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## *Santa Cruz Egg Laying Contest: 1918 – 1931*

By Jill Ramar



Santa Cruz  
Museum of  
Art & History  
at the McPherson Center

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# Santa Cruz Egg Laying Contest

1918 – 1931

by Jill Ramar

*No matter how poetic our sentiments may be,  
in sober truth we will have to acknowledge that  
poultry is more essential to the welfare and well  
being of mankind than poetry.*

—Josephine Clifford McCrackin<sup>1</sup>

*“The chicken is the country’s, but the city eats  
it.” So reads an old adage which fits the situation  
at Santa Cruz exactly, for whatever its chickens  
produce, San Francisco and Eastern markets  
buy.*

*—Santa Cruz—where Chickens grow into Money<sup>2</sup>*



Santa Cruz County was once known for its poultry. Due to local pride and enthusiasm for this industry, and to demonstrate the superiority of the poultry found in Santa Cruz, local poultrymen organized an egg laying contest in 1918. The contest was a great success and continued for thirteen years, from 1918 through 1931.

So, what was an egg laying contest? It was a contest to determine whose hens laid the most eggs in a given amount of time. Each poultryman was assigned a pen (or enclosure) at the contest site. There he placed his ten best hens and/or pullets, whose eggs would be counted daily. (A pullet is a young hen less than a year old and, thus, in her first year of laying eggs.)

The contest site was typically a model poultry unit that was used to showcase the latest advancements in poultry management and care. Each pen would be of adequate size to house the birds and included a run to allow the birds plenty of room for exercise. The site would be managed to ensure the pens were

cleaned on a daily basis, that the poultry had proper food and drink, and in general, that the unit was sanitary and in good repair.

Every day, at a predetermined time, the eggs were collected and the hens fed. Every hen received the same care, the same feed and fresh greens, the same clean fresh grit, shell, and charcoal. At the end of the contest timeframe, typically one year, the winning pen was determined from the total number of eggs laid. In addition, many contests also recognized the top producing hen and many honored monthly high-laying hens and pens as well.<sup>3</sup>

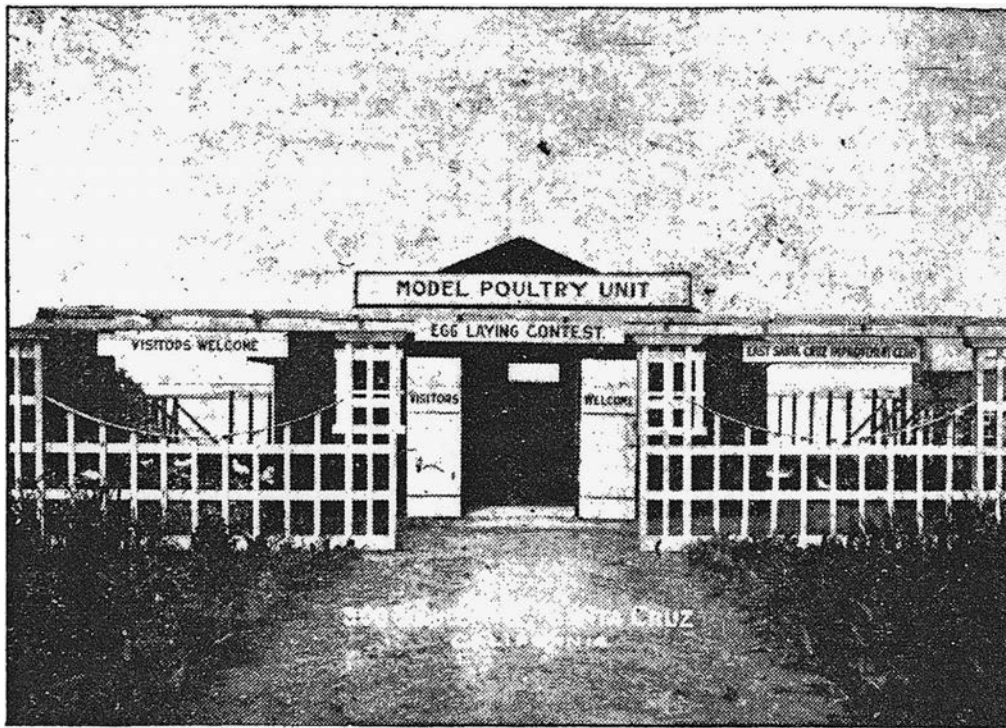
According to a local newspaper, the idea for the contest came from “like contests that have been conducted during the last six or seven years in states toward the sun rising.”<sup>4</sup> (The first egg laying contest was held in Connecticut in 1911.<sup>5</sup>) In its heyday, egg laying contests were held across the country and results were reported in prominent national poultry periodicals. At its peak in 1925-26, contest results were reported in 168 publications per month.

As the contest matured, the University of California became involved and, in September of 1921, they laid out official contest objectives. These objectives could be summarized as 1) to increase egg production by using scientific methods developed by the university, 2) to improve the science and art of poultry breeding for the purpose of egg production, and 3) to demonstrate to the public the advantages of the California climate to successful egg farming.<sup>6</sup>

For Santa Cruz, of course, the main purpose was to promote the local poultry industry. As the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce claimed:

It is a proven fact that the home of an Egg  
Laying Contest is the home of good breeding





**Exterior of the Smith Model Poultry House** built by the East Santa Cruz Improvement Club. Notice that visitors are welcome. ("Santa Cruz County Hen Demonstrating Herself," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 5, 1918)



**Inside the Smith Model Poultry House.** Letters indicate its features: A) grain & green-feed trough; B) water pan; C) mash hopper; D) board in front of nest boxes, E) hinged floor allows pens to be cleaned; F) ventilation feature. ("Santa Cruz County Hen Demonstrating Herself," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 5, 1918)



stock—and so, where but a few years ago Santa Cruz was one in a large class of poultry districts, today it stands by itself and is fast becoming the source for supplying the breeding stock for better poultry. The Contest is a permanent advertising sign hung out over the whole poultry world.<sup>7</sup>

The first egg laying contest in Santa Cruz began on September 10, 1918 at 300 Soquel Avenue with twelve entrants, primarily local poultrymen. In that first contest only White Leghorns were used. The contest was created by a few enterprising citizens, including George W. Wood, Robert E. Burton, Samuel Lum Gibson (who went by S. L. Gibson), Alex Stewart, and George Gray. They organized the year-long contest with the help of the local Santa Cruz Poultry Association and the full support of Farm Advisor, Henry Washburn. Robert E. Burton, who had originally conceived the idea when he was president of the local Poultry Association, was a teacher of agriculture at Santa Cruz High School.<sup>8</sup> The contest was managed by A.O. Childers, Robert Burton, and Professor Hauser of the University of California.

The poultry unit used as the contest headquarters was a Smith Model Poultry House (see photos) built by the East Santa Cruz Improvement Club with the help of local merchants, and designed by and named for local Santa Cruz poultryman L. J. Smith. Its pens were five by six feet and the runs outside each pen were five by twenty feet, allowing the birds plenty of freedom. The contest site fed all of the pens on a schedule, kept track of how much feed was used, and incorporated innovative new methods, such as electric lighting and improved ventilation. Every day, an hour before sunset, the eggs were collected and the hens fed.<sup>9</sup>

Due to the success of the contest, it received recognition from the Poultry Division of the University of California. The contest was widely followed in the newspapers and delivered an exciting finish. “May the best fowls win” cheered a *Sentinel* writer.<sup>10</sup> The battle for first and second place turned out to be very close; only 18 eggs separated S. L. Gibson’s pullets (2,113) from Owen Mobley’s winning pullets (2,131).<sup>11</sup> S. L. Gibson’s poultry farm was on Martin Boulevard (now Morrissey), near where the second and final model poultry unit

was built in 1920 (see photo). Many other poultry farms thrived in this Laveaga Park neighborhood, as it was then known—the “de” was not restored to the name until later. (The Laveaga Park District was officially named in a contest held January 1918, with a prize of, what else, 360 eggs.)<sup>12</sup>

The next year’s contest (1919-1920) was run as a trapnested contest with entries from all over the state of California. (A trapnest is a nest equipped with a hinged door that traps and confines the hen, so eggs laid by that hen can be counted.) In a trapnested contest individual hens were honored as well as the total production of a pen. The UC Poultry Division provided a semi-official standing by supervising the record keeping and by electing Max Kortum as resident manager. Kortum was a graduate of the University of California farm school and had been in charge of trapnesting at the Panama Exposition contest in 1915.<sup>13</sup> At this time the Santa Cruz contest was made an activity of the State Farm Bureau and was renamed the California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest. It was the only official state egg laying contest in California and was expected to draw poultry farmers to Santa Cruz.<sup>14</sup>

During its second year the contest became much more organized thanks to the involvement of Professor J. E. Dougherty of Davis Agricultural College, Max Kortum, and an active board of directors. Soon, the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce recognized the value of this contest and provided funding for a new contest site at Martin (now Morrissey) and Pacheco in the Laveaga Park District, for a total cost of \$12,000. The Chamber put up the funds to buy the property and twelve local citizens signed notes to pay for its construction, which began in August 1920.<sup>15</sup> Its use was avidly awaited for the 1920-21 contest. George W. Wood wrote from Los Angeles, where he was busy promoting the contest, “Santa Cruz is bound to be prominently featured as a poultry center as it never has been heretofore.”<sup>16</sup>

The first “official” California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest (1919-1920) was a success, once again providing a thrilling race to the finish. This time the battle was for second place, which was finally secured by S. L. Gibson, with D. B. Walls of



**Many of the contest supporters were accomplished poultrymen with large operations.** This photograph shows the poultry ranch of S. L. Gibson, which he built in 1917 upon his arrival in Santa Cruz from the Petaluma area; it was very near the contest site at Martin (now Morrissey) and Pacheco. Gibson's house, barn, and poultry houses are in the center foreground. Gibson and many other poultrymen lived in the Laveaga Park District. (Photo from the author's collection)

Petaluma coming in third. First place was won by the Bellows Brothers of Lakeside, California. Again, the winners were White Leghorns, although one pen of Anconas competed.<sup>17</sup>

The new contest site, used for the first time in the 1920-1921 contest, was a powerful attractant and entries came in from all over the state. A total of fifty-three pens were entered with a few from Washington and Oregon. The new contest headquarters were designed by the University of California Poultry Division according to the latest scientific discoveries for the hen's comfort. It was a "full monitor" type extending north and south, 300 feet by 26 feet. A six-foot alleyway ran down the center, with pens ten by sixteen feet on each side. Each pen contained three entries of twelve hens each. These thirty-six hens were provided with eighteen trap nests (this 2:1 ratio exceeded the standard recommended ratio of 4:1). Each hen was leg-banded with her own number and the owner's colors. In addition to multiple windows, the entire interior was whitewashed and well-lit. The southern end of the building contained the office, exhibition hall, feed and egg room. The northern end housed the hospital and storage room.<sup>18</sup>

The 1920-1921 contest was the most exhilarating yet. Hanson's Poultry Farm of Corvallis, Oregon, won the contest and the silver loving cup after a "nip and tuck struggle" for many long months. Santa Cruz poultryman Levi Mellon paid \$284 for Hanson's winning pen of hens and thirty cockerels, enabling him to build a winning strain at his poultry farm on Martin Boulevard.<sup>19</sup> Second honors and a silver medal went to George Gray of Santa Cruz with 2,313 eggs, and the bronze medal for third place went to S. L. Gibson of Santa Cruz whose pullets laid 2,299 eggs. Seventeen of the fifty-four entries averaged over 200 eggs per hen and more than half, twenty-eight pens, averaged better than ninety eggs per hen.<sup>20</sup>

By 1921, the contest had grown to national fame. The 1921-1922 contest had ten entries from outside of California, some from as far away as Florida and Michigan. This contest was affected by stormy weather in December and January and cold weather in February, which caused cankers on the windpipes of many in the contest flock. The cankers were relatively quickly contained, under the watchful eye of the contest's poultry pathologist, and entirely disappeared by mid-March. This did



**Columbia Belle**, showing off her talent as the world-record hen for the 1921-1922 contest. She produced 324 eggs during the contest year, winning the cup for the Alex Stewart Ranch. (Courtesy of Billie Street, whose father, Vernon Miller, was contest manager for the final 1930-31 contest)

not hamper the results by any means. The contest produced a world-record hen, *Columbia Belle*, owned by Alex Stewart of Soquel Avenue in Santa Cruz. The hen laid 324 eggs over the course of the year. Alex Stewart was also winner of the overall first place cup. So much excitement was generated that a motion picture was made of the awards ceremony, starring the winning *Columbia Belle*.<sup>21</sup>

Sadly, *Columbia Belle* died in January of 1923. She was honored with an obituary in the *Evening News*, which declared that the news of her death would be “a source of regret to the whole poultry fraternity in the Santa Cruz district.” It went on to say that her owner Alex Stewart had lost a bird worth several hundred dollars, but “luckily, has a great number of high record birds of the same strain.”<sup>22</sup>

The 1922-1923 contest marked its beginning with an offer from Leslie A. Thornewill of the Alberta Ranch in Santa Cruz. He would give \$100 to any entry from Alberta Ranch stock that placed first, second, or third or was a 300-egg hen. The ten-acre Alberta Ranch was on the site of the old Rodriguez rancho on Seventh Avenue just off Capitola Road; it was a University of California Extension farm with all the recommended amenities, including two university-type poultry houses where they were “busy making records.”<sup>23</sup>

Two world records were broken during this contest. The first record was by Thornewill’s pen of ten birds, which laid 2,816 eggs in the course of the year. The second record was due to three hens surpassing the 300 egg mark. There would





**A meeting at L.A. Thornewill's Alberta Ranch** in front of their university-type shed-roof poultry house. This type of poultry house was used for the new contest site and was first introduced in 1919. (Courtesy of Henry Washburn Collection, Agricultural History Project)

have been four hens passing this milestone, but the fourth hen laid her 300th egg three hours after the contest closed.<sup>24</sup>

Contest sponsors took this as confirmation that any poultryman could achieve these amazing results by following the economical, well-balanced feed recommended by the university. Most importantly, with the winning pen coming from Santa Cruz, it could be said that conditions in this locality were ideal for raising superior hens. Second place was secured by L. J. Wolf of Monterey, and third place by St. John's Poultry farm of Missouri. At the suggestion of Professor Lippincott, head of the poultry division at the University of California, the contest added a two-year division. Twenty pens were entered into this first official "long distance" contest. Other additions included new divisions for high school clubs, and light and heavy hen varieties.<sup>25</sup>

The 1923-1924 contest started out with Leslie A. Thornewill once again in the lead. By the tenth month of the contest, it was a neck and neck race for first place between Thornewill and W. J. Kenna, both of Santa Cruz.<sup>26</sup> W. J. Kenna ended up winning the sweepstakes cup with his pen of White Leghorns that produced 2,632 eggs. Floyd L. Collins of the Collins Trap Nest Farm in the Twin Lakes district saw his pullet *Santa Cruz Jane* earn high hen honors with the production of 303 eggs.

The following January, in order to further improve his poultry strain, Collins paid J. Hanson of Oregon fifty dollars for a record-setting cockerel to be a mate to *Santa Cruz Jane*.<sup>27</sup>

Other outstanding accomplishments in this year's event included the world record two year contest winner with 2,502 eggs laid by five White Leghorns owned by St. John's Poultry Farm of Missouri. The two year high hen winner from San Jacinto laid 530 eggs. In addition to the silver cups presented to the winners, Cora Mead Thornewill (Mrs. Leslie) presented the \$100 prize to W. J. Kenna for making the best record achieved with Thornewill stock. Once again the awards ceremony was filmed by Pathe News. Pictures of *Santa Cruz Jane* appeared in many periodicals across the nation.<sup>28</sup>

The 1924-1925 contest broke the winning streak of Santa Cruz poultrymen; the winning pen of 2,543 eggs belonged to H.M. Leathers of Washington State. By this time the contest had settled in comfortably with able management and satisfied contestants regularly setting records and demonstrating the successful poultry practices recommended by the university.<sup>29</sup>

The 1925-1926 contest gave the top honor for highest pen in the entire contest to J. T. Milligan of Lankershim, California, for their production of 2,491 eggs. Santa Cruz poultryman Leslie Thornewill had the winning high hen with a production of 305



**Presentation of trophies to the winners** of an egg laying contest at the Pacheco contest headquarters. This appears to be the 1922-1923 contest, which would make the two trophy holders Leslie and Cora Thornehill for winning the highest pen and high hen categories. The man presenting the trophy (in the light suit) is Farm Advisor, Henry Washburn. The man on the far right is holding a third trophy that would be presented to L.J. Wolf for having the 2nd highest pen. (Courtesy of Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau)

eggs, two more than was produced by his previous year's winner.<sup>30</sup>

The 1926-1927 contest experienced some anxiety during the first month. Chicken pox showed up during the first week of November; then the weather turned extreme and caused a severe epidemic of bronchitis in the flock, affecting almost every entry. These factors severely lowered egg production for the month. This year also required an infusion of \$500 cash from the Chamber of Commerce.<sup>31</sup> In the end, Charles. W. Kolb took first place honors with his pen from Monterey, and there was a tie for high hen between the Russell Trapnest Farm of Santa Cruz and Cavagnaro and Kusterer of Watsonville. This year Santa Cruz held the first annual statewide poultry show which included

an educational baby chick and egg show, western poultry congress, and Santa Cruz farm bureau county fair.<sup>32</sup>

Beginning with the 1927-1928 contest, the future of the egg laying contest was in question due to the cost of running it. A Chamber of Commerce committee consisting of George Wood, C. D. Hinkle and Burt Owens met with Mr. Gray, S. L. Gibson and Mrs. Cora Thornehill to try and work out a plan to keep the poultry plant going. Some believed that the contest site should be self-sustaining, while others saw it as a boon to the community that should be supported. The meeting was successful; the Chamber of Commerce agreed to be more active in promoting the contest and to grant more financial aid to the poultry





**C.D. Hinkle, president of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce,** presents an award to representatives of the St. John's Poultry Farm, whose five hens won the two year contest in 1924 with their world-record 2,502 eggs. (Santa Cruz Sentinel photo, possibly from Henry Washburn collection)

plant. S. L. Gibson was appointed chairman of a site beautification committee, which completely refurbished the buildings and grounds.<sup>33</sup>

These efforts were aided by news of another record breaking year. *Columbia Belle's* high hen record was broken by a hen from the Thornewill's Alberta Ranch, who laid 333 eggs over the course of the contest. The overall winning pen came from Angell's Poultry Farm in Oregon. The awards ceremony thanked local poultrymen, including S. L. Gibson, George Gray, Billy Neef, and Will Marshall, for their faithful support and for keeping the contest alive since its inception. This year the poultry community suffered the loss of a key supporter, Cora Thornewill, due to

"tragic circumstances."<sup>34</sup> [See sidebar, "Murder or Suicide?"]

In the 1928-1929 contest, Santa Cruz entries made a good showing; Collins Trapnest Farm took first place overall, as well as four of the five silver cups for highest scores. In this, the tenth contest, entries had jumped to fifty pens. This boost was perhaps because of the previous year's impressive results. But it might also have been because there were fewer contests in California. By 1929, Santa Cruz was one of only three egg laying contests left in California; the others were in Pomona and Selma. Petaluma had recently discontinued its contest.<sup>35</sup>

The 1929-1930 contest ended with L.Q. Harris of Modesto taking both the highest pen and high hen results for the year. This year's results did not



**A cartoon based on the photograph of C. D. Hinkle** presenting the two-year award, shows a hen trying to fly away during the awards ceremony. (Jim Mitchell cartoon, from *Live Oak, Then and Now* by Brad Walsh and Margaret Koch, Santa Cruz County Bank, 1975)

break any records and were among the lowest in the contest's history.<sup>36</sup>

The 1930-1931 contest marked the end of the egg laying contest in Santa Cruz. The Board of Directors decided in September 1931 to discontinue the contest due to lack of entries for the next year. The poultry plant would be rented out to help pay the interest on the investment and the taxes.<sup>37</sup> Ironically, results achieved that year were among the highest ever, with the winning pen from Keaau Poultry farm of Hawaii producing 2,882 eggs. The high hen laid 311 eggs, more than *Santa Cruz Jane* laid in the 1923-1924 contest, but not quite as many as *Columbia Belle* in 1921-1922 or the *Thornewill* hen in 1927-1928.

The contest heyday occurred in its first few years and peaked in the mid 1920s. The decline in the late

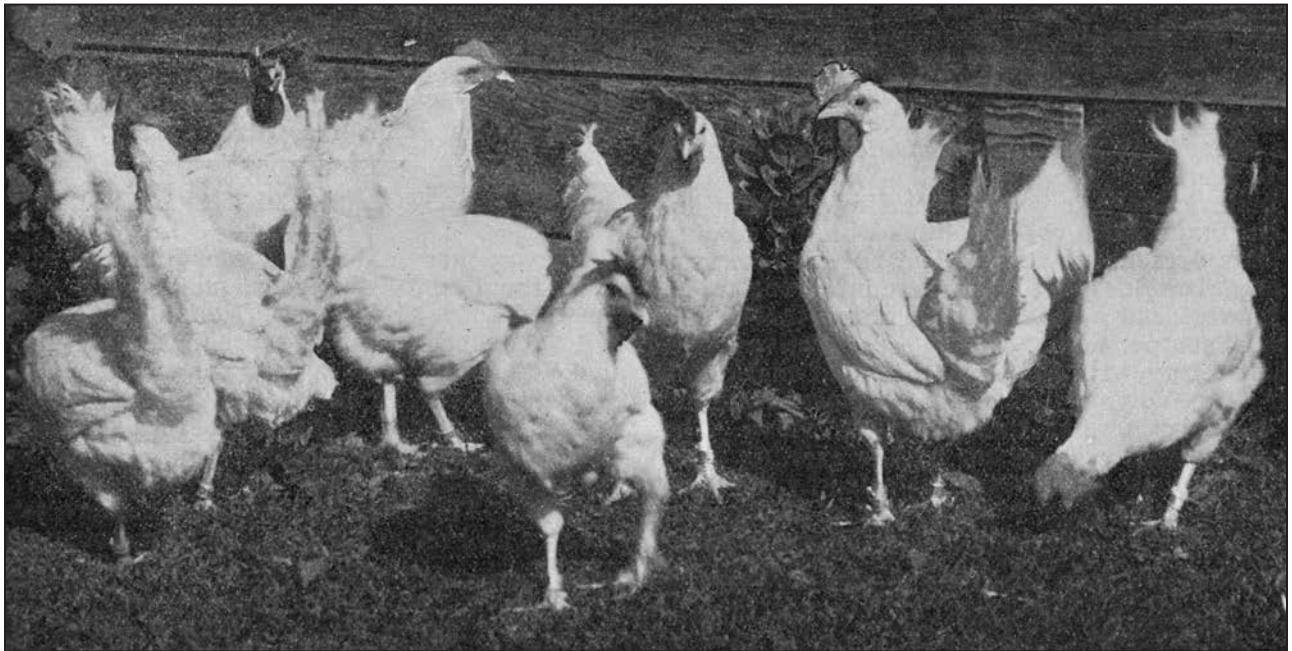
1920s and early 1930s marked a shift in the Santa Cruz poultry industry. By the late 1930s the area surrounding the poultry plant no longer allowed new poultry farms to be built.<sup>38</sup> One by one poultry farms in the area disappeared and the Santa Cruz poultry district was concentrated in the Live Oak area. Santa Cruz continued to have a local poultry industry through the 1950s, but today only one egg farm remains—the Glaum Egg Ranch in Aptos.<sup>39</sup>







***Santa Cruz Jane***, with the two trophies she won for Floyd L. Collins in the 1923-1924 contest. (*Nulaid News*, November 1924, courtesy of the Petaluma Historical Museum and Library)



**The pen of white leghorn hens that won the 1928-1929 contest**; they were bred and reared by the Collins Trapnest Farm. (*Nulaid News*, January 1930, courtesy of the Petaluma Historical Museum and Library)



### Murder or Suicide?

by Joan Gilbert Martin

The “tragic circumstances” surrounding the death of Cora Mead Thornewill were a Santa Cruz murder mystery that preyed on the minds of the local populace for a number of years. The story started on September 26, 1928, at 9:50 in the evening when a telephone operator received a call saying, “Operator! He’s killing me!” followed by, “I am dying, operator.”<sup>1</sup> The quick-thinking operator called the police. When the police arrived at her home, Mrs. Thornewill was found on her kitchen floor dead of a massive gunshot wound to the head. Near her body was a Springfield rifle and also a foot-long piece of kindling. Was it murder or suicide?

At first her common-law husband, Leslie Thornewill, was suspected. They had been known to quarrel, and he was frequently seen with other, younger, women. Thornewill was a former Canadian Mountie who had met Cora Mead when she was on a hunting trip in the Canadian Rockies. On that trip she had shot a grizzly bear with one shot from her Springfield rifle, claiming, “One shot is enough to fire at those grizzlys [sic]. A person better get them the first shot!”<sup>2</sup> Long separated, but never divorced, from her Chicago millionaire husband, James Lucas Mead, Cora Mead moved with Thornewill to Santa Cruz, and there she took his name. Using her money, they started the successful Alberta Ranch and were big supporters and frequent winners of the Santa Cruz Egg Laying Contest.

The local sheriff, N. P. Sinnott ruled it was suicide. He was backed in this finding by master criminologist, Edward Oscar Heinrich. Heinrich was a chemist and a professor at UC Berkeley who had also been a policeman. He was known as “the Wizard of Berkeley” and at his death was credited with solving over 2,000 mysteries. Heinrich examined the crime scene for five hours and then emerged to give his one-word verdict: “Suicide.”<sup>3</sup>

But the verdict did not stop the talk. There was still another possibility. This was prohibition time and Cora Mead Thornewill had spoken to a district attorney in San Francisco and to a private attorney about her knowledge of a rum-running ring in Santa Cruz. She apparently feared their reprisal because, as she said, “I know too much.”<sup>4</sup>

Thornewill remained the main suspect in the popular view until his own death two years later on the night of December 28, 1930. He was partying with friends at a cabin in the mountains when his new wife, Helene Card Thornewill, burst in, pistol in hand, and demanded he come home. Three shots were fired, two of which hit him. On his deathbed, Thornewill did the decent thing and claimed it had been an accident—the gun fired as he tried to take it out of Helene’s hands. At her trial, the jury acquitted her of murder after deliberating only twenty minutes. With Thornewill’s death, the speculation over Cora Mead Thornewill’s possible murder also died.<sup>5</sup>

### Notes

- 1 “Thornewill Case Draws Throng To Coroner’s Inquiry,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, October 8, 1928, p. 1.
- 2 “Poultry Prattle In Santa Cruz Yards,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, August 12, 1922.
- 3 “‘Suicide,’ Is The Laconic Remark Of E. O. Heinrich,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, October 5, 1928, p. 1.
- 4 “United States District Attorney Credited With Having Information Casting New Light On Mystery Case,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, October 9, 1928, p. 1.
- 5 Sarah Weston & Phil Reader, “A Mountie’s Downfall,” *Mid-County Post*, October 31, 2006, viewed on [www.mcpost.com/article.php?id=480](http://www.mcpost.com/article.php?id=480), July 2008.

California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest Results									
Year	Owner of Winning Pen	Total Number of Eggs	Avg eggs per bird for winning pen (10 birds)	High Hen for contest (owner noted if different from winner)	Number of Pens Entered	Two year Contest (5 yearling hens)	High Hen for Two year Contest	Notes	Board of Directors (elected by the poultry department of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau)
1918-19	W.O. Mobley, Santa Cruz, CA	2131	213		12			\$25 First Prize	A.W. Robinson, R.E. Burton, George Wood, A.O. Childers, S.L. Gibson
1919-20	Bellows Bros., Lakeside, CA	2153	215	297 (D.B. Walls)	34			First State Contest "California State Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest"	S.L. Gibson (chairman), George Wood, R.E. Burton, Prof. Dougherty, H.L. Washburn
1920-21	J.A. Hanson, Corvallis, OR	2440	244	298 (Hollywood Farm)	54			First year at new contest site at Martin (now Morrissey) and Pacheco	Henry Struve, William Marshal, Jr., WW Cartwright, R.G. Paget, R.E. Burton, Alex Stewart, J.H. Hauschildt, S.L.Gibson, George Wood, George Gray, W.J. Neef
1921-22	Alex Stewart, Santa Cruz, CA	2651	265	324 "Columbia Belle"	62			High Hen World Record	(unknown)
1922-23	L.A. Thornewill, Santa Cruz, CA	2816 2/3	282	315	60			Overall World Record. Fractional eggs awarded for floor eggs. Multiple Divisions added for Light, Heavy, Boy's and Girls' Clubs, 2 Year Contest started	J.H. Hauschildt (chairman), George Gray, George Wood, Alex Stewart, S.L. Gibson, R.E. Burton, WW Craft
1923-24	W.J. Kenna, Santa Cruz, CA	2632	263	303 "Santa Cruz Jane" (F.L. Collins)	87	2502	530	Two Year contest winner: St. John's Poultry Farm of Oronogo, MO	J.H. Hauschildt (chairman), Alex Stewart, W.H. Marshall, R.E. Burton, George Wood, W.W. Cartwright, Frank Russell, S.L. Gibson, George Gray
1924-25	H.M. Leathers, Woodland, WA	2543	254	299 (Hopland Stock Farm)	65	2274	545	Two Year contest winner: by James George of Novato, CA. Two Year High Hen Record: John L. Davidson of San Francisco, CA.	(unknown)
1925-26	J.T. Milligan, Landershim, CA	2491	249	305 (L.A. Thornewill)	49	2374	527	Two Year contest winner: H.M. Leathers of Woodland, WA	(unknown)
1926-27	Chas. W Kolb, Monterey, CA	2545	255	300 (Russell Trapnest Farm and Cavagnaro & Kusterer tied)	66			Added division for Rhode Island Red	(unknown)
1927-28	Angell's Poultry Farm, Oregon City, OR	2661	266	333 (Alberta Ranch)	33			New High Hen Record	J.H. Hauschildt, S.L. Gibson, George Gray, Walter Cartwright, Frank Collins, R.E. Burton, A.C. Andrews, Enoch Crews
1928-29	Collins Trapnest Farm, Santa Cruz, CA	2453	245	296 (Collins Australorp Farm)	50			Collins Trapnest Farm takes 4 of 5 trophy cups.	E.M. Eisle, R.E. Burton, George Wood, WW Cartwright, George Gray, W.H. Marshall, S.L. Gibson, J.H. Hauschildt
1929-30	L.Q. Harris Modesto, CA	2468	247	281	52				(unknown)
1930-31	Keaau Poultry Farm, Olaa, HI	2882	288	311	38			Highest total number of eggs in contest history	J.E. Dougherty, J.H. Hauschildt, W.H. Marshall, F.L. Collins, George Gray, George Wood, S.L. Gibson
1931-32	Contest Cancelled Due to Lack of Entries								J.E. Dougherty, J.H. Hauschildt, W.H. Marshall, F.L. Collins, George Gray, George Wood, S.L. Gibson

**Table showing the results of the California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest** for the thirteen years from 1918-1919, when it began, to the last contest in 1930-1931. (Compiled by the author)

## Notes

- 1 Josephine Clifford McCrackin, "Poultry and Poetry," *Sentinel*, December 12, 1917, p. 6.
- 2 *Santa Cruz—where Chickens grow into Money*, pamphlet issued by the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, c. 1923.
- 3 "Santa Cruz County Hen Demonstrating Herself," *Sentinel*, December 5, 1918, p. 2; and *Surf*, December 20, 1918, p. 6. The identical article appeared in each newspaper on different days.
- 4 "Egg Laying Contest to Begin Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>," *Sentinel*, September 6, 1918, p. 2.
- 5 "Geo. Wood and Max Kortum Figure In Poultry Address At Gilroy," *Evening News*, February 3, 1922.
- 6 "State Egg Laying Contest to Start on October 1<sup>st</sup>," *Sentinel*, September 1, 1921, p. 7.
- 7 *Santa Cruz – where Chickens grow into Money*.
- 8 "Santa Cruz County Hen Demonstrating Herself."
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 "Egg Laying Contest to Begin Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>."
- 11 "Mobley's Pullets Win In the Egg Laying Contest," *Sentinel*, September 11, 1919, p. 2.
- 12 "Laveaga Park District – Name Chosen for the Santa Cruz Poultry District," *Surf*, January 3, 1918.
- 13 "Kortum is Expert: Contest Deferred," *Evening News*, October 25, 1919, p. 6.
- 14 "State Egg Laying Contest Starts at New Building," *Sentinel*, November 8, 1920, p. 2.
- 15 "Santa Cruz wins Official Egg Laying Plant," *Evening News*, August 6, 1920.
- 16 "Wood Writes About Big Men Who Will Enter Birds In State Contest," *Evening News*, October 23, 1919, p. 2.
- 17 "First Year Egg Laying Contest Ends in Glory," *Sentinel*, November 27, 1920, p. 5.
- 18 J.E. Dougherty, "California Farm Bureau Egg Laying Contest Records For November," *Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Monthly*, January 1921, p. 3.
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