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Torrance Herald

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TO OPEN BIDS FOR NEW POST OFFICE NOV. 12

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS RECEIVED HERE THIS WEEK

Attractive New Federal Building To Be Erected On Marcelina Avenue; Site Recently Purchased

Bids for the construction of the new Torrance post office building on Marcelina avenue will be opened November 12, 1934, according to an official advertisement published by the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C., in this issue of the Torrance Herald. Complete plans and specifications have been received by Postmaster C. E. Conner from the Procurement Division of the Department of Public Works for the information of building contractors and sub-contractors who may wish to submit proposals.

The receipt of detailed plans and specifications for the new Torrance post office was hailed with much enthusiasm by Postmaster Conner and other members of the post office staff, and the early call for construction bids was interpreted as an indication that the Treasury Department intended to push its previously announced plans for the immediate erection of the new building. News that definite steps had been taken toward construction was also received with much satisfaction by Congressman Charles J. Colden, who was instrumental in securing the federal allotment of \$63,800 to cover the purchase of a site and erection of a post office building in Torrance. The site recently purchased by the Treasury Department for \$7190 is located on the west side of Marcelina avenue on the alley corner between S. 11th and C. streets. It has 90 feet frontage on Marcelina avenue and is 150 feet in depth.

The new building will front on Marcelina avenue, set back 11 feet from the property line on this side, 10 feet from the line on the alley side and 20 feet from the property line on the north. It will have a frontage of 60 feet, depth of 66 feet 6 inches and will be a two-story elevation on the south side to accommodate the mezzanine floor. Concrete steps leading up to large double doors located near the north corner. The door will have glass panels with a fan-shaped grill of wrought iron above. Two windows similar in shape to the style of the door are let into the front wall south of the door to admit light to the lobby and office of the postmaster.

The lobby, L-shaped, will be finished in quarry tile of dark red shading to buff for the floor with warm gray, buff, orange and mottled brown tile for the wainscoting. Wood finish in lobby and postmaster's office at the end of this corridor, will be of redwood, while the balance of the first floor and mezzanine will be finished in yellow pine.

The left-hand corridor of the lobby will contain the desks and bulletin boards. On the west side of this corridor are the windows for transmission of public business, money orders, registered letters, parcel post and general delivery and stamps. Rental boxes for delivery of mail to those who prefer to call for it will be located in the right-hand corridor of the lobby.

The quarters for the clerks who attend to the sales, money orders and other business transactions with the public will be enclosed. Back of this section will be a large room for the receiving, sorting and dispatching of mail. At the rear of the building, with suitable access to the main handling room will be a wide concrete loading platform, where mail trucks will load and discharge sacks to and from the railway service.

A concrete driveway, 40 feet wide, will be laid to fill the space back of the building leading to the loading platform, with 12-foot curb.

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PROPOSE PLAN FOR WIDENING CABRILLO AVE.

Mayor Ludlow Thinks He Has Way to Add 20 Ft. to Pavement

A new plan to relieve traffic hazards on Cabrillo avenue between Carson street and the P. E. depot by widening the pavement 20 feet on the west side of the street was offered by Mayor Ludlow, at the Tuesday council meeting. Mayor Ludlow expressed the opinion that the city could designate such an improvement as one of its projects to be paid out of the gasoline tax fund. The materials for such an improvement, estimated to cost \$6000, could be taken out of the gas tax and the work done under the SERRA. Ludlow stated.

It was also suggested by City Engineer Leonard that the improvement might be extended on Cabrillo between Carson and Sepulveda boulevard by re-surfacing the roadway on both sides of the car tracks. On action of the city council, the city engineer was authorized to contact officials of the Pacific Electric Railway in an effort to secure an easement over its right-of-way for such an improvement.

Also El Prado The city council also instructed Leonard to contact Los Angeles city officials regarding the objectionable condition of El Prado between Western avenue and the East Road, where large chuk holes exist in the roadway. As this is the direct route to the new million dollar plant of the Hughes-Mitchell Process, Inc., it was felt that the road should be re-conditioned.

Talks On EPIC to Be Given On Saturday P. M.

A series of political talks will be given at the Upton Sinclair for Governor headquarters, 1312 Sartori avenue, on alternating Saturday afternoons at 2 o'clock, beginning this week and continuing until the November 6 election, it was announced today by Albert Ingham, in charge of publicity for the Torrance Democratic Club. The meetings are open to the general public.

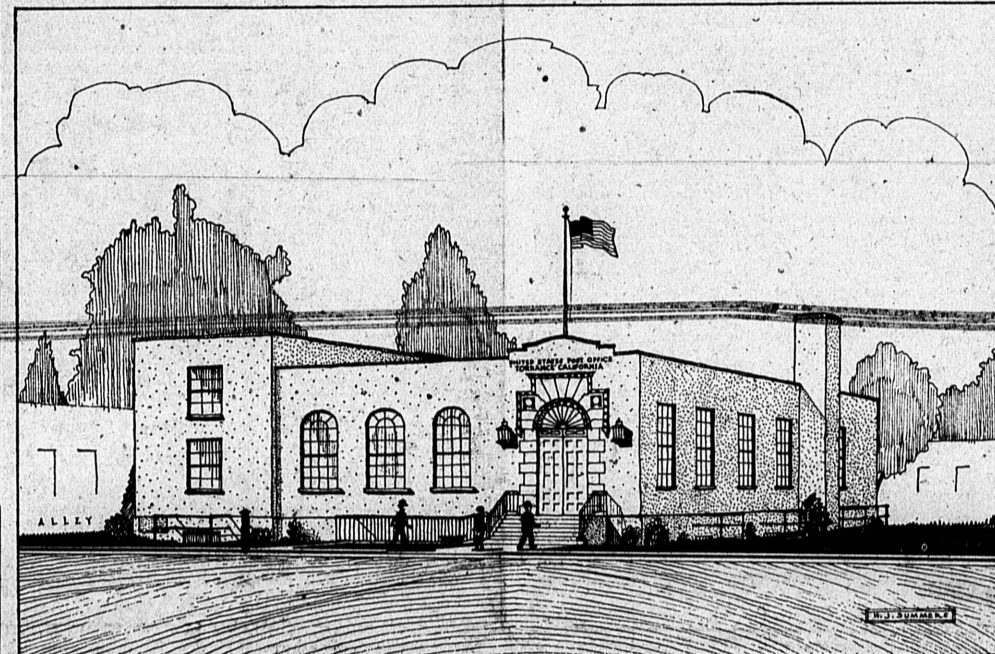
Prominent speakers will discuss Sinclair's candidacy and the EPIC plan. This Saturday afternoon a speaker will be furnished by the Long Beach Speakers' Bureau who will talk on the EPIC plan and business. Questions from the audience will be answered.

"These political talks are being arranged for the convenience of the public and all are welcome. There will be no admission charge," Ingham stated.

The Torrance Democratic Club is also meeting every Tuesday evening at the Sinclair headquarters and the public is also invited to attend these meetings, Ingham said.

PETTY THEFT CHARGE Chris Baldwin, former proprietor of the National Poultry and Supply Co., in Torrance, was arrested in Redondo Beach yesterday on a charge of petty theft preferred by C. E. Harshman. He was released on his own recognizance, to appear October 13.

Torrance's New Federal Building



The above sketch, especially drawn for the Torrance Herald by Herbert Summers from the detail plans received by Postmaster Conner from Washington, gives an accurate picture of how the new federal building will look when completed. Proportions of the various sections of the building, details of architecture and ornamentation as shown on the technical plans submitted by the government have been faithfully adhered to by the artist in preparing the above sketch so that local residents will have an accurate idea of the impressive and artistic structure which is soon to be erected on Marcelina avenue.

City Tops List In Percentage of Taxes Paid

Tax delinquencies in that portion of the city of Torrance covered by the water bond issue are the lowest of any municipal improvement district in the county, the Torrance city council was told by C. J. Rambo, city auditor, following a check of tax collections for the year 1933-34.

Rambo's report, which was read at Tuesday's council meeting, showed that out of a total tax levy in the district of \$71,137.34, there had been collected \$63,545.31, or an unpaid balance of only \$7,592.03, or approximately 10 per cent. This is one of the best showings of any district in the county tax collector's office, Rambo stated. Delinquencies in other portions of the county run as high as 50 per cent, and the favorable position of the Torrance district should enhance the attractiveness of local water bonds to investors, it was pointed out.

Cars At Hospital Drained of Gas

Nurses at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital reported to police Tuesday night that unknown parties were draining gasoline from their cars parked in the alley between the hospital and the Nurses Home. The petty theft had been repeated several times but on Tuesday night the parties, two men in a blue coupe, were caught in the act and the license number of their car was taken. They escaped and have not as yet been apprehended.

Young Boy Dies After Long Illness

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a. m. October 6, from Stone & Myers chapel, for Floyd Douglas, 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Douglas, formerly of Lomita, now residing at 4825 West Wallace street, Hawthorne. The lad who had been in ill health for some time, passed away October 3. He is survived by his parents and five brothers, Donald, Gordon, Keith, Wayne and Wesley.

CITY TO RE-APPLY TO PWA FOR \$150,000 WATER FUND

Will Seek Aid to Finance Improvements to Present System When Acquired; Washington Letter is Encouraging

An amended application for a loan and grant from the Public Works Administration for \$150,000 to cover the cost of improvements and additions to the present water system after the same is acquired by the city was ordered drafted by the Torrance city council Tuesday evening, following the reading of a communication dated October 4 from P. M. Benton, finance director of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works at Washington, D. C. The letter was in response to a communication sent to Washington by the Torrance city council seeking information on the attitude of the PWA should the city reduce its request from \$275,000 originally sought to \$150,000. City officials explained their plan to purchase the present system of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company. Permits were issued this week by the city of Los Angeles for steel chemical plant drying towers for the Hughes-Mitchell Processes, Inc., at 2921 South Normandie avenue. Cost of the new structures was given as \$5000, and the contractor is the Consolidated Steel Corporation of the Central Manufacturing District.

Two Torrance Sewer Projects Employing 130 Men Approved

Immediate construction of two important sewer lines in the Torrance area costing \$44,894, was approved by the board of directors of County Sanitation District No. 5 at the regular meeting of the board Tuesday afternoon. West Torrance Trunk Sewer, extending from Normandie avenue and Ocean avenue in a southwest direction to Normandie avenue and 23rd street in the city of Torrance, will be built as a SERRA project. The line is 9300 feet long and is estimated to cost \$27,347, according to A. K. Warren, chief engineer and general manager of the sanitation districts. SERRA will furnish the labor for the work and the district will furnish the material. It is expected to employ more than 100 men for a period of two months, and an effort will be made to restrict employment as far as possible to men in this vicinity. Warren stated. In addition, the chief engineer reported that the Hughes-Mitchell

Artisans Lodge To Be Instituted Here Wednesday

Torrance Assembly of the United Artisans lodge will be instituted and its officers installed next Wednesday in a big meeting to be held at the Torrance Woman's clubhouse, 1422 Engracia avenue, according to District Deputy Maude Sharock, who has been at work for several weeks in getting the new lodge started.

Dr. M. C. Woods, master artisan of the Lomita Assembly, and his staff officers will put on the work. Following the business session a chicken and noodles supper will be served, with dancing to which the public is invited free of charge afterwards.

FERA Finances Work For Junior College Students

Students of this locality who plan to attend Compton Junior College next term will have the opportunity to obtain current employment on the school campus under the FERA. According to Milton J. Andrew, dean of men, who is in charge of student work, there are approximately 120 students employed under the FERA. The present fund, about \$1320 per month, has been authorized by federal agents for the entire school year. Work is apportioned by a faculty committee on the basis of student's needs and record. Positions open include readers, laboratory assistants, office clerks, shop mechanics, janitors and gardeners.

CORRECTION Miss Catherine McNeil, 1744 Andree, states that she is not the Miss Katherine McNeil who was named in this paper as one of a party of young people who were involved in an automobile accident on Saturday, September 29. The Miss McNeil whose name appeared on the report to police headquarters gave her address as 1754 Arlington. She was not injured.

BOB LESSING IS APPOINTED CITY JUDGE; RIPPY RESIGNS

Popular Young Democrat and Law Student To Take Over Court October 16. C. T. Rippy Remains As City Attorney

Robert F. Lessing, 28 year old law student and residents of Torrance for the past 17 years, was appointed city judge by the Torrance City Council Tuesday evening, following a surprise resignation of Judge C. T. Rippy. That the appointment of Lessing was also a surprise, even to Lessing, was indicated Wednesday morning when a representative of the Herald contacted him and offered congratulations. It was the first Lessing had heard of his appointment. The motion to appoint young law student was elated over.

INDUSTRIAL SPEAKER TO BE HERE TUESDAY

E. P. Querl of L. A. Chamber to Be Guest At Local Meeting

E. P. Querl, industrial commissioner of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, will speak to members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday evening, October 16, at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. Querl has been prominently identified with the establishment of several major industrial enterprises in the Torrance and harbor area, and comes to this meeting prepared to give an authentic message concerning industrial development in Los Angeles county.

His extensive tours through the United States during the past few years enable him to speak with authority on commercial and industrial conditions. Exchange of ideas on local civic, commercial or industrial promotion among members of the local chamber will be a part of the evening program and all members are urged to attend.

Former Electric Contractor Turns Chocolate Maker

J. B. McComiskey, former electrical contractor in Torrance, has returned to this city and will shortly engage in the manufacture of chocolate candies. For the past two years, Mr. McComiskey has been in the east, where he established chocolate factories in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Fitchburg, Massachusetts. The three factories in the east are now in charge of his brothers' sons in Nova Scotia and Quebec, and the plant at Fitchburg is being conducted by his sister's son.

Prior to engaging in the electrical contracting business, Mr. McComiskey was a candy manufacturer, and judging from the delicious box of chocolates which he left at the Herald office, Mac's success in the candy business is assured. The box of chocolates with luscious fruit, nut and cream centers was greatly enjoyed by the Herald staff.

Morals Offense Alleged Against Wilmington Man

George Luman, an elderly man residing at 1855 Young street, Wilmington, was arrested Saturday afternoon on a felony charge and arraigned in the Lomita township justice court Monday morning where his bail was fixed at \$1000 cash or surety bond, and a preliminary hearing date set for October 15 at 10 o'clock. Luman was taken into custody on complaint of Frank Weinbeler, charged with an immoral offense involving two boys, aged seven and nine years. The alleged offense was committed on Redondo-Wilmington boulevard east of Pennsylvania. He was taken to the county jail in default of bail, to await his hearing. The accused was represented in court by Attorney A. McWilliam.

Upon the death of former City Attorney J. R. Jensen, several months ago, Judge C. T. Rippy was appointed city attorney but has continued to serve as city judge without pay. Rippy stated Tuesday night that he had encountered considerable conflict by serving as judge due to the fact that he represented a number of litigants in cases before the city court, and that in such cases it was necessary to call in an outside judge to preside. Rippy's resignation as judge was accepted by the city council to be effective October 15, and Lessing will assume his duties October 16. Salary for the judgeship was fixed at \$75 per month, the same as prevailed prior to the time that the position was consolidated with that of city attorney. Rippy will continue to serve as city attorney at a salary of \$125 per month.

Robert F. "Bob" Lessing, the newly appointed city judge, has been a resident of Torrance for the past 17 years, living with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Lessing at the family home, 2909 Arlington avenue. He is 28 years old, and has studied law for four years, including a pre-legal course of one year at the University of California at Los Angeles and three years at the Southwestern Law School in Long Beach. Only the pinch of economic conditions prevented Mr. Lessing from continuing his law study the three additional months which would have won him an LL. B. degree. However, Mr. Lessing stated yesterday that his appointment as city judge would enable him to resume his studies at night school and graduate from the Southwestern Law School and be eligible for admittance to the state bar.

Judge Lessing is a graduate of Torrance high school, class of 1924, and was one of the organizers and served as first president of the local school's student government body. His popularity among Torrance residents was indicated in a recent city election, when he received a substantial vote in the councilmanic race. He enrolled early in the campaign to elect President Roosevelt and served as vice president of the local Roosevelt for President Club, and has been active in local Democratic party circles ever since. Lessing was recently appointed on the Congressional Committee of the 17th District.

Catalina Street Work In Torrance Will Start Soon

Catalina street in Hollywood Riviera, between the north and south city limits of Torrance, a distance of less than a mile, is to be widened and graded by SERRA workmen receiving work relief on a new project for the community. The street is to be widened to 56 feet with the 20-foot paved portion in the center. Allocating an approximate SERRA payroll of \$29,344 and expecting that the job will require about six weeks, the SERRA officials hope to assign about 200 men to the project. Funds to be distributed by the city of Torrance for material and supervision amount to \$1300, bringing the total cost for the project to \$30,644.