



● **TORRANCE . . . on Review**

Grant by Spanish king in 1785; one of three south of Tehachapi.

Portion remained in family 148 years.

Included present sites of Torrance, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington, Compton, Gardena, in its 43,179 acres.

Don Manuel Dominguez was a leader under Spain, Mexico, United States.

Torrance Tract last belonged to Mrs. Ana Josefa Dominguez de Guyer.

- Don Juan Jose Dominguez and His Nephew, Manuel, Would Have Been Amazed to See Their Ranch Today. Here Is Central Torrance From City's New Water Tower.



*From Days of the Don to  
Twentieth Century Times  
One Family Owned Land*

## Rich in the ROMANTIC HISTORY

OWNERSHIP of California lands by the same family for 148 years—until the direct line of that family is extinct—is a record. It is held by land in Northwest Torrance which, at the time of the death of Mrs. John F. Francis (Maria de los Reyes) still stood in her name.

Granted to Juan Jose Dominguez in 1785 by Governor Pedro Fages in the name of the King of Spain, this was a portion of the 43,179 acres which included the present sites of Torrance, Compton, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington and Gardena.

The Dominguez "San Pedro" grant was one of three made south of the Tehachapi by the Spanish king through his governors, the others being the Nietos grant, embracing all land between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel rivers, from the foothills to the ocean; and the Verdugo grant, from the left bank of the Los Angeles river to Arroyo Seco.

**Probably a Soldier**

LITTLE is known about Juan Jose Dominguez. He must have been a soldier, because these grants were usually

made for some military service but other than the fact of this grant and of his subsequent death, about 1822, history records no data with respect to him.

By the time of his death California had passed from Spanish to Mexican rule, and Governor de Sola, acting under authority of the Mexican government, renewed the grant to his brother, Cristobal Dominguez, who was probably his successor in interest under Spanish law.

When Cristobal died he left a widow and six children: Victoria, Manuel, Nasario, Helena, Marcelina and Pedro. Before

the courts had acted on the estate some of the heirs made a conveyance, December 22, 1854, to Benjamin B. Wilson, William Stanford, John G. Downey, Henry R. Myles and Joseph L. Brent, of the property now known as Wilmington. Manuel was not a participant in this conveyance and attacked the deal in the District court.

**Manuel Gets Half**

FINAL decree in the suit was entered September 14, 1855, in which Manuel, having purchased the interests of some of his brothers and sisters, received about 24,000 of the 43,179 acres, the balance being allotted to Pedro and the

## Dominguez Family Is

NEWCOMERS to Torrance are often impressed by the Spanish names of streets in the original portion of the city. Little do they realize that many of these are in honor of members of the Dominguez family, first owners of the land. Some of the members are doubly honored, through having two streets named for them.

Other Spanish words are used for some street names, being descriptive words or names with a particular Californian significance.

Following are sources of some of the names:

- AMAPOLA—Poppy.
- ANDREO—For Andreo Dominguez, son of Manuel.
- ARTISANO (now Abalone)—Street of the workmen.
- CABRILLO—For Don Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.

CARSON—For Dominguez de Carson.

COTA—For Donna Maria Engracia Cota Dominguez.

CRAVENS—For Dr. John S. Cravens of Pasadena, a Dominguez Land Co. officer.

DOUBLE—For Edward Double, founder of Union Tool Company and vice president and general manager at the time its Torrance plant was built.

EL DORADO—Golden.

EL PRADO—Parkway; meadow; a fashionable boulevard in Madrid, Spain.

ENGRACIA—For Donna Maria Engracia Cota Dominguez.

FERROCARRILE—Railroad or street of the railway.

GUADALUPE—(now partly changed to Post avenue)—For Guadalupe Dominguez, daughter of Manuel.

MADRID—For Madrid, Spain.

**FORWARD! Hand In Hand With Roosevelt!**

**JOHN T. RAWLS**

*Democratic Candidate*

for **STATE ASSEMBLYMAN**