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SECTIONS  
14 PAGES  
THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 44. SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1937 PER COPY 5c

# Plans Complete for Jobless Census Nov. 16

## CITY'S SHARE IN GAS TAX IS \$11,493

The city of Torrance will receive \$3,302.63 as its share of the extra \$500,000 of gasoline tax funds allocated to the 44 cities of the county by the board of supervisors, it was disclosed this week by the county road department.

This added sum will bring this city's share of gasoline tax funds for the fiscal year 1937-38 to \$11,493.58, it was shown. The "yardstick" under which the gasoline tax funds are being allocated to all cities this year provides that 85 percent of the amount, or \$425,000, be distributed according to the ratio of this city's population to the total population of the 44 cities.

Further Study Indicated  
The other 15 percent, or \$75,000, is apportioned upon the proportion that the mileage of primary roads in this city bears to the mileage of primary roads within all cities of the county. Meanwhile, the County League of Municipalities is being asked to appoint a joint fact-finding committee of five to study the problem of distributing gasoline tax funds to cities direct from the state.

## Window-Smasher Robs Howard's

A plate-glass window-smashing thief got away with two ladies' bracelet watches and two men's 17-jewel strap watches, retail value \$193.50, early Friday morning at Howard's Jewelry store, 1503 Cabrillo avenue.

In shattering the large show window to get the watches, the thief evidently cut his hands or arms badly because a number of bloodstains were found among the broken pieces of glass. The robbery was discovered at 1:15 a. m. by F. H. Clark, local foundry owner, as he was going home from work. He notified police who placed an officer on duty in front of the open window until late Friday morning when fingerprint experts from the sheriff's office came here to locate any tell-tale prints.

Several were found and these are being checked. Howard's Jewelry store was robbed of \$279 worth of valuables on June 24, 1936 by the same window-smashing method.

## Fatal Hit-Run Is Charged to Local Worker

Accused of hit-and-run death of a 60-year-old Angeleno, H. L. Harden, 25-year-old clerk in the National Supply's cost department, was arrested by Hermosa Beach officers last night as he arrived at a relative's home. Harden, who has worked here for about two years, is being held in a Los Angeles jail without bond.

According to information learned by local police, Harden is reported to have struck and fatally injured Arnen Hartunian in a pedestrian zone at 51st and Avalon boulevard about 6 o'clock last night. The victim died shortly after the accident. He is said to have driven his car about two blocks further and then abandoned it. A relative, either his sister or mother-in-law brought him to Hermosa where officers were "staked out" to arrest him. He lived in Redondo Beach.

He is alleged to have told police that his car was stolen but he is being held for further investigation. Harden's wife has been in a hospital for almost a year where she had undergone a number of serious operations. His co-workers at the National Supply were astounded to learn today that he was under arrest and they were making plans to aid him.

## COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the city council will be held Tuesday night, Nov. 23.

## New Tax Funds Due Here Nov. 29

First apportionment of 1937-38 taxes to Torrance and other municipalities in the county will be made Nov. 29. The apportionment probably will not be large, inasmuch as most of the county tax bills were late in getting into the mails because of the decision of the county supervisors to enclose a tax refund form with each bill. The county acts as "collection agent" for all of the 44 cities except Arcadia, Azusa, El Monte, Long Beach, Pasadena and Whittier.

On the same date, apportionments will be made to the 140-odd school districts in the county, the fire protection districts, water districts, flood control district and the Metropolitan Water district.

Funds are being sent over to the county auditor's office from the office of Tax Collector H. L. Byram at the rate of about \$100,000 a day. It is coming in by increasing amounts this week, as more taxpayers have had a few days to reflect upon their new tax bills and to check property descriptions.

## City Purchases Water Equipment

On motion of Councilman Delinger, the following appropriations were made out of the Torrance Municipal Water District bond fund for the improvement of the water plant:

For 510 feet of galvanized pipe to be laid between Cedar street and Elm avenue, \$110; for the purchase of 320 feet of cast iron pipe to replace a riveted line on Carson street to the Santa Fe station, \$184.50; for painting and lighting the water tower off Torrance boulevard in conformity to regulations of the air division of the Department of Commerce, \$100; for changing the wiring in the pump house as per specifications of the State Industrial Accident commission to insure electrical safety, \$500, and to erect an identifying sign on the water plant off Torrance boulevard (as proposed several weeks ago by Councilman Tom McGuire), \$14.

Delinger reported that the water department financial statement for the past four months shows income totaling \$17,733.71; expenditures, \$13,293.21, for a favorable balance of \$4,440.50.

## Postal Savings Are Tax Exempt

Local taxpayers may buy postal savings bank certificates with the knowledge that they will not be taxed by the county henceforth, as the result of a ruling this week from County Counsel Everett W. Mattoon.

"We believe that such time certificates of deposit are now exempt, since the adoption last June 13 of the California Income Tax Act amendment," the opinion stated. It was requested by Postmaster Mary D. Briggs of Los Angeles. Heretofore taxpayers have been taxed \$1 for each \$1,000 on deposit. The county counsel's decision will mean that many hundreds of thousands of the certificates held by residents of this community and other sections of the county will henceforth be exempt.

## Final Payment Made by City On New Building

The city of Torrance made its final payment on the new Civic Administration building, now housing the Chamber of Commerce on El Prado Tuesday night at city council meeting.

A check was authorized to be written by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett for Elser Wickholm, Ltd., the general contractor, for \$2,927.93, the last 10 percent of the building's cost to the city.

## Yuletide Display Will be Biggest in City History

To see President Harvel Guttenfelder of the Torrance Retail Merchants' association scurrying about the city in quest of the retailers' contributions toward the enlarged business district decoration fund, one would not believe that it's still 42 days until Christmas.

With the excellent cooperation of the decorating committee—Dean Sears, secretary-treasurer, E. E. Murchison, Ed Thompson and Harry Abramson he has undertaken to make the 1937 Yuletide street decorations the most colorful and extensive ever seen here.

All this week he devoted most of his time to conferences with artists, decorating firms and others interested in disguising ornamental light standards, erecting Christmas trees, stringing colored lights and hanging holiday banners in the downtown shopping district. Guttenfelder, who was elected head of the merchants' group last week, is determined to make every Torrance resident conscious of the benefits to be gained by buying their Christmas presents at home.

A final decision on the type of general decorations and how far the festive street displays are to extend is still to be made. But, judging from the generally cooperative response from business men and women in the city, the decorations will be something to see when they are completed shortly after Thanksgiving Day.

"Sample" Display Put Up  
Contributions to the decorating fund have been generous, and very little "sales talk" is required from the committee to get the business firms interested.

Typical of the thoroughness with which the merchants' group is going at this matter of preparing a Yuletide setting for the busy shopping days that will come with the holiday season is the "sample" ornamental light standard decoration erected this week at Carson street and Gramercy avenue. Here a jolly Santa Claus, surrounded by traditional greenery and a big red bow ribbon was set up to "try out" one of the many decorative ideas advanced for the merchants' consideration. The committee expected this (Continued on Page 6-A)

## M & M Worker Suffers Injury

Ed Holloway, an employee of the M & M Transfer & Cement company, Torrance, sustained a broken arm late last night while unloading material at Victorville. He was taken to the Victorville hospital and is expected to be removed to Torrance soon. Holloway resides at the Erwin Hotel and has been a driver for the M & M for the past three years.

## Herald Staff Quarters Rearranged, Improved

Off "the shelf" and down to earth came Ray Brooks, advertising manager, and Michael Strasser, city editor of The Herald, this week as one of the first details of office and production area renovation was accomplished.

They moved down from the office balcony or mezzanine floor, familiarly known to Herald workers as "the shelf" to an office built for them on the north side of the main floor.

At the same time Production Foreman Robert Lowellen was moving his back shop advertising layout and printing department around to improve lighting of his all-important "stones" and Office Secretary Treva Lute Frase reduced (by moving the office counter back) and rearranged her portion of The Herald building.

## Rough Handling



Harry Bowen, former CIO worker in the closed Ford plant in Keweenaw City, who was seized by Ford workmen when he applied for a job at the Ford plant in Dallas, Tex. Bowen exhibited these bruises to substantiate his claim that he was taken by a dozen men to a lonely spot and then beaten.

## BUS PARLEY CONTINUES

Another conference on the Pacific Electric's proposition to substitute busses for rail cars for all except possibly two or three rail trips between Redondo Beach and Los Angeles, via Torrance and Gardena, is being arranged by Ed Etter, committee chairman of Redondo. He is asking P. E. officials to elaborate on their plan for the substituted improved service.

Torrance, Gardena and Redondo representatives are members of the inter-community committee whose initial report was recently sent back by the group of interested citizens of the three cities who asked the committee to confer further with the P. E. in an effort to obtain better bus schedules for Gardena.

Under the plan proposed by the railway company, busses would be substituted for all but two or three rail car trips daily from Los Angeles to Redondo Beach.

## Schools Not Liable For Athletic Injuries

School districts or school organizations are not liable for injuries sustained by students in athletic contests, County Counsel Everett W. Mattoon ruled this week. Student organizations may furnish medical attention to the players, however, and may even insure against injuries without assuming liability, it was explained. Only first aid may be extended, however.

## SINGER IN HOSPITAL

Jack Williams, well-known Welch singer and National Supply company worker, was taken to the Los Angeles Cancer Institute this week for treatment. Williams has a great many friends who are wishing him complete recovery.

## Cabrillo Group Extends Effort So. of Carson

Convinced by the number of letters received and the interest shown by residents and property owners along the thoroughfare that the proposed improvement of Cabrillo avenue should not stop with only the elimination of the center curbs and paving in the Pacific Electric right-of-way from Marcellina to Carson street, the Cabrillo avenue improvement association extended its objectives this week.

Now the group headed by Ed Thompson, well-known Chevrolet dealer, is campaigning for the general improvement of the remainder of Cabrillo and would extend the program as far south as Plaza del Amo. With that enlarged objective, the association is now broadening its drive for support to include all property owners south of Carson.

"We have learned from letters we received as result of The Herald's story about our work last week, that those owning property south of Carson are eager to 'tie-in' with the improvement of Cabrillo and we feel it would not be fair to them to stop the good work at Carson street," Thompson said. "We will be glad to hear from all property owners on Cabrillo and include their letters with the series we are collecting for presentation to the city council. Excerpts from Letters

Typical of the communications received by Thompson and his "right-hand-man" Jack Miller of the M & M Transfer company are these three: From the Kiwanis club: "... passed a resolution asking you (the city council's) consideration of ways and means of making such improvement (Cabrillo from Marcellina to Carson) and favoring such improvement which will be of decided benefit to the residents of this city."

From Henry Austin, Long Beach: "I am heartily in favor of this project. I have been a property owner on Cabrillo for 15 years, owner of the Austin Courts south of Carson. We need boosters like you (Miller) and Thompson. I hope the improvement extends south of Carson. To my knowledge only one building has been erected in 10 years on that street. I would like to build income property there but the condition of the street forbids."

From Mr. and Mrs. John Lefelman of Portland, Ore.: "We endorse the project. We have owned a vacant lot on Cabrillo for the past 15 years or more and are very desirous of doing something with it. However, with that street the way it is we don't feel justified to invest any more money. Here's wishing you the best of luck and success."

At city council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor William H. Tolson reported that he was unable to contact Pacific Electric officials on the possible costs of lowering the tracks because the railway executives are "all tied up with negotiations about the present labor controversy." He said that he did not believe he would be able to interest the P. E. in the local improvement matter for at least 30 days but will "keep trying."

## Deputies Defeat Local Pistoleros

By a score of 1,307 to 1,243, deputy sheriffs from the Norwalk substation evaded their feud with members of the Torrance Pistol club Wednesday afternoon. The local pistoleros had defeated the sheriff's posse two weeks ago. William H. Stanger, Percy Bennett, Ernest Ashton, Everett Travelli and Fred Spieberger shot it out with the deputies this week. A return match to settle the argument over which outfit boasts the best marksmanship record is to be shot off early in December.

## Postal Force to Take Report Cards Into 31 Million Homes

Eighty thousand of Uncle Sam's postal carriers—five of them out of the Torrance postoffice—on next Tuesday, Nov. 16, will visit mansions, homes, hovels, hobo jungles and trailer camps in a gigantic drive to count the nation's unemployed. They are to call on 32,000,000 homes—4,000 of them in Torrance—leaving

## Relief Group Seeks Use of Free Quarters

Now, more than ever, the Torrance Relief Society knows what it means to be in need. That veteran charitable agency is homeless.

Mrs. J. Woodington of 2015 Arlington avenue, president of the Society, said this week that she is seeking some vacant store building whose owner would be willing to allow the organization to use it free of charge.

"We would like to receive such a generous offer and we would be glad to move whenever the owner rents the space," she said. "The Relief Society is a strictly local organization, giving immediate relief to needy residents. Many calls are coming in now for clothing and we should be glad to accept cast-off garments to keep our own people warm this winter."

Mrs. Woodington's phone number is 690-R and she will receive both offers of quarters for the Society and gifts of clothing and food.

## Scout Program at Aud Nov. 16

One of the outstanding Boy Scout events of the year will be presented at the Civic Auditorium next Tuesday night, Nov. 16, beginning at 7 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend the elaborate program of ceremonies, drills, inspections and entertainment.

The event will be the combined Scout Rally and Court of Honor. At the same time the District first-aid rally will be held, with judges from other districts officiating. Seven troops, including Harbor City's unit, will vie for the perpetual first-aid trophy that will be presented to the winning team to hold for one year.

At the Court of Honor awards won by local Scouts will be presented by Carl Zander, field executive. Addison Smith of Troop 219 is to receive his Eagle badge, highest Scouting award, and Tommy Yasuhiro of Troop 218 will be given a gold palm. Junior examiner cards are also to be issued. A prize of a year's subscription to "Boy's Life," official Scout publication, will be awarded to the winner of the inspection and Kelly drill event. The program will close with 30 minutes of entertainment for both adults and Scouts present.

A Scout Mothers' meeting will be held at the First Christian church next Monday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 o'clock and all Scout mothers are requested to attend.

## Hitchcock Asks Less Flinging of Bottles, Cans

"I wish the press would give some publicity to the subject of keeping our streets and boulevards clean," Councilman James Hitchcock requested Tuesday night at city council meeting.

"Our streets are strewn with bottles and tin cans, the latter mostly of the beer variety and we are beginning to be flooded with such debris. It is most unsightly and I wish our people would refrain from flinging their cast-off rubbish where it is so noticeable," he continued.

Each of the questionnaires to be distributed next week will bear a special message from President Roosevelt, exhorting cooperation of the unemployed and partly unemployed.

"If you give me the facts I shall try to use them for the benefit of all who need and want work and do not now have it," the President pledged. The Chief Executive will also make a special "fireside" broadcast over Columbia and National networks Sunday night for the purpose of enlisting the nation's aid in this report.

To Cost Five Million  
Locally, the Mayor's Committee on Unemployment composed of L. J. Gilmeister, chairman; Postmaster Earl Conner, Publisher Grover C. Whyte of The Herald and Mrs. Flora McDonald, Red Cross chairman, has agreed to do everything it can to make the Torrance jobless census a success. The group met yesterday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce and heard details of the canvass from Postmaster Conner. While all of the questionnaires are to be mailed, they may be left at the chamber, city hall or The Herald office for prompt transmission to the local postoffice.

Conner pointed out that the postoffice must check each signed card to be certain it is filled out properly before it is sent to Washington. This will entail a great amount of extra work on the part of local postal workers in order to insure accuracy and a correct picture of the Torrance unemployment situation.

Congress ordered the census as a blueprint of the nation's employment condition, and provided \$5,000,000 to complete the work. John D. Biggers, president of the Toledo Libby-Owens-Ford Glass Co., whom the President named to direct the census, announced next week the cost within that figure, and have the results completely tabulated by the time Congress meets in regular session.

No Previous Check  
The American Federation of Labor unemployment statistics have set the unemployed in the neighborhood of 8,600,000 persons. Biggers said the census would give the President and Congress the first factual, nationwide picture of unemployment and part time unemployment. What is to be done after the picture is obtained is for them to decide, he said.

It was pointed out that the nation's gigantic relief program has hitherto been carried out without such a comprehensive picture of unemployment. Biggers said, "catch even hoboes, if they light anywhere during the census day."

Double Check Planned  
Co-operation of the state governments, municipal officials, and more than 70,000 local units of national organizations have been enlisted to aid in the drive. The card-questionnaires must be mailed before midnight Nov. 20. When they are in the hands of the census officials, tabulation and classification of the information will be started.

In addition, the unemployment census, operating through the census bureau, will begin a "scientific sampling" of representative cities, communities and rural sections to double-check.

(Continued on Page 4-A)