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Only Newspaper Published in Torrance
Since 1914

Consolidated Edition, Torrance Herald
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TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 10. SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1937

PER COPY 5c

Charter Campaign Lags; Election March 16

Demonstration Home Seen by More Than 1,500; Open Until Sunday at 5 P.M.

Visitors Express Keen Interest in All Its Features

From the neat brick-paved walk to the front door thru the house and out to the double garage, a steady stream of visitors have been leaving delighted exclamations of approval daily and nightly at The Herald's Demonstration Home at the corner of Beech and Sierra streets.

Since the home opened for public inspection last Saturday afternoon, fully 1,500 people, many of them from out-of-town, have been this newspaper's guests at the distinctive Californian-Cape Cod cottage erected with the assistance of an FHA insured mortgage loan. An accurate check kept last Saturday and Sunday showed that 800 people toured the home, many returning again and again with friends or relatives they insisted "simply must see that beautiful place."

Those who have not inspected the completely-furnished five-room residence, erected by The Herald to show exactly what can be done with Torrance firms and Torrance craftsmen on the job, should take advantage of the open-house period at once. The Demonstration Home will be closed to the public Sunday afternoon, March 14, at 5 o'clock.

Has Had Effect Here

It is open daily from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m., and again from 7 p. m. to 9 p. m. At night four flood lights brilliantly illuminate the entire front of the home, which is also set off by flag streamers around the corner.

Women visitors have been especially delighted by the attractive furnishings and the arrangement of the rooms. As a result of their approval, scores of families have started planning to build here or to renovate their present homes. The contractor on the Demonstration Home, F. L. Marvin, has received contracts for three new homes for immediate construction and is conferring with several other prospective builders.

Land values have also been increased here as a direct result of the spurt given home-building by The Herald's project. Local stores and firms who co-operated with this newspaper in furnishing the Demonstration Home have won much favorable comment for their selections and have experienced

(Continued on Page 6-B)

NO RELIEF FOR KEYSTONERS

District Never Should Have Been Settled

Although indignation meetings have been held and county supervisors have been quoted as saying "they would do something about it," the 1500 acres of land that is under water in Nigger Slough probably will have to stay under water until it drains out of the present inadequate channel or evaporates, according to flood control engineers.

The area under water is around the community known as Keystone, which county officials now say never should have been permitted to develop. But permits were issued for new subdivisions in that area some years ago, a number of lots were sold off, and the people of limited means who bought them were permitted to build dwellings in the low area that certain officials and sellers of the land must have known was subject to inundation.

The federal government has turned down applications for

FHA Chief Commends Herald Home Section

March 5, 1937.
Mr. Grover C. Whyte, Publisher, Torrance Herald,
Dear Mr. Whyte:

Please accept my congratulations for the splendid service you are rendering to the citizens of Torrance by sponsoring the Demonstration Home and bringing to their attention the advantages of home ownership. A community of home owners, purchasing their homes on an economically sound basis, should result in a civic pride from which your city will reap many dividends.

Your special issue of March 4 in connection with the Demonstration Home and housing program is especially fine in its presentation of the subject.

The contractors, building material dealers, labor and others who participated in the construction of your Demonstration Home are also to be congratulated. I trust that every resident of Torrance will visit and examine it.

With best wishes for your continued success, I am,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) W. G. BINGHAM,
Associate Director,
Federal Housing Administration,
Los Angeles, California.

Sepulveda Work Near Finish

Less than one mile of Sepulveda boulevard will remain unimproved between Torrance and San Fernando valley when two contracts now under way are completed, according to state highway engineers in reviewing the construction progress this week.

Sepulveda boulevard is in reality a northerly extension of the so-called State street project, that extends thru the south part of Torrance and provides Torrance, Lomita and the area to the west with a convenient, direct connection with Long Beach from the north.

Six-Tenths Unimproved
Nearing completion this week is a link three and one-tenth miles long between Centinela and Lincoln boulevards, the latter portion skirting the west side of Los Angeles municipal airport. This section, started last September, is being improved by Matich Brothers at a contract price of \$218,000. A 40-foot pavement is being laid, with oiled shoulders, and the link is due for acceptance by the state before the end of March.

Also under way this week is a new link one and six-tenths miles long extending between Washington and Jefferson boulevards. The contractors, J. E. Haddock and son of Pasadena, are to lay a 30-foot concrete pavement in a 74-foot street, with shoulders, gutters and curbs.

Realtors Support Road Projects

Their group having been recognized by Chamber of Commerce directors as a full-fledged division of the civic booster organization, realtors of this city gave further evidence last Friday evening that they intend to take an active interest in the promotion of Torrance as a residential as well as industrial community.

Following election of B. C. Buxton as chairman, DeKalb Spurlin as vice-chairman and Charles Curtiss as secretary, the Realtors' division held an animated discussion of the proposed extension of Western avenue and improvement of the connecting link between Crenshaw boulevard (formerly Cedar avenue) and Cypress avenue from 100th to 182nd street.

The result of the discussion was to appoint a nine-man committee to attend the meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce today and tonight in Wilmington to urge support of the two projects. Those on the committee are Buxton, Spurlin, Curtiss, J. C. Smith, Rufus Page, Tom Waters, J. W. McQuaid, A. H. Silligo and L. J. Glimmer.

Seek Tax Reforms
Extension of Western southerly from South Los Angeles to San Pedro is sought because it would open another arterial highway to this city. C. T. Rippey, city attorney, was present and suggested that the realtors "memorialize" the city council, asking that body to endorse the extension.

Second topic for discussion was the formation of a tax research committee whose objective

(Continued on Page 7-A)

It Happened Four Years Ago This Week

Scars No Longer Remain As Time Moves On

Yesterday was the fourth anniversary of the terrific earthquakes which caused millions of dollars of damage in Southern California cities but less than \$12,000 loss here.

Today there are practically no scars left of the temblor tragedy on the cities such as Long Beach, Huntington Park, Compton and Los Angeles which bore the brunt of the damage.

Residents who were here four years ago, however, will never forget the sickening lurches of the ground and the sound of falling brick, shattered windows and fright they experienced. Neither will they forget the wholehearted response of the American Le-

Shot By Gunmen



Burton Flitts, militant district attorney of Los Angeles County, who was shot by three gunmen as he was en route to visit his father. The bullet is believed to have shattered a nerve in Flitts' arm in the latest incident in his fiery career, which recently included the breaking up of a strike at the Douglas aircraft plant at Santa Monica with the aid of hundreds of special deputies.

Festive Raiment, Valued At \$600, Stolen Here

Nothing cripples a band and marching organization like the loss of uniforms because what's the use of a band and marchers if they can't be dazzled spectators with unusual raiment?

Until the Klavallers, semi-military order affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan here, recover some \$300 worth of uniforms which were stolen Saturday night, it is doubtful if they appear in public as a group.

Eight band uniforms, of white and red sateen, and 20 white robes were snatched by the costume thieves from the old Klan hall on Border avenue, according to reports given police. The burglars are said to have used a large butcher knife to open a window in the rear of the building near the alley.

The Klavallers were formed here late last fall and held one public parade at the time of a district convention in this city.

Lumber Yard Fire Causes \$1,000 Loss Today

A back-firing Ford delivery truck caused damage estimated at \$1,000 this morning in a fire at the Consolidated Lumber Company's yard at 1826 21st street. The loss was covered by insurance, it is understood.

P. J. Brown, driver of the truck, attempted to put out the blazing truck but when the fire gave evidence of spreading, he called the fire department. The garage housing the truck burned and ignited an adjoining building where wall board and other building materials were stored. Both buildings and the truck were destroyed.

Firemen worked for an hour or more to bring the fire under control.

CLEARING THE SMOKE FROM THE CHARTER

An Editorial

By Grover C. Whyte

Next Tuesday, March 16, the people of Torrance will vote upon the adoption of a city charter. While interests outside the city have attempted to mislead local residents by the dissemination of false statements and grossly exaggerated figures, the important and fundamental issues at stake can be easily understood.

At present the municipal affairs of Torrance are conducted under the general laws of the state, the same as pertain to the heterogeneous lot of small crossroad towns scattered thruout California. As such this city is subject to all the log-rolling tactics of professional politicians and the questionable influences of paid lobbyists who infest the legislative halls at Sacramento. Even now there are some 4,000 bills before the current session of the state legislature many of which, if adopted, would be detrimental to Torrance. By the adoption of a charter, Torrance will cut itself loose from such sinister influences at the state capitol and be free to run its municipal affairs without outside interference.

Likewise the adoption of the city charter automatically liberates our Torrance schools from the dominance of the Los Angeles city school district. We will be able to add facilities and improve the scholastic standing of our schools as we see fit.

From a tax-paying standpoint Torrance is a rich plum for the Los Angeles city school district. Los Angeles collects hundreds of thousands of dollars more from Torrance taxpayers than it spends here. If the school tax money which is paid by our large industrial plants was all spent on Torrance schools, we could have the best teachers and the finest school facilities in the Southland. And that is exactly what proponents of the charter desire. One need only refer to the pathetic and too often vain struggles of Torrance high school graduates in their efforts to carry a normal course at college to realize the inefficiency of the training received under our present school management. We are paying a high price for education and we deserve the best.

It seems unnecessary to answer the deliberate falsehoods and misleading information contained in the anonymous pamphlet which was distributed recently in Torrance. The mere fact that the author of the leaflet did not have the courage to sign it, or even give an address, is ample evidence of the utter irresponsibility of the data it contains. However, this type of unsponsored propaganda is characteristic of Los Angeles politics and regrettable as it seems, such undercover tactics do have some influence with some people. For this reason it is probably wise to answer some of the statements contained in this unsigned pamphlet by stating the facts as known to all who have taken the trouble to check the records.

If Torrance takes over its own schools, it will not have to buy the present school buildings for the simple reason that the title to all public school buildings is held by the state and would continue to be so held.

All the benefits of the present school health department including its clinics could easily be supplanted by the county health department's splendid health center here. Likewise specialized classes for underprivileged children would be continued under local management.

It is quite probable that a junior college would soon be built here and pending that time Torrance students could continue to attend the splendid Compton Junior College, which most of them prefer to the L. A. Junior College anyway.

In regard to expert supervision, Torrance could well afford (without increasing its school taxes) to employ as valuable a superintendent of schools as the City of Los Angeles, and furthermore, he would devote his entire time to bettering the scholastic standing of Torrance schools. Incidentally, such a high type man living in Torrance and personally contacting our local boys and girls would be a powerful influence in encouraging wholesome living and higher ideals. Furthermore, such an outstanding superintendent would have complete charge of the school curriculum and teaching staff. Members of the local school board would confine their activities to financial affairs of the district and to securing a competent superintendent much the same as directors of a corporation engage a capable executive and give him full authority to manage the affairs of the company.

It is possible that there may be some additional expense the first year the schools are taken over by Torrance, but this amount will be saved many times in subsequent years.

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Peacemaker



This is Almon E. Roth, who recently took over the duties of president of the Waterfront Employers' Association, succeeding Thomas G. Plant, central figure in the recent maritime strike. Roth's duties will include maintaining peaceful employer-employee relations.

Press Probe of Phone Rates In Southland

Hope for lower rates by the Southern California Telephone company and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company was held up for their patrons yesterday in a statement released by President Wallace L. Ware of the California Railroad commission in commenting on the recent rate reduction for gas consumers.

Ware declared that the investigation of the Southern California Telephone and the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, Pacific Gas and Electric, Coast Counties Gas and Electric and Southern Counties Gas companies would be pressed, with a view to early determination. The rate reductions announced last week for patrons of the Southern California Gas company and of the Los Angeles Gas and Electric company was the successful termination of the first of the informal investigations into five of the major utilities of California.

Naturalist Lectures At High School

This being California Conservation Week as ordained by Gov. Frank P. Merriam, special recognition was given to the state's national parks at two assemblies in the high school yesterday.

Frank Beem, park naturalist connected with the national park service, presented illustrated lectures on "America's National Playgrounds" and "Death Valley National Monument." He made two appearances so that all high school students could enjoy the lectures.

Mr. Brown, a native of Iowa and a former miner, shot himself in the head with a small calibre revolver which, according to his sister, Miss Annette Brown, of Los Angeles, he always carried with him. He had the gun in a small bag he kept in his hospital room. The fatal shot was heard by Miss Esther

Schools Are Sole Issue

Four Polls Open Next Tuesday At 6 A.M.

Altho the future policy of municipal and school affairs is at stake, next Tuesday's special charter election promises to be the quietest in municipal history.

What little protection campaigning has been done, has been confined almost entirely to the group supporting the Los Angeles city school district in opposition to the charter. Adoption of the charter will remove local schools from the L. A. city system and set up a new Torrance school district.

Aside from the school issue, there appears to be no organized opposition to the proposed charter, which if adopted, will permit the city to run its own affairs without regard to action ent Torrance is operating under the general state laws as a sixth class city.

Other progressive municipalities in the Southland which have adopted charters include: Los Angeles, Long Beach, Inglewood, Pasadena, Pomona, Glendale, Santa Monica, and just recently, Redondo Beach. There are scores of others thruout the state.

The proposed charter is a short document, embodying only fundamental laws for the city's government. Ample latitude has been left to the city council for adoption of ordinances to meet changing conditions.

While the text of the charter is brief, it represents nine months of intensive study by 15 freeholders who were elected a year ago.

Where to Vote
Voting polls will be open from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m. next Tuesday, March 16.

The consolidated polling places for the charter election are as follows:

"A" comprising state and county precincts Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, at the civic auditorium on El Prado.
"B" comprises precincts Nos. 10 and 11 at 2013 Arlington avenue.
"C" is precinct No. 1 at 18211 Prairie avenue in North Torrance.
"D" is precinct No. 12 at 22439 Park avenue in Welteria.

And The Herald will be glad to give the election returns as fast as they are tabulated to anyone calling 444 after 8 p. m.

Help Children
California provided for 24,331 needy children under 16 years of age during the month of January at a cost of \$356,992.88.

HOSPITAL PATIENT, 73, SUICIDE

Despondency Is Believed Cause For Act

Carrying out a cryptic statement that "something different was going to happen that was very bad," Benjamin Frank Brown, 73, retired city clerk of Hermosa Beach for 22 years, shot and killed himself Friday morning in his room at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital.

He had been received at the institution last week for medical care and treatment of a melancholy condition brought on by grief over the passing of his wife some two years ago and the subsequent breaking up of his home.

Mr. Brown, a native of Iowa and a former miner, shot himself in the head with a small calibre revolver which, according to his sister, Miss Annette Brown, of Los Angeles, he always carried with him. He had the gun in a small bag he kept in his hospital room. The fatal shot was heard by Miss Esther

Z. Maxwell, superintendent of the institution, who rushed into Mr. Brown's room and found him dying. He was sitting in a rocking chair.

Earlier in the morning Mr. Brown went to sleep while sitting in the sun outside the hospital walls, attendants told police. Waking up he went to his room and 10 minutes later he was dead. He had previously told a friend that in case of his death he wanted Glade White, Redondo mortician, to take charge of the arrangements. His wishes were carried out this week.

Mr. Brown had been staying with his sister in Los Angeles, and was considered in fairly good health but deeply depressed. No suicide note was found. The Redondo mortician received the body from Stone and Myers mortuary here Friday afternoon and the funeral followed Saturday.