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*J. W. Lussier*

surroundings, he has interested himself in business affairs as well, and is a director and one of the organizers of the Home Builders Loan Association of Pomona, and is also a stockholder in the Pomona Manufacturing Company.

The marriage of Mr. Bulla united him with Miss Lorind A. Ritter, a native of Indiana, December 15, 1868. They were the parents of six children, all deceased. They attend the Unitarian Church, and enjoy the esteem and friendship of all who come in contact with them in their many years of life in the Valley. It is such citizens as these who have helped to bring Pomona to its present place in the sun.

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### JOSEPH O. LUSSIER

A business man not only keeping pace with, but leading the spirit of commercial enterprise in San Dimas is Joseph O. Lussier, proprietor of the Groceritorium on Bonita Avenue in that town. The word Groceritorium was originated and coined by himself. He was born in Woonsocket, R. I., on July 31 of the year celebrated as the rounding out of our first century of independence. His father, Francis Lussier, was born in Bordeaux, France, and came to Woonsocket, R. I., when a young man. There he married Miss Lulu Pippin, who was born in Quebec of an old French-Canadian family. He was engaged in the bakery business in Woonsocket until his death in 1884, when Joseph was eight years of age. Soon after this the mother emigrated with her family of four small children to St. Paul, Minn., and here Joseph received his education in the public schools.

In 1896 Mr. Lussier came to California, and after visiting a number of places in the state, located in San Dimas the same year; here his first work was the agency and delivery of the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Examiner* and *Chronicle*. He covered his route of thirty-three miles on a bicycle and took in the district of San Dimas, La Verne and Charter Oak. Later he completed a course in the Riverside Business College and after graduating he entered into partnership with J. O. Enell and bought out the Torrey Grocery store at Lordsburg, now La Verne. Purchasing the interest of his partner, he conducted this for a while alone; but at the end of six years he sold out his business to W. H. Poston & Company, who conducted a chain of grocery stores in Pomona Valley. After selling out he was manager for Mr. Poston for two years at La Verne and a year in his San Dimas store. He then went to Los Angeles and entered the employ of the Los Angeles Gas and Electric Company as a solicitor.

Returning to San Dimas in 1910, Mr. Lussier bought out the grocery store of J. E. Schneider, with Walter Holst as a partner, and together they conducted business under the firm name of Lussier & Holst. In two years' time he bought out his partner and the firm was

dissolved, and Mr. Lussier has since been conducting the business alone. In January, 1918, he established the Groceritorium—a new system very popular with the buying public, where the customer helps himself and pays as he goes out. On account of the popularity enjoyed by the new method, Mr. Lussier has been able to build up a large and flourishing trade. In return, he has grown very loyal to Pomona Valley, and one always to be counted upon for supporting every sensible movement making for the progress of the whole community.

In August, 1900, at Riverside, Mr. Lussier was married to Miss Lulu Goodwin, a native of Illinois, the daughter of Dr. J. W. Goodwin, a pioneer physician of Pomona. Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lussier, Joseph is the eldest and is a student at Pomona College; and there are Warren, Jack and Raymond. One son, Charles, is deceased. Mr. Lussier belongs to San Dimas Lodge No. 114, I. O. O. F., and in politics is a Republican. Mrs. Lussier is a member of the Wednesday Afternoon Club and in religious matters is an adherent of the Christian Church.

#### KIRK W. THOMPSON

A public-spirited, progressive native son who is particularly well posted on the past history and growth of Spadra and vicinity, and is therefore often consulted as to fact or future prospects thereabouts, is Kirk W. Thompson, who was born in that town on September 8, 1877, the son of Joseph W. Thompson, a native of Indiana, who married Sarah Jane Justice, like himself a Hoosier, and with him now deceased. In 1852, when he was eight years of age, he crossed the great plains with his parents, and located at El Monte, in Los Angeles County, where he was reared and educated, growing up on a farm. As a young man he followed farming and teaming, and later he came with a brother, Elbridge R. Thompson, to Azusa, in 1885, and there engaged in farming.

From his sixth to his nineteenth year, therefore, Kirk Thompson was reared in Azusa, attending the Azusa schools and working in the orange groves. Now, for a number of years he has been in the employ of the Phillips family on the Louis Phillips ranch at Spadra, and he has seen many changes in the Valley. Looking backward, he has the supreme satisfaction of realizing that he, for one, has been instrumental in bringing some of the changes about.

Popular in social circles, Mr. Thompson is nowhere a greater favorite than with the Knights of Pythias, being a member of the Pomona Lodge, where he has passed through all the chairs; he also belongs to the Fraternal Aid. He is public spirited and has done his bit during the period of the recent crisis and distress in the United States, and in relation to the Great War.