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This Issue

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## WRIGHT TO LAUNCH PETITIONS FOR RECALL OF MAYOR FRIDAY

Councilman Hopes to Have Details Completed in Time to Secure Place on Ballot At June 6 Election

Circulation of petitions asking the city council to call an election for the recall of Mayor W. T. Klusman will be launched tomorrow, according to J. M. Wright, whose charges against the mayor were published in the Torrance Herald on March 2.

Klusman published his reply to the accusations in last Thursday's issue, in which he denied the allegations preferred by Wright and declared that Wright had "acknowledged that he is not of sound mind at all times," and that the proceedings were not legal because of Wright's failure to head his charges according to the specifications of the laws governing the case.

Wright stated yesterday that he had heard a report to the effect that a movement is on foot to initiate recall proceedings against all the other members of the city council, himself included, and stated that if the report is true it will not meet with his disapproval.

"It will be O. K. with me," said Wright, "and all I have to say is that I am surprised that this action was not taken before now."

Signatures of at least 25 per cent of the votes cast for the office at the municipal election held in April of last year must be obtained to the petitions, which must set forth both the charges made by Wright and Klusman's reply. The petition must be filed with the city clerk within 60 days after the publication of the notice of intention.

Wright expects to have the work of obtaining signatures completed in time to have the proposition placed on the ballot at the election to be held June 6, in order to save the taxpayers of the community the expense of a special election.

Following the filing of the petition, the city clerk has 15 days to certify to the signatures. If the number is found to be insufficient a supplemental petition may be filed within 15 days from the date of certification and another 15 days is allowed for examining the supplemental document. If the petition is found to be sufficient the clerk submits it to the city council which is bound under the law to call the election. Wright hopes to have all these details completed in time to have the proposition included in the June 6 election.

## Homestead Law Halts Pending Court Judgment

Because Andrew and Zitta Berg had filed a declaration of homestead upon their property in Torrance, the superior court has ordered that a municipal court judgment pending against them cannot be made a lien upon their holdings, it was disclosed today in a checkup of court records.

It is explained that a declaration of homestead, which may be filed and recorded for as little as \$2, protects one's interest in a piece of real estate up to \$5000. They are being filed by the scores at the county recorder's office daily, a check of the records reveals, and principally by the person who is considered "well to do." It prevents one's home being taken from him until he can pay off debts for which creditors are pressing him, while if his home were taken by attachment and sold, it might mean financial ruination for the individual.

## Local Vets Lend Valuable Assistance

Veterans who rendered valuable service in Long Beach and Compton during the quake period included Henry Grubb, C. Earl Conner, Thomas A. Bowker, Albert Daniels, Charles Bond, Nathaniel Buffington, Robert Strout and Theo Collins of Harbor City, and I. O. Lewis of San Pedro. The men aided in feeding and housing refugees, carrying supplies and remained on duty until Wednesday when further need for their services had ceased. Supplies they had left on hand were given to the Unemployed Unit No. 3 and the Parent Teachers Association.

## Directors of Sewer Dists. Oppose Bill

Legislation to Transfer Control of Outfall Sewer Is Fought

Opposition to the passage of Assembly Bill No. 1018, fostered outright by private interests opposed to the construction of adequate sewer facilities for Torrance and nearly a score of other cities and communities, was voiced by the directors of the various sanitation districts at a special meeting Wednesday afternoon.

Torrance took prompt steps to oppose the bill when Mayor Klusman on behalf of his district which embraces this city and community, voted to oppose the resolution.

Council President Charles H. Randall of Los Angeles and Mayor Jones of Hawthorne continued to lead opposition for construction of the much-needed outfall at White Point at this week's meeting. That they were much in the minority with their efforts to block the sanitary project was evidenced by the fact that their votes were practically alone in opposition to the resolution and other constructive motions before the directors in their meeting.

Mayor Kinney of Bell, Bogart of Gardena, and Shulz of Huntington Park were defeated on motion of Mayor Pomeroy of South Gate to send copies of the resolution to Senator J. W. McKinley at Sacramento, to the various directors and to assemblies.

Assembly Bill 1018, for which Attorney Lloyd Nix made a special trip to Sacramento last week on behalf of private interests, has aroused indignation because it is masquerading under the name of an economy measure. In reality, sanitation district directors have found out, it would disrupt the districts, now a harmonious system performing a highly important function, and in the end would be more costly than at present.

Chief Engineer A. K. Warren stated today that following an all-day conference with Hugh Gordon, the sanitation districts' counsel, and S. V. O. Pritchard, deputy county counsel, that he was convinced the proposal would not result in economies but rather in increased expense for the districts.

Under the proposal, the county surveyor would act as chief engineer of the districts. This would not be practical, it was pointed out today at the Hall of Records, because two separate offices would be required. The sanitation districts are a separate part of the county, in the same status as the flood control district, it was also pointed out.

## Wrong Paper Bag Given Away At Grocery Store

Manager Robert Slater of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company store in Torrance, spent a busy hour Saturday afternoon tracing his gift of 50 paper sacks which he had donated to a representative of one of the Veterans' Relief Associations in this district. Slater was not interested so much in the paper sacks as he was in the contents of one of them which held \$150 in cash and checks, part of his daily receipts.

Some time during the afternoon, the V. R. man had called at the store to ask for some sacks, which were readily given to him. It immediately followed his departure, Slater found that the bundle which had been given away was the one which had been used as a hiding place for his extra funds.

He finally traced the gift to the headquarters of the Carson street Veterans' Relief Association where the bundle was found unopened with cash and checks intact. The valuables were promptly turned over to Slater.

## HOME BURGLARIZED

The home of R. L. Whalin, 1924 Andrew, was entered some time Sunday, and the contents of a purse amounting to about \$400 was taken, according to a report made Monday to the city police. Entrance was made by cutting through a screen door and pushing the key out of the lock so that a pass key could be used.

## Democrats Lead in Registration

Democrats are still leading in registrations, says Deputy Registrar A. H. Bartlett, who has charge of the books in Torrance. Of the 109 new registrations, 64 were Democrats, 24 Republicans, 10 declined to state and two gave their party affiliations as socialist. Torrance will have little interest in the primary election to be held May 2, except as it concerns members of the school board, Torrance being a part of the Los Angeles city school system.

There are no local offices to be filed.

## Leonard Recommends Action to Safeguard School Children

Late Bulletin:—Principal A. G. Waidelich of the Torrance high school, assured the Torrance Herald yesterday that immediately upon the receipt of Mr. Leonard's letter, which was sent special delivery Tuesday, representatives from the board of education came to Torrance and complied with all the recommendations set forth, and that every precaution is being taken to avoid a possible accident at the school.

The same precautions are being taken at the elementary school and parents may be assured that all possible arrangements are being made to provide security for the children.

The following is the text of a letter addressed to W. E. Record, business manager of the Los Angeles city school system, recommending certain steps to be taken to insure safety to the children attending schools in Torrance.

While Mr. Leonard says he does not wish to convey the impression that the school buildings as a whole are unsafe there are certain portions of firewalls and partitions which need attention and the closing of the grounds about these spots is a part of the precautionary measures. All of the school buildings have been carefully inspected and the recommendations given are the result.

The letter follows: March 21st, 1933.

Mr. W. E. Record, Business Manager, Los Angeles City School District, 1425 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Record: I have made an inspection of the school buildings in this city and wish to report certain buildings which I consider unsafe either as a whole or in part, and my recommendation to the City Council in this connection will be:

1. (a) That the use of four rooms on the east side in old position of the elementary school be discontinued until it is assured that this part of the building is safe. (b) That the fire wall and chimney on the west side of this same building are unsafe and should be removed at once and that that portion of the ground where this wall has broken should be properly barricaded, and that all rooms should be vacated during the period when walls are being removed or repairs are being made directly above such rooms.

It will not be necessary to call your attention to the urgency of properly anchoring fire walls in the future.

2. That the east end gable wall of the library building is extremely dangerous and that the use of the east room on the first floor of this building should be discontinued until this wall is properly replaced and anchored. Also that that portion of the school grounds to the east and upon which this wall might fall should be barricaded.

3. That the fire wall on the main high school building facing the library building is in a dangerous condition and the first floor of this building should be discontinued until this wall is properly replaced and anchored. Also that that portion of the school grounds to the east and upon which this wall might fall should be barricaded.

4. That the work shop building is considered unsafe and should be closed until put in proper condition.

5. While the school board has closed the auditorium building, the grounds, particularly to the west and toward the gymnasium building should be closed off to use. The walls of this building I consider particularly hazardous. I feel sure that the school board will thoroughly check over and remove any loose portions of tile and structure which have been loosened.

Trusting that this matter may have your immediate attention, I am Very truly yours, F. R. LEONARD, City Engineer.

## Grocers Donate Five Tons Sugar To Quake Victims

Ten thousand pounds of sugar have been made available for the relief of the needy in the areas stricken by the earthquake through the action of the Associated Grocers, independent retail grocers' organization with member stores here in Torrance as well as in Long Beach, Compton, San Pedro, Wilmington and other Harbor District communities. This sugar, according to E. E. Hoagland, official of the Hoagland-Robbins Co., Ltd., sponsoring wholesale grocers, has been placed in the hands of relief organizations which are directing its distribution.

In commenting upon the losses sustained by the member stores of the organization, Hoagland stated that with few exceptions all Associated Grocers had their stores open shortly after the first shock and have since been operating along normal lines. Member stores in Torrance are Harder's, Woodburns, Doan's and Colburn's.

## MEXICAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTURBING PEACE

Tony Ortega, Mexican, arrested Tuesday night on a charge of being drunk and disturbing the peace, plead guilty when arraigned before Judge C. T. Rippey in the police court Wednesday and was given a jail sentence of 90 days. He was taken to Los Angeles today to begin serving his time.

## Retail Sales Show Increase Over Last Year

Merchants Report Gains of 10 to 20 Per Cent; Bank Deposits Soar

Retail trading and business generally in Torrance during the past two weeks has shown a definite and substantial improvement over the past year, a survey of local business houses disclosed this week. Merchants report increases in sales of 10 to 20 per cent over business of the last six months and in many instances merchants report increases of at least 15 per cent over a year ago.

Since the banking holiday and the resumption of normal banking facilities, deposits have shown substantial increases, and greatly exceed withdrawals. J. W. Leech, Torrance manager of the Bank of America, stated today.

## School Resumed Monday Morning After Vacation

All But Two Institutions in District Function As Usual

School sessions were resumed Monday morning at all but one school in the Torrance-Lomita district.

The Lomita elementary school on Narbonne avenue remained closed as it was found that more extensive repairs were necessary and to avoid danger of accidents while workmen are taking down the damaged fire walls and chimney.

In Torrance, all three schools opened as usual. At the Torrance high school, the board of education closed the library and the auditorium. The main structure, the gymnasium and science hall are in good condition. As a matter of further precaution, City Engineer Frank Leonard has recommended that the class room directly under the library at the east end be closed and the gate in front be roped off to prevent accident while repairs are being made. Mr. Leonard also recommended the closing of the machine and wood shop, as this building was considerably damaged.

Further inspection of the Torrance elementary school on Tuesday by Engineer Leonard, and local residents, brought a recommendation from the city engineer that the four rooms on the east side of the old wing of the building be closed and the yard in front roped off. Damages to the school centered in these four rooms, and while the outer walls are sound the repairs to the interior will make it inadvisable to continue the class sessions here, and arrangements to take care of the pupils in other quarters will be made.

No sessions are being held in the brick structure at WALTERIA, but classes are held in the frame bungalows. The Fern avenue school was undamaged.

At Narbonne high school in Lomita, the auditorium has been closed. Repairs will commence in a short time. Workmen are now repairing chimneys and an incinerator. Attendance at Narbonne showed a drop below normal Monday but the absentees returned the following day. Some pupils from Long Beach are enrolling at this high school.

Small damage was done at the Orange street school.

## Cravens Apartments Safe, Says Manager

Although considerable repairs are being made at the Cravens apartments, not all the damage done to this building can be attributed to the quake, according to those in charge. The east side wall, at the front of the building had previously been repaired on account of settling due to soft ground at this corner of the apartment, and the most of the damage was partly due to this condition which was aggravated by the quake.

The building was not condemned at any time, and tenants have remained in their quarters. The structure is safe, and with the completion of repairs will be in better shape than before, says Mrs. Gladys Hollerback, manager.

## TO RE-OPEN FIRST NATIONAL ON NORMAL BASIS NEXT WEEK

Re-Organization Practically Completed. Depositors Urged To Hasten Opening By Prompt Action On Agreements

Re-opening of the First National Bank of Torrance early next week on a normal basis seemed practically assured today as re-organization plans were nearly completed in compliance with the rigid requirements of the comptroller of the currency at Washington, D. C. During the past two days much progress has been made and it is confidently predicted by the bank's officials that the pioneer Torrance financial institution will be ready within a few days to function with normal banking facilities.

First National Bank has adopted the same method of re-organization as many other banks throughout the nation; namely, that of asking its depositors to set aside a percentage of their deposits in the form of cumulative non-assessable preferred stock, this stock investment to be returned plus interest before capital stock owners receive dividends.

The re-opening of the First National Bank will be hastened, officials point out, if the few remaining depositors who have not as yet signed these agreements will call at the bank and do so at once. An office in the escrow department will remain open until 9 o'clock tonight and Friday evening to explain details of the preferred stock agreements.

In a statement this morning, J. W. Post, president of the bank said: "When the bank re-opens following the elimination of all doubtful assets and the strengthening of its capital stock, it will be in a stronger condition than at any time since its organization 20 years ago."

"I shall never forget the splendid loyalty shown to the bank during these trying times on the part of depositors and other citizens in Torrance, and I know the other officers and stockholders join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation. With the bank in perfect condition and a loyal community lending its support, there is nothing to fear in the future."

## Citizens Committee Named To Organize Drive For Red Cross

Following a meeting held Saturday afternoon, to which all heads of organizations, city officials and prominent citizens in Torrance were invited, plans were launched to give a series of benefits to raise funds for Red Cross work in the area devastated by earthquake recently.

The plans include a series of card parties, under the management of Mrs. L. W. Ralston the dates for which will be announced later, a benefit performance at the Torrance theatre and individual contributions to the Red Cross funds which may be paid at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Ralston has arranged for committees to take charge of details. The Chamber of Commerce will take care of the printing of tickets; American Legion Auxiliary, distribution of tickets; National Business and Professional Women, publicity; Woman's club, O. E. S., Betsy Ross, will furnish tables, cards, etc., for the card parties; the Parent Teachers Association, W. B. A., and Royal Neighbors, the refreshments; the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs will furnish prizes. Dates for these affairs will be announced later.

DeWitt B. Van Derlip, owner of the Torrance theatre, has placed his house at the disposal of the local Red Cross chapter for a performance on April 4, when 25 per cent of the gross ticket sales will be turned over to the chapter for the relief fund.

Individuals who wish to make additional contributions to the Red Cross work may contact those in charge at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Every organization in the city is helping in the work and the members of all service clubs, lodges, churches and societies will be called upon to take part in making the drive for funds a big success.

Proclamation by Governor James Rolph, Jr., named the Red Cross as the official rehabilitation agency for the regions affected by the quake.

In a letter to Mrs. Caroline Collins, chairman of the local Red Cross branch, the Los Angeles office says, "Will you, as chairman of the Red Cross for Torrance, organize a Citizens' Committee responsible for the raising of funds in your own town. No definite quota will be assigned you. We are depending on the generous spirit which has in the past prompted the citizens of Torrance whenever a Red Cross disaster appeal has been made."

Mrs. Collins, in discussing the relief appeal, said:

Normal consumption of water is again permitted in Torrance, it is announced by E. C. Nelson, president of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, and the restricted use of water, as requested by Mayor Klusman in a proclamation issued shortly after the earthquake, is no longer necessary. A number of bacteriological tests have been taken within the last few days and in every case the water has been found to be free of harmful bacteria, Nelson stated. The pumping plant of the Dominguez Water Company at Carson and Alameda boulevard which was damaged by the earthquake, is being entirely reconstructed and will be a much stronger and better structure, as near quake proof as possible, the Herald was informed by George H. Hand, chief engineer of the company. Mr. Hand pointed out that at no time since the temblor has Torrance been without water, and there should be no apprehension regarding the supply of water for Torrance from the Dominguez plant. The pumping plant at Carson and Alameda is again operating and supplying Torrance consumers. Mr. Hand stated, and added that there was no reason for not resuming normal use of water.