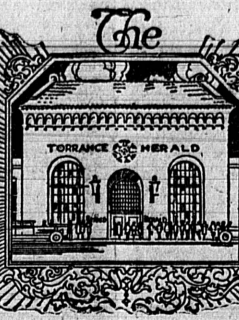


Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

Torrance

and LOMITA NEWS



Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

Two
Sections
14 Pages
This Issue

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TENTH BIRTHDAY OF CITY REVEALS EARLY HISTORY OF ITS INDUSTRIAL LIFE

There are but two dates of primary importance to Torrance. One was last Tuesday, May 12. The other, October 24. The first is the date of the incorporation of the city and the second, the time when Torrance was founded. The space between these dates is but nine years.

But before these dates were possible there were other dates—other eras—other times. In presenting a brief history of the city it would be well to look back into these dates and times, to get a perspective of how Torrance, whose tenth city birthday was observed May 12, came into existence.

Early Town Located
Torrance is a parcel of the original Rancho San Pedro, which contained 43,119 acres, one of the tremendously big Spanish grants made by the Spanish king who believed the limit of population which Southern California could ever carry was represented in the boundaries, four Pueblon (San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo) and the comparatively few Ranchos.

The grant was made to Juan Jose Dominguez of an illustrious family quite different from the average Spanish family living in California in the early days. Let it be further said that the Dominguez heirs have each in succession adapted themselves to every change and kept a large part of their rancho intact to the present day.

New San Pedro—now known as Wilmington—founded by Phineas Banning, who purchased 2400 acres in this Rancho in 1854 with several associates for nearly \$10 an acre, was the first town to be located in this grant. San Pedro was already in existence. Then Comptonville, now Compton, originally planned as a temperance colony, was platted. Redondo Beach, laid out in 1888, followed. Between these distant points have been laid out the communities of Torrance, Lomita, Gardena and Moneta.

That's the earliest history of this district.
Idea Behind City
Torrance was founded October 24, 1912, when Jared Sidney Torrance, then president of the Dominguez Land Company, made certain statements to the directors of Los Angeles regarding the restriction and sale in small parcels of a certain piece of property to be known as the City of Torrance.

Before that time, December, 1911, to be exact, the foundation of Torrance as an industrial city had been laid when the Union Tool Works completed buildings on 25 acres of land here. The original city limits included 3494 acres of land. Today Torrance has 11,780 acres, or 18.4 square miles, and is the third largest city in the county—Los Angeles and Pasadena only exceeding it in size. On May 26 an annexation election will be held in the northern part of Lomita to decide whether or not 560 acres more will be added to the incorporated area of the city.

If this latest annexation carries, Torrance will become the second (Continued on Page 1-B)

Early Photos Too Late for Today's Birthday Edition

It is with regret that the Herald is unable to publish a number of early photographs and data of vital historical interest to the city that were collected by Carroll S. Ashley. The material was "dug up" too late for inclusion in today's City Birthday Edition.

Ashley has what is probably the best collection of early pictures in the city. He also has a copy of Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Torrance News, the first newspaper in the city. This was published October 11, 1913. There are many stories of interest in this edition of the News which the Herald will review in an early issue.

You will find the complete story of Torrance on the first page of the second section of today's Herald.

CO. CENTER IS ASSURED THIS WEEK

Definite and positive assurance was given Mayor John Dennis this week by a battery of county officials that the 1931-32 county budget, to be adopted July 1, will include ample funds for the construction of the Torrance Health and Welfare Center not later than this fall.

Those who declared that Torrance would see the erection of the Spanish type buildings at the wooded site located on Carson street and Plaza del Amo sometime this fall were Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer; H. A. Payne, county auditor, and Supervisors Quinn and Thatcher. They also told the mayor, who has worked hard and long on the project, that the Center would include adequate and permanent quarters for the Lomita township justice court.

The site for the Center is being purchased out of Chamber of Commerce funds. The county buildings were crowded out of the budget last year due to an economy program, but as the county health department has consistently favored Torrance because the health and welfare department is in urgent need of larger quarters in this district, the structures are positively assured Torrance this year.

"THE WHY OF A PARK"

In view of the civic interest being taken in the proposition to be submitted the people of Torrance, June 9, regarding a decision on a bond issue that will create a Torrance Municipal Park and several children's playgrounds, the Herald is presenting the first of a series of authoritative articles on "The Why of a Park."

The material for this series was obtained from two books recently published as result of a nationwide survey of municipal parks conducted with the Playground and Recreation Association of America in cooperation with the American Institute of Park Executives. City Councilman Carlton B. Bell obtained these books from the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission and permitted the Herald to study them.

The first article, printed below, explains why municipal parks are necessary and their contribution to creative recreation. Others in this series will follow on "A Park's Relation to Beauty and Art, Music and Drama"; "Parks Increase Neighborhoodness"; and "The Contribution of Parks to Happiness—Parks and Recreational Areas Increase Property Values."

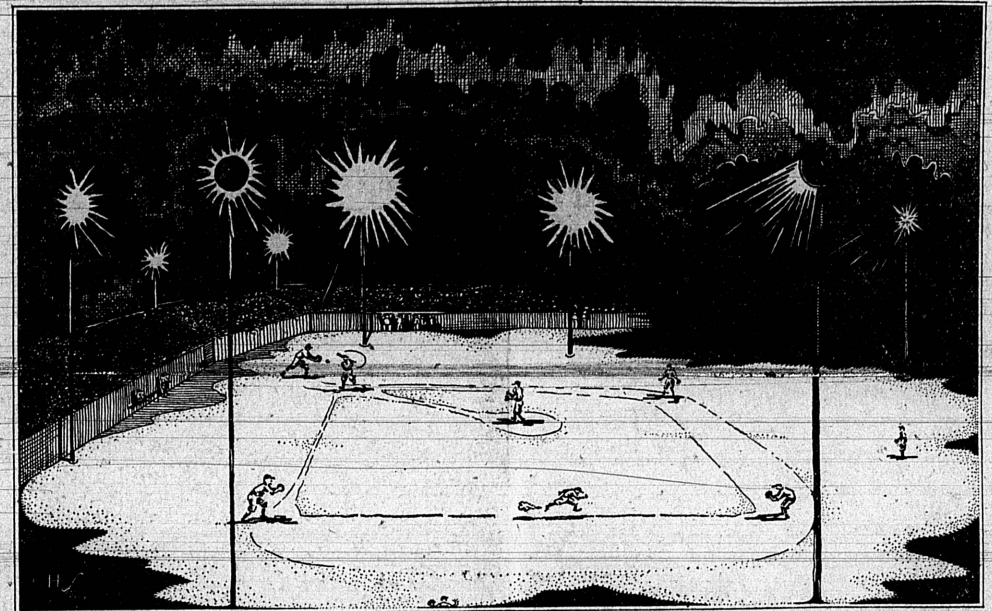
"Man is essentially an outdoor animal. So far as our knowledge of his origin goes he has always been found, until comparatively recent times (approximately seven thousand years), in an open country environment. That primitive man worshipped the sun is not strange when it is considered how vital to every form of life, including man, all other forms of worship included in the nature

cut which defied the air, earth, water and the stars and moon are equally explicable because of the life-giving and perpetuating powers of these natural elements whose fundamental importance seems to have been deeply understood by primitive man.

"In no period of the history of the world has city building been undertaken on such a grand scale as in America during the past half century. It is necessary, then, in considering the importance of parks to stress some of the disadvantages of city environment as contrasted with open country environment, which have made parks, with the open country atmosphere they create, so vital to the maintenance of wholesome conditions.

"In making the change from the open country type of life and civilization in which the great majority of people had lived for nearly eight generations after the first settlement of the United States, to urban conditions, many desirable things were no doubt gained. At the same time the people who gave up life in the country in response to the call of industry and commerce bartered away many things representing (Continued on Page 3-B)

NIGHT BALL ASSURED AT PARK



Night baseball, a sport that has captured the hearts of sports lovers in Southern California, will become an important community event here this fall providing the people of Torrance appreciate the value of a municipal park. Here is Herbert Summers' conception of a moment in a city league game played at the illuminated diamond which will be a part of the general park plan for the Torrance recreational center. Giant flood arc lights turn the field into a brilliant playground in the evening... thus permitting residents of Torrance many additional hours of play. Bonds for a Torrance Municipal Park and several children's playgrounds, to be located in various portions of the city for the youngsters' use only, will be voted on here June 9.

Four thousand pairs of eyes center on a brilliantly lighted field... nine players on their toes... 12 or 15 more watch one man swinging two bats... dark masses of trees shadow the background... an umpire stands up after dusting off the plate... more spectators hurry into the bleachers... their cars parked in a reserved section. "Play ba-a-ll!"

—And the first game of the City League season is on at the new illuminated baseball diamond in the new Torrance Municipal Park!

On a field made "bright-as-day" Torrance teams organized for a season of city-wide evening baseball will start their struggle for the championship of the community next fall if the park-playgrounds bond issue carries June 9.

Baseball Men Elated
Night baseball has become one of the outstanding sports in Southern California. There is no illuminated field here now. And there are at least a dozen potential teams in Torrance which would like to hold a city league race!

Every city which has a playground equipped for night sports reports capacity crowds of fans—men, women and children who enjoy the fast, thrilling and community-building games played under giant arc lights.

Would the managers of Torrance baseball teams like to have an illuminated baseball diamond here? Just ask Ed Tansey, L. C. Burger, of the Columbia Steel; D. A. Murphy, of the National Supply; Coach Earl Fields, of the High school; G. W. Morris, president of the Torrance Men's Bible class; Wilbur H. "Scotty" Bromer, who has been running the Saturday afternoon games at the High school field.

Eager to Start Play
They are enthusiastic over the inclusion of an illuminated baseball diamond in the sketch of the proposed city park plan as published by the Herald last week. They believe a series of night games will do a great deal toward furnishing clean, wholesome entertainment for the people of Torrance and vicinity.

The Chamber of Commerce agreed this week to create an arc-lighted field on Cabrillo avenue for this summer. The lighting equipment will be donated to the city park and moved to a permanent location on the park diamond when the recreational center is authorized.

Herbert Summers, of the city (Continued on Page 3-A)

Council to Aid Cupid

More Benches Ordered
for El Prado Park

The age-old art of love-making received official sanction and encouragement this week by the Torrance City Council. Eight more rustic benches were ordered for El Prado Park.

Although the use these benches will be put to evenings was fully recognized by the city body, they were also credited with being an ornament and attraction to the park during daylight hours.

Councilman Ed Nelson queried Councilman G. A. R. Steiner, who fostered the additional benches: "Are they used during the daytime or only at night by our young people?"

—And Steiner replied: "Of course they do full duty evenings but I've seen a number of mothers and their children enjoying the park from the benches during the daytime, too."

**Rev. Young May
Leave City Soon**

Expects Call to Larger Field
in June

Rev. R. A. Young, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church here for the past four years, announced this week that he was contemplating leaving this city late next month for a larger church field.

"I have been told that my services are being sought for by several other churches in larger cities and although I have heard nothing officially concerning a change in ministries, I believe that the opportunities offered me will become definite the latter part of June," he said this week.

The ministerial board of the Methodist-Episcopal church is expected to announce Rev. Young's new field about June 28, it was learned. The pastor has made a large number of friends and acquaintances here during his term. He has built up the church, Sunday school and Brotherhood until they take high place among the other Southern California Methodist fields.

Driver of Death Car Is Held For Manslaughter

Lloyd Fortin Is Accused of
Fatal Accident to
Lomita Boy

Immediately after the coroner's inquest here yesterday morning, Lloyd S. Fortin, 20, of 820 Portola avenue, was arraigned before Justice of the Peace John Dennis and charged with manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid in connection with the death early Saturday night of Kendall Mucklow, 14-year-old son of Alfred Mucklow, of 2923 Acacia street, Lomita.

Fortin was positively identified as the driver of the death car, which deputy sheriffs claim hit the boy while he was riding his bicycle on Narbonne avenue about 7 o'clock Saturday night, by Mrs. Anna Dietzel, beauty operator, who lives at 2500 Pine street, Lomita. Fortin, who said he was an inspector in the galvanizing department of the Columbia Steel plant here, is being held at the county jail in default of \$10,000 bail. He refused to testify at the inquest on the advice of his attorney.

His preliminary hearing was set for Friday, May 21, at 10 a. m., in the Lomita justice court. He is represented by Attorney C. S. Davis of Los Angeles.

Officers Find Car

Funeral services were held at Stone and Myers' chapel yesterday afternoon for the child-victim with Rev. R. A. Young officiating. The body was sent to San Rafael for interment beside the boy's mother, who died four years ago. Ten sisters, three brothers and the father are survivors.

Fortin was held on suspicion of driving the Dodge coupe which is asserted to have struck the boy when the car was discovered parked in front of his home by Officers Ashton and Schumacher early Monday morning. Deputy Sheriff Frank B. Gompert, on examination a few hours later, found bits of green paint, bloodstains, and marks on Fortin's car. The paint, according to investigators, is the same as that on Kendall's bicycle. The right front headlight was broken and out of adjustment and pieces of glass which Mike Mucklow, brother of the victim, found at the scene of the accident, match up with the lens on the car, according to Deputy District Attorney (Continued on Page 6-A)

PARK-PLAYGROUNDS BOND VOTE JUNE 9 ENDORSED

Council Calls Consolidated Election; Five
Polling Places; Free-holders Will be
Named to Draft Charter

With the adoption of Ordinance 219 by the City Council at an adjourned meeting Monday night, a special consolidated election has been officially called for June 9. The people of Torrance will be asked to give decisions on the \$150,000 park-playgrounds bond issue and the selection of a board of 15 freeholders who will draft a city charter.

"Double-Fisted" Smoker Revealed

Torrance's only "double-fisted" smoker stood revealed Monday night when City Attorney Perry G. Briney was observed using both a pipe and cigarette while he read an ordinance to the council.

Both the pipe and cigarette were going full blast and Briney exhibited unusual dexterity in handling them while reading at the same time. When his feat was called to his attention, the attorney declared he did not know he had the two smokes going at once.

The ordinance was passed by a unanimous vote with Councilman R. R. Smith absent. The complete text of the measure will be found in another section of today's Herald.

Chamber Endorses Bonds

At their meeting Monday afternoon, the directors of the Chamber of Commerce unanimously endorsed the park-playgrounds bond issue, asserting that the project was one of particular benefit to Torrance at the present time.

They stressed the fact that many local men would be given work constructing the park and children's playgrounds which would provide much-needed recreational centers for the residents. At the same time, the directors voted \$500 for an educational campaign to acquaint the electors with the issue in all its details. A committee, composed of Earl Conner, Frank Steinhilber and Grover C. Whyte was appointed to plan this public information broadcast.

Where to Vote
Five polling places have been established for this election, the various precincts in the city being consolidated to form five precincts. They are:

LARGER SITE NEEDED FOR NEW SCHOOL

Negotiations between the Los Angeles Board of Education and property owners adjacent to the Fern Avenue school site are under way with a view toward enlarging the school property where a new \$84,000 building is to be constructed this fall.

This information was given the Herald this week by W. E. Record, business manager for the Board of Education, in a report on the progress of the building program for Torrance.

"We have found it necessary to obtain more ground for the new building and its playgrounds," Record said, "and have been trying to arrive at an equitable figure for purchase with the property owners. There is some difficulty in this part of the proceedings as evidently the owners haven't yet heard of the lower real estate values."

Record said that the plans for the new school, a 12-unit building, comprising an administrative unit, kindergarten and nine class rooms, are now being drawn by H. E. Gogarty, architect for the Board of Education. These plans will be completed between July 10-15 and then any recognized contractor may obtain a set of the plans and specifications for bidding.

Construction is expected to start the latter part of August, as it takes 30 days to advertise for bids after the school bonds, recently voted, are sold.

Mrs. Erickson Not Guilty Of Poison-Murder

Jury Acquits Lomita Woman
Last Night; Carlson
Rites Tuesday

Mrs. Anna Erickson came home to Lomita last night a free woman privileged to pick up the thread of her life's happiness from where it had been crimsoned three months ago with the suspicion that Mrs. Esther Carlson, now deceased, had contributed to the death of August Lindstrom, aged Lomita resident.

A jury of seven women and five men declared Mrs. Erickson not guilty of the asserted poison-murder of Lindstrom in a verdict returned shortly after 9 o'clock last night. The case had been given to the jurors late in the afternoon. Mrs. Erickson collapsed as she heard the verdict that freed her of possible penalty for the death of the 81-year-old man, but she was quickly revived as many friends and relatives crowded around her. There was no other demonstration in the courtroom.

Mrs. Carlson Buried
So ends a sensational case that resulted in the arrest of the two women, the death of one that authorities tried to identify as a (Continued on Page 3-A)

Consolidated Precinct "A", which includes regular city precincts 2, 3 and 7, will have as polling place, 2275 Torrance (Redondo) boulevard. Officials are Walter C. Bradford, 1226 Acacia, judge; Mary N. Harder, 1510 Engracia, inspector; and Ila M. Gilbert, 2567 Sonoma, and Cleora B. Stanker, clerks.

Consolidated Precinct "B", including precincts 3, 4, 5 and 6, polling place city fire hall, 1515 Crayvens avenue. Milton L. May, 1538 Marcellina, judge; Persia K. Fess, 1729 Arlington, inspector; and Ann M. Greiner, 803 Portland, and Florence N. Gramling, 908 Cota, clerks.

Consolidated Precinct "C", including precincts 9, 10 and 11—polling place, American Legion club-house, 2252 Carson street, in McDonald tract, 1605 Greenwood, judge; Clemma Watson, 1915 Andros, inspector; and Edith Lessing, 2009 Arlington, and Mary J. Babcock, 2010 Gramerey, clerks.

Consolidated Precinct "D", located in Watteria, and including all of Torrance precinct No. 12, polling place, store building, 243 Walnut street, Watteria. Charles H. Quandt, inspector; Margaret Felker, inspector; and Ida Buckingham and Ann M. Light, clerks.

Consolidated Precinct "E", comprising the McDonald Tract, Moneta precincts 2 and 4 and Lomita precinct 5 as far as they lie in the city limits of Torrance, polling place, 13205 Prairie avenue, in McDonald Tract, Hugo S. Goner, judge; Mrs. Alice Elliott, inspector; and Catherine A. Nieker-Sonora and Mrs. Myraell Roth, clerks.

Abalone Shell Bill Is Doomed

John Salm, president, and W. P. Walker, manager of the Salm Manufacturing Company, were highly elated over a telegram received this morning from Carl Hyde, Chamber of Commerce secretary, who reported from Sacramento that the abalone shell bill apparently is doomed to defeat. The measure threatened the unique Southern California industry which has catered here, because it would have ended the exportation of raw abalone shells out of the state to be manufactured in other parts of the country and world.

Hyde's telegram to Walker follows: "Abalone shell bill tabled in Senate committee Wednesday afternoon. Possibility of withdrawal to Senate floor but highly improbable. Committee session was bitter and hectic but righteousness came out on top. This has been long since and I am indeed grateful for what seems certain victory now."