

Torrance Herald

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MAY SUBMIT BOND ISSUE FOR NEW CITY HALL-AUDITORIUM

Library Building to Be Included; Much Enthusiasm Is Expressed For Launching Building Program Through Liberal Federal Financing

Attracted by an unprecedented offer for federal aid now available under the \$4,000,000,000 public works fund, Torrance city officials and civic leaders are seriously discussing the advisability of submitting a municipal bond issue for the construction of a combined city hall and auditorium, as well as the new library building.

Under the liberal new set-up, the federal government offers outright grants representing 45 percent of the cost of such public buildings, and in addition will agree to purchase bonds for the remaining 55 percent at 3 percent interest.

It is roughly estimated that the total cost of erecting the new library building will be \$25,000, and the cost of a city hall and auditorium would approximate \$75,000, or a total of \$100,000. Of this, the federal government would donate \$45,000, and furnish the remaining \$55,000 at 3 percent interest. On this basis, a two-cent increase in the tax rate would pay both the interest and principal of such municipal bonds. In other words, figuring the average assessed valuation of homes in Torrance to be \$1,000, the cost to each home owner would be about 20 cents a year.

For this small tax levy, Torrance could construct a much needed auditorium seating 1,200 people, a city hall with quarters for the city clerk, city engineer and municipal water department, approximately double the size of present quarters, as well as a council chamber seating 250 persons. It is proposed to include the auditorium and city hall in one project and the library in another, offering them as separate propositions on the ballot, so that in the event voters did not favor the auditorium-city hall project and did favor the construction of a new library, or vice versa, they could so vote, and neither proposition would be lost because of the unpopularity of the other.

It has also been suggested that another \$50,000 be added to the bond issue to cover the cost of equipping the auditorium and city hall with seats and other furnishings which could be made a permanent part of the building and thus save the city the cost of paying for such equipment out of the general fund.

It is generally agreed that the city hall and auditorium should be built on one location and the library on another, but with the idea of grouping them about the El Prado parkway. This, of course, would necessitate the purchase of additional land, the cost of which would be included in the bond issue.

While no definite steps have been taken regarding the proposal, there is much enthusiasm being expressed around the city hall and among other civic leaders. It is generally agreed that the present quarters of city offices are badly cramped and some provision for enlargement must be made soon. The need for a suitable auditorium is also quite generally recognized, and the necessity of a new library building is apparent to nearly everyone.

If Torrance is to get its share of the four billion dollar federal "pie," it seems wise that the city get its affairs in shape so that it can "cash in" on the government's liberal offer, which requires that bonds be voted for the 55 percent of any project undertaken, but the bonds will carry only 3 percent interest; these are some of the arguments being put forth by advocates of the proposed bond issue.

Wedding Party Flies High On Saturday

Judge Frank Carrell of the Inglewood justice court has performed many a wedding ceremony but he was flying high last Saturday when he tied the nuptial knot for a young Los Angeles couple. The ceremony was performed while soaring over the city of Los Angeles in the Goodyear blimp. Parties to the unique affair were Henry Darling, son of a Los Angeles detective, and Miss Cecilia Marsinette. Wedding parties are usually up in the air, figuratively speaking, and sometimes do not get down to realities for some time, but in this case the bride and groom came down to earth immediately after the judge pronounced them one.

Torrance's Part In Exposition Is Appreciated

Letter From Director Offers Thanks For Community Program

Torrance's part in the National Housing Exposition, recently held in Los Angeles, brought very favorable attention from visitors, according to a letter which came this week to Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

"This city was ably represented by the Madrigal Singers of Torrance high school under the direction of Mrs. Margery Elschen, and by the students of the woodshop classes who prepared and displayed a model house, said to be one of the three best exhibits at the exposition.

The letter, signed by the director of promotion and special events, is as follows:

"June 2, 1935.
"L. J. Gilmeister,
"Secretary Torrance
"Chamber of Commerce,
"Torrance, California.

"Dear Mr. Gilmeister:
"On behalf of the board of directors and our management we wish to express to you our sincere appreciation for the program brought to the National Housing Exposition by your community in celebration of Torrance Day.

"The Madrigal Singers were a delightful treat and enjoyed by everyone including the large art group dinner, who they appeared as a surprise number.

"Will you please convey to Mrs. Elschen and her group our appreciation for their services.

"Very truly yours,
"National Housing Exposition,
"Lyman H. Johnson, director
"Promotion and Special Events."

No Change In Hours and Wages At Gas Company

Utility Head Says Company Will Carry On NRA Schedule to Aid Employment

The Southern California Gas Company will carry on with wages and hour schedules instituted under the NRA according to present plans, an announcement issued today by A. B. Macbeth, president of the company, says.

Mr. Macbeth's announcement follows: "With respect to employees, we contemplate no increase as to hours nor decrease as to wages as a result of the NRA decision. We have adjusted our operations to the basis of a 40-hour week, and we believe a return to longer hours would be a step backward under present conditions. As a matter of fact, this company, for some time prior to the inception of the NRA, had placed a shorter work week in effect in certain departments at no reduction in hourly wage rates in order to maintain employment at as high a level as possible."

Three Directors Are Re-elected

Sherwood McIntyre, R. R. Smith and DeKalb Spurlin were re-elected Monday at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to be members of the board of directors of that body. McIntyre and Smith represent the industrial section, Spurlin the general membership.

Election is for a term of three years, beginning July 1. Holdover members of the board are Bronson C. Buxton, Frank Buffington, Bert W. Lanz, Fred Isaacs, Alden W. Smith and J. W. McQuaid.

AUTO DEALERS vote to retain NRA SCALES

Determination to maintain their present level of wages and hours, for service and repair departments was voiced by the Association of Motor Vehicle Dealers, Area No. 8, including Torrance, Gardena, Wilmington and San Pedro, which met in Torrance Tuesday night. About 20 members of the association were present and voted unanimously to stay with the working conditions which prevailed under the code.

The group met for dinner at the Brass Hall, 1623 Cabrillo avenue, where an excellent dinner was served and a file floor show was put on for their entertainment.

DELINQUENCY in Torrance tax TAKES DROP

A notable decrease in tax delinquency for Torrance and the county of Los Angeles as a whole was reported today by the county auditor's office, on the basis of the 1934-35 tax collections.

Decrease of 2.36 percent in the general county delinquency was reported, as compared with collections for 1933-34. Delinquency in payment of general county taxes, for which the rate of \$1.20 applied, was only 11 percent even this year, as compared with 13.36 percent for last year. Both figures are as of April 20, the deadline for payment of second installment taxes.

Delinquency for the flood control district is only 11.11 percent this year, as against 13.28 last year.

For the county's largest city, Los Angeles, delinquency was 9.92 percent, nearly 3 percent lower than 12.61 percent reported for last year.

Annual Jinx Day Program Held at Narbonne Today

Mothers and Friends of Girl Students Are Invited Guests

The annual Jinx Day sponsored by the Narbonne Girls' Athletic Association will be held this afternoon (Thursday, June 6) at 2:30 on the girls' field. Many mothers and friends of Narbonne students are expected to attend. The program has been planned to acquaint the mothers with the work done in the girls' physical education classes.

Winifred Mulken, a senior A, will give a short talk welcoming the guests. On the program will be a backward drill, a skit about an old photograph album, a scarecrow dance, and an exercise drill by one group of girls while another group accompanies them with songs.

After the entertainment, the visitors will be taken to the cafeteria where they will be served sandwiches, cookies and tea by the senior girls. Maxine Henderson, Marian Barnett and Catherine Bibber comprise the refreshment committee.

To celebrate their annual Jinx Day, all the G. A. A. will wear blue blouses, white skirts and blue hair ribbons since the club colors are blue and white. Miss Mason, Mrs. McKeown, Miss Ernst and Helen Hart, G. A. A. president, have been working hard with various committees to make their annual Jinx Day a success. The same evening the G. A. A. will finish their important social event by enjoying a pot-luck dinner. In the way of entertainment, all the girls will take part in skits and stunts with prizes being awarded the best performances. The teachers present will act as judges.

Work On Gardena School to Start

With Byerts and Dunn as the low bidders at \$99,800, award of the contract for the reconstruction of the Gardena high school building was scheduled to be made this week by the Los Angeles board of education.

Actual start of construction is expected to begin within two weeks, or approximately the time that school vacation begins. It was pointed out that most of the work, particularly the noisy and dusty work, will be done by the time school reconvenes in the fall. Eight tenders were submitted to the board when bids were opened late last week.

BLUE EAGLES STILL FLY OVER LOCAL INDUSTRIES

Wages and hours established by Torrance industrial plants under NRA codes are being maintained on the same basis as before the National Recovery Administration Act was nullified by ruling of the supreme court. Furthermore, no changes are anticipated, it was learned by the Herald in a survey made this week. The Blue Eagle flag is still flying at the Columbia Steel Company and other major industrial plants, as visible evidence of their determination to carry on with the President's recovery program, even though the compulsory provisions of the NRA codes have been eliminated by court action.

Commencement June 20

Members Of Torrance High Senior Class Prepare For Finale

Commencement exercises for the graduating class of summer 1935, Torrance high school, will be held at 8 o'clock Thursday evening, June 20. Preparations are being made for the closing days of school, with the usual senior class functions, baccalaureate service and other affairs planned for the final week.

The senior class this year averages up in numbers with those of other years, 59 in all. The members are Elisabeth B. Adams, Theodore Adzovich, George Arakawa, Guy W. Bartels, Carroll Joe Bender, Harry Bond, George Bradford, Hazel Irene Briney, Roland Wilson Brown, Jane Wilhelmina Burkert, David Schuyler Clark, Keith M. Coast, James McLean Coll, Margaret Condon, Ruth Jeanette Granger, Martha Lou Greaves, Ione Mae Green, Mayola Henrietta George, James Grubbs, Dick Hatton, William Edward Hedrick, Joy Mildred Heglie, Reva Louise Hinkle, Bert Hoffman, Olive Belle Huber, Julian Isen, Garland E. Johnson, Peggy Vee Kasper,

Margaret Ida Hibbe, Ella Lorraine Levy, Mildred Rose Lukes, Hubert Boddy McClure, Roger Bruce McGinnis, Mildred Louise McMullen, Cletus W. McLean, Janet Emily Mastril, Dorothy Melton, Ralph H. Montague, Waneta Darlene Mullen, John M. Nady, Carl A. Paxman, Beatrice A. Riley, John Lowell Selby, Jay Alden Slover, Earl B. Smith, William Hal Smith, Marie Constance Smith, Al J. Stevens, Bettye Mozelle Stevenson, Marshall W. Tappin, Mary Ann Taylor, Jayne Traller, Ray Tucker, Jeanne Volz, Harold James Watson, Robert T. Wertz, Wilma Alberta Whitney, Emil William Woosley and Fern Iva Wright.

Interesting Memento of Civil War Days Is Owned By Torrance Man

An interesting memento of Civil War days was brought to the Herald office this week by J. P. Buck, 728 Portola avenue, which has been handed down in his family since that time. The memento is a poster, dated April 21, 1861, summoning volunteers to a meeting at the Hinckley, New York, town hall.

The poster, which is now yellow with age, reads: "WAR BEGUN! 'Keep aloft the Stars and Stripes.' 'Our liberties and the government are in danger. 'TO ARMS. 'One and all.

"A meeting of the citizens of Westfield and the adjoining towns will be held at Hinckley Town Hall, April 22, 1861, Monday morning, at 5 o'clock, to consider measures for raising forces to aid the government in putting down treason and rebellion. Volunteers are wanted. Those who join the company and those who belong will be furnished with free passes over the road to attend the parade of the 68th Regiment at Dunkirk on Monday. Train leaves at 6:30 a. m."

Mr. Buck also has a copy of the Ulster County (New York) Gazette, published under date of January 4, 1860, which contains an account of the death of George Washington, as well as other interesting news of the period. This copy has also been handed down through the generations in his family and is one of Mr. Buck's most prized possessions.

The young man, who lacked a few days of being 22 years of age, and his family are well known in the community where they reside and his parents have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.

"Frank graduated from Narbonne high school with the class of 1931 and enlisted in the navy. He was for some time attached to the U. S. S. Lexington, with a rating of fireman, first class, but recently had been transferred to the aircraft training school at Lakehurst. He is survived by his parents, two brothers Carl and Robert, and two sisters, Elma and Martha, all living at home.

Public Nuisance Ordered Removed

Mary D. Quinn, an elderly woman residing in Glendale, was brought before Judge Frank Carrell of the Inglewood justice court, sitting in Gardena, on Monday to answer complaints of maintaining a public nuisance. Mrs. Quinn is the owner of a building on Narbonne avenue, in Lomita, occupied several years ago as a bakery. Since the tenants moved out, the building, which was condemned, has been vacant and has, it is alleged, been put by persons other than the owner to uses which constitute a nuisance. Mrs. Quinn was given one week to have the building torn down, and was ordered to report in person to the court next Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Haggard, 1929 Cravens, attended funeral services in South Gate Tuesday, which were held in memory of Mr. Haggard's brother, D. L. Haggard, who passed away last Friday.

STRANGE INJURY overtakes child AT PLAY

Rose Ella Totten, age 8, of 1508 Third street, Lawndale, who was hurt while playing on the school grounds at that city last Friday afternoon, was brought to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for examination, where X-ray photos disclosed a serious spinal injury and the child was taken to the General hospital in Los Angeles the following day for treatment.

Records at the local hospital fail to disclose an accident more peculiar in its results. The little girl, it is said, had been swinging on a play apparatus when a bell rang to summon the children to their classes. When she jumped off the swing Rose was so dizzy that she failed to see a bench in her way as she was running to the building. She struck her chest violently against the bench, but strange to say, the X-rays showed no damage to sternum bone but a crushed condition of the vertebrae. Attendants at the hospital are at a loss to account for the strange transmission of the injury from the point of contact with the bench to the spinal column.

BROTHER OF Postmaster Dies IN KANSAS

Word of the sudden death of Earl Conner, 44, at Topeka, Kansas, was received by his brother, Postmaster C. Earl Conner, on Decoration Day. The deceased visited his brother in Torrance for five months last year and a large circle of friends in Torrance mourn his untimely passing, which was caused by a heart attack. A wife and daughter, Betty, 15, survive.

Work On Great Power Project To Start Soon

Physically linking together the two huge sister projects of the Colorado river—the Metropolitan Water District and Boulder dam—work will be launched within the next few months on the construction of one of the world's greatest power lines, a 237-mile system which will carry electric energy from the dam to the pumping stations of the aqueduct.

An announcement from the office of General Manager F. E. Weymouth of the water district reveals that plans and specifications for the transmission line have been completed after years of studies and surveys.

Designed to carry ultimately 36 percent of all the electricity generated at Boulder dam—making the water district the dam's largest power customer—the new line will furnish the energy needed to lift aqueduct water over mountain ranges lying between the Colorado river and the Southern California coastal plain.

Boulder dam power will be used to lift water from the Colorado river and into the aqueduct, and at four other pumping stations along the project. The district's new power transmission system will extend as far west as the last of these pumping stations, about 200 miles east of Los Angeles. From that point aqueduct water will flow by gravity.

The eventual capacity of the water district's generating plants at Boulder dam will be 330,000 kilowatts—equivalent, roughly, to 440,000 horsepower—it is pointed out by J. M. Gaylord, chief electrical engineer of the district.

Already work is under way on the building of roads necessary to penetrate the remote desert and mountain areas through which the 237 miles of line will go.

Some of the territory to be traversed was so rugged that it was impossible for water district surveying crews to reach it by ordinary means. In such cases the most modern of surveying tools, the airplane, was resorted to. The planes were equipped with cameras to take pictures which, when viewed through a stereoscopic device, gave a panoramic view of the terrain, with every peak and ridge standing out in bold relief.

GETS YEAR IN JAIL

Archie Button, who was brought back from Marshfield, Oregon, to stand trial on charges of kidnapping and rape, was found guilty on the latter charge and sentenced by Judge Isaac Pach; of the superior court to spend a year in the county jail. The kidnapping charge was dismissed.

CORNERSTONE OF NEW FEDERAL BUILDING LAID FRIDAY NIGHT

United States Officials and Other Notables Will Gather In Torrance Friday to Take Part In Important Ceremony

All Torrance citizens are invited to attend the laying of the cornerstone of the new federal postoffice building on Marcelina avenue tomorrow, Friday, evening. Distinguished guests who will take part in the ceremony will be entertained at dinner at 6 p. m., at the Brass Hall, as guests of Postmaster C. Earl Conner and the committee in charge, and the official ceremony and program will begin promptly at 7:30 o'clock.

Same Wage Scale Is Maintained By Gen. Petroleum

Approximately four thousand employees of the General Petroleum Corporation, situated at Torrance and many points throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Nevada, have been made happy, and their possible concern over wages and working conditions has been set at rest through a bulletin just issued by A. L. Weil, president of this company, which reads:

"The recent decision of the supreme court of the United States, declaring the N. R. A. unconstitutional, has called forth a great deal of comment from different sources and the newspapers have been filled with statements as to the effect the decision will have on wages, hours and working conditions of the employees of industry.

"While it seems hardly necessary to do so, yet in view of the many rumors, we wish to announce that the present wage scales and the terms of 'Rules and Regulations Governing Working Conditions,' which were announced October 1, 1934, will not be affected by the supreme court decision of May 27, 1935."

The bulletin will no doubt have a quieting effect on the minds of many engaged in industrial pursuits, as the General Petroleum Corporation is rated as one of the largest producing and distributing organizations in the West.

Shortage of Farm Labor In San Fernando

State Employment Agency Opens Office to Supply Need

In an attempt to insure sufficient man power to farmers and ranchers of the San Fernando valley, the California state employment service today opened an office in the city hall at San Fernando.

The office is in charge of Clifford Britton, acting under H. L. Walker, manager of the state employment service in this area. Provisions have been made for the farmers and ranchers to list their labor needs with this office and the necessary number of men will be sent to them without charge.

Complaint was recently made to Supervisor Roger Jessup by farmers that while there are some 5,000 farm workers on relief rolls in the San Fernando valley, the crops were spoiling in the fields because men could not be hired to harvest them. They refused to give up the dole for work at \$2 per day with no guarantee that it would be steady.

Word was received today that officials of the SERA have ruled that recipients of relief must accept jobs when offered them at a wage equal to the dole, or they would be taken off the relief rolls. At the same time, arrangements have been made to get them back on the rolls as soon as the job has ended and there is no more employment available.

Mott Resigns As C. of C. Secretary

Leslie C. Mott, well-known Rotarian and secretary-manager of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce, has handed in his resignation from that post effective July 1. Mott plans to return to his profession of mining engineering and expects to go to Arizona to take up work there.

BIRTHDAYS OF FAMOUS MEN
Nathan Hale, American patriot, was born, June 6, 1755.

Mayor Scott R. Ludlow will lay the cornerstone.

Pelron M. Hall, U. S. district attorney, of Los Angeles, will be the principal speaker. Other noted guests who have sent their acceptances in response to the invitation to be present, and who will have a part in the program, are Hon. Alfred A. Cohn, collector of customs, and Postmaster Henry H. Bridges, both of Los Angeles. Hon. John R. Quinn, fourth district supervisor, who is at present in Sacramento, is expected if he returns in time.

A number of the postmasters of nearby cities will also be honored guests of the evening.

A platform has been constructed for the use of the speakers. Flood lights furnished by the Roy T. Davis company of Los Angeles, and loud speaker system furnished by Lewis Busch of Torrance will be installed. The Torrance Municipal band will play several selections and a short program of entertainment has been provided. L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, will act as master of ceremonies.

Postmaster Conner, as chairman, and his committee have been working valiantly for several weeks to plan and carry out the affair successfully, and the citizens of the community are urgently invited to attend this gathering which has no much significance for Torrance.

As is customary in the erection of an important public building, provision has been made to place a steel box within the opening for the cornerstone, in which will be placed a copy of the local newspaper, written histories of the City of Torrance, Chamber of Commerce, the postoffice, and of the various organized groups in Torrance, many of which have been asked to furnish such documents.

Columbia Donates
The box, which in itself will be an interesting relic for future inspection, was donated by the Columbia Steel Company. It is made of U. S. steel 18 and is one of the finest products of this great corporation. It is of stainless, non-corrosive type, used for all purposes where ample protection for indefinite time is required. It will last as long or longer than the building itself, which is so soundly constructed that it will be in use for decades, or until the city outgrows its capacity, at some hoped-for time in the future.

Work on the building is fast drawing to a close. All outside work has been completed, except for placing of the windows, the roof is rapidly being finished and the interior work will be rushed to a finish so that the building can be turned over to the department probably early in August.

The new postoffice is the largest and most pretentious public building in the city. It is handsome in outline and well arranged within for the convenience of postoffice employes and the public.

Boy Struck By Car Escapes Injury

Roland Justice, age 12, residing at 1554 West 220th street, was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for first aid Saturday after he had been struck by a car driven by Dan E. Jones, 3450 Pasadena avenue, Los Angeles. The boy had been watching the Los Angeles fire department putting out a grass fire near his home when another lad called him from the opposite side of the street. Young Justice ran out as Jones was passing, was struck and knocked down. Jones took him to the hospital for examination where it was found that he had no injuries beyond a few bruises.

GRASS FIRES

The Torrance fire department was called out to two grass fires; one Sunday at 1273 Vista Place, where burning papers had blown out of an incinerator, and the other at 229th and Narbonne avenue on Monday afternoon.