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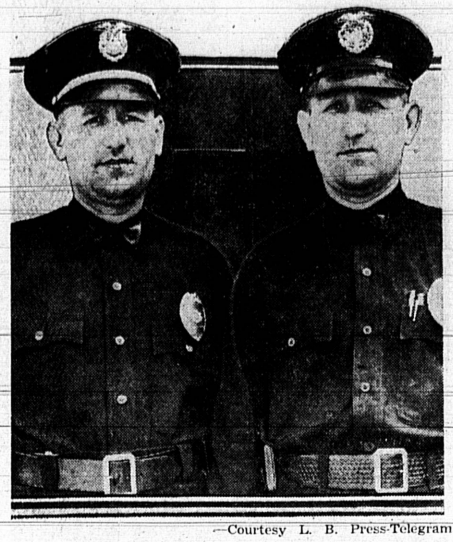
Steel-CIO Maintain 'Open Shop'



—Courtesy L. B. Press-Telegram.

Here are John and Jake Stroh—Captain John of the Torrance police department and his brother, Jake of Greeley, Colo. Can you tell which is which before reading the story below?

Look Alike? They Should-They're Twins

Once it was Ike and Mike who looked alike.

Now is John and Jake Stroh—and thereby hangs a tale of confused identification that reddened the face of the Long Beach Press-Telegram's surburban editor one day last week. Wanting Capt. John Stroh's picture to illustrate the story of his installation as president of the California Peace Officers' Civil Service association, the editor unearthed the above picture, taken several years ago on one of Jake's periodical visits here.

But the Long Beach editor ran the wrong picture and it even fooled the Stroh twins until the police captain remembered certain distinguishing points about their appearance.

The Greeley man is wearing his brother's gold-braided cap while Stroh is the gentleman with the plain leather band and pencils in his pocket. The Long Beach newspaper corrected its picture error by reprinting the look-alikes again. Jake is not a member of the Torrance police department but he could, from all appearances, take his twin's place on the force—don't you think so?

Woman's Club Backs Expo Site

If Machado lake, otherwise known as Nigger Slough, is to be set aside for an more useful purpose than at present, preference should be given to a trade exposition, according to a communication to the board of supervisors this week from the Torrance Woman's club.

Mrs. H. C. Barrington, writing on behalf of the club stated that her organization favored its use for the proposed "Pacific Mercado" rather than for a bird refuge. Attention of the presidents of various clubs throughout the county has been called to the lake as a proposed bird refuge in recent weeks.

Options on the nearby trade exposition site, representing more than 60 percent of all the land proposed for the "Mercado" were sent to the Los Angeles Committee of 15 today. The options were requested by the Los Angeles group several weeks ago and the backers of the nearby acreage are now expecting an invitation to appear and formally present the site. This presentation will include motion pictures, literature and descriptive talks about the site.

FESTIVAL YEAR

More than 200 fairs, festivals, celebrations of all kinds, are scheduled for the communities of California in 1938.

Japanese Killed In P. E. Car Crash

Five children left without a relative in the world when their father G. Sagata, 65, of Redondo was instantly killed Tuesday morning when he drove his car into a Los Angeles-bound Pacific electric car about a mile south of 190th street, today bravely faced making their own livelihood from a crop of strawberries and asparagus.

"Mother died three months ago in a Los Angeles Japanese hospital after being sick many months," Sumiye Sagata, 19-year-old daughter, told Sergeant Ernest Ashton at the scene of her father's death. "My father spent all his savings—about $2,000—trying to save her life. We have no other relatives anywhere but we have our strawberries and asparagus coming up and we'll make out."

The aged Japanese made a left-hand turn directly into the speeding electric car from a dirt lane that runs thru the Japanese ranches off 190th street, according to a witness, Audrey Powers, of Redondo, who was one of seven passengers aboard the P. E. car. She was sitting on the right side of the car and saw Sagata in his car driving at a moderate rate of speed."

After the collision, the automobile was dragged 220 feet before the P. E. car was brought to a stop by Motorman G. W. Jeffrey of Redondo. The bumper from the P. E. car was rammed thru the Japanese's automobile, pinning him to the wreckage. The front running connections of the electric car were torn off and hand jacks had to be used to raise it off the automobile.

Sagata's body bore little trace of the crushing impact. It was removed to Stone and Myers' funeral parlor. In addition to 19-year-old Sumiye Sagata, the other children surviving are a 17-year-old son, Guro, and daughters, Tomoe, 15; Mary, 13, and Fusaye, 11.

RAIN REPORT

Yesterday morning's heavy showers—at one time accompanied by hail—added .45 of an inch to the city's rain total. The rain for the week amounted to 1.56 inches which made the season'stotal to date 7:43 inches.

Postoffice Confiscates Lottery Mail

Confiscation of at least 100 lottery tickets here was revealed this week by Postmaster Earl Conner. The tickets were sent thru the mail from Cuba, Paris and Canada. All the letters suspected of containing contraband lottery ducats were marked "Supposed to Contain Lottery Tickets" when they pased thru the U. S. Exchange office at the port of entry for mail.

Received at the postoffice of address, the letters have been turned over to Postmaster Conner and a notice sent the addressees to call in person for missives. When they apply for the letters they are requested to open them in the presence of the postmaster and if the letters contain lottery tickets they are then officially confiscated. Then they are turned over to the "dead letter" department.

Persons to whom the letters are addressed face no penalty, according to Conner, because in the majority of cases they had not purchased them. The tickets are sent with the request that the purchase price be remitted.

Despite this close watch on such illegal mail, many letters containing the contraband gambling certificates are slipping thru daily and by many devious methods they are sent to agents for the lotteries who distribute them on a percentage basis.

Boy Flying Kite Badly Burned

Severe electrical burns were suffered by Edgar Fleming, 14, of Gardena, because he flew his kite with a wire string Monday. The boy was maneuvering his kite in a field near 180th and Normandie. He sat down on the damp ground and a strong electric current immediately shot thru his body, jerking him and spitting flame.

When he crumpled up, playmates rushed him to his home at 18321 South Normandie and his father, E. C. Fleming, took him to Torrance Memorial hospital. Unconscious, the boy was in a serious condition and for a time his recovery was despaired of but he was brought home Tuesday morning, nursing burns on both arms and legs and recovering from shock.

So severe was the shock that the boy's shoes were badly burned and the nails in their soles burned their way into the flesh of his feet. Edgar's playmates solemnly reported that they saw flames emerge from the victim's mouth as he fell to the ground.

City Drops North Torrance Water Service Plan

By a resolution adopted Tuesday night the city council formally dropped all proceedings to create a municipal water district to service Arlington avenue between 166th and 182nd streets. City Engineer Frank R. Leonard reported that the protests to this improvement project, considered for more than a year and the subject of numerous council sessions and hearings, amounted to 56.98 percent of the total frontage which would have been included in an assessment district. The project would have cost some $8,000.

A. F. L. Seeking Members Here

Those in charge of local food stores, either owners or managers, received visits early this week from a representative of the A. F. of L. retail clerks' union who informed them that the union was launching a drive to enroll such workers here within its ranks. Shortly afterwards A. F. of L. pickets appeared at the entrance to the General Petroleum plant on Cedar avenue to attempt halting deliveries of materials for the construction of the new refinery there. There was no disturbance, police reported.

One Result of Recent Winter Storms

Here's what happened to the Santa Fe's crack No. 7 mail train at Cajon Pass out of San Bernardino, Cal., as a result of winds, rain and snow which have been cavorting about the Western states from Washington and Idaho south to California and Arizona. A landslide washed out the track and the locomotive plowed along 100 feet before winding up half buried in mud. Fortunately, none was injured in the mishap.

City's 10th Election Campaign Officially Gets Going Tomorrow

Tomorrow will mark the start of the campaign which will be climaxed April 12 with this city's tenth municipal election of city councilmen, a city clerk, a city treasurer.

Candidates for election to the two council positions open and for clerk and treasurer may receive nomination petitions from City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, get the required "not less than five and not more than 10", endorsing signatures and file them tomorrow or until March 12.

Councilmanic terms ending are those of James Hitchcock and Robert J. Deininger while Clerk Bartlett will have completed another four years of service and Treasurer Scott Ludlow will conclude Harry H. Dolley's term. Dolley resigned Nov. 5, 1936, and Ludlow was appointed to fill out his term.

Mrs. Leech In Race

During the past week report, rumor and speculation—the trio which always accompany elections—have been flying about "who's going to run."

First definite declaration of a candidacy came this week from Mrs. Harriett Leech, florist, who announced to fellow members of the National Business and Professional Women's club that she would seek the city treasurership. Mrs. Leech would be the third woman to try her luck in a municipal election, the first being Mrs. Charlotte Zahradnik, who was in a council race about eight years ago, and the second was Mrs. Fanny King who campaigned for city clerk about six years ago.

The incumbent officers who may seek re-election have refused to announce their intentions, saying that "it's too early yet."

About the only information available now is the certainty that there will be a large number of filings and the election will be vigorously contested after the March 12 deadline for announcements. The number of office-seekers may surpass the local record set in the 1934 municipal election when 11 citizens were named on the ballot for three council positions, five sought the treasurership and

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Firemen Rescue Dog Trapped Between Walls

Trapped for more than 24 hours between the walls of the Pons Manufacturing company's quarters and the Chevrolet garage on Cabrillo avenue, a little dog was rescued Monday morning after city firemen had knocked out a hole in the wall to give the half starved animal his freedom.

The space between the walls is only about four inches wide. The dog, belonging to Max Pons, crawled about 12 or 15 feet into this narrow aparture and could not back out or turn around. His whines attracted some workers' notice but they could not get the victim out so the fire department was called.

A small hole was made in the wall where the dog was believed to be confined and a few minutes later the prisoner was crawling thru. Then he wolfed a belated meal, his tail wagging 60 to the minute.

Lomita Sidewalks Are Authorized

Authorization for the construction of sidewalks and curb improvement on Narbonne avenue, a $7,000 project, was given by the board of supervisors Tuesday following the final protest hearing. The hearing was a mere formality as nearly all property owners approved the work. The improvement will cover 1,500 feet. In addition to beautifying the street, the work will aid traffic and parking conditions and make building loans easier for home owners in the district.

Four Deepened Wells Standing Cemented Off

Oilmen concerned with the four wells deny that they are engaged in a race but others interested in the development of high gravity oil in the South Torrance field are watching with close interest the rush by crews working Kelly-O'Brien's Emerald No. 1, Everett Grubbs' No. 2, the Patton-Neill No. 1 and the Albertson holes.

All four are reported standing cemented off today. Kelly was expected to start drilling thru Tuesday night but this was delayed for some unannounced reason.

Operators are eager for reports on the showings from the deepened jobs because the data will point the way to greater exploration of the rejuvenated field if the lowered holes develop the high gravity oil in the quantity indicated by the first four wells to tap the deeper sands.

"First wells" are always highly desirable because they start draining the underground reservoirs of oil toward their pumps and once the flow is started it is difficult for later wells to pull away that trend, according to veteran oilmen.

All Near 5,000 Feet

The rains this week hampered activities somewhat in the field. Yesterday morning's torrential downpours flooded much of the area, making transportation dif-

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Local Folk Must Support Ball

Conflicting dance events in Hermosa and Redondo Saturday night, Feb. 19, when the annual Torrance Memorial hospital's benefit ball is scheduled for the Civic Auditorium puts the support of the ball squarely up to residents of Torrance, Lomita and Gardena, those in charge of the benefit said this week.

"We're afraid that the Sandpipers' dance in Hermosa and the Masons' festivities in Redondo and another community function in the beach cities is going to seriously cripple our efforts to give the hospital the financial assistance previous benefit balls have afforded," said a spokesman for the physicians sponsoring the ball here. "We shall lose considerable patronage because of those conflicting events and therefore are appealing to all residents of this city, Lomita and Gardena to attend the dance here."

Ticket sales have been none too encouraging, according to reports received by Mrs. Lillian Barrington, president of the Woman's club which is acting as sales agent for the benefit. However, the ball is still nine days off and next week the sales should pick up. The tickets are priced at $1 per person.

Graff's 11-piece swing symphony of Inglewood, one of the best known dance orchestras in the Southland, will provide the music and there will be a number of prizes awarded during the evening's festivities. All net proceeds will be given the hospital to help maintain its excellent services which are available to anyone needing medical or surgical attention in the Harbor District or South Bay area.

AGREEMENT MAY BE TERMINATED IN 20-DAY PERIOD

With the addition of a section permitting greater elasticity for the whole pact, United States Steel Corporation and the C.I.O., yesterday continued their working agreement of 1937 following two days of amicable meetings in New York, according to word received here. The contract entered into by President B. F. Fairless of the steel concern and Phillip Murray, chairman of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee, continues the "open shop" policy of the company and its subsidiaries, including Columbia Steel of this city.

Provision is made that either party, subsequent to Feb. 28, may "at any time and from time to time give 10 days written notice to the other party" for a conference to negotiate any changes in the 1937 agreement. If the changes are not settled and agreed upon within 20 days of the notice then the agreement will terminate.

The 1938 settlement is dated Feb. 9 but contains no mention of any definite period for existence and neither does it contain a section devoted to further negotiations in event it is discarded for "failure to agree." The pact applies only to bona fide members of the C. I. O., of which there are but 150 believed active members of the Torrance local No. 1414 at the Present time.

Diehl Issues Statement

It should be remembered that the 1937 agreement concerned hours, wages, working conditions and the formation of a "grievance committee" for settlement of plant disputes and did not violate the principle of "open shop" thruout the U. S. Steel empire.

In a notice to Columbia Steel employes yesterday, President A. N. Diehl said: "The March, 1937, agreement between the Columbia Steel company and the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee on behalf of the members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, employed by the company, will be continued by an agreement entered into this week.

"Provision is made for a conference upon 10 days notice for the purpose of negotiating changes in the agreement. If changes are not agreed upon within 20 days of the notice, the agreement will terminate. Under these terms the Amalgamated Association is the collective agency for only those employees who are members of the Amalgamated Association.

"The Open Shop policy of the company continues as heretofore. The employees continue to have the right, as heretofore, to decide for themselves whether they will, or will not, join a labor organization; this by their own choice, free from any interference, restraint, coercion or intimidation in any form or from any source.

Two Vital Sections

The conference sections of the agreement, as they pertain to the Columbia Steel plant and local C. I. O. members, follow:

"Section 1. The 1937 agreement shall continue until changed or terminated as follows:

"(a) Either party may, subsequent to Feb. 28, 1938, at any time and from time to time give ten days written notice to the other party of the

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Rotary to Hear Townsend Tonite

Fulfilling one of his last speaking engagements before he begins serving a 30-day jail sentence in Washington, D. C., for contempt of a House of Representatives committee, Dr. F. E. Townsend, leader of the national pension group which formerly bore his name, will appear before the Torrance Rotary club tonight at the American Legion clubhouse.

TOWNSEND

Rotarians and their invited guests will hear the aged Long Beach physician who shot to national prominence on his $200-a-month pension plan give his own ideas as to the future of his movement and his reaction to his jail sentence.

Dr. Townsend was engaged to speak to the local club several months ago, long before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals confirmed his conviction of last March. Following his address here, Dr. Townsend is expected to answer questions asked by those in the audience.

The contempt situation was brought after the pension leader defiantly walked out of a House committee hearing on his plan for old-age benefits in May, 1936. The committee had refused to allow him to read a statement. He then clapped on his hat and walked out, altho under subpoena to attend. Subsequently he was indicted and was convicted after a three-day trial. Dr. Townsend is understood to be flying to Southern California from Oregon to keep his Torrance Rotary and Long Beach mass meeting engagements.

Merchants Called to Dinner-Meet

All local business men and women and their employes were urged today by Harvel Guttenfelder, president of the Torrance Retail Merchants association to attend the dinner-meeting set for next Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Daniels cafe.

The program following the 7 o'clock dinner will feature the screening of the film, "Along Main Street," depicting how the problem of making a living can be made easier. Guttenfelder said that "experience has proven that customers must keep coming back for repeat purchases to make any business profitable. This is the theme of 'Along Main Street'—customer good will, how to create and hold it."

Legion Head Warns Against Solicitors Posing as Veterans

Torrance merchants and residents were urged this week by Commander Grant Barkdull of the local American Legion Post to refuse cash donations to men posing as disabled veterans.

"Because of the approaching big conventions of World War veterans in this county cities are being overrun by so-called veterans soliciting cash donations, either as gifts or as payment for printed matter or pencils or some other articles," Barkdull said.

"Many of these men are not veterans, and none has the sanction of our local veterans' organizations or of the police department. We have found that some of these solicitors are making as much as $2 an hour.

"Veterans' organizations feel that such soliciting, whether or not the solicitors are actually war veterans, brings public discredit upon the organizations.

"Merchants and householders may aid in checking this petty moneymaking scheme by notifying either the police department or me," the Legion Commander concluded.

TORRANCE SECOND IN SOUTHWEST CONSTRUCTION

Topped only by Los Angeles, this city's $1,811,950 building permit total for the month of January excited considerable comment when the combined table of building activity for Southern California, west coast and the southwest was published in the Los Angeles Times last Sunday.

The Los Angeles construction total was $5,531,446. Torrance was next and then came the unincorporated area of Los Angeles county, $1,400,787. Said the Times:

"Torrance makes a remarkable showing in the January list, reporting $1,811,950, as against $41,030 for the similar month last year. That city's total for last month by far exceeds the volume there for the entire year preceding. The tremendous increase is due largely to oil development and expansion of oil refinery facilities there.

"The Los Angeles total exceeds the combined totals of San Francisco, Oakland, Phoenix, Seattle, Portland, Sacramento and Berkeley by $1,744,895. In the list of seven latter cities, Seattle is fourth."

Kiwanians Hear Int'l. President

Several carloads of Torrance Kiwanians, headed by President Earl Conner, made a motorcade to Los Angeles yesterday to attend a luncheon meeting of the Los Angeles cluub when F. Trafford Taylor, K. C., of Toronto, Canada, president of Kiwanis International, was the guest speaker. The gathering, which was attended by several hundred service clubmen from many Southern California cities, was held at the Biltmore hotel.

COUNCIL MEETS MON.

The city council will hold an adjourned meeting next Monday afternoon, Feb. 14, at 4:30 o'clock.

Vermont Ave. Being Cleared of Bad Bottleneck Congestion

Elimination of the Vermont avenue "bottleneck" between 164th street and Gardena boulevard in Gardena will remove an annoying and difficult congestion point. The project, expected to be completed some time next month, involves purchase and paving over a Pacific Electric railway right-of-way for a block and a half, moving of rails and poles, and considerable construction of new street surface, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

The two sections of Vermont separated by railways north of 164th street will come together there in a roadway of 65-foot width. The old street width between 164th and Gardena was less than 22 feet. Where the two divided sides of Vermont join at 164th, the west roadway will enter at a diagonal to avoid right-angle turns.

The present project initiated in 1934 requires the cooperation and approval of the railway company, county road department, Los Angeles city engineer, State division of highways and the state railroad commission. A plan of financing finally was evolved to pay total cost of $40,636.