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# Torrance Herald

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THREE  
SECTIONS  
TWENTY-TWO PAGES  
THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 9.

SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1937

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## PAY BOOSTS LOOM IN TWO BIG LOCAL PLANTS

### FREE SYMPHONY CONCERT IN CIVIC AUDITORIUM FRIDAY EVENING AT 8 O'CLOCK

The second free concert by the 30-piece Torrance Symphony orchestra, directed by George N. Merzhon, will be presented tomorrow (Friday) evening in the civic auditorium, beginning at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Lorene Ulrich, well-known local soprano, will be the guest soloist, singing the "Printemps qui Commence" aria from Samson et Delila by Saint-Saens and Lesters' "London-derry Air."

All residents of Torrance and vicinity are cordially invited to attend this evening, made possible through allocation of city funds. The last free concert, held Jan. 27, was enjoyed by more than 500 people.

Features Haydn Symphony. Conductor Merzhon has planned a "popular" program for classical music that will include Haydn's Surprise Symphony and Delibes' Ballet Sylvia. He has also worked out an amusing comedy skit, featuring "Madam Prosevalski," famed Polish conjurress.

The concert program follows: Fiddler overture by Beethoven. Surprise Symphony by Haydn in four parts: Adagio Cantabile, Andante, Menuetto and Allegro al molto.

Ballet, Sylvia suite in three parts by Delibes. Valse Lento, Pizzicato Polka and March and Procession of Bacchus.

Mrs. Ulrich's solos, accompanied by the orchestra.

Comedy skit with a special stage setting.

"Under the Double Eagle" march (Wagner) by request.

Star Spangled Banner, with the audience singing to the orchestra's accompaniment.

**Flood Gifts Now \$2,005 In City**

With the receipt of a \$1 contribution from Mrs. Nellie Zuercher this week, the total amount subscribed here to the American Red Cross flood relief fund is now \$2,005.24, according to Mrs. Flora McDonald, local Red Cross chairman. The city's quota for the drive to relieve distress and suffering in the inundated Ohio and Mississippi valleys was but \$200.

**TO FURNISH OFFICE**

At the request of the municipal water department, the city council allocated a sum "not to exceed \$200" for the purchase of office furniture. The department asked for \$185.49 to buy a desk, office chair, table, rug and two straight chairs.

### Furnishers

Listed for Home; Story Next Week

Because many furnishing articles that will be found in The Herald's Demonstration Home at Beech and Sierra streets are being purchased especially for the showing by local dealers from their wholesale outlets, a complete description of the furnishings could not be reported this week.

However, a detailed account of the interior arrangement and decoration will be given in next Thursday's Herald. At that time the Demonstration Home will have been on view five of the nine open-house days. A partial list of co-operating firms furnishing the home follows:

Living and dining room by San Levy; Electrolux by Fay Parks; Hoyt water heater by David Jacobs; Gaffers and Sattler gas range by the National Home Appliance Company; Norge washer and ironer by Modern Appliances Company.

Both bedrooms by the Miller Furniture Company; flower box by Harriott Leech and Poppy Flower Shop; pottery and dishes by the National Home Appliance Company and clocks by Howard's Jewelers.

### Soloist



LORENE ULRICH

Ever since she was in the third grade, Mrs. Lorene Ulrich has maintained a keen interest in singing and has followed that as a student and concert vocalist with no little success. A native of Illinois who has been a resident here for 11 years, she has given generously of her talent and Friday night will be heard as guest-soloist with the Torrance Symphony orchestra at the free concert in the Civic Auditorium.

Mrs. Ulrich studied in Detroit under Ogle Wells and has sung leading roles in a number of operettas, cantatas and other musical productions in the mid-west and Southern California. In this city she has appeared many times as soloist at various church services. For two years she was a member of the Cantadores club of Los Angeles and studied under that group's noted director, John L. Lines.

Recently she took an Overseas Studio course in Hollywood under the supervision of John Aaron Cooke. Mrs. Ulrich will sing "Printemps qui commence" from Saint-Saens' Samson et Delila and Lesters' Londonderry Air accompanied by the full orchestra tomorrow night.

### CHILD LABOR ACT LEGAL

Clarifying a question that arose as a result of the so-called "red" strike involving ranch workers in the Whittier, Venice and Torrance-Palos Verdes districts last summer, Los Angeles county supervisors were advised this week by the county counsel that they had the power to adopt an ordinance prohibiting employment of minors under 18 years in hazardous occupations.

County attorneys pointed out, however, that agriculture was not considered a hazardous occupation, however, and that ranchers would not be affected by such an ordinance if the supervisors deemed it wise to enact such a measure.

Deputy County Counsel Claude McFadden wrote the opinion after examining California's so-called child labor act, which prohibits employment of minors under 16 in certain hazardous work, such as around circular saws and moving machinery as oilers or wipers. McFadden, who is the board's legal advisor at all meetings, said he felt certain the supervisors could raise the age limit to 18 and that this would be regarded as a reasonable age.

### No Change in City Personnel, Tolson States

No changes in appointive offices are contemplated by Mayor William H. Tolson and he has not asked for any resignations.

The councilman who was named head of the city administration last Thursday following Mayor W. H. Stanger's resignation said this week that he believes "we are going along" all right and it won't be necessary for any adjustments to be made at this time.

Mayor Tolson will confer with other members of the city council, including Robert J. Deininger, who was appointed to serve out Stanger's unexpired term (to April, 1938), before the next meeting on the matter of committee appointments. The council is to meet Tuesday night, March 9, with the new mayor presiding for the first time.

"I want my committee to be agreeable to the men who serve on them and I shall endeavor to place each councilman in the group he desires to work on," Tolson said.

"Our newest member, Mr. Deininger, comes well prepared to serve on the council because of his previous experience as a councilman and mayor. We know he'll make a good member of the board."

**Gas Cut Details Not Available**

Division Chief Says L. A. Reports Incomplete

Reports of a "million-dollar saving annually" and a "15 per cent reduction in Southland gas rates" published by metropolitan newspapers yesterday were labeled "leaps at a lot of hasty conclusions" by J. F. Murray, division manager at Redondo for the Southern California Gas Company in this area.

The Herald contacted Murray to learn the possible reduction in this area and what it would mean to local consumers.

"The cut in rates has been announced by the California railroad commission and this will mean about a \$1,000,000 savings to customers of the gas company but we don't know as yet how that reduction will be applied," Murray said.

"We won't know any details about it until our engineers have completed a study," he said.

(Continued on Page 5-A)

### Trackless Trolley Hostesses



Not content with agitation to replace the rumbling old trolley cars in Seattle, Wash., with modern trackless trolleys, the citizens have advanced the idea of having hostesses on them to see that passengers are made comfortable and get on and off at the right corners. The three shown in this picture are neighborhood beauties chosen to demonstrate what modern streetcar equipment could be like.

### Method Found to Get Sewer Extensions South and West

Vista Highlands and South Torrance Areas Can Be Served Thru Petition

One of William H. Stanger's last acts as mayor of the city of Torrance may result in a greatly-needed improvement which has been a periodic subject for earnest consideration a number of times in the past five or six years. This is the installation of sewer facilities in the west Torrance section known as Vista Highlands and the south Torrance area adjoining Lomita.

Proposed several times as a city project and more recently for a Federal unemployment relief work, the long-sought improvement never seemed to get beyond the discussion stage until the former mayor conferred with the chief engineer of the Metropolitan Sewer district last week.

At that conference Stanger learned a vital point of information which may lead to 1937's most outstanding public work in this city—the construction of sewer trunk line extensions to serve the two areas here and the laying of lateral lines to connect with an estimated 400 homes in the sections.

**Must Grant Petition**

From Albert K. Warren, the Metropolitan's chief engineer, Stanger discovered that if a majority petition is submitted by residents in the Vista Highlands and south Torrance districts, demanding that the trunk lines be extended to serve laterals in the areas and if construction of the laterals is started by the city, then the Metropolitan Sewer district must provide lines to meet such demands.

"The Metropolitan Sewer district has no alternative but to grant the petition, I was told," Stanger said.

Stanger said, "Torrance is in districts four and five of the Metropolitan Sewer district."

(Continued on Page 4-A)

### Steel Workers Win Raise and 40-Hour Week; Nat'l. Supply In Parleys Over Wage Increases

#### NO STATEMENT YET ON RESULT OF PETITIONING

Upward adjustments in wage rates of a large number of employees of the National Supply Company, second largest industrial plant in Torrance, are now being discussed. It was learned today by The Herald.

However, it will be several days before a final decision is reached. In the meantime, company officials declined to make any statement regarding the extent of the increases contemplated.

A petition requesting an increase in wages was recently circulated in the plant and an amicable settlement of the problem is expected to be reached at the conferences now being held.

#### Steel Official Defines Policy on Bargaining

In a statement released yesterday at San Francisco, President A. N. Diehl of the Columbia Steel Company said:

"The policy of the Columbia Steel Company with regard to collective bargaining with its employees remains unchanged. As previously stated on many occasions, the company recognizes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing."

"The company will recognize any individuals or groups or organizations as the spokesmen for employees whom they represent but will not recognize any single organization or group as the exclusive bargaining agent for all employees."

"Under this policy the status of the Employees' Representation Plan is likewise unchanged. It will continue as the spokesman for those of the employees who prefer this method of collective bargaining which has proved so mutually satisfactory through its experience."

### Fall Exposition Suggested for Officials' Study

Shall Torrance stage an exposition, fair, fiesta or industrial show this fall?

That's a question which will be considered within the next few weeks by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants' Association with the city council. The subject of some kind of a production typical of this community was broached at Monday afternoon's meeting of the chamber directorate.

President J. W. McQuaid and the seven directors present approved the idea and decided to invite the merchants' group to join the chamber in presenting the matter to the council. Torrance has not held a fiesta or fair for about 12 years, the last ones being sponsored by the American Legion.

Four new members were welcomed at the directors' session—Thomas W. King, realtor; Kenneth Hughes, attorney; Leonard Young, assistant city engineer, and John W. Cufley, accountant. Present at the session with President McQuaid were Alden Smith, Sam Levy, Fred Isaacs, Sherwood McIntyre, DeKalb Spurlin, Earl Brunner and Secretary L. J. Gilmeister.

They discussed the auto parking of business men and their employees on the main downtown streets but decided to refer this periodic problem to the merchants' own association for correction or improvement.

The new realtors' division of the chamber was approved and the proposed extensions of Western avenue and Cypress northward to connect with Crenshaw boulevard were handed over to that group for a recommendation.

Several legislative matters were considered but no action was taken by the civic booster group because they felt the bills presented for endorsement were of little or no interest locally.

The directors did, however, approve legislation proposed for lower freight rates thru long and short haul measures, because the intent of the bill is to reduce rates between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

#### STEEL OFFICE FORCE SHARES RATE INCREASE

Payroll checks of Columbia Steel Company employees here will be upped \$32,500 per month as result of wage increases for all plant and office workers announced this week by E. M. Barber, general superintendent of the Torrance plant. The new wage and salary schedule will go into effect March 16.

The common labor rate thru-out the plant was increased 10 cents per hour, and all other wage rates were raised from a minimum of seven and one-half cents per hour to a maximum of 10 cents per hour. The normal wage rate for all hourly and tonnage workers was increased 10 cents per hour, Barber stated. Salaries of office workers will also be increased, effective March 16, it was announced.

The new agreement signed by company officials with employee representatives calls for a 40-hour maximum week's work with time-and-a-half pay for all time over 40 hours a week, eight hours a day, and six days a week.

**Employees' Victory**

The pay increase and establishment of the 40-hour week schedule is generally conceded as a sweeping victory for the Employees' Representatives who had been negotiating on behalf of their fellow workers with company officials for some time. These conferences lead to the formal filing of the requests on March 1 and the next day the agreement was signed.

Virtually every request made by the Employees' Representatives was granted and the 10 cents per hour wage increase was given to all but a small percentage of workers, whose previous rates were considered out of line.

The new hourly rates which go into effect March 16 is the second such general pay increase enjoyed by Columbia Steel workers within the past four months. On Nov. 16, 1936, the basic common labor rate was increased from 38.5 cents per hour to 48 cents per hour, an increase of 25 per cent.

Other pay rates were raised approximately 10 percent at the same time. The additional increase agreed upon this week will bring the rate on common labor to 58 cents per hour.

### Green Section

Announces Opening of Herald's Home

Accompanying this edition of The Herald is a special section devoted to interesting information about the opening Saturday afternoon of this newspaper's Demonstration Home, building data and advertisements of progressive firms interested in assisting home-builders.

The Demonstration Home will be open daily and evening until the night of March 14. Brilliant flood lights will illuminate the attractive California-Cape Cod cottage at Beech and Sierra streets at night and every resident of Torrance and surrounding communities is cordially invited to inspect its furnishings, construction and facilities.

The home will be open daily, including Sundays, from 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. Visitors are urged to spend all the time they want there. A representative of The Herald will be present at all times to answer questions about any details.

### VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE COURSE STARTS SOON AT HIGH SCHOOL

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### Local Men Will Serve as Group Leaders Directing Students Job Study

How many high school students can be employed by local industries, business and professional firms directly on graduation?

How many graduates must take additional training to qualify for local positions?

What are the essentials a boy or girl must have to obtain employment locally?

—And what vocational information can they receive during their high school careers?

These questions and many others relating to vocational guidance are to start being answered within a few weeks at Torrance high school as result of a new student-faculty project which has received the unqualified approval of the Torrance Rotary Club.

**Local Men Questioned**

Principal Thomas Elson outlined the plan for such additional instruction this week. He said that the arrangements for the extra-curricular course, particularly localized for this city's needs, have been under way for several months.

Two students, Harry Bell and Weston Leech, have contacted a number of Torrance industrialists, business and professional men to obtain information about vocational guidance

### Revival of Apprenticeship System Sought By Educators With Government's Aid

In connection with the vocational guidance work shortly to begin at Torrance high school, Principal Thomas Elson attended a dinner meeting at the Frank Wiggins trade school in Los Angeles Friday night at which the subject of the proposed plan for a federal apprenticeship system was discussed.

Principal speaker was John Beswick, of the state department of education, who outlined the move which would enlist the government's aid to obtain a four-year training indenture for students desiring to enter the various trades.

"The subject of apprenticeship is becoming a vital one to all educators and I would not be surprised to see a national campaign started in the near future that would develop into a federal project to revive the old system of training men and women for life work," Elson said.

These men will serve as group leaders and will know in advance just what is expected of them as instructors so that neither their time nor the students' will be wasted in conducting such instruction.

"We have found that students get about half way thru high school and then begin thinking about careers and jobs," Principal Elson said. "Now we propose to get students' feet on the ground, let them know what

additional training—if any—is essential and where to get it. All of the vocational guidance efforts will be based upon local conditions because Torrance has an excellent field for nearly all types of work."

"The Rotary Club has been very generous with suggestions, a cash fund and books for reference work. Now, with our student groups of 11th and 12th graders we can present the case of future jobs with actual knowledge of what's wanted by their prospective employers."

**Is Follow-up Course**

The high school head emphasized that this vocational work extended the "orientation" now being given B-7 pupils on their entrance to junior high school. Instead of letting the newcomers haphazardly attend one class after another, they are instructed to know and understand what they're trying to do in getting a high school education.

"This work has eliminated many 'wrong slants' about scholastic studies and, incidentally, has proven a good character builder," Elson commented.

"We particularly try to interest the new students in the proper kind of recreation, a balanced day of work and play and have already noticed some good results."