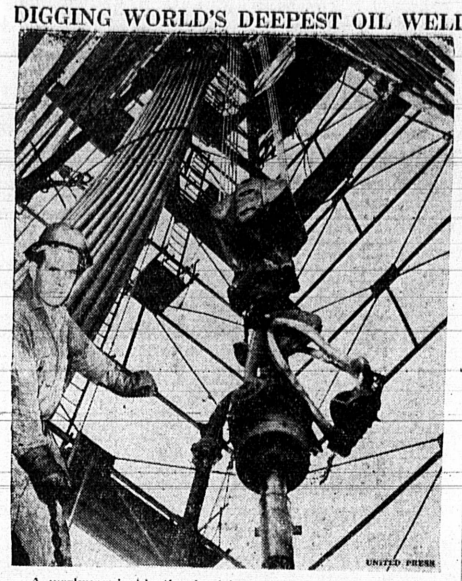
TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — 10 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS

24th YEAR—No. 5. TORRANCE, CALIF., FEB. 3, 1938 PER COPY 5c

Four Deepened Wells Producing

DIGGING WORLD'S DEEPEST OIL WELL



A workman inside the derrick of the Continental Oil Co. well near Wasco, Calif., keeps a close watch on the rigging and drill pipe being subjected to terrific heat as the well goes down below two miles into the bowels of the earth. Tools are now around the 13,000-foot level in an attempt to tap the rich Vedder oil sands. The deepest well ever drilled heretofore was in the Houma field in Louisiana, where one well was sunk 12,786 feet. The California well is reported to have had only one fishing job.

Mrs. McDonald Balks at China Relief Appeal

Red Cross Chairman Says Home Aid Should be First

"If this be treason—make the most of it!" History has Patrick Henry shouting defiance to authority in his famed "Give me liberty or give me death" speech before the Virginia House of Burgesses on the eve of the Revolutionary War.

"I'll accept donations for this cause but I will not beg our local people to contribute when I know the money could be used for the relief of our own people right here at home," Mrs. Flora McDonald, local Red Cross chairman, said today after the manner of Patrick Henry.

She was referring to a letter from the Los Angeles chapter of the American Red Cross that she take a copy of an appeal for funds to be used for Chinese relief "to your paper at the earliest possible date, requesting that it be run promptly."

Has Served 1 Years

"I am decidedly not in sympathy with this campaign, knowing as I do at first hand the many appeals that are being made to me as chairman of the Red Cross in Torrance for relief of men, women and children here at home," she said. "Every day I have calls for food, for clothing, for money from people who really need assistance and I have been trying to cope with the demand as well as our resources permit.

"Now comes this request that Torrance people donate funds for the poor victims of the war in China. That cause is most worthy—but I wonder if we are not overlooking home conditions in our eagerness to go far afield? I know I could use to good advantage several hundred dollars here in Torrance meeting the demands from resident and transient needy."

Mrs. McDonald, whose untiring service in behalf of the Red Cross has won high esteem here, has a background of social service work unequalled in the city. For four years she has devoted a great deal of time and effort to administering aid to indigents here. She has labored unstintingly to fulfil membership quotas in the annual Roll Call campaigns and succeeded in raising a record sum in the last drive shortly before the Christmas holidays.

Need Is Great—But

"We have a number of children here in Torrance who are suffering from malnutrition. The 'jungles' adjoining the city off Western avenue are full of wandering men who daily seek me out for food or clothing. Some of them are veterans and all of them are in evident need. I give them what I can spare and I try to relieve among our own people," she said.

But, like the true Red Cross worker she is, Mrs. McDonald said that she would accept and promptly transmit all donations for Chinese relief to the Red Cross headquarters. That the need in the Orient is great no one denies she said, but, like many an American, she wonders just how far any great sum—no matter how large—will go toward relieving millions suffering as result of the Japanese conquest.

COUNCIL MEETS FEB. 8

Next meeting of the city council will be held Tuesday night, Feb. 8, at 7:45 o'clock.

President's Ball Is Big Success

Believed to have been the largest crowd ever to attend a President's Birthday Ball in Torrance, the assembly that jam-packed the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse last Saturday night contributed a substantial sum toward the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis—and enjoyed a splendid evening in addition.

Jim Rahl, general chairman of the Ball for the sponsoring 20-30 club, was still trying today to get his ticket-sellers to complete their reports and consequently could not announce the total contribution from the Ball. He said that scores of ticket-distributors had to make reports on their receipts. Rahl has until Saturday to complete this important part of his work. He asks all those who were selling tickets to turn in their cash and extra tickets at once to him at the Sartori avenue Safeway store.

A surprise feature of the dance was the visit of five screen luminaries headed by Allan Jones, singing star, and Cliff Edwards, comedian. Presented by Edwards, Jones sang and Cecelia Parker, Ann Rutherford and Betty Furness took bows. Because the public address system failed to work, their efforts were unfortunately nullified by the noise of the gay crowd.

LOMITA RECEIPTS TO TOTAL $250

With the $223 in the treasury and returns from 40 tickets still to be made, the net proceeds from the four events held last Saturday in Lomita to raise funds for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is expected to total $250, according to General Chairman Coy Farquahar yesterday. He said that the sale of "Fight Infantile Paralysis" buttons amounted to $68.70 in Lomita. Last year the community raised $226 on the President's birthday. Both Farquahar and Miss Birda Paddock called attention to the list of prize-winning numbers at the Lomita Postoffice. Those holding these numbers are entitled to valuable merchandise orders, they said.

Merchants to See Film at Dinner-Meet

An educational motion picture, "Along Main Street," filmed for "men and women who work for a living in retail business" will be a feature presentation at a dinner meeting of the Torrance Retail Merchants' association Feb. 16, President Harvel Guttenfelder announced this week. The film to be shown thru the courtesy of a Los Angeles bottling company.

Wave of Petty Thefts Arouse Police Here

Aroused by increasing reports of petty thefts, house-breakings and robberies during the past 10 days, the Torrance police department redoubled its patrol vigilance this week, determined to nab some of the car-strippers and burglars and thus bring the pilfering to an end.

"But we need the cooperation of all residents," Police Chief G. M. Calder pointed out. "People should be certain that they have taken all precautions to prevent their homes from being entered or their car equipment stolen.

"Homes should be securely locked and a light left on when left vacant and automobiles should be locked up and extra equipment fastened on in such a way that it cannot be removed except by a lot of hard work."

House Ransacked

Monday night found petty thieves operating in three widely separated parts of the city. Leonard Young, assistant city engineer, had two brand-new fog lights which he had just installed, stripped from his car while it was parked at the high school. He was attending the joint meeting of the Kiwanis and Key club.

Gene Garner of 2948 231st street, reported his house was entered some time Monday afternoon or early evening and $13 in currency stolen from a billfold in a suitcase. A revolver and a gold watch in a bureau was not taken altho the bureau drawers had been ransacked. Entrance was effected thru a washroom door, over a transom and into the kitchen of the house.

Else Nakazawa, 24234 Ward street, lost 10 chickens and two geese, Monday night, he reported to police.

Pickets Halt Store Deliveries

Dormant here for five months since the C. I. O. lost its attempt to unionize the Torrance laundry, labor agitation broke out anew here yesterday with the arrival of A. F. of L. pickets from San Pedro in an attempt to halt deliveries of meat and groceries to the Quality Market on Sartori avenue and the Quality grocery department on Torrance boulevard.

The pickets, from the San Pedro teamsters' union local, appeared for a short time in the morning at both stores to inform truck drivers delivering products that A. F. of L. unions did not count Joe Klink's grocery stores and Tom Kling's meat market among their members.

There were no pickets in sight this morning and Klink said that he had received no representatives from the union. A representative of the teamsters' union known as a "business manager" was in Torrance yesterday and is reported to have declared that unless the Quality markets "sign up" shortly active picketing will be instituted.

It is understood that deliveries to Grant Barkdull's meat market in the Torrance boulevard store were not interfered with. Reports that Worth Woodburn's market at Carson and Arlington were visited by the union men yesterday were denied by the owner, who said he had seen no union representatives about his place of business.

Income Tax Aid at Chamber On Feb. 9 and 10

Want assistance in making out your Federal or state income tax returns? Then call at the Chamber of Commerce next Wednesday or Thursday, Feb. 9 and 10, any time after 10 a. m., and let representatives of both tax divisions help you out without charge.

Governors Get Bibles

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (U.P.)—A women's church club here has sent Bibles to governors of the 48 states.

Protectors Turn Show Promoters

Shield-bearers who will turn scene-shifters for their first benefit show Feb. 11 in the Civic Auditorium are pictured above. Standing, left to right are: Motor Sergeant Ernest M. Ashton, Patrolmen Willard Haslam, Fred Speheger and Thomas Perkin (youngest officer); Captain John H. Stroh (oldest in department seniority—since Sept. 4, 1924), Sergeant Frank Schumacher, Patrolmen George Dolton and Curtis Tolson (newest officer—May 1, 1937), and Motor Officer Percy Bennett. Front row, left to right: Patrolman Everett Travioli, City Judge Robert Lessing, Police Chief G. M. Calder (oldest man on force), Mayor and Police Commissioner William H. Tolson and Patrolman William Evans.

Students Ending Semester Terms

Graduation Is Tonight For Torrance; Narbonne Friday

With the close of school tomorrow afternoon the first semester of the 1937-38 term will end. Today, tonight and tomorrow are red-letter periods in the lives of many boys and girls here and in Lomita because they are advancing in all grades. From Torrance high and Narbonne high schools, 82 students will march onward to higher institutions or into the workaday world.

Torrance high is graduating 33 young men and women tonight at 8 o'clock in the Civic Auditorium. Narbonne high is presenting diplomas to 49 at 8 o'clock tomorrow (Friday) night in its auditorium. The certificates will be given here by Principal Thomas H. Elson.

From the three elementary schools in Torrance, 64 boys and girls will enter Junior high school next Monday morning when the second semester begins thruout the Los Angeles city school district.

Tonight's commencement program here will begin with a processional of the graduates garbed in royal blue caps and gowns and the invocation by Rev. F. T. Porter. Henrietta King will be the first student speaker. Other members of the class programmed for talks are John Fess, Carl Gilbert, who will present the class memorial to the school; Azalee Harrison, class president, who will present the class of W '38; James Herlett, class vice-president, speaking on "Student Government," and Mildred Higgins, student body president, on "Parental Cooperation."

The Senior Choir and Madrigal Singers are to present several numbers, Miss Irene Mills is to announce the scholarship honors, J. H. Burchett will present the George Arakawa trophy and a reception will follow the issuance of diplomas by Principal Elson.

The 24th commencement exercises to be held at Narbonne high school will begin tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock with a processional of the 49 students who will receive their diplomas from Miss Clementina de F. Griffin, principal. John L. Lounsberry, head of Long Beach Junior college, will be the guest speaker while the student orators will be Evelyn

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Recreation Data Shows Wide Range

Total attendance of participants and spectators at the two city park playgrounds during 1937 reached the amazing total of 128,416, according to a report prepared by Dale Riley, recreation superintendent, for the National Recreation association of New York City. Of that total, the attendance at the municipal picnic grounds was the largest, being estimated at 12,332.

Riley's report detailed the other activities at the city park and their attendance as follows: at the horseshoe courts, 3,000; for softball games, 1,284; for hardball games, 1,065; and the shuffleboard courts, 300. The tennis courts at the high school attracted 500 during the past year.

A total of $13,830.50 was expended from Federal emergency and relief funds to pay salaries and wages for recreation leaders here, the report continued. Other figures which show the interest of local residents in the recreational facilities offered here are:

Wide Range of Activities

Art activities for children had 446 different youngsters participating while 130 adults enjoyed the art instruction offered. Five hundred boys and girls indulged in handicraft to their hearts content and 150 adults joined in this work.

In athletic activities, 1,284 played softball, 1,000 were roque enthusiasts and 500 went out for handball. Other sports and their participants were: badminton, 98; baseball, 468; basketball, 150; paddle tennis, 250;

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Police Benefit Will Pave Way for Pensions

Why the Torrance Police Relief association has been revived and the reason for the benefit vaudeville show, to be staged Friday night, Feb. 11, in the Civic auditorium, was explained this week by Police Chief G. M. Calder and Capt. John H. Stroh. Members of the department are now conducting an active advance ticket sale (at 50 cents per pasteboard) for the 12 acts of vaudeville, headlined by the tuneful Peter Sisters of screen fame, which will be presented a week from tomorrow night.

"The Relief association is being revived in order to undertake the study of a pension system for local officers," Chief Calder said. "At the present time none of the state or Federal social security provisions apply to our police officers or firemen. However, the last legislature adopted an enabling act which permits cities to make provisions for the men who are their first line of defense against crime and fire loss."

The benefit show, with a "well-known movie star" acting as master-of-ceremonies and a seven-piece orchestra to provide the music, is being given to launch the Officers' Relief association so it can undertake several projects of value to every man on the department, Capt. Stroh said. The vaudeville will include music, dancing, singing and acrobatic numbers with top-notch performers coming here to participate.

Stops Denied Keystone Corner

Undaunted by County Road Commissioner George W. Jones' refusal to sanction a request by the Keystone Chamber of Commerce for making Carson and Main streets a four-way boulevard stop, the Keystone group plans to enlist the aid of the Harbor District Chambers in this safety project.

Secretary S. C. Sault said this week that the Keystone chamber will appeal to the Highway committee of the associated chambers for support in making that intersection safer.

PUBLISHER RECOVERING

Grover C. Whyte, editor-publisher of The Herald, underwent a major operation last Saturday. He is now making a good recovery.

Hospital Ball Support Vital to Institution

Saturday night, Feb. 19, has already been marked on scores of home calendars as engaged for the premier social event of the Torrance season. And as members of the Woman's club, led by their president, Mrs. Lillian Barrington, swing into a vigorous campaign that date will be reserved by hundreds more for attendance at the annual Torrance Memorial Hospital ball in the Civic Auditorium.

This is a benefit affair where dancers and spectators alike share in the privilege of contributing their dollars (the dance tickets are selling at $1 per person) for the advancement of the institution on Engracia avenue. And this year the hospital, in order to maintain its record for unexcelled medical services, needs the support of every resident of the South Bay and Harbor districts.

For one thing, the institution's tax bill was increased about $300 this year by some new state assessments. Doctors have been urging the hospital to purchase a new portable X-ray, the old one having been condemned when the stationary X-ray machine was improved and made shock-proof in accordance to state regulations.

Prizes to be Awarded

Recently the Memorial hospital was equipped for rapid pneumonia-typing—an invaluable aid to the all-important early treatment of sufferers from that disease. A new dietician, Miss Hilma Severson, graduate of the University of Wisconsin, has come here from Minneapolis to supervise foods for patients and take care of diets prescribed by local physicians for home-patients. This additional member of the staff permits the hospital to fulfill all requirements of the American College of Surgeons for a class A hospital.

The Civic Auditorium will be brilliantly and colorfully decorated for the occasion. Naomi Riley is in charge of this work and she is working out designs for some novel effects; Graff's 11-piece swing symphony will

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Sewing Project Lay-Off Starts

Negotiations between county and state relief officials having come to an impasse, 2,000 women, most of them sole supporters of their families, were ordered discharged from the WPA sewing projects throughout the county this week. Here in Torrance, 14 were laid off out of a group of 40 who have been working in a room on Post avenue across from the Public library.

Major Lee S. Dillon, acting WPA administrator for Southern California, is quoted as stating that the 4,650 women employed in the county projects (there are 12,000 in the state) must be "completely liquidated by March 15." He said he had received orders from Washington to limit "non-labor contributions on these projects to $5 per person." The actual non-labor cost, he said, has been $12.50.

"The WPA cannot continue to add this extra $7.50 to its $5," Major Dillion said.

Suggest City Sponsorship

The lay-off here brought considerable hardship to the families of the 14 women who were discharged and it will be several weeks until they can receive state aid. Some city officials have been questioned as to whether the city could undertake the sponsorship of the sewing project until the state or county arrive at some method of continuing the work.

It has been estimated that it would cost about $300 a month to underwrite the project. If the city council would agree to this sponsorship until the state or county take over the duty—as either one or both together evidently must—then the 40 workers here would be assured of continued employment, those close to the situation assert.

TESTS HOLD UP AS 14 DRILLS SINK

With four deepened wells, each producing better than 160 barrels daily of high gravity oil, 14 reported to the rich deeper sands and six or eight rigging for depth exploration, the South Torrance field is presenting a scene of intense activity equalling the oil boom of 1923-24.

And veteran operators, highly pleased over the reports of corings and the gravity tests of the producing holes, are telling themselves that the potential production of the field is virtually unlimited. Only one cloud appeared this week on their landscape and that was the visits of City Electrical Inspector Butterfield to inform them that state regulations insist on wiring of a more permanent nature on rigs and about the well buildings.

It is estimated that the application of the state electrical code will cost operators about $150 more per well for wiring installation. This is not setting very well with the oilmen but apparently they must conform and see that their electrical lines are vapor-proof, sheathed in conduit and cable and equipped with more permanent outlets.

Setting Large Boilers

The four producing wells are the C.C.M.O.'s No. 33, which is reported to be pumping out 27 gravity oil, its No. 34, which has steadied off to 160 barrels, Everett Grubbs' No. 3, which is producing 160 barrels and the Four-Way Oil's hole at 233rd and Narbonne. Emerald Oil's No. 1 on Narbonne at 233rd is at around 5,100 or 5,200 feet now and cores taken this week are said to have been the source of considerable jubilation by the operator, Guy Kelly.

Jack Doyle is rigging two wells, one on 230th and the other at 229th and Narbonne and is building a derrick on his third lease on 229th. Neil Anderson is drilling No. 2 on Sepulveda and No. 4 on Narbonne and is repairing the derrick for his No. 3 on Narbonne. Superior Oil is rigging its No. 5 on the Steinhilber lease (an acre which is said to have cost Frank Steihilber around $600 and paid off many times that sum during his ownership) opposite Grubbs' wells on Sepulveda. Superior is installing two of the largest boilers yet to appear in the field, both of 125 horsepower with 250 pounds pressure.

C. B. Patton is rigging on its Meacham lease and its McNeil No. 1 is down to 2,886 feet. Texaco is working on its well on the Wilson lease off Sepulveda and yesterday started rigging its No. 5 in the Redondo Improvement field for a deepening job. Fisher has two wells drilling on Eshelman and the Pilgrim Oil company is rigging on that street.

Gas Troubles Wildcat

McCaslin Oil, which produced a deeper sands well at Huntington Beach a few years ago, is rigging on 229th for its first entry in the local field.

Tuesday night lights on 14 drill jobs could be seen and the steam billowing from the works reminded travelers of the early days of Signal Hill operations. With 24 men to a well working in three shifts, the field is a beehive of industry and manpower.

Down in Lomita, the Rolling Hills Petroleum wildcat on the flank of the Palos Verdes hills had considerable trouble the latter part of last week getting the drill back into an oil sand which was struck at approximately 3,600 feet, it was learned. When the drill first hit the sand for about 12 feet, oil showing was good, according to J. V. McLaren. Rapidly increasing gas pressure was encountered, however, and the crew is now proceeding cautiously. Reports that the well blew in Saturday could not be confirmed.

RAIN REPORT

Total rainfall recorded here during the past week was 2.46 inches. This brought the season's total to 5.87 inches.

JANUARY BUILDING SETS ALL-TIME RECORD

New construction started here during the month of January set an all-time record for 31 days of building permits as the total amounted to $1,811,950. A year ago the opening month's construction totaled $41,030.

In addition to the two largest building projects launched during the past month, the General Petroleum refinery and expansion program of $1,732,000, and the KNX-CBS $40,000 transmitter station, there were six new residences started, two garages, five oil derricks, three alteration and repair jobs to homes, a trailer camp, office building and 10 industrial construction projects.

Permits were issued for three new frame oil derricks, costing $5,000 each, to the Doyle Petroleum company for its Lomita Nos. 1 and 2 on 229th and to the Elyod Petroleum company's Lomita No. 1 as January drew to a close.

Building permits issued with the beginning of February were: to the Emerald Oil company for repairs and additions to its office building at 23224 Narbonne, $1,000; to M. S. Shanahan for an addition to a garage at 1313 Acacia, $200; to Lillian B. Weir for a storeroom addition to her house and a lean-to to the garage at 1408 Acacia, $600, and to N. Watanabe for a frame house at 3621 Cherry in La Fresa tract, $200.