

GRINDSTONE CLUB MISSION PRESENTATION

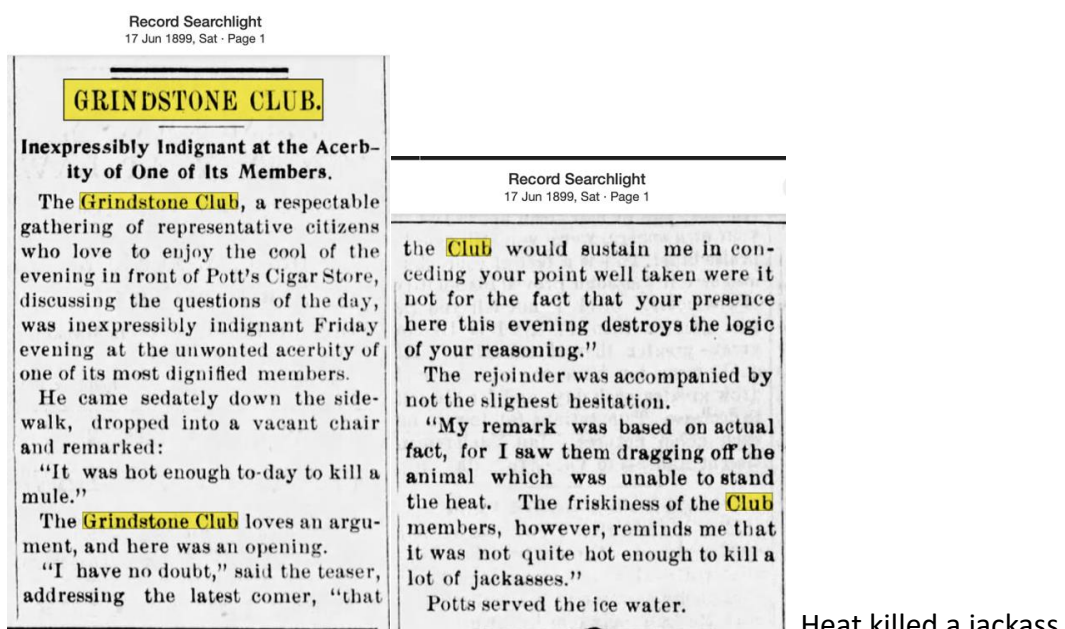
CHARLES "CHUCK" BAKER
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

On the Grindstone Cigar Club website, the historical timeline mentions the following:

"March 28, 1902: At a meeting held by the Grindstone Club of De La Mar in Sheridan Hall on Tuesday evening, the question was brought up regarding the speed of our native jackrabbits. Ed Durfor contended that it would take less than one minute for one of the supple animals to get out of sight. After Ed's argument all of the club members coincided with him in every respect.

My assigned mission was to do the research into whether or not there was an official Grindstone Club in Delamar, CA. If there were, the ramifications could be far reaching as we would have to change our number from "399" to "499" since we would be the fourth iteration, and that would affect our friends way back east!

I have spent many hours researching news articles and have come to a conclusion which I will share at the end.



Contemporaneous with this time period, Captain J.R. DeLamar of New York and Salt Lake, millionaire copper operator and man of the world, has just paid a visit to his newly acquired property at Copper City in September of 1899 and on December 30, The Searchlight, Redding, California declared that DeLAMAR OWNS THE PROPERTY - Decision Rendered in a Case Involving Shasta County Mines.

Delamar is how hidden under the water near the Squaw Creek arm of Lake Shasta is a "ghost town" called Delamar. It is 30 miles north-east of the City of Redding in an area previously known as Sallee for James Sallee (1849-1916) who owned the Bully Mines.

A Popular Rendezvous.

J. W. Potts' Cigar Store in the Golden Eagle block is a popular rendezvous for merchants and professional men, especially in the warm summer evenings, as it is located on the shady side of the street and is one of the pleasantest spots in town. The store is now undergoing some improvements, including papering and painting, and when completed will shine like the smooth diamond from which Mr. Potts' well known cigar takes its name. The "Smooth Diamond" is the leader of several brands manufactured by Mr. Potts and is a favorite smoke with many who know and enjoy a good cigar.

Golden Eagle hosts Potts Cigar Store and his Smooth Diamond, "popular rendezvous"

Y EVENING, JANUARY 29, 1901

GRINDSTONE CLUB GOES UP IN SMOKE

CIGAR NAMED FOR THE FAMOUS BODY.

A Trademark That Infringed and a Club Which Has Won Renown.

John W. Potts, the tobacconist, no longer turns out cigars under the label of "Smooth Diamond." The really noted cigar is still manufactured by Potts, but its name has been

Mr. Potts is accused of encroaching unwittingly on another fellow's trademark. A San Francisco dealer makes a cigar called "Rough Diamond." The name is protected by a copyright. As the "Smooth Diamond" gained in fame, the "Rough Diamond" people began to fear a confusion of the names and demanded that Potts drop the word "Diamond" from his label.

To avoid a lawsuit Mr. Potts has re-christened the favorite product of his factory "Grindstone Club," and as such it now appears

The new name is adopted through deference to that famous organization, which holds its session on every pleasant evening in front of Potts' store, sitting in the easy chairs provided by the tobacconist for their comfort.

This club is a power. It is a strong, influential body which deals oratorically with all public questions, finding for each its just and irrevocable settlement. Here the Boer war was re-fought, a president was elected, the oil agitation was started, the Keswick electric road was planned, short hours for the chaingang received a vote, and the virtues of the

good queen are now being extolled in sorrowful tones, punctuated with puffs.

This club is unique. It has neither charter nor creed nor membership fee. Its unwritten laws find cornerstones in thirteen of the faithful who bolt their supper each clear evening in order to get down in time to anchor in the choicest seats.

The familiar name of "Grindstone Club" was imported from Shasta for the use of this august body by Attorney Jim Isaacs. He acted as public administrator when the corner grocery organization at Shasta no longer needed the name by reason of the last gray haired member having been respectfully buried. Mr. Isaacs brought the title to Redding.

That was seven years ago. The club has prospered in its quiet way and its substantial membership indicates that it will live a long time—at least as long as Jack Garden.

January 1901, the Grindstone Club was solidified into a cohesive body.

It had been smoldering since at least 1894, as it is mentioned seven years prior to this article, District Attorney Isaacs brought the title "Grindstone Club" to Redding.)

To Get the Insurance Money.

Owing to the fact that there are no funds in the treasury of the Winthrop school district to pay for the insurance of the schoolhouse, a party of De La Mar's young men met Friday in the Messinger Hotel for the purpose of giving, in the near future, a minstrel show in the hall at the schoolhouse to raise the necessary amount for the insurance. Posters and tickets will be printed and after the big show a dance will be run until 12 o'clock. The price of admission was not decided on. The cast is as follows: William Austin, middleman; "Doc" Gilson and T. W. McGinnis, tambos; "Sliver" Royal and Willie Black, bones; Frank Unash, first violin and musical director with Graham orchestra. Among the song, dance and monologists will be found the Maxwell Brothers, Fred and Howard; the "Hot Air Quartette," Charles Hoffmaster, Walter Alger, C. G. Johnson and Jim C. Spann; Engineer Smith of the Bully Hill railroad will star in the farce; E. A. Sheridan will be the bass soloist and Jack Myers will do the

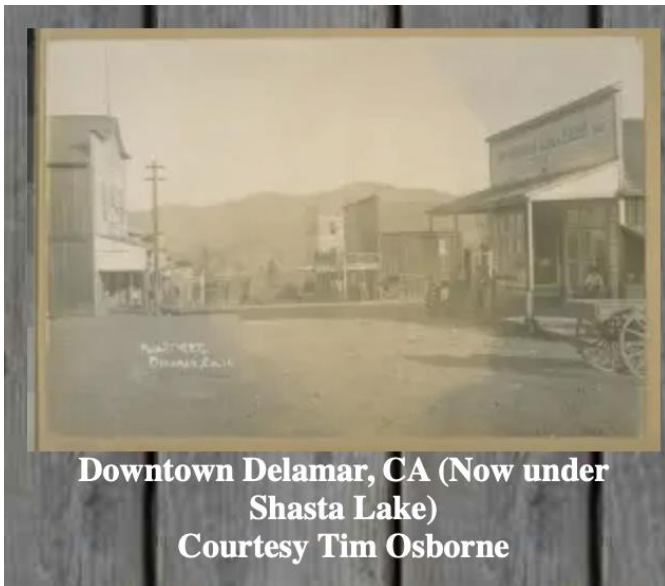
January 1902, E A Sheridan played bass in a fundraiser to insure the schoolhouse with a "party of young men." Apparently, he was a trusted businessman.

(seperate article): Carl Baumann has gone to the Bay City on a business trip. During his absence E. A. Sheridan, president of the Grindstone Club, will act as clerk of the hotel." March 1902

He was involved in the community and concerned with the quality of the educational system. This would serve as a great example of someone "to whom much is given, much is expected." This tradition carries on to this day in our club.

J. L. Bass of Baird, who is superintending the Sunset Telephone Company's line into this section, accompanied by C. H. Hamilton, foreman of the construction gang now working on the line at Horse Creek, was in De La Mar Friday and started out to hunt a suitable business house in which to establish a central office. **E. A. Sheridan's**, I. B. Nason's, Birch Bros.' drug store and two other places were viewed. **E. A. Sheridan's** seemed to impress Mr. Bass favorably, but as yet that gentleman has reserved his decision. Mr. Bass states that if enough subscribers can be obtained in Sallee and De La Mar a double line will be run into this section. Too many subscribers on one line would cause some little inconvenience.

February 1902, Sunset Telephone Company favorably considered Sheridan's shop for a telephone.



Downtown Delamar, CA (Now under Shasta Lake)
Courtesy Tim Osborne

Downtown Delamar. Notice the telephone pole.

NEARLY TIME FOR THE GRINDSTONE

MAGNETISM OF POTTS' CHAIRS
ALREADY ATTRACTING
MEMBERS.

The time of year at which the Grindstone Club shall decide all affairs—political, social and otherwise—for the city of Redding is fast approaching. No regular meetings of this august body have yet been held this year, although the magnetism of the chairs in front of the cigar store of John Potts has drawn some of the more enthusiastic members together several times in informal session during the few warm evenings since the great storm.

The deliberations of the Grindstone Club are always interesting, sometimes instructive, and often amusing.

March 14, 1902, there had not been a meeting at the “time of the year”. Potts Chairs were a magnetism in front of his store, time for a yearly to “decide all affairs.” I believe that at that meeting, E.A. Sheridan was named President. Sheridan had a “Confectionery, Cigars and Tobacco” Shop in Delamar, CA.

Two weeks later, on March 28th, this fact was underlined twice.

Not anyone is authorized to incur indebtedness on behalf of the Searchlight unless upon the written consent of the proprietors: No such indebtedness, if incurred, will be paid.
JOHNSON & BRACKETT.

Carl Baumann has gone to the Bay City on a business trip. During his absence, E. A. Sheridan, president of the Grindstone Club, will act as clerk of the hotel.

BULLY HILL

Meat Market

GREEN FRONT Chop House
Private rooms for ladies and company up to date, and quick service.
C. O. & D. S. BOTTOM.
CENTRAL AVE. DE LA MAR

E. A. SHERIDAN
DE LA MAR, CAL.
Confectionery, Cigars and Tobacco
Handles the best of goods. Stationery, Tablets, Pens, Pencils, etc. Hot Tomatoes.

March of 1902, Sheridan is called President in passing. This is the same day of the article which mentioned the “De La Mar Grindstone Club” which met at the Sheridan Hall

Durfor, Ed: March 28, 1902: At a meeting held by the Grindstone Club of De La Mar in Sheridan Hall on Tuesday evening, the question was brought up regarding the speed of our native jackrabbits. Ed Durfor contended that it would take less than one minute for one of the supple animals to get out of sight. After Ed's argument all of the club members coincided with him in every respect.

MAN, Editor.

T. J. Englent is getting material ready to begin the working of his gold claims on the east side of Squaw Creek. The first thing he and his men will do is to place a footbridge across the creek, replacing the one that was carried away by the high water last February. E. A. Sheridan and Frank Smith, both of De La Mar, have filed on the claim next to Englent's.

Sheridan has a claim on mining interests.

**THE
GRINDSTONE
CIGAR.**

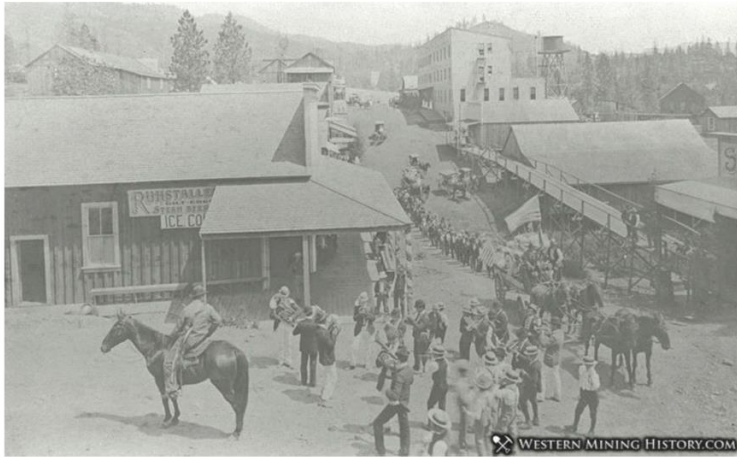
Made of fine selected tobaccos by white labor and
SOLD ON ITS MERITS.

Formerly known as the "Smooth
Diamond."

J. W. POTTS, Mfg.
Golden Eagle Bldg., Redding, Cal.

Potts officially advertised the Grindstone Cigar.

Delamar California 1902



A parade in 1902, most likely the Fourth of July. Notice the band in front and the prominent flag on the wagon.

Club are always interesting, sometimes instructive, and often amusing. From their results there can be no appeal. The club constitutes itself the court of last resort. Here men of the city of more or less prominence gather in Potts' chairs, smoking anybody's cigars, on the warm summer evenings, and discuss the questions of the day, from national affairs to the most recent local scandal. It generally has a presiding officer, although the position has not yet been filled for this year. F. X. LaBonte enjoyed the honor throughout the meetings of the club last year.

The Grindstone Club had its inception from the informal gathering of men about town at Potts' store, and has grown to considerable proportions and prominence. Long may it live.

Against Sunday Baseball.

An article in early 1902, LaBonte was mentioned as being president the year prior (1901).

GRINDSTONERS MAKE RULE IN SELF DEFENSE

On motion of F. X. LeBonte, charter member, the Grindstone club has adopted a rule which will be religiously enforced during the remainder of the campaign. The rule reads: "No member shall shake hands more than once in any one day with any officeseeker."

The rule may seem harsh to the ubiquitous seeker for a nomination, but in self-defense the members of the Grindstone club, now well advanced in years, had to draw the line somewhere, and they think that the limit of one hand-shake a day will not mar the prospects of the ambitious politicians now courting public favor.

By September of 1902, FX Labonte is a "charter member" and they rule that handshaking with politicians is limited to once a day during an election cycle.

you'll get your paper daily through the mail. Only 50 cents a month (Daily, remember!

E. A. Sheridan of De La Mar has relocated the Last Chance No. 1 and 2 claims in the Altoona mining district, Trinity County. The prospect shows gold and copper. There is a 140-foot tunnel on No. 1, and a 38-foot shaft.

Frank Schmidt, late of San Fran-

My first find of E.A. Sheridan, he owned claims in Delamar in early 1902.

E. A. SHERIDAN
DE LA MAR, CAL.
Confectionary, Tobacco and
Union Made Cigars.
Handles the best of goods. Stationery, Tablets, Pens, Pencils, etc.
Agent for tailor-made clothing.

J. W. Potts, the well known cigar dealer and president of the Grindstone Club, has developed into an expert manipulator of the pick and shovel. He spent several long minutes Wednesday morning improving the street in front of his cigar store and made the dirt fly like a professional miner.

Stuckey Killed Chickens.

By May 1903, Potts is mentioned as being president of the club.

The Searchlight
03 Jul 1903, Fri - Page 3

Clip Print/Download Share

BULLY HILL SECT

VAL CARSON, EDITOR, DE LA MAR (WINTHROP P. O.).

DE LA MAR LOCALS.

FOR SALE—Three lots in the best residence portion of De La Mar; good water convenient; terms reasonable. Enquire of Val Carson.

FOR SALE—A well equipped steam laundry, in the thriving town of De La Mar. Address Val Carson, Winthrop, Cal.*

First-class barber shop in Baumann Hotel for rent. Apply to Carl Baumann.*

AT THE BAUMANN.

Most all the boys know that Carl Baumann keeps the finest beer, in town, but a good many don't know what liquors you can buy at the Baumann Hotel bar. You will find there some of the finest brands, viz:

Whiskies and Brandies.

Jesse Moore A in 25c and 50c flasks, \$1 a bottle, \$3.75 a gallon.
Jesse Moore AA, \$1.50 a bottle; H. B. special in 25c and 50c flasks; \$1 a bottle, \$3.75 a gallon.
H. B. Extra Special, 10 years in wood, \$2 a bottle.
Harper's Cabinet, 15c a drink; \$2 a bottle, \$6 a gallon.

Hunter's Rye, very old, \$1.50 a bottle.
Old Tom Gin, 25c and 50c flasks; \$1 a bottle, \$3.50 a gallon.
Old Tom Gin, Tower Brand, \$1.75 a bottle.

Genuine Imported.

Lipton's Highland Scotch Malty, \$1.75 a bottle.
Vermuth, French and Italian, \$1.75 a bottle.
Cognac Brandy, domestic, 25c and 50c flasks; \$1 a bottle, \$3.50 a gallon.
French Cognac, genuine imported, 15c a drink, \$3 a bottle.
Absinthe, genuine imported, \$1.75 a bottle.

Wines.

Fine old Riesling, 75c a bottle.

July of 1903, Carl Baumann owned the Baumann Hotel in Delamar.

an O. R.

Potts Goes to New York.

John W. Potts, the well known cigar man and president of the Grindstone Club, is now in Pittsburg and on September 1st he will go to New York.

Miss Francis Nelson, a young lady, who formerly lived at Keenle's

August 1903, Potts is again called President of the Club.

THE MORNING SEARCHLIGHT

GROUND HOG DAY IS CLOSE AT HAND

THE **GRINDSTONE CLUB** WILL
AUTHORITATIVELY SETTLE
DISPUTED POINT.

February 2d will be Candlemas Day, or, as called by some, "Ground Hog Day."

This is the day on which the ground hog is said to come out of his hole to look around and determine whether winter has broken or not. If he can see his shadow, he goes back into his hole to sleep. If he cannot see his shadow, he determines that spring is near and that it is time to wake up and issue forth.

Some writer has put the prophecy in verse, which reads:

"If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will take another flight;
If Candlemas Day be foul and rain,
Winter is gone and won't come again."

In Redding we have a number of residents who closely observe the condition of the weather on Ground Hog Day, but they do not agree upon the same day of February, some placing it as late as the 14th of the month. The **Grindstone Club** has the point under consideration.

January 1904, Grindstone will make a determination of official observance of Groundhog's Day.



An article from Brevities section of the **Searchlight** dated **Wednesday, July 3, 1907**, announced the departure of Potts from Redding:

John W. Potts is a free man. That does not imply that he has been liberated from jail, but it means that he is free from the cigar business that he conducted so long in the Golden Eagle block. John Bartosh succeeded Mr. Potts as proprietor Monday Morning. Mr. Potts departed in the evening for San Francisco, where he will remain for a month and then go to Oregon to visit a brother who lives at Salem. He said he would give Redding the go-by when he went from San Francisco to Salem. He is off for a good time and is going to have it.

Potts ultimately made a new home for himself in Los Angeles. The **April 21, 1930** edition of the **Courier Free**

HONORED MEMBER OF PROFESSION WHO WILL BE GREATLY MOURNED.

James Edward Isaacs, one of the best known attorneys in Northern California, died at his home on Sacramento street a few minutes before 5 o'clock Thursday afternoon, death being due to sudden heart failure after an illness of several weeks. The end came unexpectedly, while the attorney was engaged in a game of solitaire. Suddenly falling forward upon the table, he exclaimed, "hold me," to his wife who had entered the room, and a few moments later his soul passed to the great beyond as he lay in his wife's arms.

James E. Isaacs was born in the town of Shasta fifty-six years ago, his parents being Shasta pioneers.

... his family was, his wife, comments and his genial personality, can point to his life and their friendship with him with pride for James Isaacs was a man and such a man as few of us can afford to lose as a friend.

The deceased leaves a widow and four children to mourn their loss, Mary E. Isaacs, Dora Isaacs, James Isaacs Jr., Miss Thyra Isaacs, and Mrs. Frank Healy, all of whom now reside in Reding.

Mr. Isaacs was a member of the Redding Lodge of Elks, the McCloud Parlor of Native Sons, the Redmen, the Eagles, the Foresters, the Degree of Pocahontas, Knights of Pythias, and the Pythian Sisters.

The funeral will be held Sunday at ten o'clock from the Elks hall where services will be conducted by the order.

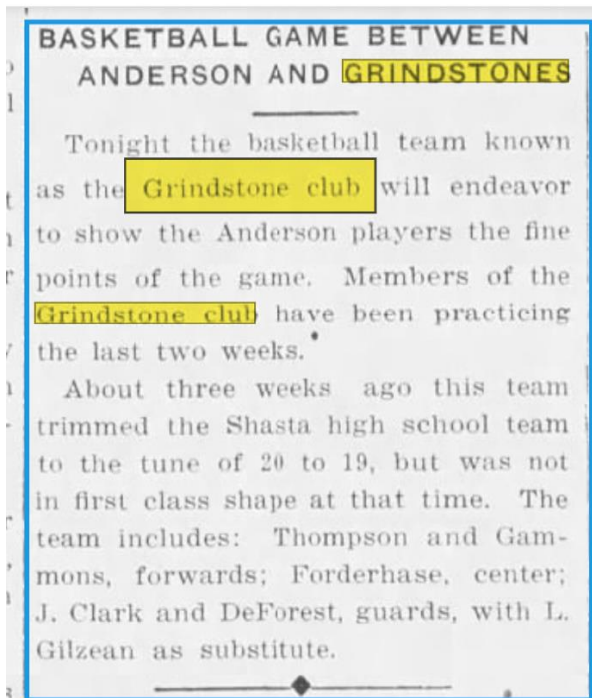
June of 1911, Isaacs died of a heart attack. What is worthy of note, is that all of his associations were mentioned, but the Grindstone was not.

in entertaining the visiting "Bills."

Marion Nordyke, forwarding man for the McCormick-Saeltzer company and leading politician of the Grindstone club, departed Sunday night for Oakland, where he will spend most of his vacation.

J. R. Spann, editor and proprietor of the Sisson Headlight, was in Red-

July 1912, politicians as members of the Grindstone are mentioned when they vacation.



November 1914, charity game was played against local high school teams.

1902, 1906, 1911, there were three devastating fires which wiped out almost all businesses and all the residences in town. Records were most certainly lost, as we have experienced in our recent history.

The presidency was as follows: 1901– LaBonte, 1902–Sheridan, and then Potts in 1903 until 1907. I believe that the influence of the presidency made it look like there was a Grindstone Club in Delamar but I don't believe it was a separate and apart organization.

It is my opinion that the "De La Mar" chapter of the Grindstone was exactly that, a group of members of the Grindstone who had interests, businesses and homes in the Delamar area. It would be akin to when I was the President of the California State Juvenile Officers Association. I lived in Modesto, worked in Tracy, and our offices and mailbox were in Sacramento. When I was president, I brought 7 trainings to the area. It would have been easy, even in modern times, to confuse where I or the organization resided.

So, President Sheridan from Delamar, had a meeting at the Sheridan Hall in Whitmore, for the Grindstone Club from Redding, CA. Aren't we doing the same thing? We used to meet at Chester's place, and then Rich's, and now we are back at The Shack. The same club, different places.

Without a "smoking gun," I believe that the club designation of 399 is safe from change.

A social dance was given in Sheridan Hall, Whitmore, last Saturday night by the Miss Vernie Harris and Miss Eala Cochran in the honor of Miss Liebhauser, who recently closed the term of the Mountain Grove school.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Casebeer spent

BASEBALL AND SOCIALISM.

An interesting game of baseball was played in Whitmore Sunday, the score being 8 to 7. After the game an excellent dinner was served. Then all proceeded to the Sheridan Hall, where Raymond Tisdale delivered an able address, taking for his subject: "Socialism And Its Aim."

BIG LOAD FOR CABLE.

WHITMORE MASQUE.

The masquerade ball in Sheridan's Hall at Whitmore last Friday night was a social and financial success, says the Millville Tidings. A splendid time was had by the large crowd. The winners of the prizes were: Ladies—First prize, Olive Hamilton; second, Agnes Aldridge. Gentlemen—First prize, Ray Meeker; second, William Aldridge.