

## HIS CAREER AND CHARACTER.

## A Finished Story of Edwin Booth's Life.

Some New Light on the Tragedian by an Able Critic.

Tragedy Died With Him and a New Era of Theatrical History Began—Some Incidents of His Life—A Resume of His Record.

[The following sketch of the career and characteristics of Edwin Booth is from the pen of Stephen Fiske, the noted dramatic critic of the New York Spirit of the Times.]

Death, however long expected, always comes with a shock of surprise and sorrow. This is especially true of the death of Edwin Booth, which had been discounted for months and anticipated for weeks, and which occurred at his New York residence, about an hour after this midnight. Like King Charles, our only tragedian was long a-dying; but yet we now seem to realize for the first time what a tremendous loss is inflicted upon the American stage.

Edwin Booth, the fourth son of the famous English tragedian, was born at Baltimore, November 15, 1833, and at Baltimore, by his father's, in Greenmount cemetery, he will be buried. As a boy he accompanied his father on starring tours and was laterally acting on the stage. His play was reciting poetry, picking the banjo and singing negro melodies in juvenile theatricals. As he grew older he became his father's guard, dresser and companion, and tried to act, as a minor member of his father's company, at \$6 a week, but failed miserably. His formal debut was at the Boston theater, in 1849, as Trevelyan, in Richard the Third, and was successful. Thereafter he played small parts during his father's tours. In 1854, as King Lear, in the National theater, Chatham street, was Wilfred, in The Iron Chest, September 27, 1850. A year later, he appeared as Richard the Third as a substitute for his father, and was cordially applauded. At Sacramento, in 1852, his Hamlet was suggested. He had dressed for Jaffer, in Venice Preserved, in the conventional black velvet, and his father said: "You look like Hamlet—why don't you play it?"

For five years, during which his father died, Edwin Booth acted in California and Australia, sometimes as a star, sometimes in a stock company. He could play anything, from Dandy Cox in a negro farce and L'Esquire in Uncle Tom's Cabin to Shylock in The Merchant of Venice, Marco in The Marble Heart and Claude Melnotte in the Lady of Lyons, and was advertised as "the fiery star." His farewell benefit at San Francisco, in 1858, was as King Lear. In 1857, he started through the south, beginning at Baltimore; he was betrothed to Miss Mary Devlin of Troy, whom he married in 1860, and made his Boston debut. His success there brought him to New York, where he appeared at the Metropolitan theater (Burton's), on Broadway. We remember him as a slender, handsome, melancholy, almost shabby young man, slipping in quietly at the stage door. At that time he had the idea that, because his father had done a great deal and been a great actor, therefore it was necessary to drink deeply in order to act well; but he outgrew this fallacy in later life. On the night of his wife's death, in 1863, he had to be held up while he mumbled the words of his part.

After starring for two years in the west and south on the strength of his Boston and New York engagements, Booth went to England, and appeared at the Haymarket, London, in 1861, in September, 1861, as Shylock. He lacked the fire and fury of his father; our civil war had just begun; his affairs were badly managed and his English tour was a failure. But it ultimately led to his greatest success, a great deal of partnership with his brother-in-law, J. S. Clark, the Philadelphia comedian, and they engaged William Stuart, as their manager. Stuart was a brilliant Irishman whose real name was O'Flaherty and who had been a member of Parliament. He cleared the way for Booth by a series of caustic articles in the Tribune, ridiculing and attacking Edwin Forrest. Then, in imitation of Fechter in London, he organized a 100 night run for Hamlet, at the Winter Garden, New York, in 1864, and this splendid advertisement made Booth's fame and fortune.

Now a wealthy man, thanks to the partnership with his shrewd brother-in-law, Booth seemed at the height of prosperity, when the death of his father, in 1864, and the death of his brother, Lincoln, in 1865, drove him into retirement for a year. In 1866 he reappeared at the Winter Garden, and was enthusiastically received. Nobody doubted his patriotism, and sympathy was added to admiration. In 1867, when he was presented with the Danish medal for his Hamlet, among the distinguished gentlemen on the stage were Admiral Farragut and General Anderson, of Fort Sumter fame. The Winter Garden was burned March 23, 1867, and a year after the corner-stone of Booth's theater, Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street, was laid. In June, 1869, he married Miss McKivker of Chicago, having played Romeo to her Juliet at the opening of his theater, February 3d. The theater was managed lavishly; every play was produced magnificently; and, although the receipts were very large, the expenses exceeded them. Thus Booth became involved in a financial failure which annoyed him for years, and was finally settled by a compromise with the creditors. His first starring tour after the failure netted him \$125,000. He revisited San Francisco, after an absence of 20 years; was shot at in McKivker's theater, Chicago, by a lunatic; a public breakfast was arranged for him at Delmonico's, and, in 1880, he again visited England, appearing at the Princess theater, London, November 6th. Again he failed to please the British public, but Irving, the king of the English stage, came to his relief, and they

played a great engagement together at the Lyceum, alternating Othello and Iago. In 1882 he acted at the Adelphi theater, London, and, in 1883, played King Lear in English, supported by German actors, at Berlin.

After his return to America and his usual successful tour through the provinces, Booth played Hamlet for Salvini's benefit at the Academy of Music in 1885; and for Lester Wallace's benefit at the Metropolitan Opera house in 1888. Then Lawrence Barrett became his manager; the prices were raised at most of the theaters at which the combination appeared; and Booth grew more wealthy than ever before. At the Academy of Music in 1888, the first promotion of his fatal disease was noted. He fell upon his face in the middle of a performance. But his condition was unjustly ascribed to intoxication, and he speedily recovered. At the Lyceum theater, Rochester, April 3, 1889, he had a second attack, and the audience had to be dismissed. Lawrence Barrett, in his speech of apology, said that Booth would not act again; but Booth rejected him in a fortnight, and they played together until December, 1890, when Booth formally retired. At Barrett's suggestion, he bought a house at Gramercy Park, and gave free quarters to a club of players and friends of his theater to amuse him. There he has since lived, and there he died.

All these facts and figures are but the background against which stands out the peculiar personality of Edwin Booth. He had a great deal of the public and was so intimately connected with a national misfortune that his name had become a household word. The son of a genius, he inherited and extended his father's fame. The brother of an assassin, his own merits, his brother's crime, the noble remaining representative of the great tragic actors of the past, tragedy died with him, and a new era of theatrical history began.

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prevent people from buying them at night for \$1.50 is difficult to understand, but a little ephemerism will explain the protest. On his nightly tours Booth would have received \$1550 instead of \$1080 for the matinee performance, and hence his indignation.

What Edwin Booth might have been to the American stage is evident from his magnificent production of Othello at the Lyceum, when he was under the influence of the McKivkers, and from his equally magnificent benefactions, when he was under the influence of Lawrence Barrett. When William Stuart presented him to the public as the champion of intellectual acting as contrasted with the physical robustness of Forrest, he had unequalled opportunities. He might have founded an American school of acting. He might have developed the American drama. He might have had great modern plays written for him. He might have created new characters. Instead, he limited himself to the old legitimate round and will be remembered only as the ideal Hamlet. What he did was done perfectly, and this of itself, is high praise; but we should have been glad to praise him for sublime ambitions and grand artistic endeavors to improve his profession. One night, in his dressing-room, costumed as Richard the Third and smoking a cigar that seemed oddly incongruous, Booth said to me: "Here is the difference between my father and myself! This is his costume; I have helped him to put on this hump hundreds of times. But he could never have smoked a cigar as Richard. As soon as he was dressed to walk, he was about, muttering to himself and working himself into the character. When he made his first entrance he had his audience with him. The men applauded, the women shuddered. I am content to get them into the theater with me by the third act. But," he continued, with a faint smile, "I draw three times as many dollars at this theater as my father ever did." The portrait of Edwin Booth, painted by himself, is in these sentences.

## THE FORRESTERS.

LAUREL CIRCLE ADDRESSED BY GRAND TRUSTEE MRS. M'KAY.

A Social and Hat Trimming Entertainment to Be Given on Friday Evening—Los Angeles Circle News Matters.

Laurel circle, No. 109 Companions of the Forrester, held their regular meeting in G. A. Hall, No. 610 1/2 South Spring street, on Friday evening. The attendance was quite large, all the circles in the city being well represented. Grand Trustee Mrs. McKay was present, and under the head of Good and Welfare of the Order delivered an eloquent speech, in which she fully illustrated the business transacted at the state convention recently held in the city of San Francisco. She also in a most able manner described the condition of the circles in general of the Bay city. Several of the enterprising and most active lady members of the Laurel circle have been very busy for the past two weeks making the necessary arrangements for a social and hat trimming party, to be given on next Friday evening at their hall. It is an assured success.

The scribe of Los Angeles Circle, No. 151, C. of F. D., feels it obligatory to record a most delightful evening at their last regular meeting on Wednesday evening, June 14th. The business was dispatched expeditiously in order to begin the social part of the evening. The entertainment committee deserve great praise and credit for the elaborate program they had arranged and was as follows: Overture, "Fra Diavolo," Miss Hays; recitation by Little Marie Kellard; Miss solo, Miss S. S. S.; selected reading, Mr. C. W. Collins; instrumental trio, The Parker Bros.; recitation, Perry Doeh; remarks, Mrs. David McKay; character song and dance, Mr. Shorton; humorous speech, Mr. W. A. Ryan; a reply to the above, Judge L. S. Seaman; closing remarks, Mrs. A. B. Andrews. Each number received vociferous and well-merited applause.

Putting the little hints and innuendoes inadvertently dropped by companion Ryan and Seaman, the writer is afraid that the Forester delegation from the Angel city to the grand court which convened in Sacramento, became as badly "mixed" as some of the representatives and senators. It is a wonder the "Queen Bee" of the capital city didn't buzz in real bumble bee style after their departure.

Pleasant and laudatory remarks were made by Companions Krimming and McMinis. The last named gentleman is a grand court official and was particularly pleased with our evening's entertainment.

The O. C. wishes a large attendance of the members at next regular meeting, as also in a business matter she wishes to bring before the circle.

The scribe regrets to record the illness of Companion Kellard; Companion David McKay is also indisposed. The various committees of the courts were present, and the last named gentleman will meet at Companion McMeade's office on Broadway at 10 o'clock Sunday morning.

## THE MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

Simpson Church to Have the First Excursion.

On next Saturday the Mount Wilson railroad will be opened up as far as Mount Echo, 3500 feet above sea level, and Simpson church and Sunday school will be given the first excursion to this wonderful place on Saturday, June 24th. It is reached first by the Terminal railroad to Altadena, thence by the Electric road over 11 bridges and along the sides of deep cañons until the great pavilion is arrived at far up in the wonderful Rubio cañon, at the foot of the great incline cable road which reaches up towards the sky 3000 feet at a 60 per cent grade, which is the steepest railroad in the world.

The excursion proper will terminate at the pavilion in Rubio cañon at a waterfall at its head. All friends desiring to join this excursion can do so at the same low rate that is offered those who properly belong to the church and school.

Tickets are on sale at Bartlett's music house, and as the number of tickets is limited those who wish to go should purchase their tickets early, that proper accommodations may be effected for the comfort and safety of all who go.

## WIGGINS' VERY FRANK LETTER.

He Tells All About the Fair Situation.

The Way Southern California Goes in its Work.

An Explanation of Some Criticisms—Facts About Pomona's Exhibit—The Matter of Laborers Employed in the Exhibit.

The board of supervisors has received a letter from Frank Wiggins, general manager of the Los Angeles county exhibit at the world's fair, describing the condition of affairs. It is an interesting and frank letter, and the greater portion of it is reproduced, as follows: "I have withheld replying to your last in order to give you some idea of how we were installed. This morning at 12:30 we placed our last exhibit in position in the California building, and all that it now requires is a few finishing touches to complete the entire installation. The work has been very tedious, discouraging and not as complimentary as I could have wished.

The miscellaneous character of the exhibits from the various sections made it nearly an impossibility to establish any systematic rules for installation. However, we have succeeded in placing upon the main floor six distinctive features that illustrate the leading productions of our various sections, and I must say they attract universal attention from the throngs that are daily passing through the California building.

Our installation features are not as elaborate as are many of the others, but the productions placed on them contrasted with any deficiency here. The average visitor enters the building with the impression that he is here for the purpose of looking at California as a state and seems to have no special idea of the different localities, consequently when he runs against a striking feature he naturally inquires the locality from which it came; then when the Southern California people get in their work, as every feature we have is more or less striking in its arrangement, the last day of the season, the raising, the citrus industry, the nuts, miscellaneous fruits and the grasses are all separately arranged so that any one interested can easily be convinced of the magnitude of our productions in each of these various lines. One of the people, however, complaining at the manner in which many of the exhibits are installed, but could they remain here a few days they would find out that it is the product that the visitor wishes to see, and not the financial standing of the association permitted my carrying out the ideas I had of the installation. I am sure I could have satisfied the most enthusiastic citizen. Under the existing circumstances I have done the best in my power.

If fresh material is continually supplied we will be able to keep up our end of the building. The biggest kick we have from California are those who have contributed to the fair, but have not placed their exhibits in the building. The papers, I notice, are complaining that exhibits from certain localities are hard to find. Pomona, I believe, is growing somewhat in consequence of the meagre appearance of some of the exhibits. I have opened up several boxes in the presence of some of the citizens, and they will vouch for the unsatisfactory condition in which the fruit was presented. From this fruit I made the best selection possible, and placed the same on the tables and put the rest on the tower. It was the understanding when we started into this exhibition that we were to make an exhibition as a county and not as any one locality. I begged Pomona to send a separate exhibit of fruit, but she refused. She failed to do so, and I see no reason why I should be criticized for the lack of interest that they took in the matter. Her trees are displayed in the horticultural court and in the middle of the exhibit, and are properly labeled. Her fruit in display jars occupy positions on the large pyramid of fruit and in the Palace of plenty; each donor receiving due credit for such varieties as arrived here in good condition. The best named fruit is barley, also labeled and placed where they belong. Howland's olive oil is placed on the same shelf with Kimball and others; in fact it is exhibited in three localities on the grounds, and the same way as dried fruit. I don't see that Pomona has any kick coming whatever.

Los Angeles county is represented with three of the largest citrus exhibits on the ground; the largest walnut display, in two buildings; the fruit in glass in the Horticultural building; any other county in the state. She also has a creditable exhibit in the state classification in the Horticultural building, and occupies one of the best of the state's exhibits in the horticultural building; in the California building she has the credit of making the Pampas palace, in consequence of the plumes being raised in that county; her fruits in glass, with the balance of the counties, are exhibited in the palace of plenty and on the pyramid of fruit, which contains 1200 jars; her grains and nuts and woods are also exhibited in the booths, jointly with the other localities; her name also appears in the other parts of the building where the state classified exhibit is made; while in the front of the building her name appears on ninety trees and plants; on the roof garden her name is attached to 35 plants, and in the horticultural court she has one-third of the space; in the midway fair she has about one-third of the trees there carry her label. I fail to see where the average citizen of our county has any complaint to make at not finding Los Angeles county's exhibit. To be sure she has no palace of her own, where she can display her cases, polished redwoods and silk portieres predominate; her products show up to a better advantage than many of the other counties that are installed after the fashion mentioned above.

Mr. Hay, on his visit here, seemed at first to be somewhat dissatisfied, but after taking in the situation and visiting the other buildings on the ground, left fully convinced that we were doing as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and gave me to understand that he fully appreciated the conditions under which we were laboring and had no complaint to enter. He gave me to understand the position that the board occupied, and expressed a willingness on his part to assist in any further appropriation necessary to carry out the work. I am not prepared to say now just how much funds will be necessary to carry out the work, but on the arrival of Mr. Forrester tomorrow, I will go over the work with him and any suggestions that he makes I will carry out, and together I think we can make an estimate, and give you within a few days an idea of the expenses it will be necessary to incur.

I note what you say with reference to surplus workers, etc., and will carry out instructions, but thus far, our force has been too small to do the work required. You are aware that we have four men on the county pay roll as regular workers, keeping up the special feature in the horticultural, the two special features in the California building and assisting in the general installation of the association exhibit has required from two to three extra men. The unsatisfactory condition in which the oranges have been received has compelled me to keep one man continually sorting and packing the boxes in order to preserve the fruit for export. It takes the time of two men to answer questions and explain exhibits. Of course after we are thoroughly installed our regular force can look after the display and entertain the public. Whether or not we can get along on my less number, I will decide later. One thing is certain, no one is loading on my hands nor will I permit any one to soldier under my employ. For the last four weeks our men have not in from 16 to 18 hours per day. In fact two of them are about worn out, and I will have to give them a few days' layoff. As for myself, I have taken off my coat and worked with them, just the same as did in Los Angeles. The committee have been kicking because we have been, as they say, a little tardy in getting our exhibits in position. They fail to appreciate the fact that we waited on them from four to six weeks before we could begin our work. Since beginning we have been stalled one-quarter of the building in less time than it has taken one county in the other quarter to place their exhibit.

I propose to turn Mr. Charles Forrester loose when he gets here and let him take up such matters with the commission as are necessary to be settled, and I guess he will be able to convince them that we are able to cope with any of them, and are fully awake to our own interests.

I enclose you a statement of the expenses to date, and will state in connection with the same that I am holding back \$500 on the walnut tower until the contractors replace the glass that they failed to place in position when they turned the case over to us. The second \$1000 placed in Mr. Lukens' hands I have not had occasion to use, but will probably draw on him for it the coming week. If any of the expenditures contained in this statement are extravagant, in your estimation, please note the same and I will endeavor to keep them down.

We have had the usual carnival weather for the past few days. Many visitors from Los Angeles, bringing reports of many more to follow.

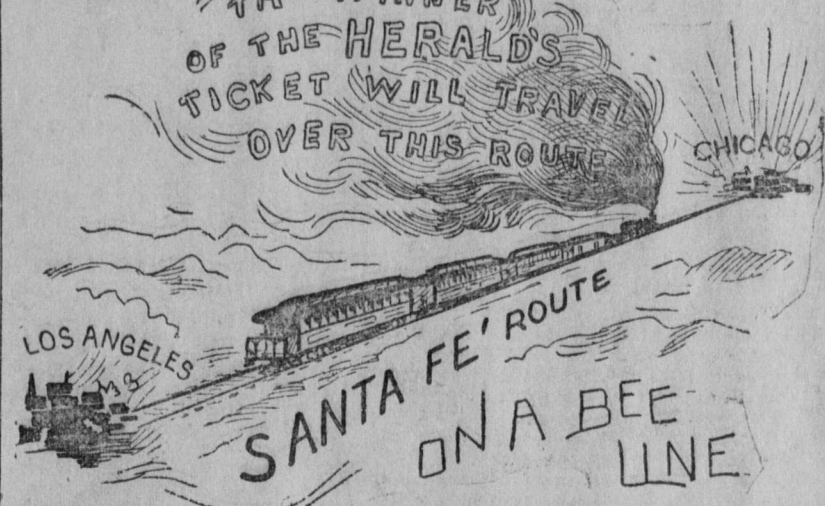
Hot Weather Insurance.

For twenty-five cents you can insure yourself and family against any bad results from an attack of bowel complaint during the summer. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is a certain cure for these diseases. It costs but 25 cents. For sale by C. F. Heinemann, druggist, 222 North Main Street.

We invite competition and allow no person to beat us. Largest discounts ever known given on all paper. Everything in special sets at 237 South Spring street.

## THE HERALD'S WORLD'S FAIR TRIP OFFER.

THE WINNER OF THE HERALD'S TICKET WILL TRAVEL OVER THIS ROUTE.



First—One First-Class Ticket to the World's Fair and Return Via the Santa Fe Route.  
Second—One Double Berth in Pullman Palace Sleeping Car from Los Angeles to Chicago and Return.

## HERALD'S WORLD'S FAIR COUPON.

JUNE 18, 1893.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

The Herald hereby makes an offer of a round-trip first-class ticket, a double berth in a vestibule Pullman Palace Sleeping car and 10 days' board at a first-class hotel in Chicago FREE to the person getting the most votes between this date and August 4th at midnight. The conditions are as follows:

All votes must be made on coupons cut from the issues of the daily HERALD. No coupon will be good for a vote after three days from the date on which it appears. That is to say, votes must be sent to the Herald office, where they will be credited to the person named on them, within three days' time of the date printed on them. This provision will not apply, however, to the last day of the publication of the coupon, for none will be received under any circumstances after midnight of August 4th. No votes will be received for any person in any way employed with the Herald. All coupons must have the name and address of the person voted for plainly written.

Further appropriation necessary to carry out the work. I am not prepared to say now just how much funds will be necessary to carry out the work, but on the arrival of Mr. Forrester tomorrow, I will go over the work with him and any suggestions that he makes I will carry out, and together I think we can make an estimate, and give you within a few days an idea of the expenses it will be necessary to incur.

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## AFFAIRS AT THE CITY HALL.

Meeting Yesterday of the Various Committees.

The Supply and Finance Committees Do Little Business.

A Long Report From the Board of Public Works—A Number of Street and Other Matters Acted Upon.

The regular meeting of the council supply committee was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Considerable time was spent in looking over and passing requisitions. No action was taken upon them. Nothing of consequence transpired.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.  
The finance committee met in the city hall yesterday at 10 o'clock, but outside of auditing the customary warrants for salaries, etc., nothing of importance was done.

PUBLIC WORKS.  
Board of public works at its meeting yesterday adopted the following report: In the matter of the ordinance for the acceptance of Center Place, referred to the board, the same was referred to the city attorney for an opinion as to whether section 26 of the state law makes it mandatory for the council to accept the same.

In the matter of petition No. 439, from William Niles, asking to have the grade of Sixteenth street established, between Main street and Central avenue, the city engineer was instructed to present the necessary ordinance, and also to present the same for Sixteenth street, between Grand avenue and Hope street. In the matter of petition No. 442, from J. M. Baker et al., asking to have Cummings street graded, graveled and curbed, according to specifications No. 5, under the bond act, between First street to a point 350 feet south of Fourth street, the city engineer was instructed to make an estimate of the cost, and if the same exceeds the sum of \$1 per foot, to present the necessary order of intention.

In the matter of petition No. 440, from G. A. Blake et al., asking that Pennsylvania avenue, from St. Louis street to Baily street, be graded, graveled and curbed, according to specifications No. 5, under the bond act; also that a cement sidewalk six feet wide be included, it was decided that the same be granted and that the city engineer make an estimate of the cost, and if the same exceeds the sum of \$1 per front foot per side, to present the necessary order of intention.

In the matter of petition No. 382, from Miles Dodd et al., asking to have the grade of Belmont avenue, from the north line of Otter street to the north line of Bellevue avenue, changed to a certain line, as shown in profile No. 85, of map of the engineer's office, it was referred to the city engineer for investigation and a report requested as to whether the matter asked for is proper and in conformity with the other street. In the matter of petition No. 419, from W. E. Francis et al., asking to have the grade of Kent street, from Belmont avenue to Bonnie Brae street, the same was granted and the city engineer was instructed to present the necessary order of intention.

In the matter of petition No. 443, from W. H. Walton et al., and petition No. 438, from R. H. Mathews et al., asking to have First street widened 10 feet on the north side between Main and Wilmington street, owing to the magnitude of the same, it was decided that proceedings be initiated to provide for the petitioners secure a petition signed by a majority of the property holders in a district of assessment, on First street; Hill street to be fixed as the west line and a property of the southern California railroad as the east line, on the north side east of Center street and Santa Fe avenue on the south side, the petition to be presented to the council not later than two weeks from June 19th, 1893.

It was recommended that the street superintendent have the street car company remove their tracks from the Main and Massachusetts intersections and pave the street according to law, and also put the west side intersection in good condition for the summer.

It was recommended that the street superintendent be allowed to purchase the gravel for which he has presented requisitions which were referred to the board.

In the matter of petition No. 268, from S. A. Crumrine et al., asking to have Union avenue between Pico and Eleventh streets graded, graveled, cement curb and cement sidewalk five feet wide under the bond act, the same was referred to the city engineer for investigation and a report requested as to whether the matter asked for is proper, and to present an ordinance of intention.

In the matter of petition No. 441, from R. X. Walton, in the matter of petition No. 438, from R. H. Mathews et al., asking to have First street widened 10 feet on the north side between Main and Wilmington street, owing to the magnitude of the same, it was decided that proceedings be initiated to provide for the petitioners secure a petition signed by a majority of the property holders in a district of assessment, on First street; Hill street to be fixed as the west line and a property of the southern California railroad as the east line, on the north side east of Center street and Santa Fe avenue on the south side, the petition to be presented to the council not later than two weeks from June 19th, 1893.

The matter of widening First street was thoroughly discussed by the board and a number of property owners. It developed that the improvement would probably cost \$20,000 to \$30,000, and that there would be considerable objection to assessment for the same, especially by property owners east of Main street. It was therefore thought better, instead of council going ahead and instituting proceedings, and probably incurring law suits that would tie up the matter, to leave it with the people themselves to determine whether the majority of them in the district of assessment want to go ahead with the improvement. It was suggested that Main street and San Pedro street would be greatly benefited by the improvement and ought to be included, for a proper distance north and south of First, in the assessment district; but the answer was made that this would only increase the difficulties in the way of the improvement, and that it would be better to confine the district of assessment to First street. This was accordingly done in the recommendation above detailed.

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