

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance Herald

Four  
Sections  
24 Pages  
This Issue

SEVENTEENTH YEAR—NO. 53

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1931.

SECTION A

5c PER COPY

## BANK ROBBERY AT LOMITA FAILS

### PROPOSED CHARTER PRINTED TODAY; COPIES ARE AVAILABLE

Every Elector Urged To Read and Study Document Which May Be Had In Pamphlet Form At The City Clerk's Office

With this issue of the Herald, readers will find the complete proposed city charter—the document which, if approved by local electors at the general election, April 11, 1932, will raise this community from the all-too-general classification of sixth class to the status of a chartered city, permitted to write its own destiny, subject to local conditions.

### Justice Court Now Occupies New Quarters

Makes Tenth Change In Its 20 Years of Existence; Old Furniture Used

For the first time in the history of Lomita township, the Justice Court held sessions in Torrance this week, although the new court and county quarters in the Sam Levy building on Cravens avenue are not complete.

Judge John Dennis was accorded the use of the council chamber in the city hall for his first official appearance here Tuesday afternoon. The new court chambers were occupied Wednesday with the old furniture being used until the new equipment arrives. This will be in about a month.

Has Moved 10 Times—The court's move makes the tenth in its 20 years of existence. R. L. Reiff, first justice for Lomita, who was appointed by the board of supervisors, held court in his home as did Judge Hunter who was appointed in February, 1913.

### Lindstrom Estate of \$5000 Is Given To His Three Sons

August Lindstrom, retired Lomita lumberman, who whose death two Lomita women faced charges of murder, left an estate of \$5000, it was revealed Tuesday in the Superior Court where the Citizens' National Trust and Savings bank was appointed to administer the estate.

Following his death, his housekeeper, Mrs. Esther Carlson, and a neighbor, Mrs. Anna Erickson, were arrested when circumstances pointed toward complicity in his death. Mrs. Carlson died in the general hospital while awaiting trial, and Mrs. Erickson was acquitted. The estate was left to three sons, Peter H. Lindstrom of Chicago, Charles Lindstrom of Glendale, Arizona, and Amos Lindstrom of Woodville, Wash.

### NEW LICENSE PLATES NOW BEING DELIVERED BY STATE

Counter deliveries of 1932 license plates started at Sacramento and all branch offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles and at the offices of the various automobile clubs Tuesday. Branch offices are located at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Long Beach, Fresno, Hollywood, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Jose and Stockton. A special corps of workers are on hand to handle the rush.

### Read It, Smile! 1932 To Have Five Double Holidays!

Five double holidays are included among 14 holidays in 1932 and—joy of joys—they will be of the week-end variety. The five doubles are Washington's birthday, February 22; Decoration day, May 30; Independence day, July 4; Labor day, September 5, and Christmas falls on Sunday, but by law Monday is the legal holiday.

### YULE EVENTS BETTER THAN PAST YEARS

Every hour the spirit of anticipation grows keener among the younger generation of the city while the grown-ups, harried and distracted by shopping expeditions and preparations for December 25, are gradually getting the same spirit as the calendar moves onward to Christmas.

But there are events preceding the great holiday which are arousing the youngsters—and it could be truthfully reported, even the oldsters—to the delights of the coming Yuletide season. These events will be held next Wednesday afternoon and evening.

### Will Pack Yule Baskets Dec. 23

The Torrance Relief Society requests that all donations for Christmas baskets be handed in at the Society's rooms, 1803 Cabrillo avenue, not later than 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, December 22. The baskets will be packed Wednesday morning and distributed Wednesday afternoon, December 23. The rooms will not be open on Thursday, December 24.

### Harbor Chambers To Install Officers Here On January 14; Hawthorne Meeting Reported

Highlights of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce meeting at Hawthorne last Thursday evening were: (1) the election of W. Rufus Page president to succeed A. E. "Chic" Henning, and Carl L. Hyde, first vice president; (2) a descriptive address by Harvey C. Fremming, director of the county bureau employment stabilization, who declared the adoption of the six-hour day and five-day week would solve the jobless problem tomorrow; (3) Lieut. Gov. Frank R. Merriam's vigorous talk in opposition to the proposed establishment by the state of work camps for the unemployed; and (4) the introduction of a plan by Frank Walton of Compton to form a corporation of communities and land interests of the coastal plane to protect water resources.

### Next Herald Will Be Issued Wed. Morning

The next and only edition of the Herald to be published Christmas week will appear Wednesday morning, December 23. This edition will contain the last Christmas advertisements of local merchants and storekeepers and will give them the benefit of reaching residents of Torrance and vicinity two days before the great holiday.

### Wild Flowers Will Beautify Avenues Leading Into City

With the earth all mellowed and loosened up by the rain this week, the city of Torrance is starting an extensive wild flower planting campaign under the direction of William Gascoigne, street superintendent. The seeds gathered by the street department last fall from wild flower

### City Goes Wet!

Old "Jup" Pluvius Dumps Bucket Over Torrance—Brimming curbs, raincoats, goloshes, steamed windows and enthusiastic—more or less—comments on the downpour accompanied 1.57 inches of rain here Sunday night and Monday.

### Deep Test Well To Be "Put On Pump"

"Hamlin No. 1 may flow later but at present we are going to put it on the pump," Higgins Brothers said yesterday at the well on Palm street. Machinery is being brought to the well and the crew is busy cleaning out preparing to get ready for the pump. The well has a splendid gas pressure and a good oil gravity but the well stood idle so long that there is too much water to bring in a flowing well at this time.

### Zaligen Hoogdag! Or--If You Wish--A Vesele Vanocel!

Yes—and Spetan Bozic and a Haukaas Houluua or Geneogelyke Kastyd! Which is wishing you a Merry Christmas in more ways than one! Do you know that Santa Claus is the "one ghost that is always welcome" and that "he was honored, worshipped, persecuted, imprisoned and tortured?"

### STORES WILL REMAIN OPEN IN EVENINGS

Late Closing Hour Starts Tonight For Convenience of Local Shoppers—Starting tonight, most of the stores in Torrance with the exception of the food markets, will remain open until 9 o'clock for the convenience of shoppers who want to "clean up" their Christmas buying early.

### School Board Blocks Work In Vista Tract

Once more the Los Angeles Board of Education "threw up" the matter of Torrance's proposed city charter as a cause why improvements concerning the local schools should be postponed until the charter is voted on by the people. This time the proposed street improvement in the Vista Highlands tract felt the Board of Education "dampener."

### GUNMAN FIRES AT ASSISTANT MANAGER, MISSES, ESCAPES

"Stick 'em Up!" Order Does Not Daunt Bank Official Yesterday Afternoon; Robbers Get No Money

Disregarding the curt command to "Stick 'em up an' make it snappy!" F. W. McMullen, assistant manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank at 1123 Narbonne avenue, equally brief, consigned the gunman-speaker to the nether regions and ducked under the counter at 2:25 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

### Cabrillo Avenue Improvement to Be Pushed Again

Low Cost of Pavement and Possibility of County Aid Lend Impetus—Announcing he was making his regular quarterly visit to the council in behalf of Cabrillo avenue's improvement, Earl Comer, prominent cityman, launched a discussion of that long-sought-for public work which ended with the suggestion that he aid others interested in the improvement should at once start work on a 51-cent petition which would institute proceedings to take that main artery a credit to the city.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT HIGH SCHOOL QUIETLY IMPRESSIVE

As the last beautiful note of that old, old hymn "Silent Night" died away at the High school auditorium Friday afternoon, the assembled students and teachers quietly filed out of the building and the most impressive Christmas program ever staged at the local school ended. There was no applause; none of the hoisterous release of youthful enthusiasm and even though the auditorium was filled to capacity the departing audience did not "erupt" from the building in the usual manner of High school students.

The gunman fired in McMullen's general direction, missed and fled with a companion who had remained standing near the door of the bank. They made their getaway in what was thought to be a Pontiac sedan. An unorganized pursuit was undertaken by Lomita residents who happened to be in the vicinity of the bank but the trace was lost after the bandit car turned off Narbonne avenue at Rose street.

Nothing was gained by the bandits in the attempt to rob the bank. Barton Beckman, manager of the branch institution, was the first to rush from the bank after the two looting robbers ran out. Beckman carried the bank's revolver but could not identify the bandits' car from other machines driving south on Narbonne.

The slug from the gunman's weapon that was fired at McMullen was recovered on the floor of the bank. Apparently it came from a .32 calibre revolver. McMullen's Story— "I saw the man carried a gun after he had walked a few steps in the bank," McMullen said. "He came up to my window with it held close to his chest while the other fellow remained at the door. The gunman was dressed in a dark overcoat pulled well up over his neck and face and had a cap. The rest of his clothing that I could see was ordinary laborer's attire. He carried a black automatic. I believe. "When he came up to the window he said 'Stick 'em up an' make it snappy.' I told him to go to h—l and ducked under the counter. He fired, but wildly, and ran out the door," the assistant manager said.

The bandit's companion wore a light colored overcoat. Both were clean shaven and about 35 years of age. (Continued on Page 7-A)