

Carl Berger Re-elected Head Of Co. Retail Grocers At Annual Meeting Here

Acclaimed one of the most enthusiastic sections in the history of the organization and attracting members from several cities and towns in the county, the annual dinner and meeting of the Sonoma County Retail Grocers' Association held Thursday night in the Hotel Petaluma, was a definite success. More than one hundred retail grocers, and their wives, representatives of the allied trades and visitors enjoyed the sumptuous steak dinner served by the hotel management in the main dining room at 7:30 o'clock.

From pom dahlias and similar were placed in the center of the banquet tables with bouquets of chrysanthemums and gladioli, effectively arranged at either end. Misshapen cotton baby chicks developed effective favors and were suggestive of Petaluma and her industry. The artistry of flowers, the brilliantly lighted hotel and the beautifully gowned women, made the setting one of unusual beauty.

Decorations placed by Grace Gasper and Sophy Hammell reflected the ability of the artists. The meeting was opened by the president of the association, Carl Berger of Petaluma, who welcomed the guests. He introduced Mayor Jasper S. Woodson, who gave an interesting talk, appreciated by those present.

Julius O. Dohrman, one of California's most popular sales representatives, presided as master of ceremonies. A community singing was led by Mr. Dohrman with Edward Porter, the accompanist. Lavin Gower gave a tap dance and H. E. McKinsey rendered two vocal selections.

Guests at the speakers' table included Mr. and Mrs. Carl Berger, Grace Gasper, Mr. and Mrs. John O. Dohrman, S. R. Epperson, president of the California Retail Merchants' and Grocers' association, W. D. Haddler, state secretary of the California Retail Merchants' and Grocers' association, E. R. Hoercher, Jack Travero, of the Rainbow store, San Francisco; Sonoma County District Attorney Thaddeus McLaughlin of Santa Rosa and Mayor Woodson of this city.

Talks were given by W. D. Haddler, S. R. Epperson, George Cavalli of Cloverdale, past president of the Sonoma County Retail Grocers' association and a director of the California Retail Merchants' and Grocers' association; E. R. Hoercher, the state association's attorney; George C. Davis of Oakland, secretary of the Alameda County Retail Grocers' association; R. H. Warlen, San Rafael, acting secretary of the Marin County Retail Grocers' association; E. Pappas Oakland, first vice president of the Alameda Grocers' association.

A most interesting talking picture entitled, "Hawaiian Harvest," was shown through the courtesy of the California & Hawaiian Sugar Refining company by Mr. Dohrman and Al Cohen, representative of the company.

On behalf of the Sonoma County association, J. Travero presented State Secretary W. D. Haddler with a Waffle Bag Basket filled with choice Petaluma eggs. The basket was attractively decorated with bows of yellow cellophane.

A special award was presented to Mrs. Leslie Merck of Vallejo. Officers were elected and later installed by S. R. Epperson. They are:

President, Carl Berger, Petaluma; first vice president, Marion L. Greene, Boyes Springs; second vice president, A. Bardi, Santa Rosa; directors, R. F. Cleveland, Santa Rosa; H. C. Aschermann, Petaluma; Clem E. Miller, Cloverdale; W. W. Schaaf, Vinburg; Frank Rosenberz, Petaluma; Edith Gottberz, Sonoma; L. DeFner, Santa Rosa; secretary and treasurer, Grace Gasper.

The re-election of Carl Berger as head of the association attests to his ability and popularity. Grace Gasper, who was also returned to the important office of secretary and treasurer which she has held for many years, was a nice gesture of recognition of her ability; she is a favorite with the state organization and one of the greatest workers in the county association.

Members who arranged the dinner meeting and who were acclaimed for its success were Harry Abbotson, chairman; Herman J. Peters and H. C. Aschermann.

Convention Of A. F. L. Ends

DENVER, Oct. 15. (U.P.)—The American Federation of Labor's 27th annual convention adjourned since this today' after giving its officers sweeping powers to battle the rival C. I. O. on a nationwide scale if current peace negotiations — more promising than in many months — collapse.

The executive council, headed by President Wm. Green, was immediately called into emergency session to frame a reply to the latest peace offer from the John L. Lewis unions meeting in Atlantic City.

Officers said the answer probably would be a demand for the C. I. O. to drop the conditions attached to its proposal for a meeting of committees of 100 members from each side.

Meanwhile, without awaiting the outcome of the negotiations the council struck the first blow in its planned offensive by ordering the Colorado State Federation of Labor, which is headed by a C. I. O. sympathizer, to oust all local units in sympathy with the Lewis movement.

The final session of the convention was sparsely attended as many delegates had already headed for home.

Committee reports, including a call for the federal government to ban loans or sale of war materials to Japan, were adopted with brief debate.

Police Hold Boy Slayer Suspect

YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 15. (U.P.)—State and county officers today held Jerry O'Keefe, 27, as a suspect in the unsolved kidnaping and slaying of Chas. Mattoon, 16, Tacoma, 10 months ago.

O'Keefe, who said he was a former football coach at the University of St. Louis, claimed, however, he had been in Washington only two months.

He was arrested with another man on a carnival ground in Tappanish on a statutory charge involving a 5-year-old boy.

Frank Kinsey, photographer, spotted O'Keefe from an artist's sketch of the kidnaper of the Mattoon youth. Authorities said O'Keefe strongly resembled the kidnaper.

Banker Accused Of Juggling Accounts

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 15. (U.P.)—H. A. Wright, former cashier of the Soquel Citizens Commercial & Savings bank, and prominent civic and church worker, faced arraignment today on federal charges involving an asserted \$2,200 irregularity in the accounts of the bank.

His arrest, according to agents with the department of justice, followed more than a year of investigation. U. S. Attorney F. J. Hennessy disclosed the investigation revealed Wright assertedly "juggled accounts" to "cover up" for an unidentified woman.

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