Consolidated Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

Only Newspaper
Published In Torrance

Over 60,000 People Live
Within 5-Mile Radius

Two
Sections
10 Pages
This Issue

Torrance Herald
and LOMITA NEWS

SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 34 TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1931 5c PER COPY

CHAMBER TO RETURN $5000 OF FUND TO CITY TO KEEP MUNICIPAL TAX RATE DOWN

Five thousand dollars of the estimated $24,000 fund to be raised this year from the ten-cent Chamber of Commerce levy will be returned to the City Council toward lowering the municipal tax rate. This was the informal agreement reached Tuesday evening after a five-hour session between Chamber of Commerce directors and members of the City Council. Four out of five councilmen verbally agreed to allot the Chamber of Commerce $19,000 during the coming year to carry on its promotional work.

A tentative budget for the coming year was submitted by President DeKalb Spurlin and Secretary Carl L. Hyde. It was gone over in minute detail by members of the two boards, and while no official action was taken on its adoption, Chamber directors indicated that the tentative budget would be adopted at an early meeting. Important items in the coming year's budget include: secretary's salary, $3600; assistant secretary's salary, $1500; rent, $900; other office expenses, affiliated organization dues and miscellaneous expenses, $2295; tax research which includes the copying of county and city tax figures for the convenience of city property owners, $250; salary of city hostess, $900; advertising, publicity and literature, $3000; electric highway signs, $300; industrial promotion, $2000; civic promotion, $2745; commercial promotion, $1800; employment bureau, $50; Mother's Educational Center, $180; sports and recreation, $300; and furniture and fixtures, $100.

Spurlin for Promotion

Last year the Torrance Chamber of Commerce spent $24,775.53, according to Secretary Hyde's report, $4050 of which went toward the purchase of the 3-acre triangular site for the proposed county health center at the corner of Carson street and Plaza del Amo.

"The Torrance Chamber of Commerce has money enough to do a lot of good, providing the fund is not used as a grab-box by every other organization in town," said President Spurlin in commenting on the budget. Continuing, Spurlin stressed the fact that he thought it was all right to donate private funds to help people but it was no way to conduct a Chamber of Commerce. "This Chamber is primarily a promotional body, designed to bring new industries and new residents to Torrance, but if you are going to promote baseball teams and other such enterprises, you will have no money left to bring people to this city," the Chamber president declared. "Torrance is a beautiful city and it has many advantages. The same things that make you satisfied to live here will bring others here. It is time to get into action and promote certain lines of industry and activities that will show a profit on the money expended."

"I believe we are all mindful that the general conditions prevailing today challenge every fibre in our characters that is conservative. However, I hope that our conservatism may be tempered with the peculiar fact that the Chamber of Commerce is a promotional and exploitive creature, and that of all times when it should be functioning to a maximum of its possibilities is during such times as those now around us, when many of the channels of regular commerce, industry and business find necessity for retrenchment."

Promotion Fund Raised

A comparison of the Chamber budget with the expenditures made last year shows a marked increase in promotional funds. The outside advertising appropriation for the coming year is $3000 in contrast to an actual expenditure last year of $173.99. Likewise the budget fund for industrial promotion is $2000 next year, compared with an actual expenditure last year of $547.92. Commercial promotion is raised from $1650 to $1800.

Items Cut Out

Among the items eliminated from the budget this year are: non-resident campaign education, annexation promotion, industrial exhibits, and exposition booths.

Reduced expenditures were authorized for the following activities: electric highway signs from $624.29 to $300 and civic promotion from $4704.86 to $2745. Under this heading comes such items as: flower show, musical programs, entertainments and conventions, civic and commercial luncheons and dinners, Boy Scout activities, American Legion activities, Christmas programs, bond election education, etc. The educational promotion fund was reduced from $1717.55 to $100. Last year $46.80 was spent for high school football team blankets, $170.50 for medical services for school athletes, and $1498.50 to the Torrance Military Academy.

'Lou' Deininger Chosen Leader of Legion Post

Thaxter and Cull Will Be Vice Commanders During 1931 - 1932

A member of the American Legion for eight years and actively affiliated with Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, for the past six years, Louis J. Deininger was honored by his comrades here Tuesday night when he was elected post commander, succeeding Earl Conner. Other candidates for the office were Jack Gill and Tom Bowker.

Clinton E. Thaxter was elected first vice commander and Harry Cull, second vice commander. Other officers chosen were Robert Deininger, re-elected finance officer; W. A. Wilkes, chaplain; Fred Tiffany, historian; Harvey Darling, sergeant-at-arms, and James Forrest, service officer. The executive committee for 1931-32 will be composed of N. F. Jamieson, Charles Myers and Earl Conner.

After the election of new officers, the post discussed the coming activities of the drum and bugle corps. A pre-view showing of the organization with all the members in their new dress uniforms will be held in Torrance before the state Legion convention at Long Beach the last of this month. The Torrance corps will also participate in the opening parade of La Fiesta de Los Angeles, September 4.

The new officers will not be installed until after the Long Beach convention, it was decided Tuesday night. The commander-elect is employed at the local postoffice.

Teachers' Residence Proposal Now Under Study By Committee

Without discussion of the proposal, the Board of Education referred the resolution of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, that all teachers and school employes here reside in Torrance during their term of employment in local schools, to its teachers and school committee late last week.

The West Los Angeles Civic League has also made a general request that teachers and school staff members become residents of the community in which they work. The local chamber's resolution asked the Board of Education to follow the example of the Los Angeles city government in making it mandatory that all employees be residents of the city.

No time was set for the teachers and school committee's report back to the school board, but it is expected that early action will be taken in view of the re-opening of school here August 31.

Must Register By Aug. 19 to Vote

If you have moved since you last registered, or if you have not registered at all and want to vote on the Metropolitan Water District bond issue, September 29, you have until midnight, August 19, to qualify as a voter in Torrance.

Mrs. Laura G. Anderson, a deputy registrar of voters here, gave this information to the Herald this week. Mrs. Anderson said she will make every attempt to assist citizens to become bona fide electors between now and the August 19 "deadline," but those who particularly want to vote should either call at her residence, 1510 Engracia avenue, or phone her, 330-W, and leave their names and addresses so that she may call at their homes before the registration period expires.

"Only those who have registered since January 1, 1930, will be entitled to vote at the election," Registrar of Voters Kerr states. "If one has moved since registering he must re-register from his new address, stating that he has moved, before he is eligible to vote."

Election laws in California specify that to be qualified to vote at any election one must be registered at least 40 days, be a citizen of the United States 90 days, a resident of the state one year, of the county 90 days.

12,373 ACRES NOW WITHIN CITY LIMITS

Suspected Auditor's Error Cleared Up as Area Is Compiled

As result of a flurry of excitement at the city hall this week when the assessed valuation statements of the city were received from the county auditor, a check up was made as to the actual area of the present city of Torrance. The auditor's report only credited Torrance with 6991 acres, of which but 197 acres were accounted for in the North Lomita tract recently annexed.

City Engineer Leonard immediately checked up on the size of the community and reported that Torrance has 12,373.35 acres now within its boundary lines and that the North Lomita annexation brought 593.35 acres within the municipal fold. This amounts to 19.33 square miles.

The difference between Leonard's figures and those of the county auditor was explained by the county engineers' office which stated that the 6991 acres reported for Torrance was the area as yet unsubdivided.

BABY JANET LUCILLE JOINS "FAMILY" OF THE HERALD

A new member of the Herald "family" arrived early Tuesday morning when Baby Janet Lucille Lewellen greeted the world at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Lewellen, of 1307 Madrid avenue, are the proud parents. Lewellen is foreman of the Herald composing room. Mrs. Lewellen is making a fine recovery and Janet Lucille's 10 pounds are being added to daily. The Lewellens have a son, Bobbie, age seven.

Factory May Move to Torrance

Road Equipment Firm Impressed With Offer by Chamber; Pacific Perforating Plant on Border Considered

A decision is expected today or tomorrow on whether or not Torrance gets another manufacturing plant. Officials of the Morton Manufacturing Company, builders of road equipment, such as scrapers, graders and spreaders, have been inspecting the building and machinery of the Pacific Perforating Company, off Border avenue, with a view toward moving their present plant at Chino to Torrance.

Because of the exceptionally high standard of the company, (it eliminated all competition in competitive tryouts of their machinery in yardage volume moved for unit power expended at the International Road Machinery Exposition held recently at Compton) the Chamber of Commerce has made every effort to locate the company in Torrance.

Plant Must Move

The Morton Compny has two possible locations in mind, the Torrance site and one at Hollydale. The latter community has made the manufacturing firm, which now employs 20 men and has a yearly payroll of $80,000, a very attractive offer. Owners of the Pacific Perforating building and machinery here wanted a larger rental than Hollydale proposed but because of the value of the community, the Chamber of Commerce here offered to pay the difference, or $75, in the monthly rental, for one year. This will amount to about $900, or approximately one per cent of the Morton Company's annual payroll. Chambers directors believe that, because all employes will reside in Torrance, this amounts to a $100 return for every dollar's assistance given the company.

The present Morton plant at Chino is too small to accommodate the many orders the company received as result of its exhibition at Compton, Chamber leaders assert. The company has been operating for the past seven years and is not being promoted to any degree, it was learned.

Only One Obstacle

Two pieces of their equipment are being used daily by the Owl Trucking Company which is under contract to construct Skyline Drive in the Palos Verdes Estates.

(Continued on Page 5-A)

Wild? Look at This One

BONE L.A.
UNITED PRESS

The Real Thing in wild horses, not the synthetic variety, is being rounded up for La Fiesta de Los Angeles, as a wild west part of the city's 150th celebration, September 4 to 13. The four-footed piece of action shown above is a dyed-in-the-wool wild bronc from the Carrison plains, 80 miles west of Bakersfield. More than 100 of these untamed desert horses will be ridden during the fiesta.

Legion Vets Impressive In 0-0, 14-Inning Battle Last Night

Fourteen innings of scoreless ball—and then the game was brought to a halt.

That was the result of the initial appearance of the Torrance Legion indoor team on the local field last night. The Vets battled the Associated Sales nine from Long Beach through five extra innings and finally the game was called a draw.

But what-a-game! It was undoubtedly the fastest, sweetest and cleanest encounter ever seen at the new illuminated ball park at Border and Carson. "Spud" Murphy's Legion team made a splendid appearance and the Vets should draw much larger crowds in future games on the basis of their premier appearence. Those Associated Salesmen are no mean ball-players, either, and a return game must be played between the two squads before the Legion ends its play here.

Pitcher's Battle Clear Through

Not a single error was marked up against the Vets and only one against the Salesmen. Both outfields and infields worked smoothly and kept the game tight every minute.

It was a pitcher's battle all the way through, with the Vets' hurler, Lionel Brown, having a slight edge over Jimmy Brown, the Associated Sales moundsman in the strike-out column. Torrance Brown sent down 27 Vets during his 14 innings, allowing but one hit; Jimmy Brown whiffed out 17 men and he allowed eight hits.

The Vets' next game, to be played Wednesday, August 19, against the noted Long Beach Acorns, should pull a capacity audience. Murphy's outfit certainly clicked like a stellar team last night and they should appear equally as good against the Acorns next week.

Of "Believe-it-or-Not" Fame

While several Vets reached third, only to die on that spot with the third out, not a single Salesman touched second during the long overtime game. In the 11th, a score by Gilhousen, center fielder for the Vets, was imminent, but he was left on third, as the final out was tallied against a Vet batter.

Besides pitching a fine game, Lionel Brown made two really sensational catches in the fifth that robbed the Salesmen of possible base hits. Incidentally, this Vet pitcher is the fellow who was credited by "Believe-it-or-Not" Ripley with 26 strikeouts in a 6 to 3 hard-ball game last year—and only 27 men faced him during the encounter! Ripley's explanation of how this happened has escaped the writer's memory—maybe, Lionel will explain it to us one of these days and we'll pass it on.

Team Not Being Paid

"Spud" Murphy, after the game, discredited reports that he has

(Continued on Page 6-A)

Ball Park Debt Matter Aired In Session Tueday

Chamber Refuses to Take Over Field; Lights At School Sought

Although the directors of the Chamber of Commerce at their joint meeting with the city council Tuesday night took no action in regard to the proposal made by Earl Conner that the chamber take over the remaining indebtedness incurred by five prominent citizens when the illuminated ball park was constructed, they did pass a resolution instructing the Educational committee to interview the Board of Education with a view toward getting lighting equipment installed at the High school field and to use that location for night sports.

No commitment was made as to whether or not the chamber favored the moving of the present lights to the High school field or whether the Board of Education will be asked to install new equipment. The Educational committee is to work out those details of the matter with the school authorities and report back to the directors at an early date.

Park Held City Asset

Conner told the directors that Paul Vonderahe, George Probert, Ed Tansey, G. L. Morris and himself had taken the responsibility of constructing the grandstand at the field, Border and Carson streets, and incurred a debt of approximately $500. Of this sum, about $200 has been paid off from the receipts taken in at the night ball games. But the remaining $300, he said, would be hard to get as the season is nearing its close. The five citizens, Conner said, asked the chamber to take over this balance and turn the management of the park over to a chamber committee.

President DeKalb Spurlin said that when the chamber was asked to install the lights on the field that it was definitely understood that that appropriation was all that the chamber would be asked for in connection with the establishment of the field. All directors present agreed that the illuminated

(Continued on Page 6-A)

Ray of Hope for John W. Taxpayer

With all these reports concerning a prospective rise in the municipal tax rate, the struggle now going on in the Board of Supervisors chambers to bear down on the county budget and keep the county tax rate somewhere near last year's figure—there's one bright and shining ray of encouragement to John W. Taxpayer.

And that is the decision made Monday by the directors of the Metropolitan Sewer District No. 5 of which Torrance is a part, to reduce the sewer tax three cents for 1931-32!

Mayor John Dennis, who is a director on the Sewer board of control, reported that last year's tax of 23 cents per $100 assessed valuaton had definitely been dropped to 20 cents for this fiscal year. The motion to reduce the rate was made by Mayor Dennis in opposition to the recommendation of county engineers for the higher rate.

SWING VISITS PLANTS HERE NEXT THURS.

Will Speak at Open Rotary Club Meeting at 12 o'clock

All preparations for Congressman Phil Swing's scheduled visit to Torrance, next Thursday, August 20, will be completed at a meeting of the reception committee, composed of Mayor John Dennis, W. Rufus Page and George Fay, the first of next week.

According to tentative plans, Congressman Swing will arrive here Thursday morning and will visit several industrial plants. At noon he will be guest of honor and principal speaker at the Rotary club luncheon. Swing has announced his topic as "Better Times for California." An invitation was extended this week by the Rotary club to all residents of the city to attend the luncheon at the Legion clubhouse and hear the distinguished visitor.

In the afternoon, Swing will resume his tour of inspection at more manufacturing plants here. The congressman desires information on future power requirements of industries in Southern California and data on how they can best be aided in expanding. He has announced a policy of stressing the industrial advantages of the Southland during the remainder of his term in Congress.

Probation Hearing For Fortin Today

A hearing which will decide whether or not Lloyd Fortin, 20-year-old Torrance steel worker, must serve prison sentences for the death of a 14-year-old Lomita boy or if he will be given probation is being held in a Los Angeles courtroom today.

Fortin was convicted on circumstantial evidence of killing Kendal Mucklow on the night of May 9 when his car struck the Lomita youngster who was riding his bicycle on Narbonne avenue. The Torrance young man, who resided with his parents at 820 Portola avenue, applied for probation immediately after the jury brought in a verdict of guilty on two charges—manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid.

New Speed Law Effective Friday

State Arteries to Get New and Uniform Markers in all Residential and Business Districts

New and uniform signs designating the state speed limits on roads, in residential and business districts through which state arteries pass, have been approved by the highway department. These markers, paid for by the state and erected and maintained by the California State Automobile Association and the Automobile Club of Southern California, are to be in place by August 14, the date the new speed laws go into effect.

Black figures on a white background will be used to designate the forty-five mile per hour legal speed limit on highways. They will be 30 inches by 24 inches in dimension and will be erected for the present only on main arterial routes over which the state has jurisdiction. While not reflectorized, they will be placed close enough to the lane of travel so that they might be picked up at night by auto lights and serve as a constant reminder that the Highway Patrol will strictly enforce the new law, as announced by Chief E. Raymond Cato.

To Post Districts

Mandatory signs, made so by the recent new legislative act, will be set up at the entrance to residential and business districts to the right of the road looking toward the section into which the auto is driving. Those in residential zones will be twenty-four inches by thirty, white figures on a black background.

The first of these signs as the autoist enters a restricted district will be reflectorized.

An innovation which will meet approval of the autoing public will be the posting at the end of a restricted zone of a sign informing the driver that he has now passed through the 25-mile limit area. In the business district through which a state highway passes, a similar sign notifying the autoist he is in a 20-mile zone will be erected.

LOWER VALUATION MEANS TAX JUMP CERTAIN; CITY IS ASSESSED AT $24,088,160

That there will be an increase in municipal taxes here was assured this week when City Clerk A. H. Bartlett received the city valuation statements from the county auditor's office and members of the city council outlined their proposed budgets for 1931-32 at a joint meeting of the council and directors of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night.

Torrance's assessed valuation for 1931-32 is officially set at $24,088,160 or $1,799,515 less than last year's valuation.

Council Talks Budget

This reduction comes even after the newly-annexed territory of North Lomita, comprising 593.35 acres, is included in the Torrance valuation statements. It had been expected by many citizens here that the new territory would bring approximately a million dollars in valuation. According to the county auditor, the recently annexed area is valued at $570,915.

With the valuation now before the council, study of the coming year's budget became more intense this week. At the joint council-chamber meeting Tuesday evening, Mayor John Dennis produced his conception of the municipal cost sheet. Dennis' budget totalled about $165,000. Councilman G. A. R. Steiner declared his version of the budget amounted to $168,000 and Councilman Ed Nelson announced his was about the same. Councilmen R. R. Smith and Carleton B. Bell have formulated no budget but are expected to endorse the mayor's cost sheet.

Tax Rate May Be 68c

If Dennis' budget or one that is similar in its total amount, or approximately $165,000, is approved by the council, the tax rate for the city would be about 65 cents per $100 assessed valuation, it is calculated. This tax is arrived at by taking into consideration the revenues that the city could expect from fines, license fees, permits, interest on deposits, etc.

While a 68-cent municipal tax rate is a 12-cent increase over last year's city tax of 56 cents, it must be remembered, councilmen point out, that there are three large items of expense which are unavoidable and yet which have received the endorsement of citizens here. These are the payment of about $17,000 to join the Metropolitan Water District the necessary appropriation of approximately $5000 for attorney's fees in defense of the $400,000 water bond issue voted last September; and the cost of the beautification of Torrance boulevard, a project which has received city-wide attention.

These unexpected items of expense should show a reason for the increase, the council believes. But this increase will be somewhat set off by the lower assessed valuation placed on individual property owners' holdings in Torrance.

Low Valuation Benefit

An increase in taxes will be somewhat set off by the lower assessed valuation placed on individual property owners' holdings in Torrance.

The city council must read the budget ordinance setting forth the 1931-32 municipal operating costs at the next regular meeting, which will be held Tuesday evening, August 18. Then the council will undoubtedly adjourn to August 25 when the budget will be read for the second time and passed. The budget and tax rate must be in the hands of the county counsel before September 1, as the Board of Supervisors starts on that date to inspect the various municipal cost sheets and tax levies.

Last year, with a tax rate of 56 cents per $100 assessed valuation, it was estimated that on a total valuation of $25,887,575, the city would realize $111,316. Actually $109,613.69 was the tax revenue received by the city government from the county. To this was added the sum derived from fines, license fees, permits, interest, etc., which made a grand total in revenue of $123,775.25.

Council's Big Job

Although the city budget for 1930-31 amounted to $136,554 or $12,778 more than the expected revenues, this difference was composed of a balance of $7854 carried over from the previous 12-month administration and $5559 which was uncollectable from the county. This latter sum was practically offset by the tax redemptions collected for the city.

This year the city will have to meet approximately $60,000 in overdrafts for which warrants are being drawn at the present time to meet current expenses. No action, other than private conferences between councilmen, has yet been taken in regard to the 1931-32 budget, indicating that the

(Continued on Page 5-A)

North Lomita Addition Said Unprofitable

Tax Revenue Will Be 'Way Short of Covering Fixed Expense

When you consider bed rock figures—as the city council is doing these days while "rasslin'" with tax rates, budgets and valuations, the recent annexation of North Lomita was a poor piece of finance, according to Mayor John Dennis.

"Why, it will cost $100 more than that district will bring in taxes to merely maintain the street lights and hydrants for 1931-32," the mayor declared yesterday.

In addition to this $100 "deficit" the city will incur in maintaining the new addition in lights and hydrants, there will be other expenses, such as police, fire, garbage collection and street work that will have to be met. No estimate has been made as to what the total expense will be. The North Lomita district was assessed at $570,915.

Harbor District Meeting Today

Long Beach Host to Group of C. of C. Delegates

James Collins, port manager of the city of Long Beach, will be the principal speaker this evening at the regular monthly dinner-meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce at the Breakers Hotel, Long Beach. Collins will discuss "Harbor Development," an important subject to this district. The meeting will be held in the Cocoanut Grove room of the hotel. Arrangements for entertainment were completed yesterday by the host of the evening, the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Preceeding the dinner session, the regional Industrial and Highways Committees will convene at 4 p. m. The general delegate session will be held in the conference rooms of the hotel. Progress reports and several initiative matters of importance are expected for this session and all delegates are urged to be present. John H. Chamness, president of the Long Beach chamber, will give the address-of-welcome. A number of Torrance citizens are planning to attend all three meetings today.

DISTURBER ARRESTED

Because he created a disturbance near the new ball park, C. V. Roberts, alias Charles Finney, 31-year-old Los Angeles laborer, was arrested by local officers on charge of possession of liquor last night. He will have his hearing tday.