The Torrance Herald

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PLANE DROP TEST SATURDAY

REFINERY TO START SOON

General Petroleum Officials Visit Torrance This Week

GROUND BREAKING SOON

Torrance People Asked to Participate in Ceremony

Officials of the General Petroleum Corporatioo stated yesterday that the ground breaking ceremonies for the new ten million dollar refinery on Western avenue in Torrance would take place the latter part of next week. The definite date will be announced later, they stated.

Teams and surveying crews have been busy this week leveling off the ground preparatory to beginning actual construction of the refinery buildings.

R. B. Atchison, advertising and publicity manager for the Southern California division of the General Petroleum, and Harry A. Shiannick, representing the N. W. Ayer Company, national advertising agency handling the General Petroleum business, were in Torrance this week and assured members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce that they highly appreciate the cordial co-operation extended to them in planning a public ground-breaking ceremony, and plans are now being made for a fitting celebration the latter part of next week, on the 1000-acre site.

The immediate program of building calls for construction of a new 30,000 barrel refinery and an addition of 1,200,000 barrels storage on the site. The expenditure will aggregate $2,050,000. The new refinery will consist of two distillation units. The additional storage will comprise nine new tanks, each with a capacity of 134,000 barrels.

The new refinery at Torrance will be in operation by April, it is anticipated.

Construction of the refinery is in line with the company's announced policy of building its huge ten million dollar plant by gradual stages. The company's great refinery at Vernon will eventually be replaced by the larger plant at Torrance. When the Torrance units are all in operation, over 3600 men will be employed.

Houck's Recall Looms Clinching Mac's Election

Aroused Culver City People Attack $106,000 "Overdraft" Under Mayor

Aroused by the sorry condition of their municipal finances as revealed by a recent audit, the people of Culver City Wednesday began circulation of a petition demanding the recall of the entire city council including Mayor Reve Houck, who is a candidate for supervisor from the Fourth district against Supervisor R. F. McClellan.

The petition now being signed by hundreds of citizens in Culver City brands the Houck administration as "incompetent and inefficient." Demanding that a recall election be held, the petition declares:

"A general statement of the grounds for which such a removal is sought is as follows: That the said Earl E. Bobier, Dave E. Clark, Daniel F. Coombs, Reve E. Houck and Harvey W. Kinkead have demonstrated their absolute inefficiency and incompetency to perform and discharge the duties of city councilmen; and have shown by an expenditure of $106,937.19 over and above the budget for the fiscal year endinging June 30, 1928 that they are absolutely incapable and incompetent of handling taxpayers' money."

While the recall move is entirely a Culver City affair, political observers throughout the county regarded it as the final blow to Houck's ambition that he be named as supervisor.

With Houck handicapped by the Culver City audit revelation plus the necessity of fighting against recall at home, observers freely predicted the election of Supervisor McClellan by an overwhelming majority.

Rev. Lingenfelter to Resign as Pastor of Christian Church

Rev. Ben H. Lingenfelter tendered his resignation as pastor of the First Christian church of Torrance at the morning services of the church last Sunday.

Mr. Lingenfelter stated that he would retire from the ministry and expected to engage in the poultry business, but he will remain as pastor of the Torrance church for sometime, possibly until after January 1.

CONVENTION

The 39th annual Sunday school convention for Southern California will be held at Santa Ana on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week. The convention is being sponsored by the Southern California Council of Religious Education.

New Chemical Plant Buys Factory Site

Five Acres on Normandie Avenue Brings $20,000

Negotiations were closed this week for the sale of five acres of industrial land adjacent to the George R. Curtiss Paving plant on Normandie avenue for the erection of a chemical plant.

The name of the chemical company could not be learned, but the deal was consummated through the offices of the Torrance Investment Company, and J. C. Smith of this company stated that the new chemical plant would employ about fifty men.

It is reported that the five acres sold for $20,000.

Noted Speakers Booked Here for Hoover Meeting

Miss Fitzhugh, Mrs. Hoover's Secretary and E. F. Trefz of Omaha Coming

Miss Anna Fitzhugh, private secretary to Mrs. Herbert C. Hoover and Edward F. Trefz of Omaha, Neb., former president of the United States Chamber of Commerce will be the principal speakers at the big Republican rally to be staged at the High School auditorium in Torrance on Friday night, Nov. 2.

Mr. Trefz is rated as one of the most eloquent and well-informed speakers for Hoover and Curtis now in the state. The Torrance committee is elated at having secured him to speak here.

Miss Fitzhugh is a sister of James M. Fitzhugh, Southern sales manager of the Columbia Steel Corporation, former mayor of Torrance and a pioneer of this city. Miss Fitzhugh is on leave of absence from the Hoover home and is associated with the Los Angeles County Republican committee during the presidential campaign. During her service as Mrs. Hoover's secretary she lived with the family in Washington and knows Mr. Hoover both as an official and as a private citizen. After the campaign Miss Fitzhugh will return to her duties as secretary to Mrs. Hoover—and confidently expects that her residence will be in the White House.

An automobile parade with plenty of red fire will precede the rally at the auditorium. In addition to the two speakers from Los Angeles Henry M. Carter, whose election as Senator from this district is assured will speak on the apportionment amendment.

Armistice Day Will Open Here with Big Parade

Judge Leonard Wilson to Make Address at Morning Meeting

Armistice day will begin officially in Torrance with a big parade in which many organizations will participate. Among these will be the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Navy Band, Gold Star Mothers, Boy Scouts, school children and Spanish American war veterans.

The parade will be around 8:30 in the morning in order that those desiring to spend the remainder of the day elsewhere may be free to do so.

Judge Leonard Wilson will be the speaker of the day.

Competitive drill will be held between members of the American Legion and the Auxiliary, the winners of this drill to be feted with a dinner by the losers.

Judges will be 3 prominent reserve officers.

NOTICE CANDIDATES

All candidates who expect to remain active in The Herald-News Big Free Gift offer must make a cash report Saturday night. The office will remain open until nine o'clock. After Saturday night there is just one week left in the first period, then comes the big vote decrease. November 5th marks the close of the first period.

Epochal Drop of Plane from 3500 Feet Attracts Country Wide Attention to Torrance and General Petroleum Site

Already, jump! Arrangements have been completed for the daredevil exhibition tests of dropping an aeroplane to the ground from an elevation of 3500 feet, supported by a gigantic parachute, this Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28, at 2 p. m.

Heard McClellan, designer of the big chute, and Lars Larson, pilot, will be in the plane in its spectacular drop, which will take place over the new $10,000,000 refinery site of the General Petroleum Corporation in Torrance.

This feat is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of people to Torrance from all over Southern California, as the Los Angeles newspapers are carrying stories of the exhibition, which if successful, will be a decided advancement in the development of aviation. Pacific Electric cars are carrying banners announcing the exhibition and railroad officials are offering special inducements to passengers who wish to come to Torrance to witness the test flights.

The importance of the event is also appreciated by the national news reel companies, and already Pathe News, Paramount, International and three other national news reel companies have made arrangements to take pictures of the exhibition. Some of these news reel companies as well as newspaper and General Petroleum Corporation photographers will be in planes above the parachute when it makes its 3500 foot drop.

The first test is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 27 at 2 p. m. If successful, other tests will be made on Sunday, October 28, Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, and Armistice Day, November 11.

Heard McClellan stated that following the parachute tests each day, there will be stunt flying and various other types of thrilling air acrobatics.

There is no admission charge to the exhibition, but a parking fee of 50 cents will be made to partially defray the expenses of the tests.

Automobile stickers, entitling the drivers of cars to preferred parking are on sale at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce offices, which organization is aiding Mr. McClellan in this unusual attraction.

Mr. McClellan stated that all designs and patent rights for this type of parachute, both to the big aeroplane chutes as well as the smaller individual chutes which are made with "bursting pockets," have been turned over to the federal government.

It is expected that many navy and army officers will observe the tests.

Mr. McClellan stated that all camera planes must register at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce offices and that all sight seeing ships would be required to remain at least 2000 feet above and outside the circle of the camera planes. Motorists can reach the field by driving north on Western avenue from the business district of Torrance.

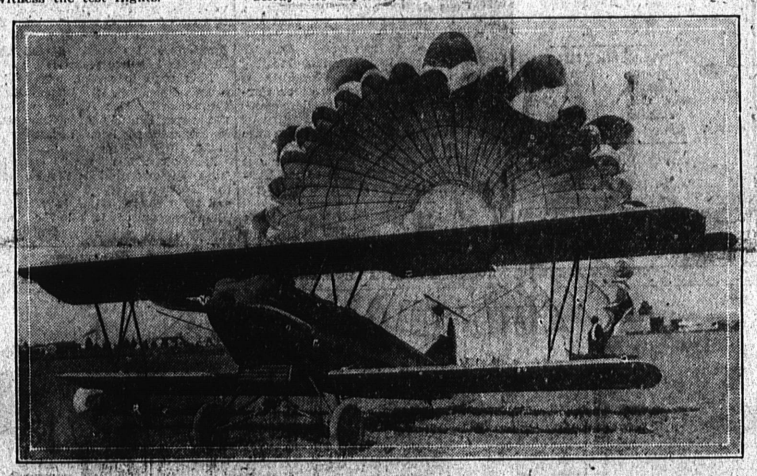

Photo by Eyre Powel Press Service

View of giant aeroplane parachute which will be tested in a 3500 foot drop over the General Petroleum Refinery site on Western avenue in Torrance, Saturday and Sunday. The mammoth chute measures 84 feet in diameter and contains 4455 square feet of cloth. The pictures also illustrates the "bursting pockets," which were designed by Heard McClellan, and which he claims greatly enhance the sustaining powers of the chute. The designer, Heard McClellan and his pilot, Lars Larson, will remain in the cockpit of the plane during the drop. It is planned to take the plane and the chute to an elevation of 3,500 feet, stall or idle the motor, and let the parachute support the dead weight of the plane and its occupants in their descent to the ground.

Talk About an Exciting Life—Just Peruse This!

Heard McClellan, the dare-devil parachute jumper who will test out his new parachute invention here next Saturday and Sunday afternoons when he will attempt to lower a plane by means of his giant parachute, has been a parachute jumper for 28 years.

A former protege of Ivy Baldwin, who made the first successful parachute jump here in 1888, when he jumped from a point near the plaza in Los Angeles and landed in San Gabriel Mission, McClellan has had an exciting and interesting career.

He has engaged in every type of aerial sport and aided in countless scientific investigations.

Recently he demonstrated how an air officer may nab a speeder by jumping from the wing of a plane and landing with drawn gun in front of the fugitive car.

McClellan has had many narrow escapes in his experience of chute jumping. Once in an exhibition jump at Ocean Park, he leaped from an altitude of 1,000 feet and his parachute failed to open. After trying frantically to open the chute and float to earth, McClellan gave it up and righted his body so he would fall feet first.

Miraculously he escaped with a cracked rib and having the breath knocked out of him for several minutes. This was in 1926 and his 1295th leap without serious injury.

Later he was knocked unconscious by attempting to make a leap from an altitude of 1000 feet.

McClellan is a member of the famous "Black Cat" club of Hollywood, where the membership is just 13. Many of these members are very well known, among them Reginald Denny, screen star.

These "Cats" have as a motto, "If a black cat can't do it—it can't be done." And these "cats" are all planning on dying of old age!

Democrats to Meet Friday in Torrance

Prominent Democrats of Torrance and Lomita have called a meeting to which the public are invited on Friday, October 26, at 8 p. m. at the American Recreation Hall on Carson street. The purpose of the meeting will be to perfect a local organization for getting the voters to the polls on November 6th.

Miss Helen Jackson will be the speaker at the meeting. Miss Jackson has been addressing gatherings for the National Democratic Committee in towns throughout the Pacific Coast.

The meeting will be called to order by Dr. Will McCreery of Wilmington, who is urging all voters, regardless of their political affiliations, to come to the meeting.

In addition to Miss Jackson, it is expected that there will be two other speakers who will address the meeting.

Agricultural Students Wins Prizes in Judging Contests at Riverside

Three blue ribbons, a red ribbon, a bronze medal and a beautiful silver and bronze cup were the trophies brought back from Riverside by the Torrance agricultural teams, who took part in judging contests at the Southern California fair.

Richard Stevens was awarded a gold medal for being most proficient in judging dairy cattle. He also received a gold medal for being the best judge of dairy products.

Other members of the team who placed in the contests were: Paul Sleppy, red ribbon in milk judging; Clyde Gandy, third in butter judging; Stanley Sach, third in milk judging; and a bronze medal for third in judging dairy cattle; Tom Anderson, first in sheep judging.

On account of the excellent showing made by the students, it is planned to send the team to the Pacific Slope Dairy show at Oakland on Nov. 23, where competition will be furnished by winning teams from Northern California. The winners at Oakland will be sent to the National Dairy show held in the east next fall.

S. E. Merrill, teacher of agriculture in the Torrance schools is president of the Associated Agriculture Clubs of Southern California and is reputed to be one of the best in his department. Under his direction Torrance students are contenders for honors wherever they compete.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, formerly residing at 1816 Andreo avenue, who have been visiting in the east have returned to Torrance. Mr. and Mrs. Smith made the trip by auto, and on the return trip were caught in the heavy snow storm near Denver when many autoists were marooned for hours.

Observations

Hoover Looks Like the Winner—The Religious Issue—It Shouldn't Be There, But It Is—a Frank Discussion of It

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

Editor's Note—This column next week will discuss the many amendments and propositions which will appear on the ballot Nov. 6.

THE trend seems to be definitely toward Hoover. Unless the very unexpected happens he will be elected president by a comfortable margin. Possibly I am wrong, but I can see it no other way.

That the secretary of commerce made votes in New York with his speech Monday night cannot be denied. It was the best speech he has made during the campaign. Mr. Hoover droned his addresses in firing monotones when he first addressed the microphone in the campaign. He has improved his enunciation and expression with each speech. In New York he was almost an orator.

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THAT is one thing we like about this remarkable man. He has always succeeded at every job he has tackled. Nominated for the presidency he, an unnatural speaker, had to learn to speak well. He has done it in a very short time. Of course Mr. Hoover has made speeches before he was nominated—but then it wasn't so essential that they "go over" well.

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BUT back again to that prediction on which we seem so willing to stake our future as a political dopester. It is an even bet that Hoover will carry New York. If he should the election is all over except the cheers of the electoral colleges, as someone has said. On the other hand even if Smith does carry New York and the solid South he still would have to win Massachusetts, Missouri and a few farm states in order to win. We doubt if he can do it, although we'll admit that Massachusetts and Missouri today are listed as doubtful. But the trend all over the country is toward Hoover.

Anyway we wish to add our word of approval for this year's result achieved by the movement for bigger and better campaigns. The one which now turns into the stretch has exceeded even the most optimistic expectations. It has sizzled and sparkled ever since Gov. Smith wired his wet stand to the Houston convention. William Allen White opened up with the first cannon and received a heavy volley in return. Then every bright light and every dim little lamp on both sides of the fence began to sputter and flicker. It has been a tremendously exciting series of events.

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WE feel the utmost pity for those poor souls who are so partisan that they cannot enjoy the political strategy of the opponent. They certainly miss a lot. Why I know several people who won't even allow the radio to be turned on when Smith or another Democrat is speaking. Did you ever hear anything like that in your life?

Why I wouldn't have missed the histrionics of our good friend Al for anything in the world. History—that's what this camapign has been. In years to come gray-haired old-timers will take their grandsons on their knees and tell in detail the story of the year of the big wind—the political campaign of 1928.

The old folks have often told me about the Cleveland-Blaine rumpus in 1884. Now I've got one to match them with.

* * * *

THE leaders on both sides have repeatedly urged that religion be kept out of the campaign. But their words have been of no avail. Whether we like it or not—and personally we most certainly do not—religion is one of the biggest issues in the whole campaign. Leaders do not make nor talk down issues. Issues live when they exist in the minds of the voters. And who is there to deny that millions of persons are going to vote against Smith because he is a Catholic. Who is there to deny that millions will vote for him for the seame reason? To deny the existence of the religious issue—even though you deplore it—is like denying that man evolved from a lower form of animal life.

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WHILE we do not always agree with the vitriolic journalist Mr. H. L. Mencken we commend to all and sundry his editorial in the current issue of the American Mercury.

Here Mr. Mencken points out that the greatest political force in the United States during the past few years has been the Protestant church and the Anti-Saloon league. Mr. Mencken is right in that. Mr. Mencken objects to such domination. As he sees the issue it lies between militant Protestantism and Catholicism.

He recalls the incident in New York when a Catholic bishop sent police to gag an exponent of birth control and draws the picture of Methodist bishops dictating to state legislatures and forcing anti-evolution laws in the South.

He doesn't know which type of domination he prefers and yearns for the opportunity to vote for a Moslem.

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YES, indeed, religion is still in politics despite the American injunction against the partnership of Church and State. To some the issue is of tremendous importance. On the one hand are those who plead for tolerance and against the idea that people should vote against a man on account of his religion. On the other are those who declare that the country must not delegate political power to Catholics on the ground that with a Catholic the religious oligarchy dictates political philosophy.

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BOTH sides are right and both sides are wrong. The Catholic church is no more in politics than the Methodist or Baptist. In this campaign it has taken no publicly revealed part.

One good thing has resulted from the religious issue. It has encouraged the press to talk about religion. The time was when the publication of even such a semi-frank editorial as this would be suicide for a public organ. Today a publisher may dare such opinion without fear of economic consequences.

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Concrete Pipe Company Buys More Land in Torrance; to Move Compton Plant Here

In order to make room for the removal of its Compton plant and the establishment of general offices in Torrance, the United Concrete Pipe and Tile Company this week purchased 15 acres on Normandie avenue and East Road adjacent to its present plant in Torrance.

At present the general offices of the company are located in the Chamber of Commerce building in Los Angeles, but as soon as an office building can be erected on the Torrance property of the company, the Los Angeles headquarters will be moved to Torrance. The brick and tile to be used in the construction of the new Torrance office building is now being made here.

The purchase of 15 acres adjoining their present plant, will enable the United Concrete Pipe and Tile Company to move its Compton plant to Torrance and thus centralize both their manufacturing and administration, and sales organizations in Torrance.

When the Compton plant is moved to Torrance, it is expected that another 150 men will be added to the local payroll.

The sale of the 15 additional acres in Torrance was made through the offices of the Torrance Investment Company at a reported consideration of $50,000.

PROTEST CUTTING TREES

City Council Hears Plaint of Taxpayers Against Removal

STREET WORK MENACED

Officials Justify Action on Ground of Economic Necessity

Action of the city officials in removing trees from the downtown district, to prepare for the installment of the new ornamental lighting of the new ornamental lighting system on the part of a certain number of citizens and taxpayers, who are convinced that the city has blundered in destroying a part of its natural beauty and ornament.

Although no quorum was present at the meeting of the city council on Tuesday evening, so that no official business could be transacted, Mayor Dennis gave an opportunity for those who are not in accord with the actions of the street department, to make known their opinions, by introducing Mrs. Jared Sidney Torrance, whose benevolent interest in the welfare of the community is well known.

Mrs. Torrance stated that she bitterly regretted the summary destruction of the trees which had cost so much in time, thought and labor to bring to their present stage of usefulness and beauty and said she believed that if the proper means had been employed the trees might have been saved and at the same time the work of installing the lighting system could have been completed without damage or excessive expense.

In defense of the procedure, City Engineer Leonard explained that because of the character of the trees which have a spreading root growth it has been necessary to remove the trees altogether in order to lay the conduit for the wiring necessary to the instalment of the ornamental lighting system. The roots of the trees which are planted in the three foot parking space between the sidewalk and curb have expanded to such proportion that in many instances the concrete curb has been broken, the sidewalk and even the street paving buckled up and broken under the tremendous pressure exerted by the growth. The suggestion that the roots could be tapped so that this growth need not interfere with curbs, paving or conduit pipes brought out the information that this particular type of tree has no central tap root, so that when the side spread of roots are cut the condition of the tree becomes dangerously topheavy. Wm. Gascoigne, superintendent of the street department stated that this experiment had been tried in connection with the removal of the trees and that as soon as the roots were cut back the tree fell and narrowly missed damaging an automobile which was parked alongside.

It is the contention of the city officials that inasmuch as the ornamental lighting system is costing the business men of the down town district about $3 a front foot it is to their interest to be permitted to get as much benefit as possible from the illumination and at the same time save their investment from confiscation as it was stated that unless the trees were removed, within four years the conduits containing the wiring system would have to be replaced.

Confronted as they were with this dilemma, the preservation of the trees, or the subsequent loss of efficiency in the illuminating system and loss of time and money in replacing broken and useless conduits, the city chose to remove the trees.

In justice to those who are earnestly concerned for the beauty of Torrance, it was brought out by Dr. G. A. R. Steiner at the Tuesday session that a movement is already on foot to plant trees wherever there is space for them in the districts surrounding the business district. The city officials also pointed out that trees are being removed from the business section only in those cases where the tree has been planted in the narrow space between sidewalk and curb and not where the trees stands in the parking between sidewalk and the property line.

As a matter of policy, in the past

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