A Newspaper for All the People All the Time

The Torrance Herald

Torrance Population 8200

5c per Copy

Agriculture and Husbandry

Home Eaters

Southern California is playing host to a new visitor, unwillingly. The latest uninvited guest eats wood, eats one out of house and home if house and home is composed of wood. Its capacity for damage, not generally appreciated, is serious. It is the new insect pest called the termite (white ant).

To Los Angeles County, many another county, has come the termite, bent on a permanent stay. Many are the kinds of termites. The Los Angeles visitors are known as ground termites. During last month, housewives have noticed great grooves eaten out of furniture. Downtown offices have had pieces eaten from their desks, chairs, cabinets. Householders wondered if the little ants had eaten into the foundations of their homes, endangered them. Especially worried were those citizens whose homes are perched precariously upon the side of hills.

So great a menace has the termite invasion proved to be that the Legislature has acted, passed a bill for special control of the pest. Applicants who would take part in the eradication program took examinations on August 19 to qualify for the position, began active work soon after.

Wood-eating Mr. Termite evidently came to Southern California from the Orient via the Hawaiian Islands. In Hawaii he is a tremendous problem. There he has almost destroyed the Kawaiahou Church, one of the finest in that territory. In this instance, the damage done amounted to over $150,000. Iolani Palace, former home of the Hawaiian kings and queens, now the Capitol Building of the Territory in Honolulu, is also providing meals for the termite. To prevent destruction of the Capitol, $100,000 is being spent.

In Los Angeles, research has begun. Dr. C. A. Kofoid of the University of Southern California is studying the termite. Entomologist D. T. Fullway of Hawaii is making a thorough investigation of the termite. Both these men are devoting their attentions to the type which has been found in Los Angeles, the ground termite. Other termites fly, all eat wood, some more than others. Entomologist Fullway thinks the pest has been spread from Hawaii in shipments of lumber. With Fullway and Kofoid, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce is co-operating.

For California as a whole has been appointed P. A. Harvey at Berkeley to devise a means of eradication of this pest. Many a building inspector and engineer are members of Harvey's committee.

Thus far, no sure way of eradication of the termite is known. for the presence of the termite is not known except it be discovered by careful inspection or accident. When it is discovered the damage is usually complete. The termite works underhandedly, secretly, and therein lies the difficulty of its control.

Vastly interesting are the habits of the termite. Like the bee it maintains a high form of community houses. Unlike the bee, it forms its community under the ground where moisture is, for moisture is necessary for its existence. In the home, deep in the earth, lives the queen termite and the nurses. These tend to the young termites, run galleries built by workers, galleries that are made with a skill which rivals the bee's honeycomb.

Tunnels lead from the termite community, directly to the nearest house, telegraph pole, or oil derrick, which is penetrated from under the ground. Soon it will be found by observers that the inside of the wood penetrated is eaten entirely away and only a hollow shell left.

Los Angeles County then, is not unduly alarmed over the prospect of entertaining this greedy insect. Visions of toppling, crumbling homes are not pleasing. Therefore, all existing forces will be played upon the termite. He will be sought in his secret places, evicted.

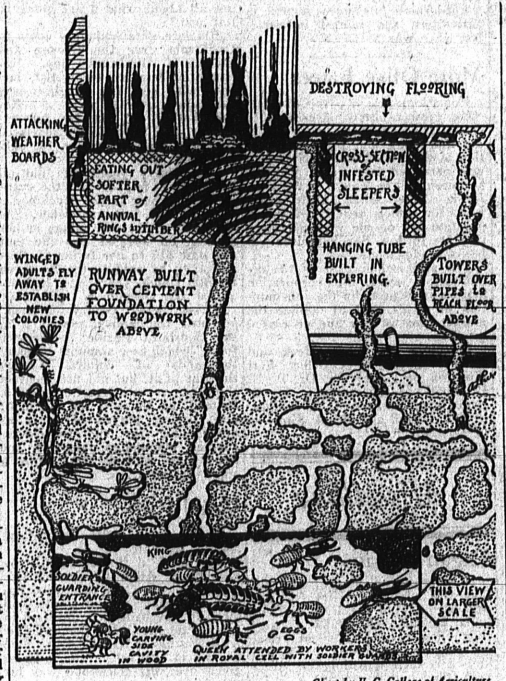

Chart by U. C. College of Agriculture

Subterranean Termites at Work and Play

After mating and the loss of wings, a pair goes into the ground, where they excavate a royal chamber. The queen lays eggs from which the nymphs hatch. The nymphs eventually become workers, soldiers, or reproductives. While the soldiers guard the passageways, nymphs and workers tunnel to the surface of the ground, build covered runways over the foundation or pipes to the woodwork, which they eat. They enlarge the excavations and provide the king, queen, and soldiers with food in the form of partially masticated wood.

In the fall the workers and nymphs construct a tunnel to the surface from which the alates (winged reproductives) swarm, usually after the first heavy rain. This is the "fall flight," or swarm. A smaller flight occurs in the spring.

Southern Winners

The attention of the entire State last week was directed toward Sacramento where the California State Fair was in progress. Aristocrats of the barnyard, the flower of the tanbark ring and track, the products of garden and field were all exhibited. Many an entry from all over California caught the eye of meticulous judges.

Of particular interest to observers were the Southern California exhibits. Noted was the variety of fruits shown and the subsequent educational value of the displays from the southern part of the State. While they specialized in citrus and sub tropical fruits, the southern counties brought north many a worthwhile exhibit of deciduous fruits, grapes and vegetables. And most of the fruit and vegetable awards went south.

The Southern California counties made a clean sweep of the citrus fruit awards. Orange County was first, San Diego second, San Bernardino third. Ventura County won first place in the walnut division; Santa Barbara, the blue ribbon for avocados, third prize for walnuts. Santa Barbara also won first prize in the bean division. Third prize for avocados was given to Orange county.

Large numbers of visitors were attracted to Los Angeles County's beautiful mission setting. In this exhibit they saw avocados, produced in sheltered spots of the Whittier hills, side by side with pears from the Antelope Valley, where winter temperatures are ideal. Another contrast was a fully matured stem of bananas grown in Hollywood, placed beside hardy apples grown in the mountains of the county.

A Spanish garden, beautiful in its conception was Ventura's contribution to the Fair. The front portion depicted a walled Spanish garden with gates which led to a hacienda in the background. Ventura's A. H. Call, County Horticultural Commissioner, arranged the exhibit.

In the tree exhibit, southern counties represented were: San Diego with a Stone Pine, San Luis Obispo with a Live Oak, Imperial with a Parkinsonia, Orange with a Live Oak, and Riverside with a Parkinsonia.

Of the ten counties given awards for the most complete representations of their resources, two were in Southern California. They were Ventura and Kern.

In the dairy division of the Fair, the majority of a large list of entries were from the southern counties. Dairies from Redlands, Pasadena, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Venice, El Monte, took most of the awards in the division.

Chino's Robert A. Condee, president of the Fair board thought the attendance for the entire ten days would be in excess of 600,000 people.

Grape Harvest

Rolling away from Guasti last week was many a refrigerator car, laden with grapes. Frightened by continued warmth, (dangerous to grapes) a small army of Italian and Mexican grape pickers had at last plunged into the task of taking the fruit from the vines. At present no harm has been done by the heat. Rather it has hastened the ripening of the grapes.

To Eastern markets go the grapes from this district. The Italian Vineyard Company also has elaborate plans for manufacturing grapes into jams, cooking wines, jellies. Wine, too, will be manufactured this fall under Federal sanction, to be placed under government bond and disposed of under government regulations.

Early in the year, Guasti grape growers were pessimistic as to what the returns would be on their crop. It faced an uncertain fate. But recently enacted farm-relief measures (See News Review of last week) encouraged them. They expect to receive a generous price on the market.

First among grape shipments in the Ontario district was that made by Carlo Brothers, Cucamonga growers and shippers through the American Fruit Express. New York was the shipment's destination.

Car allotment, market and inspection machinery for the sixteenth district of California Vineyardist's Association, embracing most of Southern California, is now functioning in Ontario. A. C. Caldwallader, Federal grape inspector, has established quarters at the Hotel Ontario for the season. R. L. Cason, American Railway Association representative is established for the season at the Chamber of Commerce in Ontario. He will allot refrigerator cars to growers and shippers. Thus the eastern markets will not become glutted. Shippers are also assured by Cason's presence, that their cars will be present when they are needed.

Sweet Potatoes

Not a usual object on city fruit stands is the sweet potato. Not a scarce object is it either. But in the vicinity of Bakersfield it is a product of major interest at present. County farmers there are harvesting a crop of sweet potatoes which will fill 150 railway cars.

In discussing the crop last week, Buford Fox of the Agricultural Commissioner's office said: Assembly Bill 978 has completely revised the law concerning sweet tubers, and sets up a new series of grades for sweet potatoes. Whether the new law will affect market conditions cannot be determined this early.

* * *

Assembly Bill 978 was an act to amend the California Fruit, Nut and Vegetable Standardization Act of 1927. Assemblyman Adams of Livingstone, Merced County, was the author of the bill.

Exchange Merges

Merged last week with the California Fruit Growers' Exchange was the Redlands Orange Growers' Association. Back on August 28 the board of directors of the Redlands exchange had voted without dissent to join the San Bernardino County Fruit Exchange. The latter is one of 25 sub-exchanges of the California Fruit Growers' Exchange located in all the principal citrus-producing section of California.

Oldest among the California citrus co-operative associations is the Redlands organization. Famed for years has been its Rose brand of oranges. With the official announcement last week of the merger, the Rose brand now becomes a Sunkist brand.

This year, the Redlands orange crop was approximately 500 carloads. A lighter yield leads growers to look for only 250 carloads next year.

* * *

Fortnight ago also merged with the California Fruit Growers' Exchange was the Arizona Citrus Growers' Association. (See News Review of last week).

Aid for Beans

Now that California grape growers and Florida citrus raisers have been recipient of funds laid aside at Washington for farm relief, bean growers have lately come under the eye of the Federal Farm Board.

Fortnight ago the board met, officials and growers appeared. They discussed beans. The board was advised of various problems affecting the marketing of the product. Peter Lennon of Michigan, a state senator, suggested a stabilization corporation which would prevent price breaking.

In Southern California some prominent bean raising localities are: Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Barbara, Camarillo, parts of Orange County, Riverside, Los Angeles.

Lennon in speaking to the Farm Board said: With $50,000,000, a stabilization corporation could buy all the beans produced in the entire country at $5.00 per bushel. With the corporation's assistance the farmer could combat price breaking."

Recognizing the need of the bean growers, Farm Board member C. C. Teague said that these preliminary conferences were chiefly for exchanging information.

Teague's Resignation

When C. C. Teague was drafted by President Hoover to serve on the Federal Farm Board, he was the holder of many a position in Southern California. Important among his positions was that of president of the California Walnut Growers Association.

Last week, due to excessive responsibilities in other fields, Teague resigned his position as president of the walnut organization. But unwilling were the directors of the Association to part with the services of their friend. At a meeting last week in Los Angeles they refused to accept his resignation.

A. J. McFadden, vice-president of the walnut organization, will take over Teague's duties until he returns from Washington at the end of the year.

* * *

Blight menaced the walnut growers of Santa Ana last week in the form of damp weather. Dampness is liable to cause mold to start in many of the nuts. Recent hot weather caused the accumulation of moisture in the walnuts; unless more warm weather comes to dry them out, they may mold.

Near Capistrano, the crop is three weeks earlier than the Santa Ana harvest. Within this week will picking operation start. Optimistic growers expect a yield of one ton per acre.

Coachella's Dates

Large will be the date crop in Coachella Valley this year. Almost 2,000,000 pounds would mammoth scales register if the entire date crop could be weighed at once.

Out of the whole yield, the Deglet Noor crop, with 1,400,000 pounds, composes the greatest part. The Deglet Noor Date Growers Association has been compelled to renovate its plant to handle this year's harvest. On the output end, President Bryan Haywood of the association is acting as sales manager, has opened offices in New York, Chicago. Shipments sent to these points will be made in carload lots.

First Bale

From Lower California came its first bale of cotton last fortnght. Anderson and Clayton of Mexicali bought it for 25 cents a pound, this firm being the highest bidder. This price represents a premium of 7 cents a pound over the current market price.

Cotton ranchers in Mexican Imperial Valley expect an unusually large production per acre this season in spite of damage done the crop by the cotton leaf worm.

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PLAYS TONIGHT

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Tonight! from 7 to 10:30

You'll be well repaid for a trip to the business district of Torrance tonight. Nearly every merchant has prepared special window displays of new Autumn goods and the down town streets will be ablaze with color and light. The event will announce the formal opening of the Fall Season, and anyone who is interested in "what's new" will find plenty to see. The Fall displays include clothing, shoes, furniture, household goods, and many other types of Fall goods. Don't miss it.

Sewer Ordered for South Side Redondo Blvd.

A new sewer line was authorized by the City Council last evening for the South side of Redondo boulevard between Madrid and Cravens avenues.

The present sewer in the alley on the south side of Redondo boulevard was laid before the lots were cut down to street level, and as a result the sewer is higher than the street.

On recommendation of City Engineer Frank Leonard, the Council ordered a sewer laid for the present on the south side of Redondo boulevard from Portola to Arlington avenues connecting with the sewer already located in the alley north of Redondo boulevard. The expense will be about $450 and will be paid by the City of Torrance.

Industries Ask Better Service from P. E. Office

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directed a communication to the Pacific Electric Railway, requesting more modern office equipment and additional help to facilitate shipments of freight to and from Torrance. A number of shippers including the larger industries in Torrance have complained that the addition of a comptometer and other up-to-date office equipment would in their opinion greatly improve the paper work of the Pacific Electric office in Torrance and better the service to shippers materially.

Business Men's Luncheon to Be Held Fortnightly

Business Men's group of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce resumed its luncheons this week. It was decided to hold them hereafter on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Earl's Cafe, 12:15 o'clock.

A committee will be appointed to sell monthly tickets, so that a more accurate count can be anticipated. This action was taken in fairness to Earl Conner, who has frequently prepared luncheon for forty when only half that number came.

ORGANIZATION OF RETAILERS FORMED HERE

Lay Plans for Big Trading Center in Torrance—Problems Discussed Frankly—Next Meeting Oct. 1

Plans for a greater retail center in Torrance were laid at an organization banquet Friday evening, attended by a large majority of Torrance retail merchants.

The banquet room at Earl's Cafe was crowded to capacity as the most enthusiastic gathering of local merchants that has ever met in Torrance discussed vital problems affecting their businesses and the future development of Torrance as a trading center. The meeting was in the nature of a round table discussion and was conducted in a very frank and open manner.

The meeting was called to order by Harry H. Dolley and later turned over to R. F. Hogue, who was elected chairman. Committees on organization and code of procedure are to be appointed and a secretary selected.

It was decided to keep store window lights burning until 10:30 p. m. each night to encourage more people to window shop.

A fall opening window display was voted which will be staged tonight, from 7 to 10:30 p. m. Merchants have prepared very attractive displays of Autumn merchandise for the Fall Opening Event tonight and the rest of the week.

Membership in the new Retail Division is limited to merchants who buy goods at wholesale and sell them at retail. A membership drive will be conducted soon to enlist those who were not at the meeting. There are no dues. Meetings will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:10 p. m. when a dinner will be served. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, and every retail merchant in Torrance is invited to attend, according to R. F. Hogue, chairman.

Cars Crash on Carson Street

Cars driven by Charles McFaren 1616 E. Carson street, and Margaret Huffer, 1444 Post avenue, collided on Carson street between Harvard and Western Monday evening at 9:15 p. m.

McFaren, in his report to the police, stated that he gave the signal to turn right and Margaret Huffer drove to the right of him and the collision resulted. The cars were only slightly damaged.

Weather Machine Transferred to High School

Weather statistics for Torrance will hereafter be kept by the faculty and students of the Torrance high school. The City Council authorized the transfer of the Government weather machine this week to the high school building. A maximum temperature of 97 degrees was registered this week on Tuesday. The rain gauge showed .05-inch after the shower Tuesday night.

Kettler Opposes Extension of Cabrillo-Eshelman Ave.

The Cabrillo avenue-Eshelman project was given a set-back this week when the City Council received a letter from Benjamin W. Shipman, attorney for the Kettler interests, informing Torrance people that the Kettler interests were not in favor of the proposed extension of Cabrillo avenue through their property.

In the letter, Attorney Shipman stated that the Kettler interests felt that their holdings would be more valuable as potential industrial land if held in one piece than if divided into two parcels. He stated that he was cognizant of the fact that the City of Torrance could enter condemnation proceedings to acquire the right of way, but expressed the hope that this action would not be taken. He predicted that the Kettler land would soon be needed for industrial purposes and stated that he believed such development would be more of an asset to Torrance if the proposed street were not put through at this time.

Hawthorne	.12
El Segundo	.067
Whittier	.05
TORRANCE	.334

forfeited hereafter.

Joe Taven and Robert Kembel returned Wednesday from a 10 days' trip to Vancouver. The trip was made by auto.