



LAND GIFT—Sister Imelda Maria, president of the College of Holy Names, accepted the deed to land adjacent to college's new campus from Robin McCrea, San Francisco engineer, shown with his wife, Madelein and son, Don.

## Holy Names College Gets Wilderness Tract for Park

An area where Spanish missionary priests brought Christianity to the Indians and where the Indians themselves settled because of abundant streams has been given to Oakland's College of Holy Names. But it was necessary for Robin McCrea, a San Francisco mechanical engineer, to "buy" the property from the city, to which he gave it in 1943, so that he again could donate it to the college. Sister Imelda Maria, president of the College, accepted the deed to the 6.5 acre section of hill wilderness which is adjacent to the new College campus at 3500 Mountain Blvd. and which is in much the same state as it was when primitive people roamed it before the arrival of the Spanish here. The land is valued at \$50,000. McCrea, son of the late George McCrea, a Northern California architect, was raised on adjacent property. The old McCrea land contains a home, one section of which is built around an old adobe-walled chapel where priests from Mission San Jose came to conduct Mass for the vaqueros on the Rancho de San Antonio

of the Peralta land grant. The acreage includes an old Indian camp site and is crisscrossed by trails leading to the abundant springs. At the camp site, crude fire pits and rock "bowls" used by the Indians in grinding flour are unchanged from the days of their use. Relics of the Indians were found throughout the area when the McCrea family first acquired the land. The younger McCrea, a resident of Belvedere, presented the land to the city, deeding it for park use as a memorial to his father. World War II prevented any consideration of park development but studies since have indicated that the region could not be developed into a park without prohibitive cost acquiring adjacent land. Under the deed terms, the land could not be used for any use other than for a park. McCrea and City Park Superintendent William Penn Mott Jr. agreed to return of the land to McCrea so that he could give it to the College of Holy Names. For the return of the land, McCrea is financing another memorial to his father. He will contribute \$7,000 to a project

that will benefit the children of Oakland. This will be a portion of the new trout fishing and flycasting center in Leona Park, Mott said. In the Leona development, youngsters will have the chance to fish for trout stocked by the Park Department and Mott plans eventually for a "family program" under which camping instruction, fly-making and fly-casting training will be available. The fly-casting development is almost completed now. **Added Age Benefits To Be Discussed** Ways in which social security recipients may qualify for part of the \$89-a-month old age pension will be outlined at a meeting sponsored by the California Institute of Social Welfare Friday, Jan. 3, at 1:30 p.m. in the Key System Employees Building, 410 11th St. The meeting is open to the public. The Institute says many elderly people can qualify for part of the state pension, as well as free drugs and medical care, without jeopardizing their social security benefits.

## Alaska Packers Would Buy 33-Acre Housing Project

ALAMEDA, Dec. 25—The City of Alameda has received an offer from the Alaska Packers' Association to purchase 33.2 acres of the former Encinal housing project site at the city's cost. City Mgr. H. D. Weller said today that negotiations are under way on access roads and clarification of the offer before a report is made to the city council, Alaska Packers, which operates the Encinal Terminals east of the property, would acquire 60 per cent of the 55.5-acre parcel purchased by the

city from the Federal Government last year. Weller said the city has approximately \$10,000 an acre invested in the land. The initial offer was obtained by Councilman Franz Collischonn, who was informally asked by the council to proceed in the city's behalf. The city acquired the property with a \$25,000 down payment and five-year contract for semi-annual payments of \$48,704. Alaska Packers proposes to pay 60 per cent of city cost to date and 60 per cent of the interest on the mortgage for the 60 per cent of the property. It would defer payment on the

principal until Nov. 30, 1961, at which time a lump payment would be made. The city has asked the Federal Government to declare a moratorium on principal payments until 1961. If the offer is accepted the city would continue to hold 22.3 acres. Under terms of purchase from the Federal Government the city was required to hold this acreage containing 400 housing units on a standby basis until 1959. The 22.3 acres can be sold but the housing cannot be removed for another two years, Weller said.

## WIFE GETS \$120,000 GEM GIFT AS 'PORTABLE CAPITAL'

Chicago Daily News Service BONN, Germany, Dec. 25—An unidentified woman, in Duesseldorf has received an impressive Christmas gift from her husband. It was a collection of diamonds and emeralds, set in platinum, and purchased in one lot from a fashionable jeweler in the West German steel capital. The cost was 500,000 German marks, the equivalent of about \$120,000. The man was less interested in the design or the individual beauty of the gems than in their over-all value. "It is security for my wife,"

he explained. "It is capital that can be carried in a handbag, should it ever be necessary." Jewelers report a number of similar purchases during the Christmas period by persons who can't forget the years following the end of the war in 1945. At that time a piece of jewelry often made the difference between having something to eat and going hungry. The number of businesses that were founded or restarted out of madame's handbag will never be known, but probably is surprisingly large. Copyright, 1957, Chicago Daily News

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