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# Torrance Herald

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TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—NO. 15.

SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1937.

TWO

SECTIONS

16 PAGES

THIS ISSUE

PER COPY 5c

## New Civic Building Starts Monday

### Carson St. Link to be Paved Soon

Another link in the state's Carson street project, which will ultimately extend clear across the southern tip of the county, is to be constructed at an early date, with bids to be received next May 6 in Los Angeles.

The new link will extend westward from Lakewood boulevard, which is the new name for Carritos avenue and which is part of the state's Rosemead boulevard project, to Norwalk road, a distance of four miles. The section is to be graded and paved with cement concrete, and all-mixed shoulders are to be constructed on either side.

State highway engineers said this week they understood there was a new race track going in near Carson street, and that the work proposed would relieve traffic congestion that might be expected.

Carson street is the state's next cross-country artery north of State street. It carries a considerable amount of traffic between Los Angeles and county points and Orange county.

Work is scheduled to begin shortly on a new 3 1/2-mile link of Lakewood boulevard project, extending northward from Center street, to Firestone boulevard. Bids were taken several weeks ago. The Carson street project will tie in with this new Lakewood boulevard improvement.

### Narrowly Escapes Death In Sump

If Carl Alecci, watchman at the WPA garden near Washington street and Cedar avenue, had not seen Henry James Alkema, 24, Los Angeles truck driver, plunge into an oil sump near the garden early Saturday morning in his light car, Henry James might not have been rescued to be cited for being drunk in his car by local police.

The Angeleno, who was still asserted under the influence of liquor when tugged out, was hopelessly mired and weak from loss of blood when Officers Haslam and Schumaker arrived on the scene in response to Alecci's call for help. Taken to the police station for de-icing, Alkema was found to be suffering from a severe cut on his wrist severing nerves and tendons, and other injuries.

He was removed to Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for treatment where he was released Wednesday to appear in court next Tuesday to answer the drunken-car charge. The rescuing officers reported that Alkema's car traveled an indirect course of about 200 feet into an open field before turning over in the sump.

### 'Cut-off' In L. A. Mayor's Plan

Torrance boulevard will be improved from Western avenue to Normandie avenue at a cost of \$25,296 if the \$286,000,000 schedule of projects submitted by Mayor Shaw of Los Angeles to President Roosevelt is included in the 1937 PWA and WPA works programs, it was learned here this week.

This project, which has also been known as the "El Prado cut-off" has long been sought by civic leaders here but without success because Los Angeles city officials apparently were not interested in the improvement which would run thru the Los Angeles shoe-string strip.

#### GUEST DEPARTS

Mrs. William Schofield, of New York, who has been a house guest of her brother, Jack Murray, and family for the past two months, left last Monday for the east. She will spend a short time in Florida before going home.

### Halliburton Won't Be Stranger Here on May 3

Keen Interest Being Shown In Author

Altho a large number of extra copies of Richard Halliburton's engaging travel books and magazine articles were received at the public library late last week, the demand has far outstripped the supply. As result scores of local residents who want to "become acquainted" with that adventuring author before he appears in person here May 3 are either buying copies or seeking loans of them from friends.

This keen interest in Halliburton indicates a sell-out at both his matinee and evening appearances in the civic auditorium under the auspices of The Herald. The advance ticket sale reflects the demand and The Herald advises those who want to be assured of a seat to obtain the necessary pasteboards now.

Adult admissions for either the matinee or evening lecture are 55 cents. Students will be admitted at the matinee for 25 cents and children under 12 at the evening engagement for the same price. Tickets may be obtained at The Herald office, 1336 El Prado or at the offices of the Torrance, Narbonne and Gardena high schools.

**Some Career Highlights**  
Typifying youth in quest of romantic adventure, Richard Halliburton has done the things in this 20th century that his torical or legendary figures are reputed to have accomplished in the past. He has also linked his exploits all over the world with a modern quest for the unusual by visits, journeys and (Continued on Page 3-A)

### Lomita Sewer Project Ready

The first unit of a major sewer project for Lomita will get under way next week with an average of 93 men on the job for the next two months. It was learned today from Lt. Col. Donald H. Connolly, Los Angeles county director for the PWA.

Sponsored by the county, this WPA project will include the installation of sanitary lines and house connections up to private property lines and re-paving where necessary in three sections. The first will be on Pennsylvania avenue between 246th street and Lomita boulevard, the second on 246th from Pennsylvania to a point 100 feet easterly, and the third on 254th street from Cypress avenue to a point 410 feet westerly.

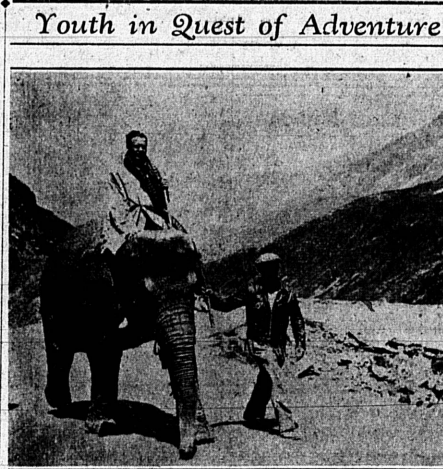
The total cost of the project will be \$16,426 which the WPA contribution will be \$14,650, according to Lt. Col. Connolly. The Harbor City sewer work which has had 198 men employed for the past several months, is near completion and a number of men working on that project will be transferred to the Lomita job, it is reported.

### AID WESTERN IMPROVEMENT

Gardena Allots Gas Tax Funds to Project

Western avenue, thru Gardena, will be a first class boulevard in two years or less as result of that community's city council action this week. The officials agreed to use all of Gardena's gas tax funds for the next two years on the improvement of Western within the Gardena city limits.

Gardena will have about \$12,000 available during that period



HALLIBURTON CROSSING THE ALPS TO ITALY. . . he and Hannibal traversed common ground.

In sponsoring the appearance of Richard Halliburton, in person, at the Civic Auditorium after noon and evening of May 3, The Herald purposely reduced the advance ticket prices to 55 cents for adults and 25 cents for students (afternoon) and children under 12 for the evening tour of the world with "Seven League Boots."

This newspaper slashed ticket prices to this minimum so that all members of every family in this district could enjoy a distinctive form of entertainment. For that reason the tickets are lower here than in any other Southern California city where Halliburton is to appear this year.

### Nine Building Jobs Start During Week

City Engineer Frank R. Leonard's record of building permits issued during the past week showed today that \$6,325 was in the process of being spent here for new construction, improvements and alterations on nine different projects.

Permits were issued for the following jobs: T. H. Wright, of Los Angeles, is installing a 100 horse power tubular boiler at 1803 West 190th street to cost \$500. P. F. Perry is building a cafe with living quarters attached at 3902 Highway 101, the work to cost \$1,000.

Paul Skaggs is erecting a single frame garage at 1422 Elm street for \$100 and the Consolidated Lumber Company is making alterations and repairs on its warehouse building, the work costing \$300.

The alteration, repair and placement of footings on the two-story brick building at 1335 El Prado, owned by the Capitol company, is costing \$500; a five-room stucco house and double garage is being built at 1027 Beech street for Edward Rhone of 1103 Portola avenue, \$2,900; F. H. Steinhilber is building an addition to his residence at 1739 Gramercy avenue for \$125; and the new owners of the Torrance Theatre, Albert Melinkoff and Harry Milstein, installed a new Neonlight marquee at a cost of \$800.

Mrs. L. A. Kent is building a frame garage at 2111 Arlington avenue to cost \$100.

Sam Rappaport, former local store owner, visited here today.

### Camera Studies by Welch on Exhibit

An exhibit by the outstanding amateur photographer of Torrance, Attorney Torrance C. Welch, is always a notable event and the present display of his work in the exhibit room of the public library is no exception.

A splendid collection of his most recent photographic studies will remain on view there until April 26 when the Art classes of the high school, under the direction of Miss Ada Chase, will present their annual exhibit featuring textiles.

The designation "amateur photographer" would be a misnomer for Attorney Welch except for the fact that he does no commercial work and makes his camera studies purely for his own amusement. Otherwise, his pictures, chiefly concerned with the interesting architectural details of the new Yale buildings, are professional in their conception, printing and mounting.

In addition to these beautifully executed camera portraits of the Yale campus, Welch has included some of his dog and cat studies, California landscapes, desert and snowscapes and some delightful pastoral views taken in Southern California. The exhibit merits the interest of everyone who manipulates a shutter.

Attorney Welch and his wife Maud Hammond Welch, do all their own work in connection with their hobby. They have acquired a notable collection of views taken in Europe and the Orient as well as in this country. The Yale studies were made last summer and (Continued on Page 2-A)

### Third Robbery At Local Plant Strips Office

A pair of burglars using a gray coupe robbed the Pacific Perforating company's office at 1024 Engracia avenue of equipment valued at \$300 shortly before 10 o'clock last Saturday night. This was the third major burglary suffered by that firm in recent months and swelled the company's loss to around \$1,500, according to police reports.

Entrance to the office was gained by breaking a small hole in a north door window and unlatching the lock. A brand-new typewriter, adding machine and check protector were stolen in this second office robbery at that plant.

A workman, who was entering the plant to visit another employee who sleeps there, saw the robbers' car parked in front of the office. He informed the other worker about it and when they went to investigate, the machine was hurriedly driven off with its lights out, police said they were informed.

### FHA Great Aid to Building Here

Nearly 30 percent of the building permits issued here for new residential construction between Jan. 2, 1935 and March 31, 1937 were the result of Federal Housing loans, and

More than half of the dollar value of all home building here was financed by the national government.

These two facts came to light this week with the release of the totals of Federal Housing Administration loans in this city. For the financing of home ownership in Torrance there has been accepted for FHA insurance 28 mortgages with a dollar value of \$97,700 from the inception of the FHA program, Jan. 2, 1935 to March 31, 1937.

**High L. A. Ratio**  
During the same period 94 building permits with a dollar value of \$191,755 were issued here for new residential construction. The FHA figures, announced by F. W. Marlow, director of the Southern California district, were itemized into 18 new construction mortgages for \$64,840 and 10 existing structure mortgages for \$32,860.

Marlow reports that 24.5 percent of the Los Angeles building permits were attributable to FHA insured mortgage loans and that 30 percent of the new building valuation in that city during the 1935-37 period was swelled by Title II of the National Housing Act.

Fifteen minutes after it was installed last Friday morning, the first Shampaine hydraulic delivery placed in any hospital west of the Mississippi was put to good use at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. Dr. E. G. Butt, of Redondo, president of the hospital staff, had the honor of using it for the first time.

The new addition to the hospital's facilities cost more than \$500 and is regarded as the most advanced type of its kind. It was displayed last week at the convention of Western Hospitals Association in Los Angeles and came direct to Torrance from the Biltmore hotel. The bed was purchased from funds obtained from the Hospital fund held last Feb. 22 and it retired an obstetrical bed that had been in use here for the past 13 years.

**Track Crossing Finally Fatal**  
WILLOUGHBY, O. (U.P.)—For 21 years James Reynolds, 40, had crossed railroad tracks twice a day on his way to and from work. Then he was struck and killed by a train.

### PWA Finally Grants \$10,695 for Administration Headquarters

An All-Purpose Structure



PROPOSED CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

This is the architect's conception of the structure, 30 by 50 feet, that is scheduled to be started by next Monday next in the Civic Auditorium on El Prado. It is planned that the Chamber of Commerce will be housed within the main room, 16 by 30 feet, and a 14 by 13 foot office.

The remaining rooms, a 10.6 by 13 foot space, committee room, 18 by 22 feet, and a storeroom, 18 by 33 feet, will be used for civic purposes and storage of equipment used in the Auditorium.

The Administration building will also contain a large kitchen, 18 by 22 feet, and the necessary toilets, closets and furniture. A patio and a 10-foot walk will separate the building from the existing Auditorium.

More than 5,000 regularly employed workers in Torrance industries and retail stores are drawing a payroll amounting to more than a million dollars a month at the present time!

These two facts were established this week by a survey just completed by L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. The check-up, which covered 58 industries and important retail stores revealed a total of 4,844 employees. At the same time, Gilmeister learned that the two local banks alone are cashing payroll checks at the rate of nearly \$900,000 each month.

No effort was made to obtain the number of workers in many smaller plants and places of business, nor were the payroll checks paid to local workers and cashed elsewhere included. Had these figures been added, it is conservatively estimated that the totals would exceed 5,000 workers earning a monthly payroll well in excess of \$1,000,000 per month.

**Some Employment Figures**  
The survey revealed that the Pons Manufacturing Company, located on El Prado and the newest of the city's industrial plants, was now employing 40 local workers. Other large employers are:

Columbia Steel Company, 1,350; National Supply, 900; retail stores, 370; Pacific Electric Railway, 325; Hydral company, 190; C. C. M. O., 175; International Derrick and Equipment, 154; General Petroleum Corporation, 125; Dicalite company, 110; City of Torrance, 85; Torrance Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company, 80; Rubbercraft corporation, 62; United Concrete Pipe Company and Superior Oil Company, 60 each; Salm Manufacturing and D & M Machine (Continued on Page 2-A)

### TRANCE NO BAR TO ARREST

Wife, Deputies Nab Lomita Spiritualist

Deputy sheriffs are sometimes called upon to perform strange services but the strangest of all was arresting "Rev." Emory Newell, Lomita spiritualist minister of 24005 Eschelman avenue, yesterday while he was in a trance.

It appears that the "Rev." Newell has an "Indian control" but that assistant from the other world was not enough to control his wife, who bound him up during a seance.

Mrs. Newell explained to deputy sheriffs answering a disturbance call at the Newell home that her husband became violent when he in trances.

He was found sitting on a couch, tied hand and foot, babbling an unintelligible and incoherent jargon, the deputies reported. Mrs. Newell had "controlled" him pending the arrival of the officers. "Rev." Newell was booked for disturbance of the peace in the county jail, where he is being held under close observation.

### Work on \$19,790 Center Addition is Authorized

Torrance will not be denied the completion of its attractive civic center by the construction of an administrative building, to cost \$19,790, adjoining the auditorium on El Prado.

By adroitly enlisting the aid (otherwise known as "putting on the pressure," "wire-pulling" or "good politics") of Senator William Gibbs McAdoo and Congressman Charles J. Cadden, the city council successfully revived the Public Works Administration project for that building's construction this week. As late as last Thursday the project had been declared denied by State PWA Director A. D. Wilder.

Monday the council learned by telegrams from McAdoo and Cadden that the project was very much alive and Tuesday afternoon the civic board passed a resolution approving the federal government's grant of \$10,695 toward the cost of the project.

**Contract Signed Today**  
Today the contract for erecting the new structure was signed by Elser Wickholm, Ltd., successful bidder, and the work was scheduled to start early Monday morning. It must be completed by Jan. 11, 1938, according to Wilder's letter which was received here Monday confirming the grant.

Local officials were determined that their efforts covering three-quarters of a year would not be wasted when word was received here from Wilder the latter part of March that "no assurance can be given that the request (for a PWA allocation) can be granted." Without a let-down the council proceeded to seek the help of this city's Washington representatives.

Congressman Cadden wired April 12 that the delay in execution of the allocation was caused by the state PWA office and pledged his continued interest in behalf of the project. Full details of the city's strenuous efforts to secure the grant were sent him and Senator McAdoo at once with the result that the project was finally passed.

**Sixty In Two Years**  
Elser Wickholm was granted the contract for the structure on Feb. 23, on condition that the project was finally approved by the PWA. He was the lowest bidder of some 13 contractors who responded to the city's second call for bids on the civic structure.

Efforts to obtain a PWA grant toward the construction of the proposed administrative building date back to June 23, 1926, when an application was filed with the federal government. The first call for bids produced quotations that were held excessive by the council. Wickholm's offer to build and equip the administration adjunct to the auditorium for \$19,790 will leave the city \$9,095 or less to pay for the building, the PWA grant being \$10,695.

When completed the structure will be the sixth public building constructed here with the aid of the federal government during the past two years, the others being the city hall, police station, auditorium, public library and water office building.

### Notice to Herald Subscribers

During the current circulation campaign, The Herald has suspended its regular method of collecting subscriptions in order to give workers in the campaign every opportunity of earning money. Robert Sleeth, Jr., regular Herald collector, has been assigned to other work for the next eight weeks.