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PUBLIC URGED TO AID DRIVE FOR DWELLINGS

Important Open Forum Meeting Called At Chamber of Commerce July 16

"Everyone interested in the future of Torrance is urged to keep this date open,—Tuesday evening, July 16. The most pertinent problem facing this city—**the acute housing shortage**—will be discussed by industrial, commercial and civic men, at the quarterly open forum of members of this Chamber of Commerce," says B. C. Buxton, newly-elected president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, in an appeal to Torrance citizens.

Colonel Wm. H. Evans an outstanding official of the Better Housing Administration, will be present at next Tuesday's meeting to discuss housing problems with local citizens. "It is a problem that must be solved, and we trust that there will be a good attendance at the meeting which begins at 7:30 p. m. in the Chamber of Commerce offices," continued President Buxton, whose election to the presidency of the local chamber board was prompted by the fact that he is a builder himself and thoroughly familiar with the housing shortage which threatens to endanger the growth of this city.

In addition to the talk by Colonel Evans, who is an inspiring public speaker and frequently broadcasts for the Federal Housing Administration, there will be exhibited a new visomatic picture dealing with the housing problem and the assistance now being offered by the federal government to encourage building activities.

An open discussion of civic problems will be included in the program for the evening.

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FINAL ACTION ON CONTRACTS EXPECTED TUES.

Final action on award of the contracts for construction of the White Point outfall sewer project that is to serve Torrance, Lomita and other cities immediately to the east, south and west of South Los Angeles is scheduled to be taken next Tuesday by the district directors.

Today a resolution was en route to the Public Works Administration at Washington, declaring the sanitation districts' approval of the award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidders. It was explained at the meeting this week that approval of the award must now be obtained from federal authorities before the actual award can be made.

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Bank *Provides For* Dividend

Announcements sent out to all stockholders of the Torrance National Bank this week, contain the gratifying news that on August 1, 1935, the sum of $2,000 will be withdrawn from the undivided profits account of the bank to pay dividends on the preferred capital stock.

A gratifying gain in the profits account is shown by the latest bank statement, prepared as of June 30, this year. At the conclusion of the first six months of operation after reorganization this account showed a total of $329.73. At the end of the second six months, or on June 30 last, this account had increased to $5,387.39 or more than 16 times the total as shown on December 31, 1934.

Deposits increased in the past six months from $292,986.60 to $351,558.89, a total of $58,572.29, or almost 20 percent. Loans increased from $69,527.31 to $108,542.74, a gain of $39,015.43, showing that the funds of the bank are actively in use. Total resources of the bank on June 30 had passed the half million mark. Of the loans many are modernization loans made under Title 1 of the Federal Housing Act, and two loans for the building of homes under Title II of the act, all of which has meant a great deal of benefit to the community at large in the increased sale of building materials and the employment of labor.

The investment in bonds, which has also increased, has been confined almost entirely to high grade municipal and government bonds, the market value of which is greater than the price at which they are carried on the books.

Committees Meet To Organize

In accordance with arrangements made at the meeting of the co-ordinating council held last Monday night, a meeting of the three committees of the council has been called for next Wednesday morning, July 17, at 9 o'clock. The session will be held at the council chamber in the city hall. Chairmen and secretaries of the three groups are to be selected at this time, and all members of the council are urged to attend.

New Hydrants to Be Installed

Fire protection in the northern part of Torrance will be improved soon with the installation of eight fire plugs of standard make, similar to those in use in the main business and residential section of Torrance. Two hydrants will be soon with the installation of six placed on Western avenue between 182d and 186th street and four on 182d street between Western avenue and Cypress street. Cost of the installation will be about $900. Water will be furnished by the Moneta Water Company which serves that district, at a nominal monthly fee per hydrant.

Park Cesspool Filled; Council Studies Sewers

Cost of Crossing Railroad Line to Be Determined Before Action Taken

A motion to authorize expenditure for connecting the restroom service at the municipal park with the sewer system was lost Tuesday night, when the city council discussed the matter of remedying the cesspool situation. Because of the distance from sewer lines the restroom toilets were connected to a cesspool when installed two years ago.

At the present time, due to the irrigation of lawns and flowers, the cesspool contents are not absorbed into the earth and the basin is full, making a disagreeable and dangerous condition. The council ordered the cesspool pumped out for the present and before the next meeting will consider ways and means of connecting up the restrooms with a sewer.

City Engineer Frank Leonard was instructed to contact the Santa Fe railroad officials regarding the specifications and cost of running the line under the railroad to the sewer line on Plaza del Amo, which route is the shortest for the purpose.

An alternative route leads west on Lincoln to Apple street, a considerably longer distance but perhaps more economical compared with the expense of under-passing the railroad lines.

At the next meeting the council will hear the report of the engineer and adopt a course of action to take care of a disagreeable situation.

Much of the city council's time was taken up with discussing odorous situations Tuesday night. A disagreement with L. A. Andrews, collector of garbage, over his remuneration will be threshed out at a conference between Andrews and the council next Monday when he will either be authorized to continue to work or the city will take over the job. It is estimated that the city could handle the work at a saving, and the council may decide to go into that angle of city service.

Contract With C. of C. Approved

Formal approval of the contract between the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Torrance covering the expenditure of funds on behalf of the chamber was given by the council at its meeting Tuesday night. The new contract increases the sum set aside for the chamber from $6,000 to $8,500, of which $500 is to be spent on certain types of promotion work for the city and $2,000 on the promotional program outlined by the chamber. The balance of the sum will go to cover necessary expenses to maintain the office and pay salaries of the secretary and employes.

Fairyland In Torrance

Frank Perkins Submits Comprehensive Plan For Civic Celebration; Labor Day

Fairyland in Torrance, a magic world in which will appear Old Mother Goose, the Old Woman who lived in a shoe, and many other characters who are dear to the hearts of young and old, has been chosen as the theme of the civic celebration to be held in this city, starting on Labor Day, September 2.

After several days of patient waiting for the "blessed event" forecast in the Herald a short time ago, Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce emerged from his sanctum and caused invitations to be sent to representatives of all organized groups to meet Friday night, July 5, for the christening.

Strange as it may seem, it was not Gil who fathered the idea, but Frank Perkins, Columbia Steel employe, who presented his brain-child to an admiring group, and found himself immediately elected to be the sole guardian as chairman of the committee which will prepare the celebration.

Several other ideas were offered for consideration, but Mr. Perkins' plan was acclaimed as the most comprehensive, one that would have an appeal for all groups, and the child was adopted.

Since Labor Day was selected as the starting date, a grand parade in which the industrial, mercantile, labor and other elements of community life will be featured.

Tentative plans call for the assignment of booths representing some character or incident in fairyland lore, to the various organizations, to be decorated and equipped with the characters well known to old and young. The booths will probably be erected in the city park, where all the events of the celebration with the exception of the parade will take place.

Complete outline of the features to be included will be submitted by Mr. Perkins at a meeting to be held tomorrow evening at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, and if possible assignments of the parts each group is to play will be made. Representatives of the symphonic orchestra, municipal band, merchants and all groups not represented at the first meeting will be urged to attend this session and their co-operation is requested.

A meeting of the industrial plant officials was scheduled for the early part of the week to determine the part they and their employes would play.

It is hoped that a number of contests of skill can be arranged as part of the entertainment in addition to the amusements which will be offered.

Those who attended the first meeting, who are called to meet again tomorrow night were Secretary L. J. Gilmeister, of the Chamber of Commerce, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Park Commissioner W. H. Tolson, Bronson C. Buxton, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Juliette M. Johnson, president of the Woman's Club; Gertrude Ralston, American Legion Auxiliary; Roxie Sleeth, National Business and Professional Women; C. Earl Conner, American Legion and United Artisans; Jack Murray, Knights of Columbus; Henry Grubb, Loyal Order of Moose; and Frank Perkins.

Improvements Show Gain

Assessed Valuation Total For Torrance Drops More Than Quarter Million

Assessed valuation for the City of Torrance dropped $322,205 under the figures for last year, according to information just released from the office of County Assessor Ed. W. Hopkins. The figures for this year are as follows: Real estate, $5,714,110; improvements, $3,957,450; personal property, $6,222,985; making a total of $15,894,545.

Real estate figures dropped from $5,926,605 last year, and personal property fell from $6,526,285.

Improvements showed an increase of $193,590 over last year's total which amounted to $3,763,860.

These figures are exclusive of the assessed valuation of public utility property which is returned to the county tax rolls for the first time since 1910.

Assessed valuation for the city of Gardena is shown to be $2,076,225, an increase over last year when the total was $2,075,365.

Cities having assessed valuation above the $10,000,000 mark, other

TURN TO STORY ONE, PAGE 5

Illustrated Lecture Sunday

Mrs. E. A. Baker, of the Los Angeles Evegraphic Bible School, will deliver an illustrated lecture on the "Life of Christ" at Central church, Sunday evening, at 7:30 o'clock. Many beautiful stereopticon pictures will be shown, and many beautiful curios from Palestine will be on display. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to hear this fine address.

Remember! Come to Torrance Saturday. It's the Big Bargain Day!

Burchett Chosen As Commander of American Legion

High School Faculty Man Is Selected to Head Bert S. Crossland Post

James H. Burchett, member of the faculty of the Torrance high school, was elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, at their regular meeting held in Legion hall Tuesday evening. Mr. Burchett has been a resident of Torrance for several years and has been active in the affairs of the Legion.

His election as head of the Post is a recognition of his commendable work in various subordinate capacities and meets with the hearty approval of the members. He succeeds Charles Martin Smith, of Lomita, commander during the past year.

Other officers elected were Lloyd Boyle, Lomita, first vice commander; Pete Peterson, Lomita, second vice commander; R. J. Deininger, finance officer; Earl Conner, service officer; H. C. Bender, sergeant-at-arms; Tommy Turner, chaplain; Charles Myers, historian; George Thompson, Lomita, adjutant; T. T. Babbitt, L. H. Deininger and Charles Smith, Lomita, executive board.

Delegates to the state convention to be held in Fresno, August 13, 14 and 15, are Alex McPhail, Charles Smith and Lloyd Boyle, all of Lomita. Alternates, Dewey Goddard, Roy VanDorn and Percy Phoenix.

Appointment of Committees Is Approved Mon.

Temporary Officers of Co-ordinating Council Made Permanent

At a meeting of the co-ordinating council, held Monday evening at the city hall, appointment of the three committees, whose names had been submitted by the steering committee, were ratified by the group and a call will be sent out to the members of each to meet and select their chairmen and secretaries.

The list, as published last week in the Torrance Herald, was approved, with the exception of J. J. O'Toole, who will be unable to serve since he is now in the east. Carl Gramling, new grand knight of the Knights of Columbus, was named to fill the vacancy. Other names added were those of John Salm, to represent the northern district of Torrance; Jack Barrington, South Torrance, and John Miner, Walteria. Mrs. Persia Fess was named to represent the Scout Mothers.

Captain John Stroh was named as probation officer to work with the council.

Brief remarks were made by Bernard J. Donahue, in charge of playground activities, who outlined the program he has prepared for the next few weeks and Dr. H. C. Smiley, of the county health bureau in Torrance. Dr. Smiley explained the functions of his department, which maintains several clinics for the diagnosis of communicable disease, and furnishes treatment for those who are unable to pay for this service. The county welfare department and the out patient department of the county hospital are separate groups having their own special work to do, and are not to be confused with the county health department which has a broad purpose in maintaining the public health. Dr. Smiley introduced his department's social worker, Mrs. Irma Feuerhelm, of Inglewood, who will represent the department as his alternate.

Arrangements were made to appoint representatives of the other two county departments as members of the co-ordinating council committees.

On motion of Dr. George P. Shidler, the temporary officers of the council, Judge Robert Lessing, chairman, and Mrs. Juliette Johnson, secretary, were by unanimous vote made permanent.

Children Play At Church Concert

Bishop H. V. Jordan of the Latter Day Saints church praised the orchestra for its work at Torrance concert on June 30 at the Woman's clubhouse.

A party will be given Friday night, July 12, for mothers and fathers of the Lomita Children's Orchestra at the home of Mrs. Marjorie Lewis, director.

Death *Of Kennedy* Is Sudden

An inquest will be held at Stone & Myers mortuary Friday morning at 9 o'clock to inquire into the cause of death of Roy Kennedy, Columbia Steel employe, who died suddenly at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital Tuesday afternoon, July 9.

Mr. Kennedy was injured in an accident at the mill about two months ago, and has been receiving treatment at the hospital since that time, for a broken leg and internal injuries.

At the time of his death he had improved so much that he was able to be up and about for a part of the time, and his demise was entirely unexpected.

ROTARY CLUB meets tonight AT LEGION

Beginning tonight at 6:15 o'clock, Torrance Rotary Club inaugurates a new policy of holding regular meetings in the evening instead of noon luncheons which has been the custom in the past. Tonight's dinner meeting, to be held at the American Legion clubhouse, will also be the first to be presided over by George P. Shidler, newly elected president. A number of new members will be welcomed, as well as a group of former Rotarians who have expressed their desire to become active again in club affairs.

The program for tonight's meeting includes a talk by Amos Ayres of Rotary International, and an explanation of the aims and objects of Rotary by James Howe, immediate past-president of the Hermosa Beach Club. Mr. Howe recently engaged in business in Torrance and is residing at 1537 Marcelina avenue. Another interesting feature of tonight's program is entitled, "Two Years In the Head-Hunters Country," by Charles Larry O'Brien.

Plans Authorized For New Buildings

Walker & Eisen, Los Angeles architects, who prepared plans for a library building, were authorized by action of the city council this week to draw up plans for a city hall and an auditorium, at a specified fee, as a preliminary to submitting the matter to the voters at a bond election and to the federal authorities for inclusion in the work projects to be partially financed out of federal funds. The architects had submitted water color sketches of the buildings which were on display in the council chambers.

Until the preliminary work is done the council will delay calling an election.

NEW MANAGER

Kenneth Foote, former employe of the Safeway market on Carson street, has been transferred to San Pedro where he has been placed in charge of a Safeway market as manager.

STILL NO CLUE TO HOFFACHER ATTACK FOUND

Rumor That Steel Employe Dies Is Denied; Improving At Los Angeles Hospital

Charles A. Hoffacher, Columbia Steel employe, who was found wandering about in the oil fields early in the morning of June 29, and was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital suffering from a fractured skull, was removed to the General hospital, Los Angeles, last Saturday.

Deputy sheriffs from the homicide squad are still investigating the mysterious circumstances attending Hoffacher's injury, but so far have made little progress in unravelling the case. Two Mexicans were brought to the local police station during the past week as suspects, but examination of their clothing and car which showed suspicious stains, revealed that the stains were of either wine or fruit juices and not blood as suspected. The men were released.

Hoffacher regained consciousness Tuesday night, but as he was still in a dazed condition yesterday, deputies put off interviewing him in regard to the assault until today.

A rumor that he had died was circulated in Torrance this morning, but a call to the General hospital brought the information that this was untrue and Hoffacher is improving.

BIG BARGAIN DAY

Remember! Come to Torrance Saturday. It's the Big Bargain Day!

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ECLIPSE OF MOON JULY 15-16 TOTAL IN TWO AMERICAS

WASHINGTON. (U.P.)—Romance will have to do without the moon on the night of July 15-16, when that body is scheduled to disappear in a total eclipse.

Both North and South America, except the extreme northern part of North America, will be in the best position for observation of the "celestial show," described as "one of the finest astronomical events of the year."

The eclipse will start at 9:15 p. m. (E.S.T.) and will last about five hours. By 11:09 p. m. all of the moon's surface will have passed into the shadow of the earth and the total phase of the eclipse will start. It will last one hour and 40 minutes or within four minutes of the maximum possible duration of a total eclipse of the moon.

Near 12:50 a. m., July 16, the total phase will end and the moon gradually will emerge from the earth's shadow.

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Special Election Aug. 13

Three Amendments to State Constitution to Be Submitted; Arguments Told

Three amendments to the state constitution are to be voted upon at a special election August 13 and the official text of the proposed measures, together with arguments concerning them, were received this week by Registrar of Voters W. M. Kerr for distribution in the county.

The first amendment, to legalize the state building bond act passed by the recent legislature, would provide for a new state prison to be located in Southern California. It carries authorization of a $13,950,000 bond issue to build the new penal institution and to repair, improve and enlarge various other state institutions.

"The state hospitals, homes and prisons are in a deplorably overcrowded condition," reads the official argument which is signed by seven senators from various sections of the state. "It is necessary that, in many instances, patients sleep upon floors, in basements and in old structures long since condemned as fire hazards."

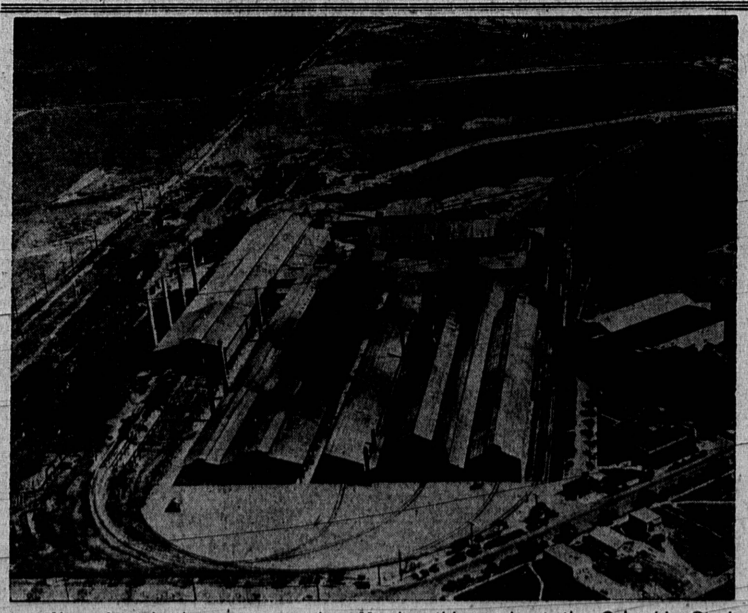
Passage of Amendment No. 2, authorizing the state to borrow money in anticipation of taxes and revenues, would result in a saving in interest charges of more than $1,500,000 during the next two years, its proponents claim.

"Under present financial conditions," the "pro" argument reads, "the state of California finds it necessary to register warrants against the general fund. These warrants carry 5 percent interest from the date they are registered until paid.

"The adoption of this amendment will permit the state to borrow money from banks at 1 percent interest or less. . . Not more than 50 percent of the amount of all taxes and revenues paid into the general fund during the preceding fiscal year may be borrowed by the state and such borrowings must be repaid within one year."

The third amendment, while not of specific interest to Southern California, probably will not be opposed here. It authorizes the state to enter into a contract with the Rector Dam Authority for water to supply four state institutions in Napa Valley, at a total cost not to exceed any amount loaned by the PWA for construction of the dam in Rector canyon and is contingent upon such a loan. When the loan is repaid, the state then would own dam and pipe lines, as the site already belongs to the commonwealth.

Steel Mill Again On Normal Production Basis



Normal production was resumed on Monday this week at the Columbia Steel Company plant in Torrance, following a week's layoff for the annual overhauling and reconditioning of machinery. Many of the steel company's employes took advantage of the week's vacation and took their families on outings over July 4th.

Deep Sea Diver

Will Be Required to Inspect Work On Ocean Link of Outfall Sewer

Employment of a diver at $900 a month will be one of the essentials of the construction of the outfall sewer at White's Point, according to a report of the proceedings of the Metropolitan Sewer Districts held Tuesday, which was given by Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, Torrance representative, before the council Tuesday night.

Construction of the seaward link will require daily inspection, for which duty the services of an expert deep sea diver will be required.

According to Ludlow there were few applicants for the job which will require daily trips to the floor of the ocean. The diver's compensation, in case he is not actually engaged in the inspection work and makes no descents, will be at the rate of $200 a month.

Contracts for the construction were recommended Tuesday to the PWA for its confirmation of award to Shaeffer & Gordon, links one and two, at $1,558,121; United Concrete Company, link three, at $440,058; and Merritt, Chapman & Scott, for link four, the undersea link at $528,059.

Residents of the districts of the Metropolitan Sanitary Sewer will be given preference so far as possible, considering their qualifications, for jobs on the construction, and for this purpose should register with the National Employment Service bureau which maintains offices in various localities. Those of Torrance will find the office at Long Beach, 124 Magnolia avenue, the most convenient for the purpose. Registration, however, according to information from the Los Angeles offices of the sewer districts, does not carry a guarantee of employment. The applicant is registered, and the contractor puts in a requisition for men for the various jobs. The service bureau notifies the applicant who reports to the contractor, and if he is qualified for the work he is employed. If he is not the contractor has the right to reject the applicant and a new list is called. Key positions, such as superintendents, foremen and similar responsible jobs, may be filled by the contractor without reference to the lists compiled by the service bureau.