

1937 Building Total, \$1,066,057 is Highest in Ten Years Here

Altho only 21 more building permits were issued during 1937 than in 1936, the past year's construction total in Torrance more than doubled the preceding 12 months. The figures were: 1937—\$1,066,057; 1936—\$453,978.

The 1937 total was the highest here in a decade. Ten years ago new building amounted to \$2,119,923. There were 223 permits issued from City Engineer Frank R. Leonard's office last year as compared to 202 in 1936. Included in the past year's total were construction applications for 56 new homes.

Last December's permits totaled \$23,690 as compared to \$66,745 for the final month of 1936. December's construction included six residences, five garages, five oil derricks, two alterations and repair jobs, one service station, one gas tank, one fire escape and one industrial building.

Add to Fur Farm
This latter structure is being erected by Fur Farms, Inc., at 2227 West 182nd street and will be a 19 by 150 building to house the Furms' chinchilla unit. It will cost \$950 and will give Torrance a unique industry that of being the home for the Southland's largest breeder of chinchillas for the valuable pelts.

Previous years' construction totals here were:
1936 \$453,978
1935 204,893
1934 138,807
1933 637,811
1932 789,899
1931 102,680
1930 420,387
1929 606,428
1928 45,765
1927 2,119,923

PAGE ISSUED FIRST PERMIT FOR 1938

To Rufus Page, well-known realtor, went the first building permit issued by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard for the new year. Page is constructing a well-equipped trailer camp on Western avenue south of Carson. The permit was for \$100 worth of construction work. George B. Schwenk was No. 2 to get a building permit. He plans to erect a three room building costing \$300 east of Hawthorne and north of Emerald.

COUNTY AREA SETS BUILDING RECORD

New records were set for building activity in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles county during the calendar year 1937, county building bureau officials announced this week.

Valuation of new structures for which permits were issued out in 1937 totaled \$20,033,957, the highest mark since 1927 when the \$20,000,000 mark was claimed for building.

Last year's permits aggregated \$15,829,934 and there was an increase of 27 percent for the last six months of 1937 over the similar three months of 1936; building records showed.

INCOME TAX BLANKS OUT

Income tax forms for the calendar year 1937 were released yesterday by Nat Rogan, Collector of Internal Revenue for Southern California. All income tax blanks, with one exception, will be available at the office of Collector Rogan, 939 South Broadway, Los Angeles, and in branch offices in Southern California. The exception is to Partnership Return Form 106, which will be delayed a short time.

All single persons whose net income in 1937 was \$1,000 or more, and all married couples whose net income in 1937 was \$2,500 or more are required by law to file a tax return on or before March 15, 1938. Every person whose gross income was \$5,000 or more must file a return regardless of the amount of net income.

IDAHOANS TO PICNIC
The annual Idaho Home-union will be held Saturday, Jan. 15, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles.

Entrance to city looks like a shell-torn street in China

BUT SPRING IS COMING and Mayor William H. Tolson's year-end statement that he hoped that the beautification of Western avenue and Torrance boulevard entries to Torrance would be the 1938 project may still come true.

Bright and early Monday morning one half of that expectation was apparently knocked into oblivion as street department crews, whacked down the towering eucalyptus trees bordering Western and Cabrillo avenues and El Prado at the viaduct.

Today they stand out like a grove of "sore thumbs" and are the source of considerable comment that is not complimentary to the tree-trimmers. The latter remember the furore that arises every time the eucalyptus are denuded and then dies as the trees speedily regain their natural contours.

Mayor Tolson insisted this week that the beautification of the entrances was all one of the major objectives of 1938 and that the hacked-down trees will soon recover their lost limbs and be the safer for their shoring.

But the Western avenue entrance looks like a shell-torn street in a Chinese city today.

LOMITA BANK HAS BIG GAIN



J. H. WOOD
recession is receding

Revealing an increase of 22 percent in the deposits of the Lomita office of the California Bank during the past year, James H. Wood, manager, in a year-end statement said that deposits there now stand at an all-time high, exceeding January 1933 total deposits by approximately 247 percent.

Commenting on local business conditions, Wood said: "Because of my short length of service with the Lomita office of California Bank, it is impossible for me to compare present business conditions with those obtaining at this same time a year ago. In conversing with local merchants however, I find most of them agree that this year's business compared very favorably with that of last year. Business for the year as a whole is reported much better than a year ago, with the current business recession becoming noticeable locally less than a month ago."

Wood was placed in charge of the Lomita office of California Bank early last November. Prior to that time he was assistant manager of the bank's Wilmington office.

Serum Used Here Exhausts Supply in Whole U. S.

Not until yesterday did nurses and staff directors of Torrance Memorial hospital know that on Tuesday afternoon the last available serum in the whole United States for Type 7 pneumonia had been injected into Thomas Nugent's arm here and started him on the road to recovery.

Yesterday a representative of the agency for Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, N. Y., called at the hospital to learn the reaction of the serum, one of nearly 32 developed after years of research. He then told Mrs. Willis M. Brooks, secretary, and Miss Ethelwyn Niles, supervisor of nurses, that for several hours Tuesday that the supply of serum for Type 7 pneumonia in this country had been exhausted. The exception is to that specific had been administered to the local patient.

Nugent, who lives with his wife and daughter in Redondo, is a valued employee of the Union Oil company. That firm has given the hospital carte blanche to use any amount of assistance necessary to restore his health. It is estimated that Nugent will receive approximately \$91 worth of serum before he is pronounced out of danger.

Air Transport Used
But medical science is never caught sleeping and when the last supply of serum for Type 7 pneumonia was exhausted, the hospital called on the air.

The Legion post and Auxiliary will serve the dinner Saturday night in the Civic Auditorium to 600 members of the Southern California Edison Masonic club and on Saturday, Jan. 15, the post itself will prepare and serve the annual Union Ice Company's dinner to 100 employees in the Legion clubhouse.

The redecoration of the clubhouse and landscaping of the grounds is nearly completed, according to a report made at the meeting Tuesday night by the committee in charge of this improvement.

ON BUSINESS TRIP
William Shawyer of 1221 Aca-dia avenue left Jan. 2 for a six-weeks' business trip to Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Louisiana where he expects to contact oil field men for his firm, the D & M Machine Works.

Six Dead and 46 Injured In '37 Accidents

Altho six persons were killed in automobile accident in the city of Torrance during 1937, not one of the fatalities occurred as result of collisions with other motor cars.

During the same period, 46 persons were injured here, according to a compilation of accident reports made for The Herald by Capt. John H. Stroh of the police department.

Deaths from auto crashes resulted from such non-collision mishaps such as striking power line poles, to one pedestrian, driving off highways onto "soft shoulders" and then overturning and, in the last fatality of the year, a collision with a Pacific Electric train.

Police Chief G. M. Calder said this week that he has instructed his officers to do "everything they possibly can do to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries during 1938 by even more vigilance in the performance of their duties." Calder also urges residents of Torrance to cooperate in all endeavors toward greater traffic safety here this year.

Building-Loan To Build Addition

Construction of a two-room 20 by 30 foot addition to the present office building of the Torrance Mutual Building and Loan Association at "1335" Post avenue will start within a week, W. E. Bowen, assistant secretary, said today. The addition, costing \$2,300 will be built on the rear of the lot east of the firm's structure and the front of the lot will be landscaped for a court.

The addition will provide offices for Torrance C. Welch, president of the association, and who represents the Industrial Housing and Torrance Building companies and Key Realty, Inc. Welch has closed his Los Angeles office and when his headquarters are completed, will move from his present office location on Marcella avenue.

Bowen said the addition will follow the same modern architectural design of the present office building, which was occupied by the Building and Loan Association in September, 1936, and will be completed within 60 days.

Citation Given Legion Post

A national citation for exceeding its membership quota for 1937-38 was received by Bert S. Crossland post of the American Legion here Tuesday night and with the document came stars with which post officers will decorate their Legion caps. The citation was the first one of its kind to be received by the local veterans' unit and is one of the few issued in the 19th Legion district, largest in the state.

Commander Grant Barkdull announced that the Torrance post now has 83 paid-up members. He also reported that the next meeting of the post, which will be featured by a joint initiation of members of the local and Hawthorne posts. A dinner at 6:30 will precede the ceremonies and this will be open to the public.

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Mad Pirate and the Men Who Tossed Him Overboard



A "MERE FORMALITY" is the way Federal officials describe the appearance yesterday and today of Robert Horn, shown at left in panel above, and George Sperrnak, at extreme right, before a Federal grand jury in Los Angeles. Horn and Sperrnak, crew members, overpowered the would-be modern-day pirate, Jack Morgan, shown in center, and tossed him overboard into shark-infested waters after Morgan had instituted a reign of terror and death aboard the yacht Aafie. Horn and Sperrnak are expected to be freed of all charges in Morgan's death.

Postoffice Receipts Highest in History

"To be certain of entering the first class postoffice bracket, we've got to increase our local postal business only about \$5,000 during 1938," Postmaster Earl Conner declared Tuesday as he completed compiling a report on 1937's stamp, box rent and money order fee receipts.

Gross receipts for the past year were the highest in Torrance postoffice history—\$40,700.80—as compared to \$36,080.33 for 1936. The past December quarter's business was, likewise, larger than any concluding three-month period here—\$11,487.80—as compared to \$10,751.35 for the December quarter 1936.

Stamp sales during the last quarter totaled \$11,202.06 of which \$5,255.82 were sold during the month of December alone. Sales of stamps during the December quarter of 1936 amounted to \$10,502.68, Conner reported. December's sales during that year were \$5,253.90.

Comparative Figures.
Postmaster Conner is confident that 1938 will show the increase necessary to assure Torrance of a first-class rating. He explained that the benefits to be gained by patrons from this advancement were "not so important as the prestige a first-class postoffice status will give the city."

"It will take us out of the 'cross-roads' bracket and enable our civic boosters to add the magic words 'first-class' to their already glowing descriptions of our fair city," he grinned. The postoffice at Redondo Beach received first-class status last year.

Take a Look at Our New Title-Type
Do you like The Herald's new 1938 bonnet?
We're referring to the masthead up there in 60-point Stylized Bold Italic capitals. You'll also find it in smaller 36-point type on the front page of Section B.

We've made the change to meet the trend of modern newspapers toward cleanliness and less ornamentation. The old mast-head of Old English type curlicues and frills was out of place in modern Torrance as a laity label on one of our smartly-dressed clubwomen.

And The Herald believes that the front of its home on El Prado is familiar enough now to residents and visitors to this city so it need not be displayed in a blaze of more ornamentation on the mast-head.

VISUAL EDUCATION
The Herald's movie Cooking School Jan. 12, 13 and 14 at the Torrance theatre will take the guesswork out of housework.

CHOICE SPOT GIVEN CITY IN EDITION

Occupying one of the choicest "spots" in the entire edition, the full-page advertisement about "Torrance, Southern California's Balanced City" in the L. A. Times annual Mid-Winter number, was to be found this week on the inside back page of the first section of the absorbing publication.

That section is titled "Southern California Living" and this city's message, contracted by the Chamber of Commerce, is certain to be read by all who receive the Mid-Winter edition. The Torrance advertisement contains recent pictures of the Columbia Steel, Hydral, National Supply and Pacific Electric plants, a typical local home, high school building, Civic Auditorium, city hall and library. Some pertinent facts about the city are centered in the display.

Legion Units to Serve Big Dinner

Beginning tomorrow morning a group of American Legion and Auxiliary members, headed by Commander Grant Barkdull and Mrs. Ella Robinson, will start preparing the food to be served more than 600 members of the Southern California Edison Masonic club Saturday night at the Civic Auditorium.

This will be the largest dinner-event ever to be held in this city and the Legion and Auxiliary have made advance plans in such detail that the service should be completed within the one hour that the club desires. Following the dinner, the Edison Masons, all employees and officials of the company, will hold their annual "Hi-Jinx" program. The dinner and entertainment is open only to members of the club.

More than 300 pounds of choice beef will be served by 50 waiters furnished from the ranks of the Legion post here. Barkdull has arranged for one waiter to serve two tables seating 20 persons. Other items on the menu are shrimp cocktail, vegetable salad, baked potatoes, string beans, gravy, mince pie and hundreds of gallons of coffee.

Rush Drawings For H. S. Addition

Working drawings for the proposed \$100,700 Torrance high school auditoriums are being rushed to completion for early submission to the state department of architecture for approval, according to word received Tuesday by Principal Thomas Elson.

Bids will be called for the structure immediately after the state department signifies that the plans indicate that the structure meets all requirements as to safety, ventilation and stability.

BIG SCALE DRIVE IN SO. TORRANCE

With five wells in the process of being deepened, 10 more in preparation for deepening and five of six others flowing from rebore holes, the south Torrance oil field stepped into the spotlight of oilmen's attention this week. Because of the great activity in the field this attention is due to increase in succeeding weeks with every prospect that 1938 will surpass the oil boom of 1933-34 here.

The deep-sand campaign is calculated for zones near 5,000 feet. These are said to be good for 100 to 250 barrels daily of high gravity crude.

Hundreds of men are at work, moving in derricks, rigging them, installing machinery and sinking their drills to the rich strata that was first pierced by C.C.M.O.'s No. 34 rebore some three months ago. So far that zone has been unnamed by the Bureau of Mines. It is quite probable, veteran operators believe, that it may become known as the C.C.M.O. deeper sands because that company was among the first, if not the first, to explore them successfully.

Rigging Grubbs No. 2
Permits to erect derricks during the past month surpassed in number any month since the 1923-34 activity. Five were issued—three of them on Dec. 28. Ray and Dilley are operating at 1939-235th with a moved-in derrick and have built a new tower on the northeast corner of 233rd and Eshelman, where the firm is deepening a hole for the Standard Oil company.

On Dec. 28 permits were issued to George W. Neill and associates for a derrick at 2322 Sepulveda; to the M & M Oil company for one at 2121 233rd and to Redie B. McBride at 2277 229th street.

L. C. Main, who rebored Everett Grubbs' No. 1 at Pennsylvania and Sepulveda, is now rigging Grubbs' No. 2 hole and expects to begin deepening there within a week or 10 days.

Patton Brothers Here
Eight independents are reported at work in the south Torrance field and idle wells and small producers in all sections of the territory bottomed near 3,700 and 3,800 feet are being grabbed up in wild scramble for leases.

Main, a wealthy Arizona who is a big-time cattleman at that state, is said to be the largest operator in the area. (Continued on Page 4-A)

33 May Get Diplomas Here On February 3

If none of them "flunk out" in the final examinations, 15 boys and 18 girls will graduate from Torrance high school as the Winter class of 1938 Thursday evening, Feb. 3. The commencement program will be held in the Civic Auditorium.

Details of the exercises are not complete as yet but Principal Thomas Elson said this week that he hoped to engage an outside speaker to make the principal address and a member of the Los Angeles board of education to present the diplomas.

Last year's Winter class graduated 23 students. Principal Elson said that if the construction of the proposed new high school auditorium proceeds according to schedule, this coming graduation event will be the last to be held in the Civic Auditorium.

20-30 Club will arrange for the President's Birthday

BALL TO BE HELD JAN. 29 at the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse, President Ronald Coll announced this week. This will be the first time in the five years that the local observance nationwide festivities to raise funds for the continued fight against infantile paralysis has been undertaken by a single organized civic group here.

Jim Rahl, past-president of the young men's service club, has been named general chairman for the Ball. His committee assistants are: Publicity—Grover C. Whyte, Dick Pullman, Joe McNeil, Alver Johnson and Henry Carlson; Ticket Promotion—Earl Conner, William Rojo, Jr., Beverly Smith, Sam Levy, Pete DeLaqua, Elmer Riley, Joe Higgins, Cecil Powell, Ronald Coll, Leon Mincey, Bill Lavine, Clarence Bay, George Figueroa, Roy MacReynolds and Jimmy Coll.

An intensive ticket-selling campaign is planned in order to make the 1938 Ball as successful as the previous affairs held on the birthday of the President. Seventy percent of the proceeds will be retained for treatment of local poliomyelitis cases, while the remaining 30 percent will go to the national foundation at Warm Springs, Ga.