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WEDDING AND RECEPTION

H. R. Balcom and Miss Alice Vanden Heuvel Wed at Hanford, Cal. Their Friends Tender Them a Reception at the Hotel El Centro

On last Saturday afternoon in the Episcopal church at Hanford, California, two of El Centro's most popular young people were united in marriage. At that time our neighbor, Homer R. Balcom, led to the altar, Miss Alice Vanden Heuvel. The marriage was solemnized by the Rev. Mr. McDonald, the rector of the Episcopal church at Hanford. The bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. Hill, and the wedding was witnessed by only a few friends. The bride had been visiting this sister for some weeks and there the preparations for the wedding were made. So closely had the young people guarded their plans that not even Mr. Balcom's intimate friends knew of the important step he was about to take. So when he stepped out of the postoffice one day last week telling Mr. Brown he would be back, no one suspected what he would do before he came back. The happy couple came home on last Tuesday's train and at once went to their home on the Balcom ranch, adjoining town on the west. Just as soon as the news got out their friends at once decided to tender them a reception, at which all could fittingly express the high regard in which this most estimable young couple is held. For this purpose their friends to the number of forty or more gathered at the Hotel El Centro on Thursday evening. The Hotel was brilliantly lighted, there was sweet music rendered on the violin by Mr. Stover and piano by Mrs. Shepherd and everyone entered into the spirit of the happy occasion and enjoyed themselves to the utmost. After the friends were assembled the bride and groom appeared and were most heartily congratulated by everyone. As they stood receiving the congratulations of their friends they presented a surpassing picture of sweet and beautiful womanhood and sturdy manhood. After the congratulations and an hour of social converse the party retired to the beautiful and spacious dining room of the hotel, where in elegant and bountiful supper was served. The tables, which had been arranged for the occasion, were elegant with roses, flowers and oleander blossoms. Covers had been laid for fifty and there was scarcely an empty chair. The supper, which was served in seven courses, was a triumph of the chef's art and was most heartily enjoyed by all. After ample justice had been done to the temptingly prepared hands so plentifully provided, the toastmaster called on several of those present for responses to various sentiments. The responses were as impromptu as the toasts and in every case were most happy and appropriate. The groom responded to the toast, "The Bride," in a most happy vein, showing that he had every word he said. The same might be said of the toast, "Married as I have found it," to which Mr. True Vencill responded. One of the most heartfelt of all the responses was that of Sammy Richardson, who spoke to the toast, "The Ladies—God bless them." After a most happy

half hour the toast master adjourned the party to the spacious lobby of the hotel, where to most delightful music rendered on the piano by Mrs. J. I. Shepherd, dancing was indulged in to a late hour. When the happy gathering finally dispersed it was with renewed congratulations to the bride and groom and thanks to Mr. Masten of the hotel for the most excellent manner in which all had been entertained.

Among those present were: Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Balcom. Mr. and Mrs. True Vencill. Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Blanchard. Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Cooper. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Downing. Mr. and Mrs. E. Fromme. Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Havens. Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Pellet. Mr. and Mrs. Marion Moore. Mr. and Mrs. J. Stanley Brown. Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Brite. Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Casner. Miss Ivy Hill. Miss Elizabeth M. Reed. Miss Alma Tuttle. Mrs. Vanden Heuvel. Mrs. J. I. Shepherd. Mrs. H. E. Hawes. Harry Vanden Heuvel. Murray A. Stover. A. D. Medhurst. S. R. Ballard. S. T. Richardson. D. H. Chaplin. R. L. Rumsey. B. G. Balcom. D. H. Chaplin acted as toast master and together with S. T. Richardson and R. L. Rumsey, worked unceasingly for the comfort of all present.

George H. Reed and his sister, Miss Elizabeth, were El Centro visitors Thursday afternoon. Mr. Reed has recently acquired a tract of land two miles southeast of town, has bought water stock and will have it improved at once. He is fortunate in securing land so close to the Valley's future metropolis and we congratulate him on his good judgment.

R. O. Kendall, of Mannington, West Virginia, was an El Centro visitor this week. He is spending a few weeks in the Valley visiting his sister, Mrs. C. J. Schenck and his niece, Miss Blanche Straight, at Holtville. Mrs. Schenck and Miss Straight returned last Tuesday from a visit to Los Angeles and coast points.

Miss Olive Cokin, of Los Angeles, arrived in El Centro Friday evening, and will open the Heber school on next Monday, October 1st, she having been secured to teach that school during the coming term. Miss Cokin is a graduate of the State normal and an experienced teacher.

Work on the ice plant is progressing nicely. The debris is all cleared away, the pipes and machinery is all removed and the foundations and cement floors are being examined. It is believed they will be found to be all right and uninjured by the fire.

Rev. W. G. Conley, of Redlands, is a Valley visitor this week and is looking after his property interests in Number Seven. Mr. Conley is a stockholder in the Holton Power Co., and is interested in several Valley enterprises.

Mrs. C. A. Howell came in from San Francisco last Wednesday and joined her husband at Holtville. Mr. Howell is superintendent of the Holton Power Co. and Holton Inter Urban Railroad Co.

GUN CLUB ORGANIZED

El Centro to the Fore With First Organization of the Kind in the Valley

On last Wednesday evening a number of the residents of our town met in the lobby of the Hotel El Centro and organized the El Centro Gun Club. The meeting was called by Mr. L. H. Cooper and there was present besides Mr. Cooper, Messrs. Blanchard, Brown, Pellet, Nosler, Vencill, Stover, Richardson, Rumsey, Hawes, Downing, Shepherd, Chaplin and Medhurst.

Mr. Cooper, who is an enthusiastic sportsman and a prominent member of the Redlands Gun Club, called the meeting to order and stated its objects. After a general discussion of the matter it was voted to organize and L. H. Cooper was elected president; T. B. Blanchard, secretary, and True Vencill, treasurer. A managing committee was also appointed, consisting of J. Stanley Brown, R. L. Rumsey and S. T. Richardson. Funds were raised for the purchase of a shooting trap and supply of clay pigeons and as soon as these arrive the fun will commence.

The name of The El Centro Gun Club was adopted and after the transaction of some routine business the meeting adjourned to meet again next Saturday evening, when the managing committee will report on shooting grounds, practice days will be selected, gun teams will be chosen and the shooters and other field officers elected.

As this is the first gun club ever organized in the Valley the boys are anxious to get in practice and hope to encourage similar organizations in the other towns, with a view to having match team shoots as a feature of holiday celebrations hereafter. It has been suggested that such a contest be arranged as one of the events at the forthcoming celebration at Calexico, when the water is gotten under control. The practice of shooting at clay pigeons thrown from a trap is a most interesting one, as it combines skill, quickness, decision, good nerves and good eye sight. It is also a rare sport and one which deserves to be cultivated. The members of The El Centro Gun Club are enthusiastic over their prospects and look forward to a season of entertaining sport as well as valuable practice that can be turned to good account on the ducks and quail a little later on. To be a good shot is an accomplishment anyone should be proud of and there is no better way to acquire this accomplishment than to join the El Centro Gun Club and participate in its practice shoots.

Fred W. Bishop, of Los Angeles, Cal., was an El Centro visitor last Thursday. Mr. Bishop has considerable property interests in the Valley and was a pioneer dairyman, but has made his home in Los Angeles during the past year. He says there is great interest taken in the Valley by his neighbors and that a great flood of immigration will soon flow this way.

Tuesday evening's train brought the largest number of passengers to the Valley that has come in on one train in a long time. Eighty-four people got off the overland train at Old Beach on that evening and took the train for various points in the Valley. For the first time in months it was necessary to run two passenger coaches to accommodate the travel and conductor Patterson said he hadn't seen so many

people before in a long time. Quite a few were residents returning from their summer vacations, others were parties with interests here, some were home-seekers and land buyers coming to possess themselves of portions of our fat lands, while last, but not least, was the bridal parties, no less than two of the Valley's estimable young men being accompanied on that train by their newly acquired partners for life. Taken altogether it was the most interesting trainload that has come to the Valley in a long time.

L. E. Cooley came back last Wednesday from Los Angeles, where he had been to make final proof on his homestead. Mr. Cooley enjoys the unique distinction of being the first man to prove up on a homestead in this Valley and acquire title by residence alone. He filed on his land September 12th, 1901, and made final proof September 21st, 1906, having continuously resided upon and cultivated his land for more than five years.

Land Contests Increasing

There is a marked increase in the number of contests that are being filed from day to day against delinquent land entrymen throughout the Valley. This is a good indication that land is becoming more desirable than formerly and that the contestants are willing to try for some of it. Since it is possible to file a contest and have the hearing before a notary public this method of procedure has become quite popular. During the past week sixteen contests were filed before one notary public in El Centro and the rush is still on. It is likely that the number of contests will run into the hundreds, for there seems to have been a quite lax observance of the law by a good many who made land entries in this Valley.

TIMBER CUTTING INVESTIGATION

United States Marshal Visits the Valley Summoning Witnesses Before the Federal Grand Jury

Some years ago several parties made a practice of cutting the mesquite timber that grew along New river and in the flats of Pelican Lake and selling it in Imperial. In this way a regular wood business was carried on and several of the prominent citizens of that town profited by it. It seems that the formality of acquiring title to the land on which this timber grew was overlooked by those who benefited from the operation and now Uncle Sam wants to know about it.

Deputy United States Marshal B. H. Franklin has been in the Valley the past week and has summoned Charles Dillon, F. V. Waters, John Belcove, H. H. Peterson, C. E. Harris and H. J. Havens, of Imperial, and Reuben Newman, of Holtville, to appear before the Federal Grand Jury at Los Angeles to then and there tell what they know of the operations of these parties. The floods from the Colorado have washed away much of the land on which this timber grew and has practically ruined the balance, so what timber is left in that part of the Valley is so situated as to be practically worthless, but this does not excuse those who cut the timber off the land before the floods carried it away. Now that Uncle Sam's attention has been directed to this matter of timber cutting in the Valley perhaps the subject of resurveying this part of the country so the land claims can be completed, will receive attention. When the resurvey is done no doubt there will be a lot more of the boys called on by the United States marshal, for doubtless his services will be required before some of the claims now held in this Valley are finally disposed of.

WHERE MORE THAN
\$350,000
IS BEING SPENT

The town of El Centro was started in the fall of 1905 and is now about 11 months old. It is located in the center of the best part of the Imperial Valley, and is destined to become the metropolis.

The following improvements now completed, or under way, make a record to be proud of:

Ice and Cold Storage Plant (Burned)	\$75,000
Ice and Cold Storage Plant (Brick)	75,000
Hotel El Centro (Brick)	30,000
Transformer Station and Power Lines	20,000
Opera House Block (Brick)	40,000
Cement Sidewalks	10,000
Water Works System	10,000
Electric Light Plant for El Centro	5,000
S. P. R. R. Depot and Stock Yards	11,000
Holt Block (5 brick stores)	15,000
Machine Shop and Equipment	2,500
Blacksmith Shop	900
Hotel Franklin	5,000
Hardware Store	2,000
El Centro Cantaloupe Association Packing House	2,000
Creamery	6,000
Peterson Building (Brick)	1,200
Fuller's Residence	1,500
Three Cottages	3,000
El Centro Land Co's Office	800
Blinn Lumber Co. Yards	2,500
Fuller & Aten's Office	600
Grading Streets, Etc.	1,000
30 Cottages	30,000
Total	\$350,000

For information regarding El Centro and the Imperial Valley, and its opportunities, address

D. H. CHAPLIN
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EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA