacks Upon the City's Aqueduct

By DON J. KINSEY

(Editor's Note—This is the seventh of a series of short articles revealing the facts in connection with the Los Angeles-Owens Valley water controversy.)

### LAND PURCHASES

Water rights—law suits—hatreds. Throughout the years of Western America's settlement this trio has stalked hand in hand over those lands where water is a precious commodity to be conserved and guarded. In regions where the water supply is limited there rarely has failed to develop, sooner or later, a bitter contention between districts or individuals seeking and requiring this vital necessity of life. And so it has been in Owens Valley.

Following the completion of the Aqueduct, eight long years were consumed by negotiations between representatives of the city of Los Angeles and Owens Valley with the view of arriving at an agreement that would provide for regulation and use of Owens River water in a manner mutually beneficial to the city and the valley. All these negotiations were fruitless.

The Los Angeles Municipal Water Bureau had offered to build and, in 1921, actually started the construction of the Long Valley dam and reservoir for the purpose of regulating the erratic flow of the Owens River. This work was halted by injunction suits instituted by a group of Owens Valley residents.

For two years the situation was at a standstill. Attempts on the part

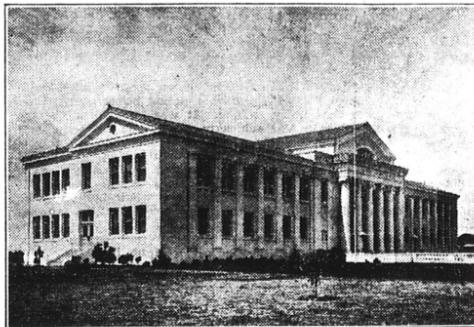
of officials of the Los Angeles Water Bureau saw clearly that unless extraordinary steps were taken, the supply of water from Owens River available for the Aqueduct might fall short of the city's actual needs. Practically all of the Owens Valley ranch land irrigated from the River was above the Aqueduct intake. Consequently the irrigators had first call on the water from the River.

Proposed agreements providing for conservation and regulation of the River's water had been rejected by the Valley people.

As the situation presented itself to officials of the city, there was only one course remaining open. Los Angeles must purchase ranch land having water rights on Owens River so that the water attaching to this land could be diverted into the Aqueduct should the need arise.

With the view of disturbing the situation in the Valley as little as possible, the Board of Water and Power Commissioners, in 1923, authorized the purchase of the ranches in what was known as the McNally Ditch area. These ranches, being situated on the east side of the River, were detached in a great measure from the remainder of the irrigated region in the Valley on the west side of the River.

Prices offered for the lands were believed to be liberal, since they amounted, on an average, to about twice the market value of the ranches. But in the midst of these



Inyon County Court House in Independence, one of the four Owens Valley towns.

of the Los Angeles officials to resume negotiations were to no avail. In the meantime conditions were shaping themselves in a manner destined to force the situation to a sharp and bitter issue.

On the one hand, Los Angeles found itself growing in a manner that amazed the entire world. Its population was increasing by leaps and bounds. More and more water was required to supply the needs of its new residents numbered by the hundreds of thousands. To meet this need it was necessary constantly to increase the flow of the Aqueduct and to make proper provision for the future.

On the other hand the entire Southwest, beginning in 1920, was slipping into a cycle of abnormally dry years. Even on the peaks of the Sierra Nevada the winter snow falls were far below normal. By 1923 conditions had become ser-

ious, a group of men from the town of Bishop organized the McNally land owners into a pool and demanded prices which the city regarded as unreasonable. In order to secure the water land urgently needed, the city was forced to cross the River and purchase lands on the west side of the stream.

The city's policy in buying lands watered from Owens River was violently opposed by certain groups in the Valley. They declared that the Valley desired to be left alone—that the people did not desire to sell their holdings.

Confronted with these objections, the city temporarily ceased its land purchases. Then, following a trip through the Valley, the Water and Power Commission in October, 1924, adopted a resolution in which it offered to buy off ranch lands watered from the River with the exception of 30,000 acres. It was

pointed out that there rarely ever had been more than 30,000 acres of ranch land actually under cultivation at any one time along the River. To these 30,000 acres, the Water and Power Commission officially offered to guarantee, by proper regulation and conservation, a 100 per cent irrigation supply. The city offer was rejected, and spokesmen for the Valley demanded

that the city buy all of the ranch land in the Valley.

Accordingly, the Commission rescinded its 20,000-acre resolution and announced that it was prepared to purchase all of the ranch land watered from Owens River. Since 1923, the city has purchased approximately 80,000 acres of land in Owens Valley, and now owns about 90 per cent of all the Owens

River water land. For this land the city has paid Valley land owners more than \$12,000,000. (To be Continued.)

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Preston and family were entertained at Mr. and Mrs. Frank Albin and family of San Pedro were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marriot of Miller street.



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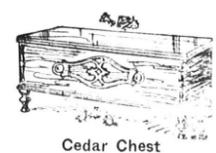
Martha Washington



Telephone Set



End Table



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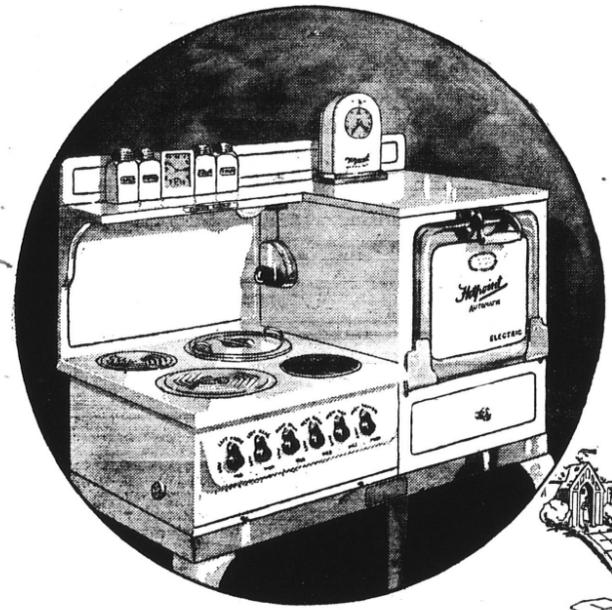


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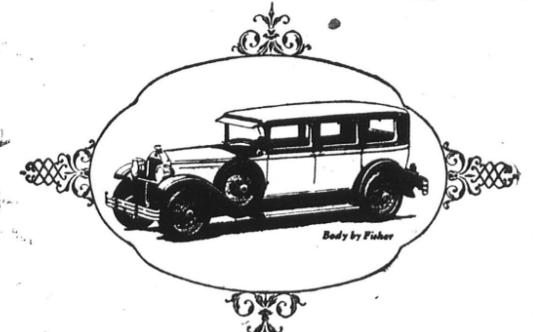
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