

FOLSOM IS GRIM PRISON DESPITE MUSIC

Police Head Tours Huge Institution

Every detail of the plant and management of Folsom penitentiary, prison for the state's two-time losers, except one was shown Director John Stroth of the Public Safety department last Thursday afternoon and evening by Warden Clyde Plummer.

"It is a rule at Folsom that this execution building is not to be exhibited except when actual hangings occur," Stroth said. A personal acquaintance with Warden Plummer, plus his position as president of the Peace Officers' Civil Service Association of California, enabled him to tour every part of the prison, including the "condemned row" where 2,097 criminals are confined.

Stroth visited Folsom and its 3,500-acre ranch with Chief Charles Miller of Lynwood and A. Belmont, executive secretary of the Civil Service association. The trio went there from Sacramento after conferring with state legislators regarding new bills pertaining to peace officers' pensions and civil service matters.

See Dark Cells "After touring the ranch, where livestock and poultry are raised by inmates, we drove a mile and a half to Folsom and after applying for admission at the first of two main gates were welcomed by our friend, Clyde Plummer," Stroth said.

"Warden Plummer turned us over to his chauffeur, who was a prisoner, and he took us all thru the prison. We had an opportunity to see the correctional cells, where recalcitrant prisoners are placed for 30, 60 or 90 days in almost total darkness.

"They are fed bread and water for four days and then allowed a good meal. While this may seem harsh treatment, nevertheless the discipline is urgent considering the type of men who are confined at Folsom.

Morale Is Improved "Newspaper accounts of how the inmates were being treated by Warden Plummer and his concert failed to tell the whole story. It is true that the prison orchestra of 12 pieces plays at every meal but since Plummer started the concerts the rise in prisoners' morale has been nothing short of amazing. They present a much more cheerful appearance and their conduct does not lend itself to planning 'breaks' and attacks on guards," Stroth pointed out.

Folsom, which has its own postoffice, known as Reprisal, within the first wall, has a 350-bed hospital, a modern fire station and two mess halls in addition to playing fields, extensive gardens and nearly a score of cell blocks. Plummer told the visitors that the hospital is filled to capacity nearly all the time with sick and ailing inmates. The oldest inmate is 87 and the youngest, 22.

One of the messhalls seats 1,300 men and the other, 1,200. An "atwalk" over each one is

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WOODRIDGE CREDIT DENTISTS Northwest Corner Pine... Across from Buffums' PHONE 656-251... Elevator Service... LONG BEACH... OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK...

Herald's Defense of Eucalyptus Trees Wins Commendation from El Pradoans

Following publication of The Herald's editorial last week in defense of the eucalyptus trees in El Prado Park, this newspaper has been besieged with messages commending the stand taken. We wish to gratefully acknowledge the

GIVE DISTINCTION Jan. 13, 1939 Grover C. Whyte, Editor, Torrance Herald Dear Mr. Whyte:

We stand to commend you on the way you have taken in defense of the eucalyptus trees on El Prado street. The tall, stately and graceful trees were a beauty joy and inspiration which greets us daily.

The tall trees give distinction to our homes. If they were cut out the residences would look ordinary and like thousands of others on streets with small trees or no trees at all.

The shade keeps the moisture in the ground. Plants and lawns grow better and do not dry out so quickly. The larger the tree the more beauty, therefore adding to the value of our property.

The leaf effect of these trees shuts out little sun as the foliage is not dense like other trees. There are falling leaves, but these leaves are still pretty until they dry up and blow away.

All trees are beautiful but few surpass the eucalyptus for sturdiness, gracefulness and restfulness. In discussing trees it is hard to forget Joyce Kilmer's well known poem "Trees," ending: "Poems are made by fools like me,

But only God can make a tree." Thanks for your loyal support towards retaining these trees which have taken years to grow.

Very truly yours, Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Hodges, 1447 El Prado.

REMEMBER 'TREES' Jan. 17, 1939 Dear Mr. Whyte:

I want to thank you for your splendid editorial and work in helping us on El Prado keep our trees. I cannot say or write anything that would express my feelings more than Joyce Kilmer's poem, "Trees."

Thanking you again, (signed) Mrs. Richard Bishop, 1433 El Prado.

The City of New York (five boroughs) is 36 miles long, north and south, and 18 1/2 miles wide.

many verbal messages as well as the written notes, which are printed below. It is particularly heartening to see that all of the written messages, except one, came from present residents or from property owners who are soon to build homes on beautiful El Prado Park:

VALUE OF TREES Jan. 17, 1939 Dear Mr. Whyte:

The reading of your editorial about the trees on El Prado brought to mind a poem I once copied into my scrapbook. It is interesting perhaps, in that it shows the value of a tree in the life of some person, and how some of us feel about trees wherever they may be. This is the poem:

NEW TENANT She led me to the second floor. The room was dull and bare— The light came dimly from without. Gray dust was everywhere.

I felt an ill-concealed disgust But since my purse was thin And there was little choice I turned Once more and looked within. And crossing to the window ledge Peered through the murky pane To where a slim white birch tree, Stood singing in the rain.

With eager haste I wheeled and thrust In her thick hand the fee. She clumped away, and never guessed She'd rented me a tree!

—Beryl V. Thompson and somewhere someone reading that poem looking out another window—will understand.

Sincerely yours, (signed) O. A. KRESSE, 1443 El Prado.

WORSE THAN MASSACRE Jan. 17, 1939 Grover C. Whyte, publisher:

A vote of thanks, Grover, for the fine editorial on the preservation of the trees on El Prado. It has been worse than an Indian massacre trying to hang on to our trees. I hope it will be vetoed for all time.

(signed) MRS. J. R. KLING, 1521 El Prado.

FINE OLD SENTINELS Dear Mr. Whyte:

After reading your very fine editorial on our El Prado eucalyptus trees last week, may I congratulate you on the stand you have taken in support of these fine old sentinels.

(signed) Mrs. Robert J. Deininger, 2463 Carson.

Vermont Due for Re-Opening to Highway 101

Re-opening of Vermont avenue for traffic between Lomita boulevard and Highway 101 is expected within a week, according to engineers in charge of the placing of concrete on the main route of the PWA improvement project.

While the concrete roadway must "cure" for another week before traffic can be allowed on it, the paving company will complete paving aprons at the Lomita boulevard intersection and finish details of the project. When re-opened, the road will have three full lanes of concrete paving to match the rest of Vermont avenue. This section was previously paved with a light oil surface.

Realistic Photo Too Real BRENTWOOD, Cal. (U.P.)—Louise Scott, 27, wanted a "realistic" picture of herself so picked up a supposedly unloaded gun and told Clement Reasonable, amateur Filipino cameraman, to "shoot." He did and so did she. Louise got the realistic picture she wanted and Reasonable got a bullet in the calf.

There are 2,900,000 square miles of land within the U. S.

Annual Church Meeting Held

Seventy attended the annual dinner of St. Andrew's Episcopal church held in the parish hall on Englegra avenue Tuesday evening.

Reports of the various departments of the church were given. Fifty communicants were added to the church membership during the past year, making a total of 180 members and 272 baptismal members were enrolled. A letter from Bishop W. Bertrand Stevens was read, notifying the parishioners that the church debt has been cut from \$3,700 to \$3,600.

The following officers were elected to serve during the year: H. J. Bishop, warden; Theodore Chessman, secretary; H. T. Barnes, treasurer; J. W. Post, Fred Lessing, Herman Mitchell, Nicholas Cucci, Paul Watson, Jack Snow, Charles Stewart, Edward Rhone and Louis Deininger, vestrymen.

EXTEND SERVICE The rural delivery route out of the Lomita postoffice was extended Monday to include 237th street and Los Codona street in WALTERIA, according to Postmaster BIRDA PADDOCK.

NYA Lease of Hermosa Hotel Not Cancelled

Despite assurances from Congressman Leland M. Ford that "such a thing was not going to happen," the erstwhile swank Hermosa Biltmore hotel has been leased to the National Youth Administration for an educational and vocational project dormitory.

Definite information in regard to the lease was released Tuesday in Washington when Aubrey Williams, director of the NYA, announced that he had approved plans for this phase of the project. He said he had acted only after receiving telegrams from persons who had protested against the project previously, but who admitted "they must have been misinformed."

Announcement of the leasing of the Hermosa Beach hotel came after David Williams, deputy administrator of the NYA project, had issued in Washington a scathing statement defending the character of the youths staffing the project. He also couched the accusation that the project would cause depreciation of beach property values.

Beach residents however, announced firmly that they will carry on the fight against the leasing of the hotel by the NYA. They said they are astonished, only recently, Congressman Ford had assured them that the lease would be cancelled and the project moved elsewhere.

H. S. Students Elect Woodcock

Arthur Woodcock, senior student who is due to graduate in June, was elected president of the high school student body for the second semester, succeeding Henry Pupkoff, in the run-off election held yesterday. Woodcock is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Woodcock of 1218 Anapola.

Other new student body officers chosen were: John Hall, vice president; Norrine Schroeder, secretary; Marvin Godtsch, commissioner of athletics; Marvin Lee, commissioner of finance; Helen Weir, commissioner of entertainment; Dick Beecher, commissioner of group control; Kenneth Perkin, advertising manager; Harold Mastie, boys' self-government board, and Phyllis Schultz.

Colonization: 1939 Model

Here's a new idea for community advertising. Walter Winchell recently reported that the head of a magazine chain bought 640 desert acres in Arizona and for Christmas cards sent a deed for one acre to each of his friends.

Picture these New Yorkers making a trip West "to see my ranch."

WOODRIDGE CREDIT DENTISTS Northwest Corner Pine... Across from Buffums' PHONE 656-251... Elevator Service... LONG BEACH... OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL 8 O'CLOCK...

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