

May 1, 1952

### **New Oil, Old Paper**

A tour of the San Ardo oil field was made last Sunday afternoon by the Monterey County Historical Society following a picnic luncheon on the banks of the Poncho Rico Creek in San Ardo. John Fackler of the Jergens Oil Company [**Jergins?**] talked to the members of the society before the cavalcade formed for making the highly interesting and revealing motor tour. Mr. Fackler also made comments as the tourists visited the various localities and pumping wells.

The San Ardo oil fields were discovered in the spring of 1948 but it was not until 1951 that the fields were really developed and the pipeline was installed. The fields are now averaging 100 barrels a day of heavy oil which brings an average of \$1.10 a barrel on the market. There are 275 wells at the present time. The field takes in an average of five square miles and covers about 4,000 acres, so Mr. Fackler stated.

Members of the society saw the discovery well which brought in water soon after the initial pumping and then were led to the first real oil well, still bringing in oil. It was a pleasure to motor over the well kept graveled roads of the San Ardo project and to view with wonder this new field which the geologists decline is still in its infancy and still under-developed.

At the business meeting of the group presided over by Mrs. Donald Davies Jr., the president of the county society, announcement was made of the continued efforts to save and restore the old Dutton Hotel at Jolon and letters were read by Mrs. Julius Trescony, from the County Board of Supervisors and the commanding officer at Camp Roberts, stating their willingness to cooperate in every possible way to preserve the historic landmark.

Another event planned for the future by the County Historical Society will be the placing of a plaque or a historical marker in honor and memory of Juan B. Castro in the plaza at Castroville, a town named for this early pioneer of that community.

During a meeting of the Historical Society held in Castroville in March, Mrs. Alla McCarthy made the suggestion that a Juan B. Castro day be staged which might be a community festival, pointing out that northern Monterey County has few if any historical

markers, although it is as rich in history as any part of the state.

Virginia City, Nev., is to have a revival of the Territorial Enterprise. Announcements were received by prospective subscribers stating that Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg would publish the first issue of the weekly newspaper on May 2, 1952.

The Enterprise was the first newspaper in Nevada, the source of Mark Twain's first fame as a humorist and for many years the most influential organ of opinion between Chicago and the coast. The advance notice states that the paper was the "archetype of frontier journalism, the model on which pioneer newspapers were patterned everywhere in the old American West."

The staff members of this weekly paper were the bearded fighting editors of great tradition to whom Colt's navy revolvers were as familiar an editorial property as the composing stone or type cases. The editors claimed that the Enterprise won Nevada for the Union cause in the Civil War, it recorded the rise to grandeur of the silver kings of the Big Bonanza and its own lifetime became one of the enduring legends of the Wells Fargo and Sharps rifle West.

It has been 36 years since the Enterprise printed its last issue. The new editors plan to concern themselves with the American West, past and present. Its editors and proprietors will be established writers in the field of history and West Americana. Nationally known contributors will include Bernard De Voto, Roger Butterfield, Walter Van Tilburg Clark, Stewart Holbrook and Joseph Henry Jackson.