

DANGER LURKS

In Schemes of Big City Politicians to Swallow Up Torrance

The future entity of the City of Torrance as a separate municipality with the benefits of its comparatively low tax rate and self government is seriously threatened by plans now under consideration by ambitious Los Angeles city officials.

As reported two weeks ago by this newspaper's Los Angeles correspondent, the plan contemplates including Torrance, Culver City, Venice and the valuable east side manufacturing district in the proposed consolidation of city and county governments. The purpose of including Torrance and other areas having large assessed valuations and small bonded indebtedness is obvious, as such cities as Lynwood, Hawthorne and Inglewood are omitted because of "sour bond" districts.

In discussing his plan for consolidation of city and county government with a group of newspapermen this week, Mayor Frank L. Shaw of Los Angeles stated that "he could see no excuse for a county government any more."

A number of plans for consolidation of the metropolitan area are now being studied by a Los Angeles citizens' committee which is to report to Mayor Shaw within a week or ten days. However, it is a safe bet that regardless of which plan is followed, Torrance stands to lose heavily by being saddled with the heavy bonded indebtedness of Los Angeles, as well as the sacrifice of its local self government.

It is high time that taxpayers and others interested in the future of Torrance give serious thought to the dangers which threaten us by these ambitious schemes of big city politicians.

Adoption of a city charter with protective provisions against such consolidations would eliminate the hazard.

Two New Houses On Torrance Blvd. Are Models of Convenience; Modern

Notable additions to the residential section in the west part of Torrance are the two new houses built by A. W. Hookway, Pasadena builder, one of which is already completed and ready for occupancy. The other is rapidly being finished. Mr. Hookway, who has extensive property interests in this city, decided recently to improve some of the lots and selected the location on Torrance boulevard west of Cedar, as being a desirable site for modern homes.

Both houses are of stucco, with five rooms. The floor plan is unique in that the living room and one bedroom form the front part of the house with two ell's extending back with a patio between. From the living room in the completed house one large window looks into the patio which affords a pleasing view of the flower beds flanking the graveled walk and the landscaped gardens at the rear of the lot. In the east ell is the bathroom and the second bedroom, with a hall leading from front to back bedroom. An outside entrance from the hall leads into the patio. Both sleeping rooms are provided with ample closets with built-in racks for shoes, and the hall has a closet for linens and bedding.

The bath, finished in tile, has a tub enclosed on three sides with overhead shower, built-in cupboard, lavatory and toilet.

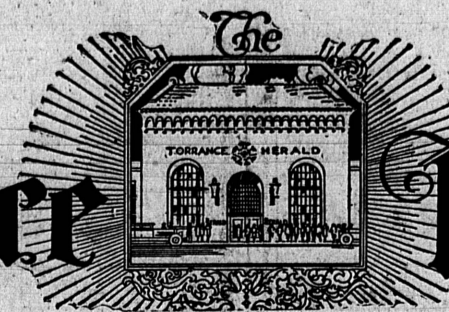
Living rooms are large and well proportioned with ample light and ventilation from large windows. The west ell contains the dining room, kitchen and enclosed porch, the latter large enough for refrigerator, washing machine and laundry tub.

The kitchen has tile drainboards flanking the sink with plenty of cupboards, drawer space and arrangements for stove and other equipment are planned for greatest convenience.

Floors are of hardwood throughout and wall paper in each room is of tasteful harmonizing pattern. Extra electric outlets are located in the light fixtures instead of in the walls, a more convenient arrangement. Since each house stands on high ground, the lawns have been terraced and flowers are

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UTILITIES TO ADD HUGE SUM TO VALUATION

Bring Assessed Valuations In City to Highest Point in Many Years

Approximately \$2,441,930 will be added to the assessed valuation of property within the City of Torrance as the result of returning public utility properties to municipal tax rolls as provided for at the recent session of the state legislature. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was informed this week by County Assessor Ed. W. Hopkins. This brings the total assessed valuation for municipal tax purposes up to \$18,336,475, the highest point in several years. Other assessment figures, as published last week, are: Real estate, \$5,714,110; improvements, \$3,257,450; personal property, \$6,222,885. In announcing the valuation of utility property, County Assessor Hopkins called attention to the fact that the figures must be considered as "tentative," as the valuations are determined by the state board of equalization and are subject to revision outside his jurisdiction.

TO CONTACT outside capital ON HOUSING

In an effort to convince outside capital of the advantages offered investors by building houses in Torrance and thus relieving the acute housing shortage here, a committee was appointed by directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Monday to contact building interests in Los Angeles and invite these building investors to make a study of the opportunities which are open to them in this city.

Members of the committee are: De Kalb Spurlin, chairman; J. C. Smith and C. T. Rippon, President B. C. Buxton will also serve as an ex-officio member of the committee.

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Mystery attack ends in Death

Charles A. Hoffacher, Redondo Beach resident, employed here at the Columbia Steel plant, died last night at the General Hospital, Los Angeles, from injuries sustained in a mysterious attack at the hands of an unknown assailant on the night of June 25. Hoffacher was removed from the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital here to the uptown institution on July 6, and lingered in a semi-conscious condition until yesterday.

Deputy Sheriff Killian and Gray of the homicide squad have followed many leads given by Hoffacher in more lucid moments but to date have brought no definite results and the circumstances surrounding the attack which drove a deep hole in Hoffacher's forehead and fractured the frontal bone, are still shrouded in mystery.

County Counsel Approves Plan To Lease Park

Prospects For World's Fair At Alondra Park Grow Brighter

Prospect for a world's fair at the outskirts of Torrance in two years is increasingly bright since County Counsel Everett W. Macdonald approved plans for such a fair at Alondra Park, which joins this city on the north. Plans to lease the park for fair purposes to the Los Angeles Exposition, Inc., were declared legal by the county counsel this week.

Under the plan the grounds will be leased in return for payment of interest and retirement charges on more than \$1,000,000 in park bonds. These charges will be in excess of \$51,000 a year.

The result of this arrangement will be of distinct advantage to property owners in the district who have been financially burdened with taxes and assessments. In handing down his decision Mattoon suggested that the forestry department co-operate with the exposition by laying out \$150,000 in landscape improvements and a convention hall which would be furnished by the exposition. Lee D. Matthews is head of the exposition company, which made the proposition to lease the park more than a year ago.

FRIENDSHIP is theme of ROTARIANS

Friendship and fellowship will be the theme of the Torrance Rotary Club dinner meeting tonight. A number of representatives from other civic clubs and organizations have been invited as guests, including Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, other members of the city council, city officials and B. C. Buxton, newly-elected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Under the leadership of its newly-elected President George P. Shidler, the local Rotary Club has shown a marked increase in membership, representing various professions, industrial and mercantile interests. A group of ten members were enrolled last Thursday evening, and another group is slated to join tonight, according to President Shidler. Next Thursday, July 25, has been designated as "Kum-Double Night," when wives, sweethearts and other members of the family will be guests, and a highly interesting program has been arranged.

Aged Man Suffers Heat Prostration

J. W. Breen, 78, suffered a heat prostration at his home at 2015 Wilmington-Redondo boulevard, Lomita Tuesday afternoon, and was brought to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for first aid. Due to a mistake in transmitting the message to Sub-station No. 3, Whittington's ambulance was sent from Gardena to 2015 Riverside-Redondo boulevard, and in contacting Stone & Myers in Torrance the report was made that the man was dead. Monroe Gamby made the trip to Lomita with the horse and had to return for an ambulance. Breen is recovering.

Consent to Use Athletic Field Is Obtained

High School Grounds and Gymnasium Are Open For Recreation Purposes

Consent of the Los Angeles city board of education has been obtained to use the high school athletic field, tennis courts, and gymnasium, for recreational purposes during the next two weeks, according to Harry Phillips, who will be in charge of this area under Playground Director Bernard J. Donahue. The board gave its permission on condition that the people of Torrance show their appreciation and need for the added facilities by maintaining an average attendance of 40 a day. If this attendance is noted, the time for using the high school grounds will be extended until the first week in September.

This recreation area will be for the use of older boys, young men, business men, girls and women and will offer such games as indoor ball, football, volleyball and hand ball, tennis, and in the gymnasium checkers, pingpong, basketball and other indoor games.

Hours will be from 3 to 9 p. m. Play started at these grounds yesterday, and will be carried on five days a week or every day except Saturday and Sunday.

Those who are interested in forming teams or joining in any of the sports will find Mr. Phillips in the office in the gym at any time during the regular play hours.

Hospital Gets Reduction On Improvements

Board of Equalization Grants Cut in Assessed Valuation

Substantial reduction on the improvements of the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital was granted this week by the county board of equalization; upon the petition of the directors, represented by Donald Findley, secretary, and J. S. Lancaster, vice president.

Assessed valuation on the improvements on Engracia street was cut from \$40,980 to \$2,410. Plan for reduction on Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Tract 7609, assessed at \$960, \$140 and \$2,200, respectively, was denied. This is the property on Engracia street. A nominal assessment on \$175 worth of furnishings also was denied.

Findley stated that the hospital "proportion" and that physicians composing its board of directors had come to the aid of the institution some time ago in order that the city and the community might not lose the hospital.

On other real property assessed at \$20 a reduction was denied, as was a cut requested on furniture valued at \$700. On improvements assessed at \$2,210, a reduction was granted to \$1,000.

Good Program At High School Gym

The regular evening recreational program will be held next Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at the high school gymnasium, under the direction of the recreation department. Vaudeville acts, including mind reading, hill billies, vocal solos, and a 20-piece orchestra will be on the program. No admission is charged and the public is invited.

* BETTER HOUSING *
* NEWS FLASHES TO *
* BE SHOWN HERE *
* News flashes of the Na- *
* tional Better Housing cam- *
* paign will be shown at the *
* Torrance Theatre during the *
* week of July 24 to 30, ac- *
* cording to word received this *
* week from Washington. The *
* Better Housing News Flash *
* depicts the remarkable progress *
* being made throughout the *
* nation in a most interesting *
* and instructive manner, and *
* are being exhibited in Tor- *
* rance through the co-opera- *
* tion of Dewitt Van Derlip, *
* manager of the Torrance *
* Theatre. *

Termites Attack City Jail

Repairs to the city jail building or a complete new structure to house the police department is a problem which confronts the city council in setting up its budget for the coming fiscal year, since the discovery that termites had attacked the old building and weakened it to a considerable extent. The police station was badly damaged in the earthquake of March 10, 1933, and further damages due to the voracious insects makes it imperative that some action should be taken to make it fit for use.

The council met recently to discuss the budget but adjourned to a later date without taking any action, since the new problems which have come up will require some study.

Fishing Case Involves Nice Points At Law

Question of Jurisdiction Over Ocean Waters to Be Decided

Judge Frank Carrell, of the Inglewood justice court, sitting in Torrance Tuesday morning, took under submission an interesting question at law, in the matter of the People vs. Anthony Bozanich, a San Pedro fisherman, who was given a citation on June 27 by Captain L. G. Smith of the state fish and game patrol boat to appear for a hearing on a charge of using a round haul net larger than sanctioned by law in certain waters.

Complaint was issued on July 8 and Bozanich was notified to appear on July 16 for a hearing. He was represented by Attorney Arch E. Eckdale, of San Pedro. Deputy District Attorney Clarence S. Hunt, of Long Beach, represented the complainant.

The case presented some technical points involving jurisdiction of the state fish and game commission as set up by legislative act over certain waters. Bozanich was given the citation while within a closed area off the shore at Malaga Cove. His defense, as outlined by Attorney Eckdale, set up the alleged fact that he had set his net outside of the district, the net had become fouled in the propeller and that the ocean currents had drifted him inside the line. When boarded by the captain of the patrol boat he and his men were trying to clear the net and haul it aboard. The complainant contended that the net had been set inside the line and that when he boarded the drift was carrying the boat out to sea.

Attorney Eckdale argued that since the propeller had been fouled by the net, that the boat was unseaworthy and had a right to be within the district and to land if possible in order to make repairs. He further argued that the state of California had no right to declare a closed area within a line drawn from headland to headland of a bay which was more than two marine leagues, or six miles, wide. He contended that since the bay where the alleged offense was committed was more than six miles wide, then the closed district should follow the shore line within the three-mile limit imposed by international law. The "Success," Bozanich's boat, was outside this limit.

Points of international law, admiralty law, usages of the nations of the world with respect to territorial waters, were quoted by the attorney, who has made a special study of this phase of law as related to the fishing industry.

Since no cases of a similar nature have been decided by courts of a higher jurisdiction in California, Judge Carrell reserved his decision for further study of the nice points involved and will announce it later.

Disturber Is Given Heavy Fine

F. A. Kothhoff, said to be the manager of the Kowshed, a night club at Waveria, was given a fine of \$100 or 90 days, on a charge of disturbing the peace at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital this week. Kothhoff's sentence was suspended on condition that he pay for damages done at the hospital and that he get out of the Kowshed as early as possible.

Liquidity of Realty Loans Aim of Gov't.

Underlying Purposes of Federal Housing Act Explained to Chamber Members

If you can afford to pay rent, you can afford to buy or build a home under the liberal terms of the Federal Housing Administration, W. O. Harris, official of the F. H. A. office in Los Angeles, told an interested group of listeners at the quarterly membership meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday evening.

Anything that the banks will loan money on is considered a liquid asset, whether it be stocks and bonds, real estate mortgages, or a herd of white steplants. The reason that stocks and bonds remained liquid during the depression and real estate mortgages became frozen is that the banks continued to loan money on securities and ceased loaning money on real estate mortgages. Unless the banks accepted stocks and bonds as securities for loans, you would have just as much trouble going out on the street trying to sell stocks and bonds as you had real estate mortgages, continued Mr. Harris.

By insuring loans on real estate, the federal government plans to restore real estate mortgages to their former status of liquidity enjoyed prior to the depression, Mr. Harris stated.

Sixty percent of unemployment is due to stagnation in the building trades industry, which lost 90 percent of its normal business during the depression years. Normally the building trades industry is second only to agriculture in the number of people it employs in the nation. Hence, it can readily be understood, that if a revival of business in the building trades industry can be accomplished, the major part of the unemployment problem will be solved, Mr. Harris explained.

Another interesting feature of the Tuesday evening meeting was the showing of a talking picture by the Johns-Manville Corporation depicting the opportunities offered energetic building contractors to increase their business by properly selling the liberal provisions of the Federal Housing Act. W. R. Dempwolf, representative of the Johns-Manville Corporation, stated that his company had increased its volume of sales over 150 percent by applying intelligent sales efforts under the F. H. A. plan. Ideas for home modernization, illustrated by "before and after" pictures were strikingly set forth in the talking picture which has won much praise from F. H. A. officials.

DUDE RANCHES to be placed on SALE SOON

"Dude ranches" ranging from 10 to 45 acres in size, will be offered for private ownership in a short time, according to plans to subdivide an extensive area in the 12,000-acre Rancho Palos Verdes announced by Manager A. E. Hanson of the Palos Verdes Corporation.

The property for sale includes a large section of the south slope of the old rancho, which will be sold to buyers who are interested in owning a small ranch for pleasure and not for commercial profit.

The tract is reached over private roads from the main coast highway on the north. Graded roads and a plentiful water supply will be a part of each transaction. A private beach clubhouse, located in Abalone cove, will be for the exclusive use of the ranch owners.

Dog Upsets Dignity Of Torrance Judge

Dogs in the MacDonald tract apparently have no respect for the law or the courts. Judge Robert F. Lessing of the county court accompanied Torrance officers on a call to that district last Sunday, and lost a portion of his good trousers, some cuticle, and a good deal of judicial calm when the family watchdog on the premises took a snap at the calf of his leg. Judge Bob retaliated with a hefty kick which missed. No apologies on either side were offered or accepted.

RE-ARRESTED

Wanda B. Trupp, arrested July 8 for disturbing the peace, was back in custody on the following day, and given a fine of \$5 on a vagrancy charge. Wanda was released to raise the money and has not been seen in Torrance since.

COMMITTEE OF CONSOLIDATION PLAN WILL BE SELECTED SOON

Mayor Frank L. Shaw of Los Angeles Declares He Can See No Excuse For County Government

Selection of a citizens' committee to study and report on five possible ways of reducing the cost of government in Los Angeles county will be made within a week or 10 days, Mayor Frank L. Shaw of Los Angeles told a delegation of newspaper men late Tuesday at the city hall.

Declaring that "he could see no excuse for a county government" any more, Mayor Shaw reiterated the statements made in his annual message to the Los Angeles city council last April. The five ways he suggested are:

First, consolidation of city and county governments; Second, separation of the present city of Los Angeles from the county, and the formation of a combined city and county government within the limits of the present city; Third, consolidation of functions of the various jurisdictions within the county;

Fourth, legislation that would relieve property within the city from the burden of all county taxation, except that necessary to pay the cost of services actually rendered by the county to the city; or Fifth, abolition of county government, with the state itself rendering all governmental services not performed by the municipality.

Contention of Mayor Shaw was that the city of Los Angeles, which it has been shown pays some 57 percent of the county taxes, is paying for services rendered to the unincorporated areas, such as police protection through the sheriff's office, health service and maintenance of libraries, as examples.

Shaw also made the statement that he believed other municipalities were also helping to pay the cost of these services in the unincorporated areas. He asserted that the taxpayers in the unincorporated sections were not paying their full share of the costs of government.

Asked how municipalities would be represented if the county and its board of supervisors were to be abolished, the mayor replied "assemblymen and the county's senator—that should be enough."

Torrance Boys Win Prizes In School Chick Raising Contest

Clarence Bay and William Dennis, two Torrance Future Farmers of America, are happy this week since they received news from the Taylor Milling Company that they had been awarded first prize in a chick raising contest sponsored by the company, which the boys have carried on as a project at the Torrance high school under the direction of S. E. Merrill this year.

Bay and Dennis will split the prize of \$75 between them. Their rating made over a large field of entrants from many high schools of Southern California was 197.0. Their project involved the care of 500 chicks.

Everett Miller of Chino was second with a score of 180.8 on 150 chicks; he will receive \$50.00. Albert Gardner, Grossmont, with 400 chicks rated third and receives \$25 for his score of 179.5.

Joe Bay of Torrance placed fourth with a rating of 178.0 for 100 chicks and Alvin Petree of Grossmont fifth, score 175.0 on 100 chicks.

The closeness of the score indicates the keen competition which the boys had to meet, and the Torrance lads are to be congratulated on their success.

The awards will be presented next Wednesday evening, at a meeting and banquet to be held at the home of S. E. Merrill, agriculture instructor of Torrance high, 807 El Redondo, Redondo Beach, starting at 7 o'clock. A swim at the beach will precede the feed, which will be followed by the presentation speech by Dr. Harmon and a musical program.

DIRECTORS meet on 3rd MONDAYS

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will hold their regular meetings on the third Monday afternoon of each month instead of the first Monday as has been the custom. It was decided this week. The next directors' meeting is scheduled for August 19, according to L. J. Gilmeister, secretary.

MRS. KELSEY AT HOME Mrs. L. B. Kelsey and son Louis returned to their home, 1515 El Prado avenue, after a two month vacation in Wichita, Kansas.