

## PETITION ATTACKS OLD EL PRADO TREES

IN DEFENSE  
Of the Eucalypti  
An Editorial by

GROVER C. WHYTE

Once again the stately rows of eucalyptus trees which form such an appropriate background for the sylvan beauty of El Prado park have been spared from the axe, thanks to the nature-loving and civic-minded City Council, which Tuesday evening promptly tabled a petition for removal of the trees.

Why anyone should want to needlessly cut down a single tree, much less two long rows of them, is beyond our comprehension. Certainly anyone who recalls the sand-blown treeless semi-desert tract, that was Torrance 30 years ago before these trees were planted, would not have them ruthlessly slaughtered and their beauty and benefits forever lost.

However, in fairness to many El Prado property owners who signed the petition, it should be remembered that they are comparatively new-comers to this city and perhaps are unaware of the importance of the tall sheltering giants which grace the city's principal beauty spot. Others, who signed the petition hastily, we are informed, have since changed their views after careful consideration.

In denying the requests of a few El Prado residents, the City Council acted quite properly, as most certainly the vast majority of Torrance citizens are opposed to any maiming of our central parkway. El Prado park belongs to ALL the city, not just the residents on that street. The tall eucalypti which border either side of the park are as definitely a part of the picture as the green lawn between the roadways. To take away the lacy foliage of the background trees would be like taking out the back-drop of a woodland stage setting.

But trees have more than an aesthetic value. They have a very definite commercial worth and add much to the selling price of lots which they adorn. Building lots in Bel-Air or other high class residential districts in Beverly Hills or Pasadena bring much higher prices if they have a full grown tree or two on them. Even a scrub-oak which continually sheds its sticky thorny leaves demands a handsome price.

The petitioners object to the falling bark and leaves from the eucalyptus. Any tree sheds some foliage. The lovely peppers over on Post avenue are eternally dropping leaves that track into the house and necessitate daily sidewalk sweeping and frequent lawn raking. But who would think of cutting down the peppers, or the flowering acacias, or other beautiful trees that are the pride of many Torrance streets?

Too much shade is complained of. Imagine that in sunny Southern California, which has fought such a battle to reclaim this country from the desert, and even now is bringing in the distant Colorado river at tremendous cost to insure plant and tree culture. Perhaps if the sun were allowed to burn its full glow into the living rooms of these El Prado residents and fade their fine carpets and draperies, they would think differently of the protecting arms of their friendly trees.

But the eucalyptus uproot the sidewalks, El Prado-ans claim. My, My, what a pity! Why are some people always looking down at the sidewalk instead of lifting their heads to see the moon filtering through the glittering foliage? One nature lover who was approached

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El Prado Park . . . whose 29-year-old bordering eucalyptus trees . . . were threatened this week

Council Rejects Effort to Slaughter  
Sylvan Beauty of "Garden Street"

One of this city's outstanding landmarks, the eucalyptus trees bordering El Prado became the object of an attack this week when a petition signed by 15 property owners on El Prado—the "garden street of the city"—was filed with the city council. The petition requested removal of all of the stately trees, planted in 1910-11, between Cravens and Manuel avenues and the substitution in their places of carob trees.

As word of the proposed destruction of the oldest inhabitants of the city spread about the community, a rising tide of opposition began to counteract what many termed "a needless butchery."

Tuesday night's council meeting but offered no comment about the tree removal demand.

Other signers of the petition were Mrs. Rose M. Worrell, B. C. Buxton, J. B. Scotton, C. T. Rippy, George H. Moore, Mrs. John W. Beeman, C. E. Easley and W. I. Laughon, F. C. Winkler, Frank Paour, Jr., J. C. Smith, D. H. Polhemus, Sam Levy, W. A. Michau, and the board of the First Methodist church headed by Guy L. Mowry, president.

Five alleged objections to El Prado Park's stately border were listed by those who would cut

down and burn the trees. Claiming that the eucalypti were "too large" the petitioners stated that "they are absolutely impractical for 50-foot city lots. Several are above 70 feet high and extend over the property lines between 20 and 30 feet."

Other reasons given were: "The excessive amount of shade decreases the value of the property. Houses on the north side of the street are cold and uncomfortable until noon because the trees cut off the sun. It is difficult to grow lawns

LOMITANS IN  
POSTOFFICE  
CONTROVERSY

Not since the agitation to annex Lomita to Torrance has the community adjoining this city been so stirred as it was this week over the circulation of petitions to recommend Earl P. Fisher, Roosevelt highway grocer, for the Lomita postmastership "about April 1."

Altho Fisher's sponsors have denied that they were attacking Postmaster Birda Paddock in obtaining signatures for the grocer, Miss Paddock said that some of the statements about her conduct of the office were decidedly antagonistic.

As result of the controversy, Lomita is once more in the midst of its "favorite controversy"—the pros and cons of a postal job. Miss Paddock said yesterday that statements indicating she plans to retire soon were "without any foundation whatever." She also emphatically refuted reports that she had another source of income other than her postoffice salary.

"The Lomita postal receipts have increased 64 percent since I became postmaster in July, 1934," Miss Paddock pointed out. "Furthermore, the office is now giving better service than ever and on Jan. 16 we will start a new addition to our rural route delivery service, covering Los Codona street in Welteria and 237th street."

Lomitans are taking their usual interest in the circulation of the petitions. Just what the outcome will be is unknown.

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