

Hitt and Runn—Oh Yes! They're Always Willing to Try Anything for One Time!

BY HITT



FOUR

NEWS REVIEW SECTION

The Counties

(Continued)

Tax Rates

Announced during the last fortnight were the following city and county tax rates for the coming year. Inglewood. Glad news to the people of Inglewood was the announcement of a decrease of 5 cents per \$100 valuation in the city tax rate. The reduction was made feasible by a marked increase in assessed valuation, \$2,000,000 over last year. This year the tax rate was fixed upon a valuation of \$17,828,455, and is expected to rise to \$24,244,183, in 1930. Inglewood's Mayor Hugh Lawrence. For the last ten years has Inglewood's tax rate steadily decreased. Its greatest single drop was this year's. The new rate is \$1.05.

La Verne. Based on an assessed valuation of \$1,826,975, less exemption of \$136,680, La Verne's tax rate for the year will be \$1.69 per \$100. This amount is slightly less than the original set. The municipal budget for next year is \$29,202.

Pomona. Here the tax rate has been set at \$2.17 per \$100 for the fiscal year, 1929-30. This is 2 cents more than last year's figure. The increased funds will be used for the park department, planning commission and fire protection. Mainly, the increase will provide for a new eight inch fire protection water main in the industrial section of the city.

Ventura. Considerable "whittling" was necessary to bring about a 13 cent decrease in the Ventura City tax rate, but it was accomplished, to the delight of local citizens. The rate for the year will be \$1.85 per \$100 valuation. The County rates were increased 2 cents, making the rate \$2.21. The County rate had been expected to increase approximately 30 cents.

Bakersfield. Kern County's tax rate for this year is set at \$1.50 for property outside of municipalities and \$1.30 for property inside. An analysis of the rate shows that 50 cents of it is to be paid for education. The rate represents a cut, both for inside and outside property, of 5 cents. Kern County's taxable wealth increased this year by more than \$1,000,000.

No Office

For many a year the City of Pasadena has hoped for a resident deputy district attorney to act as prosecutor in its enlarged justice courts. Twice has it appealed to the County Board of Supervisors; twice has it met with failure.

Fortnight ago Pasadena's Bar Association was still more perplexed with the condition of the city's justice courts. Pasadena's two justices of peace handle a large volume of criminal matters. But at such distance are they from the office of the District Attorney, at Los Angeles, that it is impracticable to take up or drawn by the justices of peace. Thus they must wait upon the District Attorney to act, their courts eventually become congested, confusion results.

With these facts in mind, Pasadena's Bar Association sent on to the County Board of Supervisors a third resolution requesting the appointment of a resident deputy district attorney.

Last week the Board of Supervisors considered the resolution; voted to refer the matter to District Attorney Buron Fitts for consideration.

Said Fitts: "This action (of the Supervisors) is meaningless." Reason: While the Supervisors asked District Attorney Fitts to consider the appointment of a deputy, they did not make an appropriation for the deputy's salary. Willing, however, is Fitts to co-operate with Pasadena in the solving of its problem.

At San Bernardino next month will be held a meeting of all Southern California district attorneys and their deputies. At this time, plans of organization will be made; the Pasadena's problem may be brought up for discussion.

Tri-City Protest

Despite the protests of Pasadena, Alhambra, and South Pasadena, the Los Angeles County Sanitation department has for some time been formulating a plan to incorporate Pasadena city farm land in a county sanitation district. The proposed inclusion would have threatened the entire tri-city sewage disposal plant with condemnation.

Last week, however, the result of the three cities' protests was victory; the entire plan met with disapproval and final abandonment at the hands of the County Board of Supervisors.

"It was indeed an important victory for Pasadena and for South Pasadena and Alhambra, which also use the local sewage disposal plant," said Pasadena's City Attorney Harold P. Huls. "If such a district is proposed again, I think the Supervisors will realize that the Pasadena plant should not be threatened with condemnation through inclusion within the proposed district's boundaries."

Widespread opposition was there to the plan from all territory affected, finally admitted County Sanitation Engineer A. K. Warren, sponsor to the project.

Inclusion of the city farm with Monterey Park, San Gabriel, Rosemead, Glendora, Azusa, Covina, El Monte, was what the Supervisors' plan called for; from these districts sewage would be carried to the ocean.

Ventura's Dilemma

City governments long have been perplexed over the existence of slot machines in places of amusement, despite the fact that opposition has for some time caused the machines to be removed. Chief among Southern California cities to be troubled by the petty annoyance is Ventura. Long has it battled this nuisance. Particularly troubled were City Councilmen last week by the momentary advantage secured by the slot-machine man Charles H. Ganz.

Although the City Council recently launched a campaign against the gambling devices, passed what it believed to be an "air-tight" ordinance, and carried on rigid inspection, it has been during the past fortnight a decided lull in the slot machine-baiting forces. At last week's meeting of the City Council, the matter was left hanging in mid-air until after the closing of the Ventura County Fair.

If slot machines and punchboards are banned from the city's pool halls, cigar stands, etcetera, gaming interests could prevent County Fair concessionaires from opening up business on the fair grounds by reason of the same ruling.

Slot Machine King Ganz appeared at the Council meeting last week, urged that the matter be settled at once. Perturbed by the turn of events, Councilmen, however, failed to agree; took no action.

Reason for most of the City Council's opposition to slot machines has been the fact that many of the machines are disguised as merchandise-vending devices, thus exerting a harmful influence upon many minors and unsuspecting adults. But his machines, declared Ganz, are located only in pool halls and such places as children are not allowed to enter.

Since the Council failed to come to a decision, the only action taken last week was by City Attorney Walter Fourn. He caused complaints to be made, under the provisions in the State law, against owners of those devices which were actually operating illegally.

Cut Dam Cost

Intent Engineer E. C. Eaton, chief flood expert on the San Gabriel Dam project, in saving Los Angeles County great sums of money. Already, through constant bickering, bargaining, the County has been saved \$1,273,000 in the price of construction on the proposed San Gabriel flood dam. (See News Review, week of Aug. 26-Sept. 1).

Last week Engineer Eaton made a further announcement in his cost-lowering campaign. He is investigating the use of silica co-mixtures in place of 30 per cent of the cement required to build the \$25,000,000 dam. If the silica can be used, it is expected to save approximately \$1,190,000 on the total cost.

This type of cement is obtained by combining 70 per cent ordinary Portland cement with 30 per cent silica compound. Not new is the use of silica in dam building. In



THE ORIGINAL FELICITA, AGE 100 She married General Kearney's "White Soldier Man"

parts of the Pacoima and Big Dalton dams it was also used. European engineers have younded for it.

In the days of ancient Rome, the Roman aqueducts, long celebrated for their almost impermeable surfaces, were built with the use of silica-bearing volcanic ash mixed with lime mortar. This is the practice which Engineer Eaton is considering. The use of the silica co-mixture reduces the cost of the cement. Furthermore, the concrete thus made grows stronger with age, is more elastic and will not crack, works easier into place and is free from white lime deposits. There is less tendency for the hardened concrete to crack, assuring complete water-tightness.

In Southern California, silica deposits are found in the following locations: San Bernardino County, Death Valley beyond Barstow, near Bishop in Inyo County, near Elsinore in Riverside County.

Wanted: Civic Center

Prosperous and thriving is the City of Alhambra. Proximity to Los Angeles trading centers has brought into the City's boundaries many a busy factory, many a new resident. But increased business activity has not marched side by side with civic improvement, civic beauty.

Last week a petition containing names of 2506 residents was presented to the City Council. It stated that the growth and importance of the City now demands a civic center. On much-travelled Garfield Avenue civic beautifiers would have established a civic center so that the citizenry and east-ern tourists might know that Alhambra is not too busy to make beautiful its municipal buildings.

While City Councilmen made no decision last week, it is probable that at their meeting this week they will consider the purchase of an old Community Hotel property on Garfield Avenue. Six years ago this property was bought for a hotel project which later failed; its stockholders voted to liquidate. Recently many of the stockholders offered to donate their stock should a civic center be established on the site. Cost of site: \$75,000.

Land Dispute

A small narrow strip of land near Rancho Don Pueblos in Santa Barbara County last week caused a large, spirited legal battle at Washington. At a hearing before Assistant Secretary of the Interior Edwards, plaintiff and defendant argued over the ownership of land adjoining Rancho Don Pueblos. And they had reason, for hinging on the decision of the court swings the destiny of many an oil company's land rights. For the case is a test case, potentially affecting numerous similar coast-line oil fields in California.

Once upon a time, the land in question was said to be given to one Nicholas Deas, by the government. (See News Review, week of

Catastrophe

Demon Fire

Forest fires, the terror of Southern California, have been raging during the past fortnight. Their chief cause; Electrical storms. Last week in the vicinities of San Diego and Pasadena, especially did they awaken dread, threatening acres of valuable timber.

Over 500 acres in the San Diego back country met with destruction last week. Violent electrical storms raged there; ignited blazes which later spread over the Pano and Oak Grove districts and Warner's Hot Springs. They taxed the efforts of one of the largest fire fighting crews ever organized in the County. Exceptionally high temperatures in the vicinity encouraged the blaze, said Meteorologist Dean Blake. Another cause of the increased hazard was the low humidity during the early part of last week.

In the most inaccessible regions surrounding Mount Baldy also have raged several blazes. These, however, were conquered late last week when lookouts near Pasadena reported that smoke over the entire area had subsided considerably.

Especially difficult to extinguish were the fires on the slopes of Pine Mountain, just north of Baldy. The fire-fighting crew, said Chief Forester M. H. Davis, was forced to hike over a half a day to get to the scene of the blaze. With the decreasing temperature and increasing humidity of late last week, however, fires were rapidly subsiding.

School Fire

Undetected for more than an hour did a fire burn last week in a schoolroom of the Ventura State School for Girls. Fortunately, however, it was a building far from the dormitories; panic was thus prevented.

The conflagration started because of an electric iron which had been left on. It set fire to the ironing board; caused it to collapse and ignite surrounding furniture. The room was closed tightly causing the blaze to smoulder for some time. When the Ventura Fire Department arrived on the scene, already had School Fireman Charles Pratt extinguished the blaze. He discovered the blaze shortly before midnight.

Fire Test

Novel and vital was a test performed last week by the Los Angeles County Forestry Department. A tri-motored airplane soared into the air over San Fernando; passengers deliberately dropped lighted cigars, cigarettes into guarded forest districts.

To determine how serious a menace this action is to the timber beneath was the real reason for the experiment, conducted by Mrs. Mabel Walker Willebrandt of South Pasadena and Washington. At the hearing last week she listened.

Again, Pt. Fermin

Since Point Fermin, San Pedro, last month started to slip into the ocean below, three geology experts have been consistently at work to invent measures to insure the safety of residents, to prevent the occurrence of a catastrophe.

Late last week they completed all possible preventative measures and issued a formal statement of warning to the Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

The entire area should be condemned as a place of human habitation and all persons forbidden to enter the same. This is particularly true of the beach below the high cliffs, on account of the danger of falling rocks and the possibility of the precipitation of huge masses of rock into the ocean without warning.

Plans are now under way for a water-diverting ditch and an underground drainage system to prevent landslides. Barriers to prevent pedestrians from walking over rapidly crumbling cliffs have already been constructed, said City Engineer Shaw. All dangerous crevices the geologists and engineers have filled with decomposed granite. The entire surface in danger of slipping they have oiled thickly.

Geologists Ralph Arnold, William J. Miller, and Malcolm H. Bissel, employed by the Board of Public Works, recommended last week that the studies undertaken by the engineering department be continued, that progress of the dislocation be noted and interpreted from time to time.

Wood's Plane Crash. Seeking a record last week, Major John Wood, president of the Northern Airways Company and nationally famous pilot, set out from Los Angeles for Cleveland. In his Lockheed-Vega plane he headed eastward, expected to be in Cleveland sixteen hours later.

Next day, into the town of Needles, staggered Ward Miller, Wood's mechanic passenger. Speechless with fatigue, he was cared for by Needles' citizenry. Later, when he found his voice he told of Wood's plane exploding in mid-air. He Miller, had been pumping gas. Immediately after the explosion he has jumped from the plane, pulled the cord of his parachute, lost consciousness. Later he woke up in the desert, wandered to Needles.

Next day search parties found the wrecked plane, found Wood's dead body in it. Apparently he had been unable to jump from the plane before it landed.

Major Wood was a resident of Wausau, Wis.; born in 1896; Buffalo, N. Y.; educated at Carnegie Tech, Pittsburgh, Pa.; enlisted in the air service in 1917; recently established the Northern Airways Company at Wausau; was winner in the National Air Derby from Spokane to New York in 1927; last

SAVE WITH ICE. What happens in a good ICE refrigerator. ICE, in a properly constructed and operated refrigerator, creates a constant circulation of pure, cold air, thus removing food odors through the outlet and preventing unappetizing interchange of food flavors. To enable ICE to serve you most satisfactorily, be sure you have a refrigerator that is well insulated, tightly joined together and built to let air circulate freely. UNION ICE CO. R. E. BUDGE, Local Manager. Phone Torrance 193-R. 2319 Arlington Avenue.

Kellys are designed for service. Kellys are built to give service—built from the inside right through to the outside to stand up under heavy loads and on tough roads. Mullin's Complete Auto Service. ARTHUR MULLIN, Prop. Western Ave. and Redondo Blvd., Torrance, Calif. Telephone 320-J.

730 So. Broadway, Los Angeles Tel. VANDIKE 2421