

ASK \$164,000 IN COUNTY AID

County And City Postpone Action In Lomita Movements

KETTLERS
PROTEST
MOVEBoard of Supervisors Delay
Incorporation Hearing
for 30 DaysCOUNCIL ALSO WAITS
Table Annexing Petition as
Ranch Owners Object
to Joining

Action on the movement to incorporate Lomita and the counter move of northlanders to annex Torrance was delayed this week. The board of supervisors Monday postponed the hearing on the incorporation petition for 30 days. The city council of Torrance Tuesday night delayed action on the petition asking for an annexation election, but intimated that the matter would be disposed of next Tuesday night.

Large delegations of incorporators and their opponents were present at the meeting of the supervisors Monday morning. A petition signed by 400 was presented opposing the calling of an election. Charles M. Smith also filed with the board an affidavit from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett of Torrance showing that the annexation election petition was filed at the Torrance city hall on May 11. The incorporation election petition was filed with the county a day later.

This fact coupled with the failure of incorporators to attach a map with their petition, showing the exact area proposed for incorporation led the supervisors to postpone the hearing for 30 days. Residents of the north end immediately went to work to induce the Torrance council to take action Tuesday night setting the date for an annexation election. It is probable that this action would have been taken had not members of the Henry Kettler family protested against it. The Kettler ranch, comprising about 160 acres, is included in the area proposed for annexation and Henry Kettler told the council that his father and other members of the family are opposed to joining Torrance. They are likewise opposed to becoming part of a new incorporated city, he declared.

Just what action the council will take next week is uncertain.

May Permits in
Boost Over 1928

Permits issued during May totaled \$134,550.00. Permits during May 1928 were \$114,000.00. June permits issued so far are as follows: Fritts Manufacturing Company, 1739 21st street, \$500 addition to factory building; A. C. Boice, 2385 Hawthorne boulevard, \$2400 5 room stucco residence and \$150 garage; 2383 Hawthorne boulevard, \$2400 5 room stucco and \$150 garage; 2382 Hawthorne boulevard, \$2400 5 room stucco and \$150 garage.

COME ON FOLKS!

Come on you harmonica players.
The Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion is calling you.
During the Torrance Fiesta and Auto Show, Aug. 23 to 31 the Legion will give out some fine prizes to harmonica contest winners. Boys, girls, men and women are eligible. All ready many entrants have signed up and new entries are being received daily.
Children and adults who wish to enter may do so by mailing notice of their intentions to L. J. Deininger, Legion secretary.
Plans for the Fiesta are going forward steadily. The event this year will be held on the property opposite the city hall on Cravens avenue. *****

Observations

Chicago Racketeer, Retired, in Torrance Tells of His
Life as a Hooch Truck Driver—Ex-Machinist Makes
\$500 a Week in Illicit Traffic

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

IN Torrance now lives a reformed Chicago racketeer, retired. He tells little, spins less, has plenty of money. I'm sure he wouldn't talk frankly to me, so I did not ask him out, but he spoke at length of his experiences to a mutual acquaintance. I give it to you as my friend gave it to me. The former racketeer speaking:

"I'm working in a machine shop in Chi, gettin' along pretty good but always needing and wanting more money. One day a new bird comes to work at the machine next to me. He is a good sort of an egg and we gets pretty well acquainted. In a couple of weeks he asks me where I'm living. I tell him and he suggests we take an apartment together, so we does. Things goes along normal until one night after a hard day at the shop I'm growing about the job and suggests I'll quit and look for something else.

"HOW'd you like to make some easy money without workin' very hard? says this new pal of mine.
"Well, I ain't agin' a little easy money and tells him so.
"Kawo, says he, 'I'll fix it up.' And he does.
"He tips me what to do and I goes to the address he says and everything is all set. I lands as a truck driver for a big booze ring. I'm to make one trip a day with a truckload of hooch and I get 500 berries a week. So I grab the job.

"THE boss I hires out to tells me the rule. He says: 'Stay away from the women. You'll be watched and if you play the women we'll know it and that won't be healthy for you.
"Don't carry no gat. There'll be two guys on the truck seat with you and it'll be their business to protect you. They'll have plenty of artillery. Don't think it's funny if they don't talk to you. They're just there to protect you. If anything happens, you just sit tight. They'll do the rest."

"This egg tells me when to report and where. That night I'm kind of worried, but that 500 shacks a week looks big and I decide to play along.
"The next day I report. There is a truck all loaded and ready to take out. The starter assigns me to it, gives me the destination and I climb aboard. On the front seat beside me are two Wops. Each one has a couple of gats and a rifle. They hold the rifles on their laps. And they don't say a word to me. I gets in and shoves off and we hauls that load of hooch way across Chi easy.

"THIS goes on for weeks. Every Saturday night I gets my 500 berries and salts most of it away. Every day we make a trip and then Wops never says a word to me, not once. But they chatter to each other all the time in Italian. That's kind of funny, but I think of the pay and atoks.
"One day we are making through traffic and a big truck pulls in front of us and stops. About 20 guys pour out of the truck and covers us with gats. The Italians sticks 'em up and we're in the hands of the Feds.

"They haul us to headquarters and by the time I get there an attorney meets me. I find out later that the gang I drive for has spotters all along the route. When the truck passes a spotter he reports by telephone. If the call don't come pretty soon from the next spotter the gang headquarters knows something has happened. Well when our truck got stopped the gang knew it quick and had an attorney at police headquarters to meet us. This attorney lays out my bail money and tells me to report for work the next day as usual.

"I WAS worried, but the boss says not to mind it. He tells me that if I get a rap I'll be paid in full all while I'm in jail. In about three weeks I am notified to appear and the same attorney is there and the judge hears my plea of guilty and I take a 90 day rap. The attorney asks me where I bank and I tell him and when I gets out of jail the boss hands me duplicate deposit slips for full pay while I was in the big house.

"In jail I talked with a lot of gangsters and racketeers and they tells me the next time I get a rap it will be for a year. That don't sit so good and I worries some more, but just the same I goes back to the job and works along for a few weeks, all the time worrying. One day I tells the boss I'm going to quit.

"WHADAYUMBAN quit? he says, 'Listen boy, you can't quit. Didn't we pay you while you was the sheriff's guest?'
"Yes, says I, 'but the next time I'll draw a year.'
"Supposin' you do, he says, 'you'll get paid just the same—and besides it ain't healthy in this town for no guy like you to quit,' and he aquints at me knowingly.

"Well, that scares me worse than ever. You see I don't even know who I'm workin' for. There is a couple big gangs in Chi in the hooch racket and us guys don't even know which one we is lined up with. A lot of gangsters was being look for a ride and put on the spot and it kind of makes a guy fidgety when he don't even know what crowd he is hooked up with. For all he knows he's with some small outfit and may be due for a bump-off by hired hickers of the big boys.

"SO I keeps worrying and one day I decides to take out. I looks up the rattlers, buys a ticket, checks my luggage at the station and after delivering a truck of hooch, boards a taxi and just catches the choo-choo for Frisco.
"I'm still scared out here on the coast and writes back to my old machine partner and tells him I got on a drunk in Chi and when I shows up I'm in Frisco. I figures that if they is sore because I takes out that will explain it.

"Sure I'm goin' back. In a few months my face and name will be forgot and if I gets rapped as a hooch driver it will go as a first offense, see? I'll just go back and hire out and everything will be okay.
"Sure—I'm healed. I didn't play around much in Chi and saved up about 15 grand, and I've got most of it left.
"Prohibition? Sure, it's a swell law."

GLADIOLUS
SHOW ON
MONDAYTorrance District Garden
Club Event at Legion
Clubhouse

MANY PRIZES OFFERED

Noted Expert Will Be Here
to Judge
Exhibits

In response to the widespread interest among gardeners of our community in gladiolus the Garden Club has arranged a meeting devoted entirely to that flower. There will be a display of gladiolus grown by club members on Monday night, June 10, at Legion Hall. Mr. Carl Salbach of Berkeley will speak on all phases of gladiolus culture and judge the flowers entered for competition and assign the ribbons to the different classes.

C. B. Bell, who secured Mr. Salbach for this event, considers that it is very fortunate that a speaker of the ability and experience of Mr. Salbach could be secured. In his gardens in Berkeley Mr. Salbach has originated many fine varieties of gladiolus and dahlias. Notable among his gladiolus introductions are Betty Nuthall, Helen Willa, Scarlet Bedder, Frank M. Shick, Osain, Nancy Hanks, and Salbach's Prim. Most of these have won the coveted Certificate of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society of England. Probably the best known of his dahlias introductions are his Salbach's White and Mrs. Carl Salbach. Mr. Salbach is a director of the California Gladiolus Society as well as of the American Gladiolus Society and will act as chairman of judges at the exhibition of the California Society in Los Angeles next week.

The public is urged to take advantage of this opportunity to hear such a noted authority on such a popular subject and to enjoy looking at the many beautiful gladiolus that will be displayed. The rooms will be open to exhibitors at 8:00 p. m. and the public will be admitted at 7:00 o'clock at which time all flowers should be in place. Shortly after 8:00 o'clock the meeting will be called to order and turned over to Mr. Salbach.

The following schedule of classes has been arranged by Chairman of Exhibits L. E. Brown, and prize ribbons will be awarded the best in each class:
12 spikes of large flowered varieties. Must be of one color but may be of different shades.
12 spikes of primulinus and large flowered varieties, may be mixed colors.
12 spikes of primulinus varieties only, must be of one color but may be of one or more shades.
One spike any red, dark red or scarlet large flowered variety.
One spike any lavender or purple large flowered variety.
One spike any salmon, rose or pink large flowered variety.
One spike any white, flesh, cream or buff large flowered variety.
One spike any orange or yellow large flowered variety.
One spike any other color large flowered variety.
Three spikes one variety large flowered type.
Three spikes one variety, primulinus type.
One spike any red, or orange primulinus variety.
One spike any salmon, rose or pink primulinus variety.
One spike any white or yellow primulinus variety.
One spike any flesh, cream or lavender primulinus variety.
Most flowers open on one spike. Largest single flower in the show. First and second prize ribbons will be awarded in each class with the exception of classes 16 and 17, first prize only being awarded to them.

White Motor Gypsies

Find Torrance Tough

Auto Camp Hoboes, New American Type, Find Only Lean
Pickings in This District; Experience Tempers
Generosity With Wisdom

Motor gypsies, leeching their living from gullible charity are, finding lean pickings in the Torrance district. For Torrance charities, particularly the Torrance Relief Society, has learned from experience that most members of the new American race of automobile nomads are little better than worthless, shiftless parasites, who drive from community to community, stop at auto camps and prey upon the generosity of the American people for housing, groceries and enough gasoline money to send them along their wandering way.

Not long ago the Torrance edict was called to an auto camp east of Torrance in answer to a plea for aid for a family which presented a sorrowful picture to neighbors of the camp. A committee from Torrance answered the call.

They were greeted by a father whose long hair hung to his shoulders, a mother of gaunt and hungry appearance and two extremely dirty children.

Inexperienced members of the committee were for opening their purses as wide as their hearts, so struck were they with the pitiful poverty of the group.

Older members, who previously had become painfully aware of the existence of motor beggars were less impulsive in their conclusions, but for the sake of the children determined to locate the family in cleaner quarters. The man was given money for a hair-cut. The family was moved to another cleaner camp, their rent paid for a month and their larder supplied with groceries. The man was given several leads as to where he might find work.

Two days later the man appeared at the house of a committee member. His hair had been cut all right, but only half cut, and the committee member concluded that he had ordered it only partially sheared so that he might plead the necessity of a trim at his next stop and thus pick up a little loose change.

The man was angry. In sharp sentences he informed the committee member that he had sought a job at a Torrance concern and that he had waited two hours for the boss to show up. He made it plain that nobody could keep him waiting that long, job or no job.

The committee members informed him that there were many men in the district who would be willing to wait all day if they could find work. He cooled off somewhat then.

After the family had been in their new quarters two weeks the mother visited the committee member with a request for enough money to buy gasoline.
"Oh, no," said the committee member, "we never provide funds for gasoline."
"But couldn't you let us have enough for just a couple of gallons?" pleaded the woman.

"Not even for a pint," said the committee member, "and besides why do you need gasoline?"
"Oh, we are going away," said the woman. "We're all packed up."
"But your rent is paid for two more weeks," said the committee member.

"Well, we don't like it here and we're going to leave," said the woman.

The next day it was discovered that the woman had wheeled gasoline money out of a kind-hearted Torrance lady, whose generosity was exceeded by her knowledge of the ways of the new race of American motor nomads.

And a week later another Torrance woman was surprised to learn that the auto camp utility service which she had given to a family which she had been given a dwelling had not been paid for.

So the Torrance Relief Society is anxious that people of Torrance be cautious in extending charity to unknowns.

Said a member of the organization: "Tramps are steadily disappearing from the railroad tracks. The hobo who once beat upon our doors for a handout now is married, has a few children and with them an old wife is touring the country in an old Ford, living off the various communities at which they stop. Towns and cities along the trans-continental highways are wise to this new race of white gypsies. As a result the nomads are making for communities off the beaten track. And Torrance has been getting her share.

"But we are getting wise fast. We know that by extending too much charity to these shifting families we will advertise ourselves in all the auto camps of the country as 'soft pickings.' So we have to steel ourselves against overgenerosity.

"These motor gypsies are charity wise. They always present a pitiful picture, for they are American picket-bookers. Their children are invariably dirty, and few Americans can refuse aid to an unfortunate child.

"Falling to work' one community the auto wanderers beg enough money for a little gasoline to get them to the next community—and by the law of percentages they manage to locate enough gullible and generous souls to keep them alive.

"Civilization centuries ago practically put an end to nomads in Europe. The same civilization, progressed even further, has created new nomads in the United States. They constitute a new social problem.

"But Torrance charities are not going to try to solve it by blind charity doled out to motoring beggars."

SEPULVEDA
PROJECT
LOOMSLeonard Prepares Requests
for Money for Arlington
and Cedar, Too

WILL PAVE NORMANDIE

Figueroa Work Ordered and
El Prado Cutoff Petitions
Are Planned

City Engineer Frank Leonard is preparing resolutions to be passed by the council asking for county aid in three Torrance road improvements to the extent of \$164,035. The sum of \$130,270 will be requested as the county's share in the cost of paving Sepulveda (the old Redondo road) from Redondo Beach to Western avenue and improving the Western street and Hawthorne avenue branches of the Sepulveda project. The other two requests will be for \$14,365 for the Arlington avenue improvement and for \$19,400 for the Cedar avenue paving. These two projects will link Torrance to the General Petroleum refinery site.

The amount of all three requests is based on estimated costs, the county being asked to pay for 50 percent of the grading and 40 percent of the paving costs.

The resolutions will be presented to the council next Tuesday night so that they may be presented to the supervisors while county officials are preparing their annual budget.

The county has already agreed formally to pay \$15,000 toward the cost of the Sepulveda project in Redondo Beach. Redondo officials expect to begin proceedings this year. The county will improve the highway from Western avenue to Main street and it is already improved from Main street to Long Beach.

The Sepulveda project will eventually connect the San Fernando Valley with Long Beach, providing a time and distance saving cutoff for coastal traffic.

The right of way will be 100 feet wide, 40 feet being paved originally. Trees will be planted along the entire route. Three other highway projects of importance to this district are taking form. Normandie avenue is scheduled for widening and improvement from Los Angeles to Harbor City.

The city of Los Angeles recently denied protests against the improvement of Figueroa street from 120th to 190th street and the work was ordered.

To connect with Normandie, Vermont and Figueroa petitions will soon be circulated for the diagonal extension of El Prado in Torrance to the intersection of 190th and Figueroa streets. Such a cutoff would provide Torrance with a new main outlet to all the greatest north-south arteries in the county.

Gopher Snakes in
Flight from Fire
Two grass fires called out the fire truck the first of the week. Sunday the truck was called to Normandie and 22nd street where a grass fire had spread to some discarded telephone poles and threatened to be a real blaze.

Monday afternoon at 2:10 a rapidly burning grass fire on Redondo boulevard near Cedar avenue took the attention of the volunteers, who had it under control in short order. A feature of this blaze was the escape of large numbers of gopher snakes who sped from their holes in large numbers and fled before the flames.

City Will Buy 3
Trucks and Cycle
The city council Tuesday night instructed City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to advertise for bids for a Chevrolet truck and a Ford truck for the street department and for a new motorcycle for the police department.

