



Empress I

*Its \$50000
Lonely at the
Top*

*Dowager
Empress
José I*



Breen", and his mother had employed Naomi Blender, concert violinist of the San Francisco Symphony, to teach her son the violin. After many months, it was decided that he would never play satisfactorily.

After his stint at the old Beige Room, José was often at the Black Cat, as a customer, and as was the practice in those days, entertained the crowd, for you see at this time each of the customers at this bohemian bar would do an act or two for the enjoyment of his fellow entertainers.

José was such a camp that he soon found that he was doing most of the entertaining, and then he became a regular or a steady feature of the "Cat".

Sarria has regularly lectured his patrons on the need for those who "are a little different" to stand up for their rights. During each of the periodic cleanups that the police departments are wont to embark upon, he has told his listeners how they should take care to avoid certain areas and to abstain from public displays.

When George Christopher, Mayor of San Francisco, was opposed for that office by Russell Wolden, he was accused by Mr. Wolden of "being soft on homosexuals". Prior to this, it was odds on, that Wolden would be elected Mayor. This issue defeated him, for the many, many who were involved, together with their friends, went to the polls in flocks to defeat the man who dared to make this a political issue.

Christopher then turned on the people who had been responsible for his election and made life generally miserable for them. During the "Gayola" scandals in San Francisco, the Mayor evidently directed a whitewash of the police who had taken bribes from the bars. It was then that our hero decided to enter politics.

The City of San Francisco has a City-County combination government, whose primary legislative branch is the Board of Supervisors. This is composed of eleven Supervisors, chosen from the entire city at large. It was for a position on the Board of Supervisors that José made his debut into politics. He did practically no campaigning in any location other than the "Black Cat". When the ballots were being counted, our José threw a Victory Party at the "Cat". No one there thought that he would win. Even before the petition, placing him on the ballot was entered, it was a foregone conclusion that he did not have a chance. But the victory was there, for he had run the gamut of the political circus without being smeared by a single opponent. It has been said that no politician in his right mind will make homosexuality a campaign issue in San Francisco if he wants to be elected.

José received over 6,000 votes in his race for Supervisor. Those who were elected received 70,000 to 100,000. A person not connected with his campaign remarked that this was just short of