

# Speakers Heap Praises on City at Building Dedication

## Gas Tax Division Fixed by Auditor

Los Angeles county's 20 assemblymen have been requested to meet with the board of supervisors next Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 27, to discuss a plan to divide the gasoline tax funds and motor vehicle license fees direct to the various cities. A proposal is to be made whereby a "yardstick" would be adopted by the state legislature for distributing gasoline tax funds and license fees direct to the cities instead of leaving it for the board of supervisors to apportion.

Cities outside of Los Angeles city will receive a total of \$1,251,859 in gasoline tax funds and motor vehicle license fees this year, according to an official compilation filed with the county supervisors this week by County Auditor H. A. Payne.

As far as the supervisors were concerned it was a "compilation to end all compilations," requested after Los Angeles city councilmen and Supervisor Gordon McDougall had exchanged hot statements in the press with "unofficial" estimates.

Los Angeles city will receive \$2,057,595, the report set forth, while \$3,453,080 was allotted to county projects, including the operating cost of the county road department. The amount which all of the 44 cities will receive, and the county's share, add up to \$6,762,535.

Suggested by Leonard  
In addition, the county supervisors have set aside \$1,381,000 for special assessment district relief, \$420,500 to build new bridges across widened flood control channels, and \$49,918 for reserves, making a grand total of \$8,620,867.

Auditor Payne said road department officials advised him that gasoline tax revenues for Los Angeles county this fiscal year would aggregate \$5,572,567, motor vehicle license fees \$1,500,000, miscellaneous fees \$60,000, and there was \$1,542,300 surplus left over from last year.

The county supervisors have agreed to allot gasoline tax funds to each of the 44 cities this year on the basis of population and mileage, using the same yardstick for each city. The plan was suggested by Frank R. Leonard, city engineer of Torrance, and others.

## FLOOD FUNDS FOR SLOUGH 'UNJUSTIFIED'

County's Chief Engineer Regrets Advice of '26 Not Followed

A special public hearing is to be held at 10 o'clock next Tuesday morning by the board of supervisors on the report of flood control engineers relative to the Nigger Slough problem.

Expenditure of flood control funds at this time for the relief of flood conditions in the Nigger Slough area does not appear to be justified at this time, according to a report to the board of supervisors this week from Chief Engineer C. H. Howell.

The report stated that \$4,269,000 would be required to properly drain the bottom lands, which would be \$900 per acre for the land to be benefited. "It is regrettable that the sound advice given to the supervisors in 1926 by Olmstead Brothers, consulting engineers of Boston, was not followed," Howell stated. "This report advised the supervisors of the danger of flooding in this area, the great expense of preventing it and the danger of permitting development in these old lake beds. The present situation is the result of developments contrary to that advice which were made before and after it was given."

Against Barge Canal  
Howell warned the supervisors that the area flooded last spring may be inundated even more seriously, due to the paving of streets and other developments in the rather extensive watershed that extends as far north as Inglewood and the Baldwin Hills. He submitted maps showing exactly how far out the flooded area might extend.

## Steel Prices Reaffirmed for '38's First Period

The Columbia Steel Company, subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, announces this week that present prices on bars, small shapes, structural shapes, sheets and wire products for delivery and consumption in the United States in the first calendar quarter of 1938 are reaffirmed, and subject to any changes in freight rates at time of shipment.

This announcement, according to business leaders, should have a profound effect in stabilizing all building prices and setting at rest rumors of either a major drop or upturn in such commodities. Columbia Steel's early announcement has received wide attention and no little praise for its forthright terms.

## Pons Installs First Exhibit

First local industrial firm to complete and install a display in the lobby of the new Administration building occupied by the Chamber of Commerce on El Prado was the Max Pons Company, manufacturers of the unique "Straw-Mosaic" products which are meeting a good response from novelty dealers.

The Pons firm, located at 1610 Cabrillo avenue, has presented the chamber with a wide variety of its colorful products attractively displayed in a glass enclosed case.

Other exhibits are in preparation by the Columbia Steel Company, General Petroleum corporation, Rubbercraft corporation and other local industries.

At a joint meeting of the city council and directors of the Chamber of Commerce with City Engineer Frank R. Leonard in the board room of the new Administration building the engineer's proposed master map for zoning the area west of Cedar avenue was endorsed Monday afternoon.

The chamber leaders decided to request the council to approve the zoning plan, subject to any revision deemed necessary when it comes before the city board for adoption. It was believed that Leonard has perfected a zoning set-up which will insure excellent residential development in the western part of the city and also provide for necessary business and industrial locations. The council is expected to begin proceedings for adoption of the zoning statute, which will affect all property within the city limits as well as the area west of Cedar, at its meeting next Tuesday night.

Secretary L. J. Gilmeister reported to the chamber that he had received J. Abramson's application for membership. He is the owner of the Torrance Upholstering company at 1513 Border avenue. The application was approved.

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## RAIL-BUS PLAN HIT BY CITIES

Further Consideration of P. E. Proposal to be Made by Group

One after another, representatives from this city, all the South Bay beach towns, Gardena and intermediate communities rose up in the crowded Redondo Beach city council chamber last Thursday night to decry the substitution of buses for most of the Pacific electric street car runs between Los Angeles and Redondo Beach. It was apparent that the proposed tentative plan of the railway company, designed "to improve transportation service," was not in accord with what the community delegations wanted.

However, to give the Pacific Electric every opportunity to present its side of the case and also to make a thorough investigation on behalf of the communities which would be affected by any change in commuter service, a large committee was named at the meeting. Mayor Colfax Bell of Redondo was made chairman of the investigating committee and L. J. Gilmeister of Torrance was chosen secretary. It was Gilmeister who read a letter to the assembled group last week that outlined the result of the P. E.'s long survey of the transportation problem.

**Committee Named**  
The letter was from H. O. Marler, who announced the suggestion to discontinue most of the red cars, running trains morning and evening to accommodate commuters and sandwiching in between the rail runs a motor bus schedule.

The investigating committee is composed of: Redondo Beach, Mayor Bell, Dr. C. W. Wade, Mrs. Dorothy Wade, E. L. Etter; Hermosa Beach, Mayor Al Schuppner, Glanton Reah, William Donahugh; Torrance, Mayor W. H. Tolson, Gilmeister, DeKalb Spurlin; El Segundo, J. E. Reddington, Frank Snow; North Torrance, P. W. Giddings, Mrs. E. L. Workman; Del Rey, Carl Stall, R. F. Townsend; Manhattan.

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## PIONEER OIL MAN DIES

One of this city's pioneer oil developers and a man who contributed much toward the advancement of the Torrance oil field, Charles M. (Mel) Root, father of Mrs. May Smith of 1423 Post avenue, succumbed suddenly to heart trouble Oct. 8, at an Evansville, Ind., hospital. He was about 75 years of age.

Mrs. Smith recently returned home here after a long visit with her father this summer, during which they attended the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs and enjoyed trips to many other mid-west and southern cities. They had planned to be reunited again about a week later when Mr. Root came to California but he was taken ill four days after Mrs. Smith left him. She sent her son, Melvin Smith, to attend the funeral at Eastland, Ohio.

**Started at Age 12**  
Mr. Root was a nationally-known oil operator, having worked in practically all the important fields of the nation. In recent years he had been inactive, living in Kentucky and California for his health. He was born in Pennsylvania and at the age of 12 started working in oil fields as a laborer. He progressed rapidly in the business and when 18 was operating for himself. As the oil and gas fields extended from Pennsylvania into western states he followed the industry. Many old-timers here will recall his genial personality and close attention to his life-work.

He was survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Root, his daughter, Mrs. Smith and her two sons, Melvin and Robert Root Smith of this city, a niece and two nephews.

## AT THEIR BIG CIVIC NIGHT



These pictures were flashed last night in the Civic Auditorium at the dedication dinner for the new Administration building. In the top picture is, left to right: Mrs. Marjorie Elschen, Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Teala Billini, Mrs. W. H. Tolson, Mayor Tolson, and E. M. Barber, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

In the middle group photo is, left to right: L. J. Gilmeister, chairman of the affair; Dr. Frederick P. Woellner, Mrs. Woellner and her mother, Mrs. Colder and Congressman Colder.

Below is Councilman Robert J. Deining, chairman of the city building committee, and Mrs. Deining. —Photos courtesy Long Beach Press-Telegram. Insert above is Director John D. Watson of the Torrance Municipal band that provided music.

## Charities Eat Big Hole in Tax Funds

Cost of relief and other charities in Los Angeles county this year will exceed the amount the county will collect in taxes, it is shown by an explanatory pamphlet that is being mailed with county tax bills being made ready for delivery this week.

This is explained by the fact that Los Angeles county, which receives but 59 percent of its revenue this year from the \$1.41 general levy the remainder of its income being made up of aid from the state and from the federal government amounting to 26 percent, seven percent miscellaneous revenue and eight percent that is surplus from last year.

Sixty percent of the county's expenses this year will go for charities, 24 percent for services to the public, such as police protection, only 10 percent for the support of county government, two percent for outstanding county bonds and four percent will be held for reserves to be used next summer and fall when no tax moneys are coming in.

This will be the third year that County Tax Collector H. L. Byram has enclosed the pamphlet with county tax bills, so that each taxpayer may have a better idea of what his money is used for during the year. The policy was ordered by the present board of supervisors.

Those who seek further information regarding county or school district taxes are referred to the county auditor, or to the respective city clerks or to the cities of the county for information regarding city taxes included in the county tax bill for collection purpose, it is explained.

## Some Timely Tips to Motor Safety

"Take time to be safe" is a good warning of the approach of the wet weather season. Vital needs are good brakes, tires and lights. Check the operation of your windshield wiper.

## 230 AT DINNER IN AUD LAST NIGHT

Probably more compliments were bestowed on Torrance and its citizenry last night than at any other time in the city's 26 years. Using the dedication of the recently-completed Administration building as a reason and the Civic Auditorium as the soundboard, verbal bouquets tossed to

## Cabrillo Group Meets Tonight For Discussion

Tonight at 6:30 o'clock a dinner-meeting of the Cabrillo Avenue Improvement association will be held at Daniels Cafe to consider reports on the Pacific Electric's suggestion for a combined rail and bus service, according to Chairman Ed Thompson.

He said today that the group may name a committee during the meeting which will be charged with conferring with the railway company relative to the chief object of the organization—the paving of Cabrillo's P. E. right-of-way. All business men, property owners and others interested in the improvement of that street are cordially invited to attend the session.

## Hiatts Celebrate Golden Wedding

Fifty years ago a blushing Barbara Whelchel was united in marriage to John W. Hiatt in Independence, Kansas. Monday the Hiatts, who have lived in the Harbor district since 1913 and at 2251 23rd street for a number of years, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a festive picnic in Wilmington's Banning Park.

There, surrounded by their devoted kith and kin, they joyously participated in a mock wedding ceremony on the bridge over a small stream. A double-ring rite was performed by Edward F. Grosscup, who enacted a ministerial role. Mrs. Hiatt was presented with a child's toy ring by her husband of a half-century while he, in turn, received a brass circlet from a merry-go-round.

Mrs. Hiatt's bridal veil was a

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## HEART FAILS VISITOR HERE

A hurried trip from his home town in Lewistown, Mont., to see his seriously ill sister at Covina came to a tragic end for James Mathew McQuaid, 51, last Saturday morning when he succumbed to a sudden attack of a few hours earlier at the home of his brother, J. W. McQuaid of 1511 Post avenue.

Mr. McQuaid had arrived in Southern California only a few days before his death. He was called here to cheer his sister, Mrs. Jennie Sproul of Covina, who passed away yesterday afternoon at the age of 60 years. His brother, who is the immediate past-president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, had no knowledge that the Montanan for about 30 years was afflicted with a heart ailment.

**Rites Held Today**  
A native of Los Angeles, Mr. McQuaid was a retail merchant who, with two partners, operated a sporting goods store in Lewistown for about 10 years. His wife, Mrs. Blanche McQuaid and a son arrived here Tuesday to attend the funeral which was held at Stone and Myers' chapel this afternoon. The Elks lodge of Redondo Beach was in charge of the obsequies and cremation followed at Pacific Crest.

Mr. McQuaid was also survived by a married daughter who lives in Minnesota, a son who is attending the Art Center School in Los Angeles. Mrs. Sproul, who had been ill for the past two months, is survived by a son and daughter. Arrangements for her funeral had not been completed today, according to Mrs. J. W. McQuaid here.

this community and its people rivaled beautiful floral offerings which decorated the lobby of the new building and the 30-odd round tables at which 230 men and women enjoyed a turkey dinner.

Despite all the compliments that principal speakers, Congressman Charles J. Colder and Dr. Frederick P. Woellner of U. C. L. A., could muster for the gala occasion, the only blushes detected were those on the table linen and these were not provoked by praise but rather by a poorly-timed paint job on their tops. The stain used was not completely dry before the tables were put into use and the new linen will need some extra-good laundering to restore its pristine whiteness.

Scores visited the new Administration building prior to the dinner. On view were large baskets of flowers from the Mayfair Creamery, C. C. M. O., Howard G. Locke, insurance broker; W. E. Wylam of the Poppy Flower shop and the Pacific Electric. Floral centerpieces at each table in the Auditorium were gifts of Wylam and Harriett Leech, florists.

**Auxiliary Serves Dinner**  
Following concert numbers by the Torrance Municipal band, garbed in new white and black uniforms and directed by John D. Watson, L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce which is now housed in the Administration building, opened the program, and Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald offered the invocation.

A splendid dinner was served by members of the American Legion Auxiliary, who had put in many hours of preparatory work on this important part of the dedication event. After dessert, Gilmeister again commanded the public address system and continued the program. Mrs. Marjorie Elschen, medical director at the high school, led the gathering in singing America.

Mayor William H. Tolson in presenting the new building to the Chamber of Commerce by means of the key to the front door, reminded visitors and local citizens that the Administration structure was the fifth of the civic center buildings. He also revealed that the city "expects to continue its building program for at least another structure or two to house some departments of the city which need better housing."

**Serve All People**  
Continued Federal assistance in this project will be necessary, he said in warning Congressman Colder that he "may have to keep on cooperating with Torrance to get the balance of this project." Then Mayor Tolson passed the key to President E. M. Barber of the chamber "for continued service to the community."

Barber responded by declaring that the new building "places another milestone in the march of this city's progress" and warmly commended the assistance given the city by Colder, the Federal agency of the Public Works Administration and the loyal citizenry of the community.

"Acceptance of this building for the chamber's use makes it our imperative duty to show all people that the Chamber of Commerce is qualified to receive their support," he said. The chamber, according to its leader, is a "true civic organization, glad to serve private citizens as well as business and industry" and Barber concluded his talk with the statement that the organization is an "investment toward stability and business development which affects a whole community."

**Tribute to Geo. Proctor**  
In between the talks, Chairman Gilmeister introduced the special guests attending. These included members of the city

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