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# Torrance Herald

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Torrance Herald & Lomita News

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This Issue

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 46

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1935

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## U. S. STEEL'S PRESIDENT IS LOCAL VISITOR

### Heads List of Corporation's Chief Executives In In- spection of Local Plant

William Adolph Irvin, president of the United States Steel Corporation, parent company of the Columbia Steel Company, headed a prominent list of officials who inspected the Columbia plant at Torrance Tuesday. Others in the group included Robert Gregg, vice president in charge of sales of the United States Steel Corporation; Charles H. Rhodes, vice president in charge of purchases; A. N. Diehl, president of Columbia Steel Company; William A. Ross, Columbia vice president in charge of sales; and W. R. Hibbs, Columbia's general manager of operations.

"Business improvement in America seems to be definite," stated the 61-year-old president of the United States Steel Corporation in an interview Tuesday.

"Your California outlook seems particularly encouraging," President Irvin observed. "We fully realize that this metropolitan of the West is constantly growing in industrial importance. Naturally we enjoy meeting men who are doing the things that keep the wheels of industry in motion."

Most of President Irvin's time in the Southland has been occupied with viewing local steel manufacturing concerns. He has also visited his acquaintances in the oil industry, taking advantage of the convention of the American Petroleum Institute now in session in Los Angeles.

B. F. Harris, director of the A. P. I. and president of the Oil Well Supply Company and the National Tube Company, is also a member of the Irvin party.

## First Season Concert Presented Next Tuesday

The first of the series of six concerts given by the Torrance Symphonic orchestra, sponsored by Torrance city council, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Torrance business people and other public-spirited citizens, will offer a varied program which will satisfy every taste. Classics as well as numbers by modern composers will be included at the affair next Tuesday evening at the Woman's clubhouse.

The orchestra will further prove its ability by playing accompaniments for the soloist of the evening.

The playing of Jolly Robbers Overture requires considerable technique and lightness of bow in the violin section for proper execution.

In the suite by German, the intricate weaving of counterpoints and fugue movements will be of special interest.

Mr. Mershon, conductor of the orchestra, will give the original Verdi interpretation of the several melodies included in the La Traviata Fantasia. In the Tchaikowsky waltz, an especially colorful Russian interpretation will be offered. These interpretations are possible only to our conductor, Mr. Mershon, through his experience in Russia as a member of a very fine opera orchestra which featured these particular operas.

An accident in Florida has brought good luck to Torrance—the opportunity to hear Neena Gifford, famous for her radio work in Florida and for her appearance in Dunbar's "Robin Hood."

In the Andante from the "Surprise Symphony," the audience will be especially interested in watching the development of the melody as it moves from one group of instruments to another.

## Financial Set-Up Studied

### Report On Torrance School Costs and Revenues By Auditor Expected Soon

C. J. Rambo, certified public accountant and city auditor, who had been authorized by the council to prepare a report on the financial set-up involving the public schools in this city, and who had been expected to lay the figures before the council Tuesday evening, asked further time to complete the report, which extension was granted, and an additional sum of not to exceed \$200 was allowed the accountant for this work.

Mr. Rambo stated that in preparing the figures he found that the Torrance high school is serving not only the city of Torrance proper but that it draws attendance from outlying districts as far east as Main street, and the Torrance elementary school from as far as Vermont avenue.

For this reason he felt that the additional revenue from taxation in that district should be included as well as the additional cost of furnishing facilities to these pupils.

In forming a school district, said Mr. Rambo, no account is taken of city boundaries, but the school district may take in territory located in two or more municipalities, as well as county territory, and school taxes are levied on the district formed, the revenue being turned into the treasury of the district.

While he stated that his report was incomplete, he was able to give an instance of the widely variant administrative costs, based on average daily attendance, in some schools. Administrative costs for the Prairie avenue school in the McDonald tract were as low as 37 cents per pupil he stated, while in other elementary schools it ran as high as \$3.40 per pupil.

He also cited widely different conditions in the Prairie avenue and the Walteria schools, serving about the same number of pupils, indicating an unequal distribution of required duties and remuneration of principals and teachers.

Mr. Rambo's report in full will probably be ready to be presented to the council at their next meeting tomorrow as he said he would make every effort to have it completed by that time.

Contract with the county board of supervisors covering operation of the Torrance public library for the year ending June 30, 1936, was approved.

City Clerk Bartlett was requested to communicate with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in reference to the repair of neon highway signs advertising the City of Torrance. Mayor Ludlow stated that several of these signs have missing letters and asked that the Chamber of Commerce either take the signs down or have them repaired.

Councilman Wm. Tolson stated that plans had been completed for setting out a cypress hedge on both sides of the railroad right of way through the municipal park.

H. W. Slover addressed the council pointing out the fire hazard which exists by allowing tall weeds to remain on the vacant property between Cedar and Date streets and Torrance boulevard and Eldorado avenue. Councilman Stanger, chairman of the fire committee, stated that city crews would remove the weeds immediately.

At the meeting of the city council Tuesday night, that body authorized the forwarding of a request to the state board of equalization, asking that in future no more licenses be issued for the sale of liquors in Torrance, unless first recommended by the council. The city dads believe that there are now as many such places in business here as are desirable for a place of this size.

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## COMMITTEE RE-STATES STAND ESTABLISHING CIVIC CENTER

### Mayor Ludlow Voices Opposition Because of Increased Land Cost; Corner At Post Avenue Is Being Considered For Library

After an hour and a half's study of all proposed sites for the new municipal auditorium and public library, the Committee of Forty last Friday evening by unanimous vote reaffirmed its former recommendation for the establishment of a civic center adjacent to the city hall site at junction of Cravens avenue and El Prado.

A thorough discussion was held relative to the costs of the various building sites offered. While it was pointed out that some financial savings could be realized by scattering the new buildings, it was the opinion of committee members that the lower cost of sites elsewhere did not justify the abandonment of the civic center idea.

The large piece of property located at the northwest corner of El Prado and Cravens, measuring 180 feet by 155 feet, was recommended for the auditorium. It has been offered for \$8,000. The site recommended for the library lies directly across the park from the city hall site and measures 160 feet on El Prado and 125 feet on Cravens. It has been submitted for \$15,000, but this quotation may be reduced to \$12,500 or possibly lower, it was reported.

When the communication from the Committee of Forty was read at the city council meeting Tuesday evening, Mayor Ludlow pointed out that the purchase of any one of the sites recommended would preclude the purchase of the other, as only \$10,500 had been set up for acquisition of land. It is reported that Mayor Ludlow favors locating the library at the northwest corner of Post and Cravens avenues, which may be bought for \$4,000. However, at the council meeting, Mayor Ludlow did not mention any other specific sites he had in mind; but it was clearly indicated that he did not favor the civic center idea because of the increased cost in

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## Mayors Swarm Here

### Supervisors Also Guests of City Prior to Inspection of Outfall Sewer

Mayors and other city officials from a score of nearby cities, together with Supervisors John R. Quinn and H. C. Legg, and A. K. Warren, chief engineer of the county sanitation district, were in Torrance Tuesday to attend the regular meeting of directors of the Metropolitan sewer district. Mayor Scott R. Ludlow was assisted in entertaining the visiting officials by other members of the Torrance city council.

After a brief business meeting at the city hall, the entire party numbering about 50 men were served lunch at the Legion clubhouse by members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Following the luncheon the city officials were taken on a tour of inspection of the \$2,626,240 White Point outfall sewer project.

The sewage plant on the Fogg ranch, Vermont avenue and Lomita boulevard, was first visited. There Warren explained the operation, after which the group went to the tunnel entrance on Western avenue and walked into the bore about 2,100 feet where a crew of men are digging about 65 feet per day.

At the shaft in the San Pedro hills, the group went down 145 feet to a point where drifts are being started in two directions. Workmen are encountering water in this section of the project, but are making progress. At the ocean end of the tunnel a large bulkhead has been built and excavation has been done for about 600 feet where the pipe will be laid under water.

The group inspected the Merritt, Chapman & Scott Corporation plant in San Pedro. Large derricks are handling 80-ton sections of the concrete pipe for the tunnel. Warren explained that the tunnel will be about six and one-half miles in length. It will be laid on a level about 12 feet below sea level, with a drop of 19 1/2 feet to carry the sewage.

The United Concrete Company has charge of the land end of the project at a contract bid of \$440,058, and the Shafner, Gordon Company has the mid-section contract at a bid of \$1,566,131. The Merritt, Chapman & Scott Corporation is doing the ocean end of the work on a \$528,059 contract. Engineering costs will run about \$100,000. The government is furnishing 30 percent of the cost with the tunnel not to exceed \$872,000.

MEETING TONIGHT  
The Harbor District Chambers of Commerce are meeting tonight at the American Legion clubhouse in Harbor City. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Following a program with Walter Willis, harbor manager, as speaker.

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## DEFER ACTION UNTIL FRIDAY ON BOND BIDS

### Word From Washington Ex- pected Shortly, According to Beebe, Bond Expert

Although a number of representatives of bond houses were in the audience at the council chamber Tuesday evening to await the opening of bids on the sale of bonds for public buildings, the Torrance city council returned the bids unopened.

The action was taken on advice of James L. Beebe, bond expert retained by the city, because as yet final approval of the federal grant of \$52,500 has not been given by PWA officials at Washington. However, Mr. Beebe, who went to Washington recently in behalf of the city's application, in form of a favorable word from PWA officials was expected shortly and requested the council to adjourn until Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at which time if the anticipated approval is given, the bond bids may be opened. Representatives of bond houses were requested by Mayor Ludlow to re-submit their bids Friday afternoon.

According to Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, the necessary approval of the Torrance grant has been given by all officials through whose hands the matter must pass, except one, and it is upon the decision of this final authority that the council is waiting.

## SECOND WELL shows good gravel TO 601 FEET

According to City Engineer Frank Leonard, the second test well now being drilled on the property west of Cedar avenue, has reached a depth of 601 feet. Good water-bearing gravel was encountered at a depth of 85 feet, continuing to 500 feet. Below that point the same quicksand formation was found as was shown by the first test well.

On recommendation of Arthur L. Taylor, consulting engineer, the well will be shut off at 500 feet and perforated casing set to that point. This will give the city about 400 feet of water bearing gravel, and should develop approximately the same capacity as the first well. The new well is located 720 feet from the first test.

## Woodman, - "Spare That Tree!"

### Tranquility of El Prado Residents Disturbed By Removal of Eucalyptus Trees On Parkway

"Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree."

So runs the tuneful rhythm of the well-known ballad, but not so smoothly did the discussion flow at the city council meeting Tuesday evening ament the removal of eucalyptus trees on El Prado in front of the residences of City Attorney C. T. Rippy and J. B. Scotton. And still less harmonious were the vigorous protests voiced by indignant tree lovers residing elsewhere on the parkway in expressing their opposition to members of the city council and city officials for the ruthless chopping of nature's proud beauties.

Mayor Ludlow insisted that he only agreed to the removal of one tree, whereas four in a row had been taken out. And to quiet all fears, Councilman Hitchcock stated positively that there would be no more trees removed until a plan had been agreed upon.

In defense of the action, City Attorney Rippy stated the roots of the trees were cracking the sidewalks and pavement. He suggested that some sort of ornamental or flowering trees be substituted which do not shed their bark as do the eucalyptus. Rippy said that both he and Mr. Scotton would be glad to put in any kind of tree the council desired.

It was finally decided, however, that City Clerk Bartlett call a meeting of all residents on El Prado to decide upon the number of eucalyptus trees which should be removed and what type of trees should be substituted. In order to give residents ample time to study the matter, the meeting will be held in about 30 days.

## IN MEMORY OF WILL ROGERS



Contributions to the Will Rogers Memorial Fund are being received at the Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America, in this city, also at the office of the Torrance Herald. Any amount, large or small, will be welcomed.

## Boy Killed Riding Bicycle Monday

Alexander Robert Sloan, age 14, residing at 22327 South Figueroa street, Keystone, was killed Monday night when he was struck by a car on Sepulveda boulevard east of Wilmington avenue. The boy was riding a bicycle, allegedly without lights. The driver of the car involved, W. H. Damon, 1211 Island avenue, Wilmington, was not held by police.

Sloan was taken to Wilmington where a police surgeon treated him for a basal skull fracture and compound fractures of the left leg and ankle, but he died less than an hour after being taken to the Wilmington emergency hospital. The body was unidentified until the following day.

APARTMENT ENTERED  
V. F. Glidden, manager of the Cravens Apartments, reported to city police last Thursday that an unknown party had broken a window in Apartment No. 102, occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Sibley Aptwich. A \$5 bill and a purse containing \$3 were taken.