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EL CENTRO THE POINT

Of Junction With San Diego and Arizona Railway on Good Authority

The following excerpt from the address of George W. Marston, delivered at the banquet given in honor of the Southern California Press Association in San Diego last Saturday evening, is indicative of the course that the right-of-way that the San Diego and Eastern will take in its building across the territory from San Diego to Yuma:

"From the bay of San Diego to the Colorado river at Fort Yuma the direct distance is only 144 miles, but the San Diego & Arizona railroad, owing to the nature of the country, will be about 200 miles long. It will take a general course parallel with and near to the Mexican boundary line. Leaving San Diego the line first runs south-easterly along the bay shore, then over the fertile fruit lands of Chula Vista, Otay and Jamal to the foothills. Thirty-five miles from the city the elevation is about 1000 feet and from here the road ascends the western mountain slope, crossing the divide at an elevation of 3645 feet above the sea. The eastern slope is very precipitous and to reach the plain with a proper gradient the road will turn northward a few miles beyond Jacumba and follow the Carrizo canyon for ten miles. Then swinging eastward again the western edge of the Colorado plain is reached at a point about 135 miles from San Diego. Eastward from here the line crosses a level country to the river.

It was formerly thought that the mountain difficulties between San Diego and Yuma were almost prohibitive of a practical road but the Richards survey by the San Diego-Eastern railway committee showed that, excepting ten miles at 2 4-6 per cent., a uniform gradient of 1 2-5 per cent. could be secured. At the present time additional surveys are being made and whatever difficulties may be met in mountain railroading, we have the fullest assurance that they will be overcome by the masterly enterprise of the strong men who have put their hands to the work."

Coming as this does from such authority as Mr. Marston the people of our section and of our town of El Centro may feel assured that the road will eventually have a junction with the Southern Pacific at this place and it has been already rumored that an agreement had been reached whereby the two companies used the same road bed from this place to Yuma.

Preparing Required Bond for Division Election

The county division general committee met in Imperial Monday afternoon, those present being:

Brawley—Messrs. Stanley and Mansfield.

Holtville—Porter Ferguson.

Imperial—Messrs. Ulrey and Benton and Secretary Chaplin.

El Centro—Messrs. Brown and Aten.

Calexico—R. D. McPherrin, chairman.

It was decided not to make any recommendations to the supervisors regarding supervisorial districts.

A bond that had been prepared as guarantee of the expenses of the election was read and this will bear the signatures of R. H. Benton, M. P. Mansfield and W. F. Holt. A second bond will be prepared and signed by the members of the committee for the protection of these three signers of the first bond.

EXPLOSION

Acetylene Gas Tank Exploded at Brawley Sunday Night

What might have proved to be a serious matter occurred at Brawley when the acetylene gas tank at the Bungalow hotel exploded last Sunday night. As it was two men were injured one of them quite seriously. The machine got out of fix, as they are so in the habit of doing and Lew Bennett went in to fix it and was followed by Mr. Cash, who inadvertently struck a match, igniting the escaping gas and the explosion followed. Mr. Bennett was quite badly burned, while Mr. Cash escaped without being injured to any great extent. Only small damage was done to the hotel.

The owners of the hotel immediately decided that such a dangerous apparatus for furnishing light to the building would better be out of commission for good and ordered the hotel wired for electricity. Being an emergency case the Holton Power company put every available man to work on the job and in the remarkable short time of less than forty eight hours the building was completely wired and the electric lights turned on.

This makes the second acetylene gas explosion which has occurred in Brawley, the other one happening in the store formerly known as Heard's department store, at which time one of the Eckart boys was quite badly injured.

Excursion to Holtville

The Holton Inter-Urban railway will run an excursion from El Centro to Holtville, Saturday evening, July 6th, leaving here at 6:30 p. m. J. Stanley Brown, of El Centro, and Frank N. Chaplin, of Holtville, are to debate the county seat question, the proceeds of which will go to the library fund. Round trip fare \$1.00.

Twenty Cars of Steel are Now at Calexico

During the last several days rails have been accumulating at Calexico for the extension of the Imperial and Gulf railroad and up to this morning twenty cars had arrived there. This is sufficient to make quite a showing in the building of the road and meanwhile grading is being resumed and will make the extension of the road to connection with the Pilot Knob spur a matter of a short time.

To the Voters of the Valley:

The Citizens of El Centro and vicinity send Greeting.

El Centro is a Candidate for the County Seat. We solicit your votes and support, and ask you to visit our town and be convinced that our claims are just.

J. STANLEY BROWN,
Chairman Committee.

J. I. SHEPHERD OF IMPERIAL

Announces That He is An Independent Candidate for Superior Judge

To the Voters of Imperial County:

The undersigned respectfully announces that he is an independent candidate for the office of superior judge.

Respectfully yours,
J. I. SHEPHERD.

I feel free to make the above announcement since no party lines are to be drawn in this election. Besides, the attitude of the towns in the field for the county seat leaves no other desirable means to the individual living in either of such towns to come before the voters.

I have neither the time or inclination to make a button hole canvass, nor have I the disposition to try to induce men to depart from a compact or tact understanding, which they in good faith believe should be observed in their fight for the county seat. This is my own fight in my own way, single handed and alone. No man, set of men or association stand back of me in my candidacy; except the good will of a few friends, who have expressed a wish that I be a candidate for this high and responsible office.

Having given this matter some thought and fully appreciating the magnitude of the office, mindful of what is meant by "a just and upright judge," realizing the independence that ought to envelop the bench, I am impressed by the situation that a nomination independent of the convention to be held July 15th, more in keeping with the dignity of this office, as in that convention, from present indications, the county seat will be the paramount issue and all other interests will be secondary to this, making the office seeker an object of barter and trade, while to the new county at large some think the officers of infinitely more importance. Hence, I have concluded to be on the ticket as an independent candidate for your consideration on election day. Later on I will endeavor to meet you all, that we may become better acquainted between now and then. In reaching this determination it is with confidence of success.

This announcement is made on the strength of my good faith citizenship in Imperial Valley. And, being a graduate of the law department of the State University of Iowa, admitted to practice in three states, with twenty years constant practice at the bar, I take it that this record frees me from the charge of this being a piece of personal presumption on my part, especially with the county seat question absorbing all other interests, making it imperative upon one, to in a measure sound his own aspirations.

Knowing that the Imperial Valley settlers, as a people, believe in a "square deal," I feel you will accord a fair chance to one, who by his constant settlement since April, 1904, with his family, demonstrates his fidelity to this valley. Walking this highway of my own and with this thought of your fairness as a people in mind, I feel confident of success. But whether elected or not I will still remain a citizen of Imperial county, the future greatness of which no man can foretell.

Very respectfully yours,
J. I. SHEPHERD.

The Fraternal Brotherhood lodge meets Tuesday night, July 9th. All members are requested to be present and all candidates will please come.

EL CENTRO is the key to the situation in the matter of the County Seat question. It is the most centrally located point in the proposed new county and the most convenient to reach by a large majority of the people of the territory to be embraced in the new county. It is a live, growing, progressive town. It holds out the hand of good-fellowship to every community in the peerless Imperial Valley and it asks for nothing not justified by its merits.....

Silsbee Sayings

From our regular correspondent:

There were several Silsbees disappointed in not getting to go to San Diego, owing to the excursion being called off.

Arthur Darer left this week for Calexico, where he will take up the duties of janjero on the Date ditch. His many friends wish him much good luck in his new occupation.

Rev Haddock and Clyde Reynolds went to Calexico, Thursday to see about further arrangements for the building of the new church. Owing to the scarcity of carpenters in the valley at present, the commencement of the church building will be postponed for another month.

Most of us spent the 4th very quietly at home.

Rev. Thornquest preached a splendid temperance sermon Sunday.

The ice cream social given by the library association was a very enjoyable affair to those who enjoy ice cream. Owing to the fact that most people who are in the habit of attending our socials are now engaged in cantaloupe picking our crowd was small, but nevertheless there was lots of cream sold.

Mrs. Tony, of Heber, was visiting her friends, Mesdames Havens and Harding, Thursday.

Mrs. Ira Barass left this week for a two months visit to her old home in Illinois.

Mesdames Reynolds, Miles and Wilson went to Los Angeles, Friday, to file on land.

The mercury reached 117 degrees on Wednesday. That is the hottest day this season at Silsbee.

J. R. Havens and family are enjoying fine watermelons at their ranch these warm days.

Rev. Haddock will leave Monday for a two weeks visit to his family at Norwalk. Thurston Harding will go with him.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker, one mile north of Silsbee a quiet wedding took place on Tuesday afternoon, the contracting parties being Miss Louise Whitaker and Paul E. Blockert, Rev. Haddock officiating. Miss Whitaker was well known here and much loved by all who knew her. Their many friends wish them a long and happy union. The happy couple left for San Diego, where they will spend the summer, after which they expect to return to our neighborhood and improve the ranch recently purchased.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Harding enjoyed ice cream with Mrs. Pyle and sons on the fourth.

The twelve year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Cunn has been missing for several days, but likely he will do as most boys, come back.

J. W. Kramer and Earnest Thornquest left on Wednesday for a short trip to San Diego, where Mr. Kramer will get his children that have been attending school at that place and bring them home for a few weeks' visit during vacation. Their many friends are anxiously awaiting their coming.

Mrs. F. G. Havens and son, Morris, left this week to spend the summer at coast points.

Holtville Happenings

From Our Regular Correspondent.

M. P. Harris left Tuesday for San Diego for a few days on business.

M. S. Cook and Ed. E. Boyd left Tuesday for Los Angeles, where they will remain a few days, after which Mr. Cook will spend a few days in San Diego.

Rev. Tout, of El Centro, was over to Holtville for a few hours on last Monday.

W. F. Holt spent last Tuesday in Holtville.

Clyde Curtis had the misfortune last Saturday of losing his house and all of its contents by fire.

The sad news reached Holtville, Monday, of the death of Mrs. Chas. Towle in Los Angeles. The remains were brought to Imperial Tuesday for burial.

Misses Lena and Ethel Bridenstine returned last Saturday evening to spend their summer vacation with their parents in Holtville. They were met at El Centro by a large crowd of young people from Holtville and a very pleasant ride home was enjoyed.

The Good Time club met last Friday evening at the home of W. A. Hoyt, north of town, and a very pleasant time was had.

At a meeting of the voters' league of Holtville last Saturday afternoon the candidacy of John B. Baker for recorder, Paul Boman for treasurer and M. P. Harris for sheriff was endorsed by the league.

Imperial Water company No. 5 held their sale of delinquent stock on last Saturday and 180 shares of stock was sold at a very good price.

J. A. Craine, of San Diego, was a business caller in Holtville on last Wednesday, looking after his interests in the north end of district number 5.

W. T. Heffernan, of the C. D. Co., Calexico, was in Holtville last Saturday attending the sale of stock in Imperial Water Co. No. 5.

Benjamin Funcheon, of Pasadena, was at the sale of stock in Water Co. No. 5 last Saturday, looking after the interests of the Imperial Investment company.

Mrs. Maul, mother of Paul Maul, left Tuesday for her home in Chicago, after a visit with her son.

J. N. Patton returned Monday from a short business trip to Los Angeles.

Mr. F. G. Havens has announced himself as a candidate for the office of county clerk of the new county. As yet it seems that this is the first candidate to appear for this office. It is a known fact that there will be a great deal of work attached to the county clerk's office for the first year or two and it is not likely to be a position much sought after at this election.