

Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

# The Torrance Herald

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## PERMITS REVEAL BUILDING BOOM

### To Investigate Possibilities of City-Owned Water Wells

#### 22 HOUSES GO UP IN MONTH

Aggregate Value of September Construction Here Is \$70,475

#### BUILDING SLUMP BROKEN

Last Calendar Period Best Since April, Official Reports Show

September was marked by unusually substantial building operations in Torrance. Permits were higher for the month than for any calendar period since April. Last month they reached the total of \$70,475, which is unusual when it is realized that the month's largest permit called for construction to cost \$5500.

Of the 42 permits taken out during the month, 22 were for dwelling houses. These are now in process of construction. They range from three-room to seven-room houses.

The building slump in Southern California, starting the first of last March, has definitely been broken here and with considerable construction contemplated for the winter months, the activity bids fair to continue.

#### Burglars Loot Filling Station; Booty Is \$800

Quackenbush Service Depot Broken Into By Thieves Saturday Night

Gaining entrance to the Quackenbush service station at Narbonne avenue and Acacia street, through a rear door, burglars some time during Saturday night made off with about \$800 in money, checks and oil scrip.

It is supposed that the robbery occurred about midnight as persons in a nearby house heard unusual noises about that time.

#### 75 Children at Church Outing Last Saturday

Thirty Grownups Accompany the Central Evangelical Youngsters to Park

About 75 members of the primary and junior departments of Central Evangelical Sunday school, accompanied by 30 or more grownups, enjoyed a picnic at Exposition Park, Los Angeles, Saturday.

Despite the dull, chilly weather, the kiddies had a wonderful time and did full justice to the bountiful luncheon, lemonade and ice cream.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Webb and Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Huggard and son Harlan, of Andree avenue, motored to the beaches Sunday.

#### Pershing Writes Letter To Mayor R. R. Smith

Mayor R. R. Smith has just received a letter from Gen. John J. Pershing, written in response to the telegram sent to the general on behalf of the people of Torrance on the date of the general's retirement from active service. The letter to Mayor Smith follows: GENERAL OF THE ARMIES WASHINGTON Honorable R. R. Smith, Mayor of Torrance, Torrance, Calif. Dear Mayor Smith: Please allow me to thank you

#### Trustee W. M. Brooks Outlines Engineer Jessup's Relations With the City of Torrance

By WILLIS M. BROOKS City Trustee

It has been suggested that some member of the board of trustees write an open letter to you, from time to time, for publication, outlining actions of the board in matters of general public interest, and while I feel there are others better qualified than myself to perform this task, it seems to be my job.

Particular reference has been made, for this letter, to the matter of "Public Proceedings" or "Assessment Districts," and to City Engineer Jessup's manner of employment by the board.

#### Method of Procedure

The formation of "assessment districts" under public proceedings is really a very simple matter. Where it is evident that only a certain district and not the entire city will be benefited by the addition of any improvement, it is customary to proceed with the proposed improvement as follows: The board will adopt a resolution of intention to perform certain specified improvements and will publish a notice of such intention. The notice must clearly outline the boundaries of the proposed district, the nature and extent of the proposed improvement, and appoint a time and place for the filing of written objections, if any such there be, and the hearing of oral argument for and against the proposed project.

There being no valid objection, the board instructs the city engineer to proceed with the preparations of plans and specifications, and calls for bids, by publication, appointing a time and place when such bids will be publicly opened.

The contract is duly awarded to the successful bidder and the project finally completed. The next step is to determine the exact cost of the improvement and assess the property in the assessment district, in an equitable manner, to pay for same. The assessment being completed, a time and place is stipulated in a public notice for the purpose of hearing any objection the property owners in the district

may have to the assessment, or to any individual assessment, and any difference adjudicated. As the total amount of the assessment must balance the exact cost of the work, it is evident that any reduction in one property's assessment will create a corresponding increase in some other property. The difficulty is to make the assessment with equal justice to all, for it is based upon the value of the improvement to each individual piece and parcel of land, and not, as in the case of a bond election for an improvement, upon the assessed valuation of the property.

#### Expert Knowledge Needed

It is here that a broad understanding of property values, a thorough understanding of each and every phase of the law governing such proceedings, and a degree of engineering skill, gained only by long and varied experience, can be appreciated, for the momentary cost of the improvement cannot be used as a basis for assessment. The economic value of the improvement alone must be the governing factor. In the case of boulevard paving, proximity of property to the boulevard must be considered; accessibility, means of ingress and egress, and the various factors affecting the property each have their value and must be considered.

In City Engineer Jessup Torrance is to be congratulated in having a man whose years of service in civil engineering has given him the qualifications outlined above.

We could not hope to hold exclusively to ourselves an engineer having professional interests in many California cities. He is at present city engineer of San Anselmo, near San Francisco, with offices in San Francisco, and has under way projects for the cities of Eureka, Crescent City, Corona, and other places. At Corona he has charge of a new lighting system, which is something we have to look forward to ourselves. Recently he has been requested by State Engineer MacClure to assist in completion of the water resource

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#### TWIST OFF P. GUERTIN DELAYS TEST

Operations at Shell's Kettler No. 2 Delayed by Fishing Job

#### FRANCIS IS MILE DEEP

Rumors of Heavy Pressure in Well Are Not Confirmed

Operations at the Shell Oil Company's deep test well—Kettler No. 2—were halted yesterday by a twist-off of the drill stem at 4932 feet. The crew is fishing for the bit. Last cores brought up from the hole showed no change in the formation, revealing only hard blue shale which held little oil.

Rumors that a heavy gas showing was encountered by the Chancellor-Midway Oil Company crew at Francis No. 1 on Western avenue north of Torrance were not substantiated by the company. Some oil showings were encountered in this wildcat slightly above 5173 feet, at which level water string was landed, but cores taken since cement was drilled through have revealed no strata of exciting importance, according to representatives of the company, qualified to speak. The bottom of the hole yesterday passed the one-mile mark at 5280 feet and the well is still being drilled ahead.

The Standard Oil Company has successfully plugged back Weston No. 1 in West Lomita to 4413 feet and the long-awaited production test will be made shortly. Standard's Ellinwood No. 1, in the southwestern extension is drilling ahead at 4375 feet, with no appreciable showings.

Use our Want Ads for results.

#### P. GUERTIN IS BOUND OVER

Superior Court to Try Case of Lomita Father-Eloper

#### BROTHER IS MESSENGER

Clarence Sharpe and Parents of Girl Testify at Hearing Here

Phil Guertin, 20-year-old Lomita father, who left his wife and five children to "elope" to San Francisco with 16-year-old Mary Sharpe, was bound over to Superior Court Friday afternoon by Justice of the Peace L. J. Hunter on charges of non-support and child-stealing.

The Lomita high school girl, with whom Guertin was taken into custody in a San Francisco rooming house, told the court, it is reported, that she went with Guertin willingly.

The public was barred from the hearing by Justice Hunter. Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Sharpe, parents of the young girl who went north with Guertin and Clarence, the girl's brother, testified at the hearing.

How Clarence, the girl's brother, acted as "love messenger," carrying notes between Guertin and Mary Sharpe prior to their departure for the north, was brought out at the hearing.

F. J. Campbell, previously arrested for asserted complicity in the "elopement," was vindicated at the hearing, it is reported. Guertin, unable to furnish the \$7500 bond set by Justice Hunter, was remanded to the county jail to await trial.

Mrs. S. N. Nourse of Park Terrace is entertaining her mother, Mrs. F. A. Fuller, of Los Angeles

#### Observations

Ballot on the Bible—Men Like Caterpillars—Our Movie Stars and Royalty—Ezra Meeker and Orville Wright

W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

CALIFORNIA voters have much to decide next November outside of the selection of electors for the office of President. They will receive a ballot which they will cast for or against the reading of the Bible in the public schools—a practice now prohibited by statute.

They must decide whether the state shall spend half a billion to go into the business of developing a vast system of public utilities. They must decide whether all taxes levied in California shall be assessed against land without regard for improvements—the single tax.

They must elect national, state and county representatives and judges. The Bible should be read in the schools—if not as a religious book, then most certainly as a literary masterpiece. It matters little what the motive as long as children in the schools are afforded the privilege of studying the Book—Old Testament and New.

Schools are dedicated to the development of the mind. That development is sadly neglected if it does not take into account a study of the Scriptures. No education is complete without a working knowledge of the two Testaments.

To embrace Scott and to pass by the Psalms! To read Caesar and neglect Moses! To scan Emerson and disregard Jesus! There need be nothing of sectarian interpretation in study of the Book in the schools.

If our teachers are unable to avoid offense while reading the Bible and interpreting its passages, then indeed there is something wrong with the discriminating power of our teachers and we had best revolutionize our schools.

JEAN HENRI FABRE, French naturalist, who sets forth his observations in delightful prose, tells of the Processionary caterpillar and his odd ways. These pine-leaf eaters start out at nightfall after their favorite food, following a leader, head to tail. As they proceed in their strange parade, each spins a thread of silk, so that a nice smooth pavement is constructed on which they return to their nest after the nocturnal feast.

Fabre could not resist the temptation to find out what the caterpillars would do if they ever got started in a circle so that there would be no real leader and no head nor rear to the parade. So he placed enough of the little crawlers on the broad top of a plant vase—enough to fill the circle.

For eight long days the caterpillars went round and round, stopping only to sleep or from sheer exhaustion. Occasionally, some one of the circle—a pioneer—went down the interior of the vase, but it was eight days before one ventured down the outside of the plant jar. Within a few hours all had followed this daring individual's sly lead to the floor and thence home to the nest.

We humans are like that. We go round and round—some of us all our lives—all of us most of our lives. Occasionally, some daring venturer among us leads us away from the deadly circle by a new thought, a new religion or a new invention. But unlike the caterpillars we seldom follow the thread spun by this pioneer. Yet we have reason to guide us, whereas the poor crawler has only the blind urge to follow the silken thread.

Human beings usually disgrace their trail blazers by branding as dangerous everything that is new. We keep on going round and round. We follow new paths only when the trail is easy and there are few hills.

We have not yet taken up the route traced by the marvelous silken threads of truth spun by the lowly Nazarene. We are still going round and round—little better than Fabre's Processionary crawlers.

ROYALTY has come to the movie stars. Doug and Mary and Charlie, the mighty triumvirate of the silver sheet, entertain grandees of the Madrid court. Descendants of proud Castilian lincs are guests of a former cowboy, a fair-haired girl unknown a few years ago and a slap-stick comedian with funny feet and big pants who got his start in the more humble of the London music halls.

Twenty years ago Doug or Charlie would have been thrown bodily out of any Spanish court function and Mary would have been laughingly snubbed by the proud Castilian matrons. But now come these aristocrats of an old European line to the very homes of Doug and Mary and Charlie.

The Spanish grandees will also be guests of a formerly obscure Chicago man who has risen to fame and fortune by selling nickel packages of chewing gum in huge quantities. Make millions laugh, sell something to the masses, do something by the wholesale and you may join the new American aristocracy, playing the host to courtiers of a degenerate king whose chief characteristics are an inherited crown, an imbecile's forehead and a dissolute life.

Our Dougs and Marys and Charlies, maybe even our chewing gum kings, ought to aim at something higher than this.

IF there is no deadlock Coolidge will be elected. So runs the conclusions of our political seers. It seems logical. In deciding how to cast their ballots voters must remember that prediction. If they don't want Davis or Bryan elected they had best vote for the President. For a ballot cast for La Follette is most certainly a ballot for the deadlock. We have said that before, but in a stressed political year like this, even the most obvious facts bear repeating in print and in the mind.

Republican leaders secretly fear that California may go into the La Follette column. The northern part of the state will return a big majority for the Wisconsin Senator, it is asserted. If California's electors are instructed for Coolidge, the Southland must roll up a large majority for the President.

SEVENTY-TWO years ago Ezra Meeker drove a covered wagon from Ohio to Oregon. Saturday he stepped out of an aeroplane at Dayton, Ohio, with Oakley Kelley, after having flown from Portland. Meeker is now 92 years old. He was greeted at Dayton by Orville Wright, co-inventor of the airplane.

Those two pioneers congratulated each other. To each congratulations were due. Meeker personifies the great westward movement of our doughty pioneers, the stout-hearted men and women who carried civilization into the wilderness. Wright dared to fly. Meeker has lived 72 years after his great act of pioneering. What would Wright see if he were on earth 72 years after he flew the first plane at Kitty Hawk? Probably as great changes as Meeker witnesses today—maybe greater.

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#### TRUSTEES TO HIRE EXPERT

Engineer Will Make Survey of Water Bearing Land in Area

#### "LOOK BEFORE LEAPING"

Board Votes To Secure All Facts Before Taking Action

The city of Torrance will engage an engineer to investigate the possibilities of water-bearing land near Torrance, so that if the citizens later decide to buy the distributing system of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, the city may be assured of its own water supply.

Trustee R. J. DeJinger last night made a motion that Chairman R. R. Smith consult with such an engineer who might investigate the possibilities of making water wells out of abandoned oil wells in the district and to investigate fully the possibilities of water-bearing land in this district.

The motion passed unanimously. In discussing the possible purchase of the distributing system Chairman Smith asserted that any request for a proposed bond issue for such a purpose should come from the Torrance civic organizations.

"We are five men," said Mr. Smith, "and we are interested entirely for the welfare of the city. Torrance has several alert civic organizations, whose definite recommendations we should receive before proposing a bond issue. We want to give the people what they want and the city what it needs."

It was with the thought of making a thorough and complete investigation of securing water from a source owned by the city that the trustees voted to engage an engineer to make the investigation.

#### P.-T. A. Meeting Will Be Held Wednesday

Committee Requests Members to Come to Gathering on Time

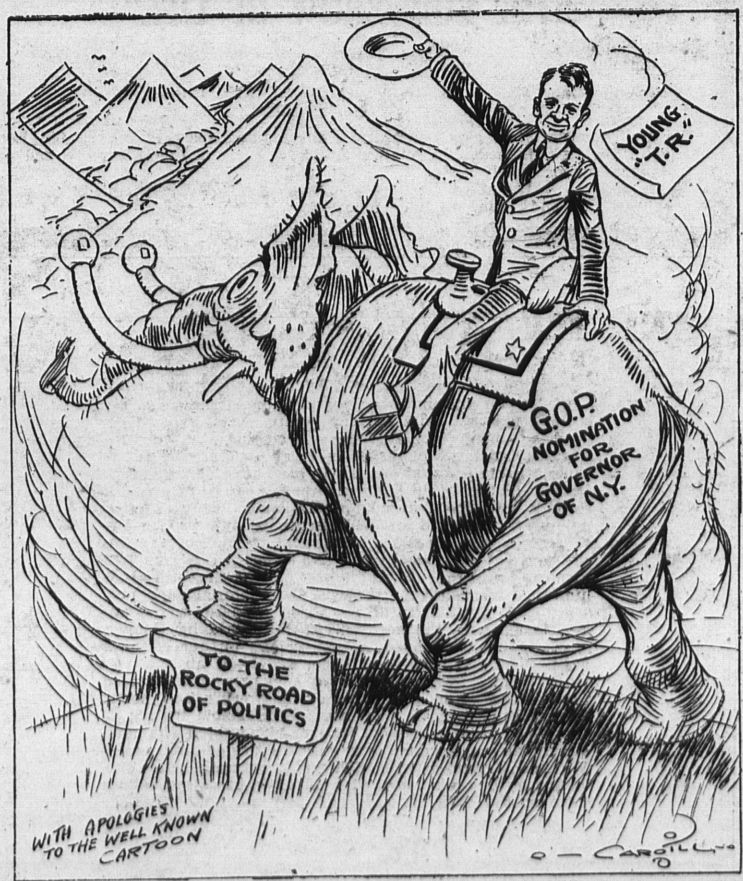
Regular P.-T. A. meeting will be held at the elementary school, room 9, Wednesday afternoon at 2:30. The committee desires to have all registered in the first ten minutes. As there were over 100 in attendance at the first meeting, it would be well for all to come early. Winning mothers of September have reserved seats. The prize awarded to the room having the best attendance at each regular meeting is a \$50 portable Victrola. This was made possible through the generosity of the teachers in paying half of the purchase price. The room receiving this prize the greatest number of times during the year retains it permanently. Miss Grace M. Burnham's room won the prize for September. The prize for room obtaining largest membership during the drive will be announced later. There will be a program by the children, greetings from Councilor Mrs. Gordon Groves of Lomita, and a 30-minute musical program by Karl Watts Gilbert and pupils.

#### Better Babies Day Oct. 31st; Register Now

Register early, at Reeve's hardware store, for the first Baby Day of the year, to be held at the high school, Friday, Oct. 31. This is the request of the committee. Honorable mention will be given the babies who made the greatest gain last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Avery left recently for Capue, Mich.

#### It's a Long, Long, Tortuous Trail, Teddy



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