

A HISTORY
OF
CALIFORNIA

AND AN EXTENDED HISTORY OF
LOS ANGELES AND
ENVIRONS

BIOGRAPHICAL

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Portrait by William J. Fox, 1912

Lewis Stinger

Master Brewer, Jr.

don, and a member of the Wagner Opera League of Bayreuth.

Mr. Behymer is one of the most popular members of the Los Angeles Lodge No. 99, B. P. O. E., and for nearly twenty-five years has been one of the most active and influential factors in the affairs of this organization. In the time honored Masonic order he has received the thirty-second degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, and is affiliated with Los Angeles Consistory No. 3. His ancient-craft affiliation is with Hollenbeck Lodge No. 319, F. & A. M., and he also holds membership in Al Malaikah Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., while the Golden West Commandery No. 43, K. T., of California holds him as a Templar Brother. Though never a delver in the mysteries of practical politics, he accords a staunch allegiance to the cause of the Republican party.

Mr. Behymer is a man of most buoyant and optimistic nature, genial and companionable, and it may be said consistently that his friends are legion, while Los Angeles loves and honors him.

LEWIS EBINGER. The vital connection of the Spanish race with the history of Los Angeles has received general recognition, but few realize the importance of the sturdy Teuton element in the material upbuilding of the city. Representative of the large number of German-American citizens whose efforts have aided in the general advancement, Lewis Ebinger dates his residence here from October, 1868. Throughout this long period he has had interests of one kind or another and has been untiring in his efforts to promote local progress. Even of recent years, although retired from the business enterprises of earlier life and placed beyond the necessity of labor other than a general and always pleasant supervision of his valuable homestead at No. 3500 South Flower street, he has busied himself with the improvement of fourteen acres near Burbank, which he has fenced and otherwise improved. One thousand fruit trees have been planted on the ranch and alfalfa also is grown. The main industry on the property, pending the growth of the trees into bearing condition, is the poultry business and there are now kept in the most sanitary

of surroundings a flock of three thousand chickens, some of pure White Leghorn stock, others of the Rhode Island Red strain. The business receives the most careful attention and its development has been a source of pride to the owner of the property.

One of thirteen children comprising the family of Jacob and Martha (Elwanger) Ebinger, residents of Wurtemberg, Germany, Lewis Ebinger was born there August 30, 1844, and at the age of seven was bereaved of a mother's care. When fifteen he came to the United States to make his home with a married sister in Philadelphia. Leaving Bremen April 10, 1860, on the ship Elizabeth, he landed in Philadelphia after forty-two days. Soon he was apprenticed to the trade of baker, at which he served for three years. On the expiration of his time, in October of 1863, he was accepted as a volunteer in Company F, Two Hundred and Fifteenth Pennsylvania Infantry. Going to the front with his regiment, he remained a soldier until the close of the war. On his return to Philadelphia he resumed work at the trade of baker. In 1866 he came via the isthmus to California and landed in San Francisco at the expiration of twenty-two days from Philadelphia. From April, 1866, to October, 1868, he remained in or near San Francisco, but since the latter date has been a resident of Los Angeles. Unable to find employment at his trade, he went to work in a brick-yard and assisted in making the brick used in the construction of the old Pico house. After a brief sojourn at Watsonville in 1871 Mayor Rowan appointed him foreman. An experience as foreman of the American bakery, occupying the present site of the Natick house, convinced him of the possibilities of the occupation. During 1872 he opened a bakery on Main street next the old round-house. A year later he removed the business to Spring street and for five years occupied the present site of the old Jevne store. On the corner of Spring and Third streets, where the Washington block now stands, he ran a bakery and restaurant for eighteen years, continuing there until he sold out the business in 1902.

A number of experienced bakers stood at the head of thriving establishments at the time Mr. Ebinger conducted business on

Spring street, but of all those pioneer masters of the trade he alone survives and for more than a decade he has been out of the business. The heads of the great bakeries of the present day are men of a younger generation than he and his energetic, efficient co-workers. Aside from the baking business, as previously mentioned, he has acquired ranching interests. In addition he developed a borax mine at Lang's Station which he sold to the Stallings Borax Company. The mine produces an average of two hundred tons daily and runs as high as sixty-eight per cent. It is the intention of Mr. Ebinger to ultimately develop other borax property which he still owns. Since casting his first presidential vote for General Grant he has been a pronounced Republican. At different times he has been active in the Frank Bartlett and Logan Posts, G. A. R., the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Improved Order of Red Men, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Bakers' Association, a number of German societies in Los Angeles and the Society of Pioneers. Through his marriage to Miss Mina Boshard, December 2, 1875, eight children were born, six of whom are still living, namely: Mrs. Mina Burkhardt, the mother of one child, Gerald; Estella, Oscar, Arno, Lewis B. and Irwin.

ERNEST B. RIVERS. The president of the Rivers Brothers Company, Inc., located at Nos. 1300 to 1312 Produce street, Los Angeles, is Ernest B. Rivers, who was born in Redwood City, Cal., October 21, 1864, the son of Henry Rivers, a pioneer, who went to San Francisco at the time of the discovery of gold there, where he engaged in business as a carpenter until the year 1860, which year witnessed his removal to Redwood City. He followed the same occupation there until 1865, removing then to San Jose, Cal., where he continued the trade of carpenter, being engaged in work on the State Normal School at the time of his death in 1869. His widow, who was in maidenhood Amanda Schell, a native of Canada, made her home with their son H. L. Rivers, at Sixth and Valencia streets, Los Angeles, until she died, on April 5, 1915, at the age of eighty-four years.

Ernest B. Rivers attended the public and high schools until fourteen years old, at which time he engaged with J. C. Black in San Jose, as clerk in a retail grocery business, after six years removing to Los Angeles to enter the employ of Burch & Bowl, engaged in the same line of business, with whom he remained for five years as clerk. The next engagement of Mr. Rivers was as clerk with H. Jevne Co., remaining with that company six years, after which he went to North Ontario, Cal., to open a grocery of his own. After three years he sold this out and returned to his old position as clerk for H. Jevne Co., continuing with the company for three years. It was at this time that he bought out a small general store at Broadway and Temple street, which he carried on alone for two years, then taking in his brother as partner, the company being known as Rivers Brothers Company. Gradually the business was enlarged by the purchase of other stores nearby, until finally the brothers had fifty feet of frontage and were doing a business in high class groceries and fruits and employing fifteen delivery wagons. This prosperous business they sold in 1904, buying at that time the Keystone Produce Company, located at Third street and Central avenue, which they incorporated as Rivers Brothers Company, Ernest B. Rivers being elected president and H. L. Rivers vice-president. At this time also E. B. Rivers was elected president of the Los Angeles Market Company, which is the largest market in the world, and it was through the advice and influence of Mr. Rivers that the business was moved from Third street to its present location; it was also through his influence that the M. A. Newmark Company located at its present place. In 1907 the Rivers Brothers Company moved to its present location on Produce street, where the company possesses property with one hundred and forty feet frontage by a depth of seventy feet, the building being three stories in height, with a basement. Here the company does general buying and selling of produce, having facilities to load and unload eight cars at one time, and has one hundred and twenty-five people in its employ. The place of business is one of the largest in the west, and the company does the largest express business in the west as well.

In his political interests Mr. Rivers is a Republican, while he holds membership in the Jonathan and the Los Angeles Athletic Clubs. His marriage with Lulu B. Bedford was solemnized in