

AN IMPORTANT FIRST HELICOPTER AIR MAIL FLIGHT

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the southland and held in readiness for the first official flight from Los Angeles. A special government cachet, in green ink, was also applied to each cover carried on the flight.

As representatives of the local philatelic organization, President Holladay and Secretary-treasurer Oliver F. Laughead were present at the first flight activities at Morrow Field. Others attending the ceremonies were postmasters from Colton, Redlands, Fontana, Yucaipa and Rialto.

On December 2, 1947, the helicopter arrived with a distinguished passenger on board, Igor Sikorsky, who was responsible for the designing and development of the "wingless plane." Again a special delegation met the helicopter, and this time the weather was in a friendlier mood. Mr. Sikorsky proved to be an extremely



courteous and amiable gentleman and he expressed interest in the special cachets that had been carried on the first flight the day before as Pres. Holladay and Sec. Laughead handed over several examples for his inspection. He graciously autographed several of the covers for the two collectors and stepped back into the plane. As it rose from the field, Mr. Sikorsky drew back the cockpit cover and leaned from the ascending 'copter, to wave a cheerful goodby to the delegation below.

With the successful completion of the inaugural flight in weather that "grounded" every other mechanical contrivance, and its subsequent flights (twice daily) to San Bernardino and many other southland communities, the helicopter has proved its worth. Another step forward has been made in the progress of air mail flight and such a *mighty* stride forward that one can only wonder, "what next? . . ."

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WILLIAM RANDALL

By John C. Funk



WILLIAM HENRY RANDALL was born in Pownal, Cumberland County, Maine on December 5, 1834. He was the son of William and Lydia (Haskell) Randall. Mr. Randall, Sr., was a mill owner and merchant in Pownal, and Mrs. Randall, daughter of Gideon Winslow Haskell, was descended from the New England Winslows who figured in the early history of New England's Plymouth Colony.

William H. Randall passed his boyhood and received his early education in North Pownal. His father died in 1847 at the age of thirty-eight and, a few years later, young William succeeded to the mill property and the family homestead comprising forty acres of land. He lived in his native town for thirty-one years. In 1864 he went west to Virginia City, Nevada, and engaged in mining, remaining for ten years. In 1874 he formed a partnership with his lifelong friend, William T. Noyes, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in what is now Highland, also acquiring by pre-emption forty acres of government land. From this beginning he became one of Highland's active and progressive citizens. He was a prime mover in the development of Highland's water system and an organizer of the Highland Vineyard Association.

In 1892, Randall was elected on the Democratic ticket as Supervisor from the Fifth District. He served one term on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors; from January 2, 1893 to January 4, 1897, and was succeeded by George M. Cooley. He was active in the appropriation for the new granite Court House, in instituting necessary reforms in the County Hospital and Poor Farm, placing the latter on a practical business basis, and was an advocate of the temperance cause.

Mr. Randall was twice married; to Helen J. Sylvester of Cumberland, Maine (who died, leaving him 3 sons) and Dorcas Thompson, widow of James Thompson. He died at Highland on May 25, 1897.