

## *Activities of the Society*

*By Ana Begue de Packman*

### MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 1952

President John C. Austin presided. He spoke of the Society's great loss in the passing of our valued member, Mr. Marshall Stimson.

The announcement of the election of officers to serve for the year 1952 was made as follows:

John C. Austin, President  
Judge Frederick F. Houser, First Vice-President  
Homor D. Crotty, Second Vice-President  
Edward A. Dickson, Treasurer  
Marco R. Newmark, Curator  
Ana Begue de Packman, Secretary

President Austin then gave a most interesting account of the many types of architecture in Los Angeles. The Missions of California were the first attempt to characterize California's architecture, said Mr. Austin.

He further stated that the first building in the city erected to specifications was the Shannon Block on Broadway between Third and Fourth; the Wright and Callendar Building was the second steel frame building in the City of Los Angeles and it was constructed on the ancient shore line. This building still stands at

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Fourth and Hill Streets and is owned by the Department of Water and Power.

He said that the enlarging of St. Vibiana's Cathedral showed evidence of early protection used against earthquakes. The brick columns that upheld the roof were found to be cored with wooden timbers.

In detail the speaker gave account of the many buildings that he was privileged to direct in their construction.

The Hancock mansion, built at the corner of Vermont Avenue, was one of the most magnificent residences on fabulous Wilshire Boulevard. The great Los Angeles City Hall towering over the Civic Center stands as a monument to the pioneer Los Angeles architect, John C. Austin.

Mr. Marco Newmark, Gifts Chairman, reported on many gifts received by the Society.

President Austin invited all those present to view the exhibits around the salon on their way to the refreshment room. Pouring at the urns were Mesdames John C. Austin and Celia Dobbs.

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#### MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 1952

The traditional Lincoln Evening was presented and illustrated by a life-size portrait of Abraham Lincoln, painted by the noted artist, Hugo Ballin.

President Austin introduced the speaker, Dr. Jay Monaghan, Director and Librarian of the *Illionis Historical Society*.

Dr. Monaghan is the author of "*Diplomat in Carpet Slippers*"; "*Abraham Lincoln Deals in Foreign Affairs*," and "*Bibliography of Lincolniana (1839-1939)*." He is studying at the Huntington Library on a Rockefeller Foundation Grant tracing the relations between Lincoln and the West, principally through Western newspapers.

Dr. Monaghan is well able to speak on all phases of the great Lincoln and his family. He took an unusual approach by introducing Mary Todd Lincoln in "*An Impossible Marriage That Worked Out*." He made stirring word pictures of her life and of the gentle

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old lady who sat out her last days in a candle-lit room with her memories.

Outstanding guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd C. Shoemaker. Mr. Shoemaker is Secretary of the *Missouri State Historical Society* and editor of its publication.

Hostesses of the evening were Mesdames John C. Austin and Frederic C. Ripley, they led the members and guests to the refreshment table, where at the coffee urns were Mesdames Jay Monaghan and Edmund Ducommun.

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*The Historical Society of Southern California* sponsored a commemorative Bronze Plaque installation February 5, 1952.

The Department of Water and Power placed a bronze plaque at the spot where the first pole was erected in Los Angeles, March 30, 1916, by the municipal electric distribution system. The pole was set at the corner of Piedmont Avenue and Figueroa.

This event was one of several to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of municipal ownership of the city's domestic water distribution system.

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MEETING OF MARCH 25, 1952

In the absence of President John C. Austin, First Vice-President Frederick F. Houser presided.

Judge Houser introduced the guests of honor and other dignitaries present who were: Miss Hortense White, the only living child of the late United States Senator Stephen Mallory White, and his grandson Stephen M. White and wife; The Hon. and Mrs. F. Emaldonado, Consul of Venezuela; Judge A. A. Scott, son of the speaker of the evening; and Judges Haas, Galbraith and Stephens.

Exhibits of family and friends photographs, White letters, and mementos were loaned by Miss Hortense White, as well as the presentation of several pieces of silver that graced the refreshment table.

A portrait of the Senator was a loan from the Loyola School of Law which was hung in the place of honor.

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A full house waited, in anticipation, words from the veteran attorney, Joseph Scott.

Mr. Scott told the story of United States Senator Stephen Mal-lory White, "The Father of the San Pedro - Los Angeles Harbor."

Superior Judge Houser introduced Mr. Scott with the comment: "Los Angeles' life was enriched when Joe Scott came here from England in 1893."

Mr Scott said: "Stephen White typified everything that a man should be." He led the fight in the late '90s "to give Los Angeles a free harbor not dominated by moneyed powers. The breakwater at San Pedro is a tribute to Steve's power of persuasion with powerful influences opposing him — he never let up until he won the fight."

Stephen White did things, said Mr. Scott. A fee of \$150.00 kept White from leaving California and moving to Tombstone, Arizona. He later became district attorney for Los Angeles County.

The speaker recalled the beauty of Senator White's bride, Miss Hortense Sacriste.

Judge Houser thanked the speaker in behalf of the Society and invited all present to gather around the refreshment table and par-take of the collation.

At the urns were Miss Hortense White and Mrs. Frederick F. Houser.