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Rail Split By Abe Lincoln On Exhibition In Torrance

J. G. Kennedy, 1339 Post avenue, who spent last summer in Illinois attending various fairs, including the "Century of Progress" at Chicago, brought back with him an interesting and valuable souvenir which is now on display in the office of the Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association.

The souvenir can never be duplicated, because it is a three-foot section of a walnut rail split in 1821 by Abraham Lincoln, which was a part of the rail fence which marked the north boundary line of the little farm where Abe and his parents lived in Coles county, Illinois.

Affidavits attesting to the genuineness of the rail accompany the display. Mr. Kennedy has "made" the rail in Coles county for a number of years and has become quite well acquainted with the residents of that section, among others with W. T. Phipps, present owner of the old Lincoln farm. In conversation one day with Mr. Phipps, the fact came out that the original rail fence split and built by Abe Lincoln in 1821, was still standing on the farm. Mr. Phipps' affidavit is one of those which accompany the souvenir in the possession of Mr. Kennedy. He says that he has lived on the Lincoln farm for 24 years, and that the fence had never been removed until the deal came up by which it was purchased and sold for souvenirs at the "Century of Progress."

Mr. Kennedy immediately became interested in the story of the rail fence and asked if the rails were for sale. He learned that they could be bought for a very moderate price, in spite of the fact that their associations with "Old Abe" made them almost invaluable in the eyes of historians and relic-hunters.

Mr. Kennedy however was not prepared to close the deal so he took the matter up with his brother, Roy M. Kennedy, a planning mill owner of Taylorville, Illinois, who with three others formed a corporation, purchased the rails in number, and saved them into thin cross-sections which were mounted on oak plaques with appropriate legend telling the story of the rails, and these were sold by concessionaires at the Chicago World's Fair at \$1.00 each.

The sum of about \$200,000 was realized from the sale, of which 20 per cent went to the Abe Lincoln Log Cabin Association for the maintenance of the Lincoln home as a museum in Illinois, a portion of the money to the vendor of the souvenirs and the remainder to the corporation which had conceived the idea.

Mr. J. G. Kennedy saved out a 3-foot section of one of the rails which he has mounted in a mahogany box under plate glass and plans to exhibit the souvenir. The rail, while weathered and cracked by time, is still in a fine state of preservation, and will last for years.

at Narbonne High School

Mike Precarovich, successful head coach at Gonzaga University in Washington, gave an unusual and entertaining speech at Narbonne, January 21. His talk was given at the semester assembly following both boy and girl letter winners.

In his address Coach Precarovich emphasized the five essentials of a good football player: Obedience, concentration, aggressiveness, determination and enthusiasm. He mentioned that not only to be a successful football player, but to be successful in any line, one must be obedient.

"Concentration in all work is essential," the coach told the students. He continued, "be determined to win or at least to give your best. Every great football player has shown determination to win the game, or if he can't win, to lose as a good sportsman should."

The speaker mentioned that aggressiveness is not so much physical as mental. At all times he stated, one should be enthusiastic about the game, whether it is an athletic contest or merely one of selling something to some one else. In many cases enthusiasm on the part of a team or one of its players has helped that team to go in and win.

"The football team is nothing more than a cross-section of the student body," Mr. Precarovich added in closing. "Give them your support and they'll give you theirs."

Contract Delayed For Improvement of Torrance Boulevard

Because details for repayment of funds have not been worked out with the Public Works Administration, the board of supervisors this week delayed the award of the contract for the improvement of Torrance boulevard between Torrance and Redondo Beach.

The supervisors rejected all but the low bid, however, which was that of C. O. Sparks, Los Angeles contractor, and referred the matter to the other bidders on the proposal. The PWA has made the grant of 30 per cent of the cost of the project, but the loan of the other 70 per cent has not yet been approved, according to George Jones, county road commissioner.

Actual work on the improvement of the boulevard will begin in about two weeks, Sparks stated late yesterday. The contractor said he was to sign the contract next Monday, and that work would be started as soon thereafter as the legal restrictions allowed.

Contractors Listed Home Owners Loan

Home Owners' Loan Corporation is preparing a list of Certified Contractors who will be notified to bid on miscellaneous repair work on residences.

In addition to general contractors, the following trades will be included: Lathing and plastering. Roofing. Painting and paper-hanging. Plumbing.

Contractors wishing to be certified to this list, must be members of the N.R.A. and should mail (personal interviews cannot be granted) name and address and state contractor's license number, together with two letters of reference from responsible parties, to Home Owners' Loan Corporation, attention of: Mr. John J. Caplin, Chief District Appraiser, 125 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, California.

Southern Half of P. V. Drive Surveyed

A road location survey along the southerly slope of the crest of the Palos Verdes Hills was scheduled to be started this week by the county surveyor's department. Authorization to make the survey was given by the board of supervisors.

The survey is to extend from a point in the Palos Verdes coast road near Point Vicente easterly to San Pedro hill, according to Alfred Jones, chief deputy county surveyor.

This is the other half of the drive that has been laid out in the Palos Verdes hills, the first half of which is being constructed now by CWA forces, having been started originally as a county unemployment relief project. The circular drive will be 23 miles long, and will rival the famous 17-mile drive at Santa Barbara, connecting up with Appian Way.

DETECTIVE CAN'T FIND DOG PORTLAND, Ore. (U. P.)—Detective J. E. Klingensmith, who usually is assigned to trace lost and stolen articles, admitted he was "stumped" when he lost his dog, Spike. He finally had to ask fellow officers to keep an eye open for his hound.

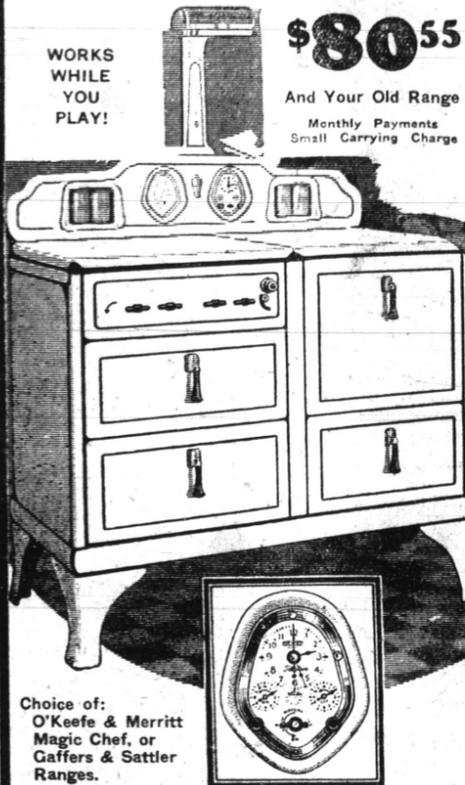
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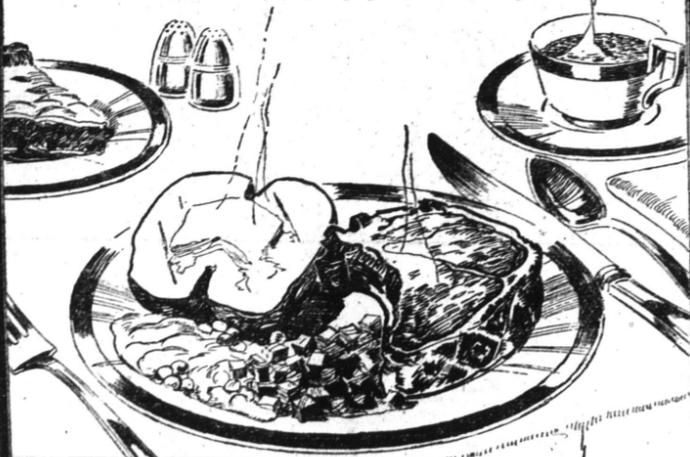


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Civil Service Examination

The United States civil service commission will accept applications until March 1 for the position of assistant farm manager (qualified in dry land farming) to fill a vacancy in the United States penitentiary service, department of justice, for duty at El Reno, Oklahoma.

The entrance salary is \$2,200 a year, less a deduction of not to exceed 15 per cent as a measure of economy and a retirement deduction of 2 1/2 per cent.

Applicants must have had certain specified education and experience.

Full information may be obtained from the secretary of the United States civil service board of examiners, at the post office or customhouse in this city.

Resident 11 Years Dies Here Tuesday

Fred A. Cos Baker, 1135 Maple avenue, passed away Tuesday, February 6, at his home. He was 55 years of age, born in New York state in April, 1878. He was employed at the Columbia Steel Company plant and had followed the trade of steel moulder for 25 years. He had resided in California for 21 years, 11 years in Torrance.

Funeral services will be held from Stone & Myers chapel, Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, interment to be made at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

Colored Man Held On Theft Charge

Venice Day Gibbons, 2003 East 114th street, Los Angeles, a colored American, was arrested on charges of petty theft preferred by the Columbia Steel Company, last Friday. Gibbons was accused of taking junk from the company yard. He was fined \$150 or 75 days in jail, suspended on condition that he stay out of Torrance for two years.



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