

**FRATERNAL**  
 Woman's Benefit Association  
 Torrance Review No. 37  
 Meets Second and Fourth Tuesday  
 Hattie Shugg, President  
 Women's Clubhouse,  
 Engracia Avenue  
 7:30 P. M.

**MISS THELMA NATION RESIGNS**  
 Miss Thelma Nation has resigned her position as manager of the Temple Drug store, following her appointment as deputy city clerk of Los Angeles. Miss Nation will be in charge of the city clerk's office at Wilmington.

### Gila Monster Looks Bad But Really a Nice Fellow

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—This is the fourth and concluding article of a series dealing with snakes, and written for the United Press by A. V. Napier, managing editor of the Journal-Miner of Prescott, Ariz. In this story Mr. Napier explodes the myth about the "terrible Gila monster," portraying that creature as a friendly and interesting fellow.)

By A. V. NAPIER  
 (Written for the United Press)  
 (Copyright, 1930, by United Press)  
 The fearful Gila monster, terror of the western deserts and deadly menace of the wide open spaces is, in fact, a quiet, harmless and interesting fellow.

Everybody has heard at least one story of sudden and horrible death from contact with the terrible monster of the west. It is told that the very breath of this venomous creature is laden with destruction—and yet there is not anywhere any authentic record of anyone ever having died from the bite of a Gila monster.

It is true that the Gila monster is equipped with a poison duct. It is located near the back of the lower jaw. The creature, however, has no hollow fangs for the hypodermic injection of venom, such as the rattlesnake has. The front teeth are quite similar to those of a kitten. Scientists would say that the Gila monster is colubrous. That is, the back teeth are grooved in the same manner as those of the colubrous snakes. The venom of the Gila monster is purely a protective gift from Nature. The much-maligned lizard does not kill animals as prey. His diet consists almost entirely of eggs. He robs many birds' nests, and is particularly fond of snake eggs, which he searches out and digs from the sand where they have been deposited for hatching. The Gila lizard is, however, a formidable fighter and will kill the largest snakes and almost any small animal in combat. Nearly always the Gila monster fights in self-defense.

The venom of the Gila monster is, having technicalities, a concentrated form of albumen. It could be taken internally as food and would react to the digestive juices just as the albumen of an ordinary egg when taken raw. Both have the same laboratory reactions, and both, if introduced into the blood, would have harmful if not fatal results.

In battle, the Gila monster uses his venom to paralyze his antagonist. The front teeth are quite harmless, but if he secures a hold with his back teeth and breaks the skin the poison will be absorbed and the victim, if not too large, will die in a few minutes.

Several cases have been observed in which humans have been bitten while handling Gila monsters. The skin was broken in all cases, but no swelling resulted nor any symptoms of results other than those resulting from any ordinary abrasion. If allowed to hold by the jaws for several minutes, the Gila monster probably would cause distress to an adult human. It is inconceivable, however, that any person would allow a Gila monster or any other creature to bite and hold on indefinitely.

Fully 90 per cent of the things which people believe about the Gila monster are untrue. Arguments to the contrary notwithstanding, the internal organs of the Gila monster are exactly the same as those of all other lizards and animals, and they function in exactly the same manner.

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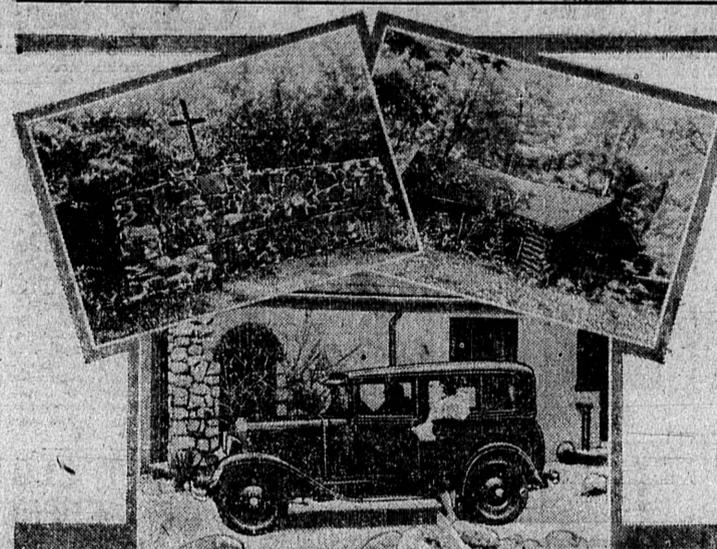
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### Shrine of Famous Writer



A memorial marks the spot where Frank Norris, one of America's greatest authors, lived while he was writing the "Octopus." The memorial is a few miles from Morgan Hill, California. Top left—Memorial. Top right—Cabin in which Norris lived. Bottom—New Chevrolet Six which recently visited the memorial.

### FUNDS VOTED FOR LOWERING 220th TRACKS

Missman Damages To Property Claim Is Denied By L. A. Council

Funds were made available last week for the lowering of the Pacific Electric tracks on Normandie avenue at 220th street, according to Councilman A. E. Hennings, who has been endeavoring to have the work done in response to a petition from the East Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

At the council meeting last week the county affairs committee recommended that the county board of supervisors appropriate \$2515.50 from funds not chargeable to the City of Los Angeles and also \$2515.50 from the portion of the good roads fund allocated to the City of Los Angeles.

Missman Damages Denied  
 The claim of A. C. Missman for damages caused his property due to the change of grade in connection with the improvement of 213th street and Harvard boulevard was denied.

### W. C. T. U. Offers Special Program

The regular monthly meeting of the W. C. T. U. will be Friday evening, April 4th, at 7:30 at the Methodist church.

The program will be given by the Young People's branch, under the leadership of Miss Doris Worrell, and the Loyal Temperance Legion, under the direction of Mrs. C. E. Hawkins.

John Templeton of Lancaster, formerly a Lomita resident, was a week-end guest at the home of his sister, Mrs. Edith Miller, of Narbonne avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Johnson of 256th street, joined a party of San Pedro friends on a fishing trip to Catalina Sunday.

### TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION



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### Puppet Show Charms Pupils at School Display

Torrance High and elementary school students were entertained Wednesday afternoon March 26, at 3 o'clock by the Powell Newman Puppets, who presented the Fairy play, "The Potent Bean." Critics pronounced the production an immediate and outstanding success.

The cast of characters in this delightful little play were as follows:  
 A Poor Widow; Jack, her son; Pearl, the discontented cow; Queen Tut, the Fairy; Miss Legume, the Bean; The Giant Dunderhead and His Obedient Wife; Priscilla Prudence, the Hen.

The play is done in three acts, with diversissements.  
 Act I.—The Widow's Kitchen—Morning.  
 Diversissement: Carmina and Don Felipe in song and dance.  
 Act II.—Jack's Backyard—Evening.  
 Diversissement: Oscar Artisky, Volva Virtuoso.  
 Act III.—The Giant's Home—Night.

These wonderful little people who are called "Puppets" by the outside world, range in height from 18 inches to 2 feet, and have their own specially built stage, furniture and properties in proportion. They are supported in their presentations by several miniature creatures of amazing capabilities, such as a cow, goat and a super-educated hen. The Puppet Company also possesses a fairy queen who really flies with gauzy, rainbow wings and a giant who thunders threats and counts his tainted gold. There are also special entertainers such as negro minstrels, musicians, singers and dancers.

Mrs. Hilda Powell of 1730 Eahelman avenue, a teacher in the Torrance elementary school, is the creator of the little Puppets. Her art has attracted the attention of the Los Angeles Board of Education, and several representatives were sent to judge her work on Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Powell is assisted in her magic play by her daughter, Miss Helen Ahrens, and Mrs. Hazel Newman of Lomita, as her marionette playwright and musician.

On Monday, March 31, the Powell-Newman Puppets appeared at the Narbonne High school for the junior students. The little people were operated by Miss Ahrens and Mrs. Newman and were most enthusiastically received.

The outstanding number was a scene from Longfellow's Hiawatha, depicting Old Nokomis and the papoose, Hiawatha, before their wigwam home. Little Hiawatha, swung in his Indian cradle, slept while Nokomis sang the lovely lullaby song, "Ewa-yea! My little Owllet!"

It is anticipated that these local artists will appear again soon, and that grownups may come with the boys and girls to watch the little fairy creatures act their jungle plays.

Santa Fe railroad from El Segundo to San Pedro via Torrance is now assured as surveyors are on the ground working.

Torrance Herald moves to new location in Steffen block, 1790 Carson.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Paxman have moved from Pine street, Lomita, to Kern Court.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Bell, recently of Sherman, are temporarily located on Andros avenue until their modern new home is completed on Marcellina avenue, directly across from the Central church parsonage.

The Torrance Tennis Club met at the home of Mrs. R. R. Smith Monday.

The Torrance Holding Company has started drilling on its thirty acres directly west of Torrance on Carson street. The oil proposition for Torrance looks more favorable each day.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Higgins, of Cota avenue, a son, April 2.

### Bank of Italy Declares 40c Cash Dividend

L. M. Giannini, President of Transamerica Corporation, announced following a meeting of the Board of Directors yesterday afternoon, that the usual quarterly cash dividend of forty cents per share had been declared payable April 25 to stockholders of record April 5, and in addition the Board had declared an extra stock dividend of three per cent payable on July 25 to stockholders of record July 5.

The change in the payment of the extra dividend is made in the interests of both the stockholders and the Corporation, as the handling of the quarterly payment of extra dividends has proved costly and cumbersome to the Corporation, and has created considerable inconvenience to stockholders in computing fractions and keeping an accurate record of their holdings. Hereafter it will be the policy of the Corporation to declare extra dividends in round amounts at such times as the Directors deem advisable instead of quarterly, as heretofore.

In commenting further on the Board's proceedings Giannini said that a report of certified public accountants had been presented, covering the consolidated earnings statement for the year 1929, for the Corporation and its subsidiaries excepting banks and bank affiliates. In the case of the latter, only dividends actually received have been included. On the basis of the audited statement shows net earnings of \$80,960,092.50 before deducting depreciation, taxes and special compensation for employees for the companies consolidated amounting to \$7,409,561.22.

The list of organizations, whose earnings other than dividends, are not included in the consolidated report, follows:

Bank of Italy N. T. & S. A.  
 Bank of America, New York  
 Bank of America of California  
 Banca d'America e d'Italia  
 National Bankitaly Company  
 Bancamerica-Blair Corporation  
 Corporation of America  
 America Investment Company  
 Merchants National Realty Corp.  
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