

High School Notes

Mr. Hodge, who recently resigned as instructor in the men's physical education classes at the evening high school, will be succeeded by Mr. Wm. McGinnis, football and basketball coach at Gardena high school.

Things, Mr. Dave Ridderrhoff, head of the physical education department of the George Washington high school will be in charge of a recreational program in the gym, which is open to both adults and the older boys of the community.

This community is cordially invited to make use of the tennis courts during the evenings also. The courts are well lighted.

Seniors are sponsoring a noon dance in the gymnasium, at which a penny a dance is charged. The dances are held Tuesday and Thursday noons and are for high school students only. These dances are directly under the supervision of the faculty, and several members are present each day.

Luncheon on a Huge New Dam in California



The gigantic municipal waters of the Mokelumne river was dedicated recently. One of the dam where 500 persons

SIX

People

Brackenridge

As it must to all men, Death came last week to William Algonon Brackenridge, 71, retired senior vice-president of the Southern California Edison Co., onetime (1918-1920) Edison president, engineer, public utilities expert; at the Cottage Hospital, at Santa Barbara; after a lingering illness from a chronic ailment.

A blond, swarthy, slight but ambitious young man in the 1870's, Engineer Brackenridge obtained his first job of consequence when the Rapid Transit System of New York set him to work. He worked and his rise was rapid. Soon he was employed in an advisory capacity by the Railroad Commission of Connecticut. With the board of consulting engineers, he conceived the Niagara Falls water power development plan. The Niagara Falls Power Company made him chief engineer.

In 1909, Engineer Brackenridge came with his wife and two daughters (Margaret, Marion) to Pasadena, to join the Southern California Edison Co. as vice-president and general manager. When success came to him professionally, financially, he moved to South Pasadena, where, on Orange Grove Avenue, he built a palatial mansion. Added to his family some years before were Anne and William Algonon, Jr. From 1918 to 1920 he was Edison's president. But late in 1920 his health failed; he accepted the rank of senior vice-president. On June 13, 1928, so bad was his health that he resigned; retired to Santa Barbara.

When Death came to William Brackenridge, he left behind a talented (music, art) wife, prominent socialite, until her retirement last year, of Pasadena and Santa Barbara.

Dehy Goes Calling

For a fortnight, Judge Dehy, escorted in the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, has listened to the case of McCormick vs. McCormick-Blaine. Plaintiff Mrs. Stanley McCormick, spouse of Multimillionaire-mental-incompetent Stanley McCormick, who, since 1906, has not lived with her husband, last month asked to be named her husband's exclusive guardian.

She does not approve of the psychiatric treatments advocated by the present guardians, Brother Harold McCormick, Sister Anita McCormick-Blaine, wants to oust the pair, take a hand herself in her husband's cure, in the management of his \$50,000,000 estate (News Review, Nov. 18-24, et seq.).

Judge Dehy has heard many a psychiatrist, eminent, profound, comment on the case, praise unsparingly the psychiatric treatments of Dr. Edward J. Kempf (\$300,000 for medical fees). Advocated by the mental incompetent's present guardians, the treatments are said to be improving the patient's condition. No longer is it necessary for him to be confined in a cage, to be deprived of all visitors, all feminine companionship.

Last week brassy, stalwart, 61-year-old Scotsman, Kenneth McKillop, for more than 20 years dean of Stanley McCormick's corps of male nurses, testified. He had shaved his mental incompetent for 23 years, had played checkers with him, had taken him walking; could

discern no improvement under the new form of treatment.

Judge Dehy listened to the conflicting testimony, decided to see for himself. One day last week, accompanied by Resident Physician Dr. Nathaniel Brush, he called on the multimillionaire. Sitting in the living room of the River Rock estate in Montecito, the trio discussed football, current events. Later Dehy commented: "It was a very pleasant visit" would add nothing else.

This week McCormick's kin (wife, sister, two brothers) may be called on to testify; should shed much light on past secrecy.

Kudos for Blee

Of major importance is the aeronautics division of the United States Chamber of Commerce. With particular care is its person-



SANTA ANA'S BLEE

... helps select airports

nel selected. Air-minded men, alert, wide-awake, exuberant, are needed; they must also be cautious, capable, well-informed.

Last week many a Santa Ana's chest was much inflated. Santa Ana's Lieut.-Col. Harry H. Blee had been appointed director of aeronautical development in the United States Chamber of Commerce. Pridelike, Santa Anas commiserated. Brother Harold McCormick, Sister Anita McCormick-Blaine, and Guaranty Company. All rejoiced together, then wired congratulatory telegrams to the new-fledged director.

Many, varied, purposive will be Director Blee's duties. He will assist communities in the selection and development of airports, promote and correlate aeronautic research, publish and disseminate aeronautic information, handle all matters in close alignment.

Director Blee's interest in aviation dates back to the war, when he served as captain in the airplane engineering division of the Army Air Corps Reserve. Two years ago he was placed in charge of the airport activities of the Department of Commerce, later made chief of the division of airports and aeronautic information; now further promoted to the directorship of aeronautical development.

CALIFORNIA NEWS REVIEW

ian, known on the stage as Flora Zabelle. While playing in "The Yankee Consul," he married her. His final stage appearance occurred last spring in Chicago when, despite physicians' advice, he opened in "Your Uncle Dudley." Critics praised his performance highly; theatregoers were regretfully away all days later when Star Hitchcock suffered a relapse, was forced to withdraw. He spent long months recuperating, was just recently thought to have regained his health.

Cloudburst, Gold

Two years ago Artist Neil Ashley of Los Angeles was busily sketching on a hillside in Death Valley. In the course of his minute observations, he noticed a dark gold pattern on the ground, dug about with his hands, saw that he had discovered gold. Being more of an artist than a prospector, he forgot to file his claim. The news of his find started a stampede. But Positive was he that the stampede would become discouraged by the heat of the week water.

Last week, he returned to Los Angeles from a trip to the district. With him were shiny nuggets, pounds of gold dust. For during his absence a cloudburst had done for him the work of removing tons of the weathered cliff, had revealed a gravel seam that proved to be overflowing in gold ore. Result: he has now taken out a claim with the government, has already begun plans to work the mine scientifically by means of dry-washer equipment in place of the window screen which he first used.

Science

Plant Detectives

In submarines or mines, or any other habitable place where oxygen is scarce, canaries and rats are an unusual function. They are kept in cages and observed closely. Reason: Canaries and rats react quickly to a lack of oxygen, much quicker than do human beings. When the tiny birds, animals are seen to be failing, observers know the atmosphere is lacking in oxygen, or contains gases deadly to human existence.

Last week, however, rats and canaries were threatened with displacement in the capacity of oxygen gauges. And looming as chief contender for the position which these little creatures have held is the decidedly inanimate tomato plant. Tomatoes last week proved themselves a competent gas detector as well as a food product, full of vitamins.

At the Boyce Thompson Institute for plant research, at Yonkers, N. Y., Director Dr. William Crocker has in past months made many an experiment with plants in the role of gas detectors, has discovered many gas-sensitive properties in plants.

In a large American coke works, deadly gas was leaking from the coke ovens, gas which comprised the invisible elements of illuminating gas. From advices received from Dr. Crocker, the coke company placed tomato plants in its oven rooms. In the presence of the offending gases the leaves of young tomato plants drooped, grew stiffly downwards, and even formed coils, due to rapid growth on the upper side of the leaf. Crocker found the tomato plant 200 times more sensitive to poison gas than is the human nose, and forty times more sensitive than the best chemical test.

Commenting on these experiments, Dr. Crocker said: As cities grow, commercial chimneys issue more and more invisible poison gas, gas mains age and become leaky, high pressures come into use. All this widens the usefulness of plants as gas detectors.

Sleepless Eyes

When day is done, tired bodies, luxuriously relaxed between cool sheets, droop drowsily into dream-land, not to be disturbed until the noisy jangling of an alarm clock hours later. But not all the body organs fall asleep, last week stated Stanford Psychologist Walter R. Miles. He pointed out that the eyes themselves never sleep, that the eye muscles have work to do which can only be done when the lids are closed.

Labor

Non-Resident Ban Employers of Southern Calif.

nia last week watched with intense interest developments taking place at Washington, in the offices of the Labor Department. There department officials were discussing a regulation to compel aliens working in this country, instead of making their homes in Mexico, or Canada,

In Southern California, agriculturalists who depend largely on Mexican labor to harvest their crops have been beset by various immigration problems throughout the year. A law passed in 1924 restricted Mexican immigration, but was neither widely nor rigidly enforced. Last summer action to enforce it was taken after complaints from service organizations, particularly the American Legion (News Review, Sept. 9-15). Shortage of Mexican labor has affected growers considerably this year.

The proposed regulation is said to be identical with the Mexican government's law which decreed that American citizens working in Mexico must establish residence there.

The News Review concerns itself with chronicling fact, not expressing opinion. Anonymously signed "White and Born in Michigan" refers to State Public Health Director Walter M. Dickie's report to Governor Young in which it was revealed that 17.7 per cent of the State's total births in 1928 were Mexican; that 2550 of the 13,846 Mexican babies born during 1928 died during infancy from improper care. The News Review did say the members of the Governor's Council noted with relief the high death rate. But more fully, and correctly, the News Review said: "White and Born in Michigan" is mistaken about "California practically steal her land... from the Mexicans." Early California gringos did steal land, but not from Mexicans as they are known in California today. Early California babies were Spanish, Indian, negro, with mixtures of Spanish, other Caucasian races.—ED.

Who in Hell does the writer think he is? And from whom did California practically steal her land if not from the Mexicans? Whose land is this rightfully? Somebody has a lot to learn about these own criminals before blaming such an article-better thinking people.

White and Born in Michigan. Los Angeles, Calif.

Letters

Your article (News Review, Nov. 4-10) of super-sterility is good; especially the "prolific Mexican breeding" would prove it.

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Shop Early IN TORRANCE

Trouper Hitchcock Thirty-eight years ago, one Raymond Hitchcock pranced with uncontrollable enthusiasm on a Philadelphia stage, brandishing a spear. He had been assigned his first role that of a bandit in "The Brigand," that of a bandit in Beverly Hills, the same Raymond Hitchcock, now farmed as a stage actor, comedian, and author, rejoiced again. For many months he had been crucially ill. His convalescence over, he had just signed with Impresario Henry Duffy to resume his theatrical career in "Your Uncle Dudley." On Saturday he had signed the contract; Sunday afternoon, motoring with his wife, he coughed raucously for a bit, slumped over, died.

Born in the year of Lincoln's assassination, Raymond Hitchcock long nourished a longing to appear behind the footlights. In 1891, came "The Brigand" opportunity, soon followed by many other roles. Stage successes: "King Dodo," "The Yankee Consul," "Mr. Manhattan," "Hitchy Koo," "Old Soak," "The Sap," "Everybody's Acting," "Red-Headed Prefered," many others, heads preferred, many others, while playing in "King Dodo," Hitchcock met Gabelle Managass-

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