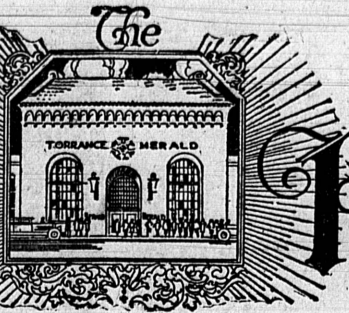


Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS



Two  
Sections  
12 Pages  
This Issue

SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 38

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1931

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## CITY HAS SHARE IN SPANISH TRADITION; IS IN OLD RANCHO

As the attention of thousands of Angelenos is being attracted to the founding of their city, El Cuidado de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles de Porciuncula, 150 years ago Harbor District residents also should remember that this territory had root in the Spanish-Mexican-California tradition that is the basis of La Fiesta de Los Angeles.

What Don Felipe de Neve, founder of Los Angeles, is to that great city, so should Juan Jose Dominguez be to the entire South Bay district. For Juan Jose Dominguez was the founder of Rancho San Pedro, whose far-flung boundaries held 43,119 acres within their confines, the site now of Torrance, Wilmington, San Pedro, Compton, Gardena, Moneta and Redondo Beach.

A Spanish King's Gift  
George Hand, chief engineer for the Dominguez Water Company, reminded Torrance residents last week of the history of this great section of Los Angeles County. He paid particular tribute to the illustrious Dominguez family who were the first settlers here. Hand also described the site of Torrance and its afternoon sand and dust storms that swept across barren plains unhindered by trees, buildings or vegetation.

The grant of Rancho San Pedro, made to Juan Jose Dominguez of a fine family quite different from the average Spanish family living in California in its early days, was made by a Spanish king who believed the limit of population which Southern California could ever care for was represented in the ten Missions and four Pueblos. These were San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

Still Belongs to Family  
Of the old Californian romance, under the Spanish and Mexican regime, a romance that lives to this day is the late Don Manuel Dominguez, nephew of Juan Jose Don Manuel's surviving daughter, Mrs. John F. Francis, still owns a large portion of the magnificent domain which at one time was the royal grant to the family.

It is interesting to note that there are no direct male survivors of the Dominguez clan, daughters and their husbands still holding intact large portions of the Harbor district.

The late Don Manuel was born in San Diego in 1803. His father, Don Christobal Dominguez, was an officer under the Spanish government, and a brother of Juan Jose who received from the king of Spain a concession of ten and a half leagues of land. At the death of Juan Jose in 1822, Governor Palo de Sola gave his rancho to Christobal Dominguez, who passed it to Manuel and the latter made it his home until his death.

Land at \$10 An Acre  
In 1827 Don Manuel married Dona Maria Engracia Cota, daughter of Don Guillermo Cota, a commissioner under the Mexican government. To their marriage were born eight daughters and two sons. Many of the responsible positions of trust in the early history of Los Angeles county were held by Manuel Dominguez. In 1828 he was elected a member of the Ayuntamiento (city council) of Los Angeles. After serving in various public offices he attended the First Constitutional Convention and in 1854 was made a supervisor of the county.

In December, 1854, the Dominguez heirs sold 2,400 acres at the harbor to Phineas Banning, and associates for \$20,000, or nearly \$10 an acre, and on this and adjoining land, Banning founded the town of Wilmington—originally called New San Pedro.

During the Civil War Phineas Banning and B. D. Wilson, in a burst of patriotic enthusiasm, donated a large parcel of land in their new town to the United States government for Drum Barracks, and as such it served a useful and vital purpose, not only as a supply station and barracks, but, as well, to hold down anti-Union sentiment. It was easy to donate the land but it took eight years and a special act of Congress for Banning and Wilson to get the land back after the close of the war.

## Writing Expert Warns Business Men On Papers

J. Clark Sellers Speaks On Safeguards At Kiwanis Meet Tuesday

Advising all business men to keep their blank checks always in the safe or out of sight and never to sign checks in advance of when they are issued, J. Clark Sellers, noted hand-writing expert of Los Angeles and second vice president of the Los Angeles Kiwanis club, addressed members of the Torrance Kiwanis club Tuesday night.

Sellers also urged every man to make out his will and place that "most important document in a man's life" in a place of security. A duplicate will is also advisable and this can be left with the attorney who draws the original, the speaker said.

Illustrating his talk with numerous interesting cases in which he had lent his services as an examiner of documents, Sellers pointed out the reasons for always signing documents, such as notes, deeds, and wills, as close to the end of the written or typed matter as possible. This should be done, he said, to prevent anyone from clipping off the signature and writing in material above it.

Stock certificates should never be signed by the holder, Sellers declared, as there is too much chance that the papers could be fraudulently converted into cash by a person or persons not the legal owner. If stocks are given as security, a power of attorney should be affixed to them in that eventuality, the holder could convert them under certain well-defined conditions. This also eliminates signing stocks in blank for a period of time until they are returned, he said. Sellers was the guest of Dr. O. E. Foss, who acted as chairman of the meeting.

## NIGHT SCHOOL STARTS MON.

27 Subjects Will Be Taught Without Tuition Fees; Many Opportunities to Learn New Trades

Next Monday evening, September 14, the 1931-32 term of the Torrance Evening High school opens. An early enrollment by local people who desire to study or learn any of the 27 subjects offered from 7 to 9 p. m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, is desired.

No day pupils will be enrolled without the consent of their parents, of their day school principal and of Guy L. Mowry, principal of the Evening High school. This is a new rule, adopted so that adult students may have the best advantage of the courses.

Foreign residents who desire to become citizens of the United States are especially urged to attend the citizenship class conducted every Thursday night by Mrs. Young, or the Americanization class to be held Mondays and Wednesdays by Mrs. Rollins at the Pueblo.

Persons who wish to study a new line of work or to broaden their education should attend the coming session of the Evening High school because now is an excellent opportunity to learn," Mowry said Tuesday. "This also applies to men and women who are out of work, as no tuition is charged and they will have a chance to take up some new line of work, such as commercial subjects, dressmaking and design, or shorthand and typing."

## No More Holidays Until Thanksgiving

After a five and one-half hour day during which time school children had an opportunity to attend the major La Fiesta parade in Los Angeles, school reopened at the regular hour in all four buildings this morning. There will be no further holidays until November 25 when the schools will close that afternoon to observe the Thanksgiving two-day vacation.

## Boys' Band Wins Quinn's Thanks

Group Attends Celebration At Big Pines

Twenty-six boys, members of the Torrance Boys' Band, three fathers, and Coach Earl Fields, enjoyed spending last week-end as guests of the Big Pines Recreation camp where the boys entertained with concert during the "Early California Celebration" held at that resort.

While on parade and in concert, the large felt banner purchased for the band by the Chamber of Commerce recently, was displayed at all times. The banner is inscribed: "Torrance Boys' Band, Torrance, Calif." Supervisor John R. Quinn personally thanked the boys for attending the celebration and asked them to carry back to Mayor John Dennis and the people of Torrance his appreciation and the comment that they should be proud of the band.

The boys returned direct to Long Beach for a combined program with the Southern California Girls' band, both organizations under the direction of Bandmaster Ralph Selby.

## Boy Falls Off Truck And Fractures Skull

When Bobbie Starkey, 10 years old, of 2632 East Chestnut street, South Torrance, fell from the rear of a service truck owned by the Narbonne Ranch Water Company, No. 3, Tuesday afternoon, he suffered a fractured skull, according to attending physicians.

Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital.

B. J. Gannon, 2761 Cherry street, Lomita, did not know the boy had jumped aboard the truck until the youngster fell. The accident occurred on Edelman avenue between Cherry and Chestnut streets.

## SCHOOL COSTS PER PUPIL RANGE FROM \$49 TO \$217 IN FOUR LOCAL INSTITUTIONS

A table, showing the detailed post figures for the operation of all Torrance schools during 1930-31, will be found on Page 1 of the Second Section of today's Herald. This report is taken from the report issued this week. Los Angeles Board of Education Auditor's annual statement which

Nine months' tuition for little Mary and Johnnie who trudge or ride off to the Torrance Elementary school five mornings in the week cost the taxpayers residing in the Los Angeles city school district (of which Torrance is a part) \$107.66 each, according to the auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931.

Bill and Elizabeth, who are students at the High School, are receiving an education here that cost \$217.01 for every one of the 563 boys and girls who averaged a daily attendance at the combined Junior-Senior High school during the past year.

Compiled From Report  
Buddy, who toddled into the Torrance Kindergarten last fall to begin his scholastic career, received a basic instruction in school routine that averaged an expense of \$49.23 to the older and tax-paying generation.

These cost figures are from the Los Angeles city system auditor's office and they represent all the multitude of expense items (with the exception of "general control" which was defined last week in the Herald as the school district's "overhead" and which averaged, according to Auditor C. F. Lenz, about \$15 per pupil) that is met from the proceeds of the school

	1930-31	Increase—Decrease	1929-30
Torrance Elementary	\$107.66	\$4.96	\$102.70
Kindergarten	49.23	2.63	51.86
Walteria Elementary	101.08	1.01	102.09
Kindergarten			62.17
Fern Avenue Elementary	117.81	3.70	114.11
Kindergarten			65.16
Junior and Senior High School	217.01	14.22	231.23
Total Decrease		\$9.20	
Evening High School			\$121.81

## 4052 Residents Qualified to Vote Here, Sept. 29

Compilation of final registration figures completed by Registrar of Voters Kerr this week shows that 4052 citizens in Torrance will be entitled to vote at the Metropolitan Water District bond election Tuesday, September 29. There are 698,030 persons in the entire district who will be eligible to cast their ballots at this election, Kerr reported.

The Torrance registration is divided: 2148 males and 1904 females. Comparison of the registration totals shows that of the ten cities in the district (San Bernardino and Colton having withdrawn) Torrance, Los Angeles city and San Marino are the only municipalities showing an increase above figures of 1929. There were 2514 voters here that year.

Short of 1929 Total  
The total of 698,030 comprises registrations of the cities included in the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles county. There are 370,629 men and 327,428 women qualified to vote. The present total registration is reported 5566 short of registration figures for 1929 when 701,596 was the combined total.

Approximately 1,017,000 individuals in Los Angeles county now are registered as voters, Kerr said. Preparations for the water district bond election, registration for which closed August 29, will make necessary close to 100,000 changes on registers, the county official reported.

Other Cities' Totals  
Work on the registers has been started by a force of clerks and more than 300 are now employed on that job. They will address envelopes to contain sample ballots and polling slips to be mailed by the water district. The work is expected to be completed this week. Kerr stated that the election will involve a cost to his office of about \$10,000.

Registration totals in other cities included in the Metropolitan Water District are as follows: Beverly Hills, 6584; Burbank, 6473; Compton, 4378; Glendale, 28,047; Long Beach, 67,348; Los Angeles, 528,455; Pasadena, 35,349; San Marino, 1694; and Santa Monica, 15,648.

COUNCIL MEETS TUESDAY  
Members of the city council will assemble next Tuesday night for a regular meeting. A number of important civic matters are scheduled to come up for attention at this time.

## Dennis Ties Knot at Bicycle Marathon

Mayor-Judge John Dennis went to the six-day bicycle race at Long Beach last Saturday—but not as a spectator or contestant.

He officiated at a wedding ceremony between a sweetheart and one of the marathon riders—and according to the radio broadcast of the event, Judge Dennis tied the knot in the approved fashion without a stutter—despite the play of huge arc lights over his classic features.

## Legion Auxiliary On Jelly Drive

Nominate Officers At Next Meeting, Sept. 15

Nomination of officers will occupy the attention of the American Legion Auxiliary at their next meeting, Tuesday, September 15. A combined social and business meeting will be held owing to the postponement of the business session during the Legion convention.

Mrs. Nancy Hurt, chairman of the hospitalization committee, has announced a jelly drive, asking all Torrance housewives to contribute a glass of jelly, jam, or preserves to the Auxiliary, to be taken to the veterans' hospital at Sawtelle on the next visit of the auxiliary members, Tuesday, October 13. The donations may be given to any member of the auxiliary or sent to the clubhouse next Tuesday evening.

## LEGION DRUM CORPS CHEERED IN L. A. PARADE

Thousands of persons cheered the Torrance American Legion drum and bugle corps along the line of march of the Admission Day parade in Los Angeles yesterday. The parade was one of the La Fiesta events. The local corps, attired in their new dress uniforms, were greeted with bursts of applause as they swung along, playing their merrily numbers at intervals.

The corps has accepted an invitation to parade at the Los Angeles Municipal Airport (Alhambra Field) Saturday afternoon when the aviation portion of La Fiesta will be staged.

## TO LEARN STATUS OF FERN AVE. SCHOOL MON.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce Education committee, and Carl Hyde will attend a meeting of the Los Angeles school board Monday night to learn the exact status of the proposed new Fern Avenue school. Construction of the new building has been held up and the local committee will endeavor to persuade the school authorities to resume work on it.

## CHAMBER MEETING

Directors of the Chamber of Commerce will meet next Monday afternoon at the chamber offices to transact regular business.

## Vets Even Series; Third Game To Be Held Friday Night

"Gran'pa" Widner's home run in the fifth won the game for the Legion Vets Tuesday night at the Border-Carson field and evened up the series between the Red Jackets and "Spud" Murphy's outfit. The 1 to 0 result makes it imperative that all fans attend the third encounter between the two excellent nines tomorrow, Friday, night at 8 o'clock. That third game is bound to be an exhibition of indoor playing rarely seen here.

Lionel Brown, Vet hurler, triumphed over the famed "Lefty" Howard Morning, especially engaged by Ed Tansy to pitch for the Red Jackets. Brown allowed but three hits and struck out 17 batters, while Morning was not so impressive with his donation of five hits to the Vets and his fanning of 14. Morning also walked three Murphy-men.

With the series now standing one all, the Red Jackets having annexed the first game, 3 to 2, tomorrow night's return engagement will be a hotly contested battle. It is expected that Ed Tansy will send Pete Hargas out to pitch for the Jackets Friday. Dan Leonard, third baseman for the Red Jackets, had a chance to score in the fourth but he was tagged on a triple while trying to stretch a three-bagger into a circuit clout. Widner, Vet catcher, completed his four-corner jaunt and to spare with his smash to right field in the fifth.

## OIL SUMP FIRE CALL

An oil sump fire at Arlington and Plaza del Amo was extinguished by the fire department Monday night after a 25-minute fight. There was no damage reported. The big blaze attracted hundreds of local residents.

## VENTURA WOMAN KILLED IN CRASH YESTERDAY MORNING

Five Sailors in Coupe Fail to Observe the Boulevard Stop at Narbonne and Wil-Redondo Intersection

Five sailors in a small coupe crashed into a sedan at Narbonne avenue and Wilmington-Redondo boulevard shortly after midnight Wednesday morning and the resultant smashup resulted in the death of Mrs. Sarah Argabrite, 33, wife of J. M. Argabrite, manager of the Bank of America at Ventura.

Argabrite, who is a prominent resident of the northern city, is at his home with two broken ribs and is reported in a serious condition. Two of the sailors were badly cut and bruised and one only slightly.

## Two Sailors Escape

Three of the navy men were placed under arrest at the time of the accident but two others escaped. Deputy Sheriff San Pedro and Long Beach police and the constable's office launched a search for them yesterday and they were apprehended with the aid of naval authorities.

James L. McKinney, said by three of the sailors to have been the driver of the coupe is alleged to have failed to halt at the boulevard stop. He and F. O. Cole were named as the missing men.

Those held in custody in the Torrance jail until they were questioned by Deputy Sheriff Hunter of the homicide squad, were John J. Gallagher, 19; C. E. Boetge, 23, and C. E. Layton, 20. The quintet were from the U. S. S. Lexington, which had anchored in Long Beach harbor Tuesday night.

The Higgins Oil Company has a number of producing wells at 33rd and Hill and from the speed at which they are working on the Hamlin well the next few weeks may see a new oil boom in the Lomita-Torrance field. No predictions as to quantity or quality are being made but that the new firm is well pleased with indications is evident.

## Men in Need May Get Free Clothing

Torrance men who are in need of clothing may find something useful at the headquarters of the Torrance Relief Society, 1803 C. Brillio avenue, according to an announcement made today. The headquarters will be open from 10 to 3:30 tomorrow, Friday, and any Torrance man who wishes to call there will be given free, any article he may find to suit his needs.

## CONTRACTORS' INFORMATION AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Copies of the correct form for application for a state contractor's license and of Contractor's Law, State of California, are on file at the Chamber of Commerce. Any contractor interested in these forms and manuals should call at the Chamber and read them.

## MAY FACE SERIOUS CHARGES

Three of the navy men were in the front seat, McKinney driving, and two were in the rear compartment. None of the three who were apprehended could describe how the accident occurred, police said.

At the local hospital, attending physicians who treated the injured sailors said that two of them showed evidence of having been drinking. Layton, according to Deputy Sheriff Hunter, revealed the extent of their imbibing.

Both machines were badly smashed up. The Argabrite car having turned over twice and probably three times after the collision. The missing sailors, McKinney and Cole, were seen immediately after the crash but they disappeared during the confusion of setting the Ventura woman and the three other navy men to the hospital. McKinney was severely injured. It was reported, when he was located late yesterday.

Nothing is known concerning what action the district attorney or the sheriff's office will take on the case but it is believed that a reckless driving and manslaughter complaint will be sworn out against McKinney, the asserted driver of the sailors' coupe.

Prominent in Ventura  
Mrs. Argabrite, victim of the tragic accident, was married to Argabrite about a year ago. She was his third wife, the other two having died from natural causes. Argabrite's only child, a daughter, was killed in an automobile accident about five years ago when she was but seven years old. Both Mr. and Mrs. Argabrite are prominent in club and social affairs in the eastern part of Ventura county. Mrs. Argabrite is the daughter of a very prominent rancher at Bardsdale.

Argabrite and his wife were returning to their home from San Pedro when the accident occurred. He had been a guest at a reception.