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Council Re-elects Tolson Mayor

Only Union Labor is Employed on H.S. Job, Local Men Informed

Use of local workers—if any—on the construction of the new $130,700 Torrance high school assembly hall is confined to union labor, A. S. Nibecker, Jr., business manager and architect for the Los Angeles board of education, this week informed Mayor William H. Tolson and Chamber Secretary L. J. Gilmeister.

This information was contained in letters responding to suggestions by Tolson and Gilmeister that as many local men be given employment on this job as possible. Nibecker's reply, in part, follows:

"We contacted the general contractors, Lovrich and Konjevod, and are informed that . . . they are operating this project as a 'union' job as has been their custom for some years past. We are also informed that they will be glad to hire residents of Torrance for work provided these men are members of the local trade unions as they are placing all orders for labor, both common and skilled, with the trade unions having jurisdiction."

Urge Preference

Attached to this answer was a copy of the business manager's letter to the Los Angeles Building Trades Council which had: "We . . . request your cooperation in seeing that residents of Torrance are assigned to the Torrance high school job in preference to residents from outlying communities."

Both Mayor Tolson and Secretary Gilmeister pointed out that this city has a large available supply of all types of workers and that the city Chamber of Commerce were desirous of finding employment for as many as possible. The local men asked the school authorities and the contractors to give the work to Torrance residents "in so far as is consistent with employment conditions pertinent to the contract."

"We realize that your organization, as is the custom with other similar organizations, has its special personnel to do your work," the chamber's letter to the contractors stated. "Nevertheless there is the possibility that a certain portion of those be engaged by you from the field at large and it is with this thought in mind we ask your consideration of Torrance men."

Both Mayor Tolson and Secretary Gilmeister said that they have received a number of inquiries and requests about the chances for getting jobs on the high school project. They expressed the hope that their letters to the school board and the contractors will serve to cause more local employment.

LEGION STAG ATTRACTS 200

More than 200 men attended the annual Past Commanders' stag dinner program Tuesday night at the American Legion clubhouse. The affair, held in honor of former leaders of the local Legion post, was also a tribute to Commander Grant Barkdull's efforts in directing the unit to one of its most successful years here.

Major A. M. Lawrence of the 63rd Coast Artillery, Anti-Aircraft division, was the principal speaker and his informative remarks were made "off-the-record" with "no reporters present." The post's first commander, Wallace Post, presided, and immediate Past Commander Pat Boyle prepared the spaghetti dinner which was served on attractively decorated tables. Entertainment was furnished by James H. Scott.

Youths Given Probation On Theft Charge

Nabbed in the act of assertedly stealing iron equipment, valued at more than $200, from the well owned by the Rolling Hills Petroleum company on the Weston ranch off Highway 101, two Wilmington youths were jailed and charged with petty theft yesterday afternoon.

Raymond Pecor, 19, and Eugene Crostic, 17, were apprehended by employes of the oil company and held until police arrived. They had a load of iron on a small truck and admitted they intended to sell it in Wilmington. The youths claimed they thought the material was junk.

Mrs. M. Humphries, owner of the oil well, appeared at the police station this morning and signed the complaint. The boys plead guilty to the petty theft charge but in view of their good past records they were given 30-day suspended county jail sentences, probation to run three years, and released by City Judge Robert Lessing.

Park Thronged By Picnickers Here Sunday

The vernal beauty of the Torrance municipal park attracted more than 350 picnickers last Sunday, the warmest day of the year to date, according to Dale Riley, city recreation director. The picnic area was thronged all day by family groups, many of them from other parts of the Southland.

All park facilities are available every day, Riley points out and the picnic area, which has several fireplaces, running water, a shady pavilion and comfortable seats, has plenty of room on week days.

Deputy Assessor Here Thursdays

In order to bring county departments as close to local residents as possible, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has arranged with J. W. Hartman, chief deputy county assessor, to have a deputy from his office at the chamber headquarters in the Civic Administration building on El Prado every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5 o'clock for one month.

The deputy assessor was at the chamber office this afternoon for the first time to assist local residents in filling out personal property statements and helping veterans file their annual claims for tax exemption. The deputy will return next Thursday afternoon, April 28, for the same purpose. This local service will continue each week thru Thursday, May 19, according to Chief Deputy Hartman.

Taxpayers desiring any information regarding assessments on personal property or who wish to file statements should interview the deputy next Thursday afternoon.

Lomita Is Air Mail Minded

With A. F. Franklin and Dr. T. W. Bullock, representing the Lomita Chamber of Commerce, assisting Postmaster Birda Paddock, Lomita is planning to be among the most active communities in the state for the observance of National Air Mail Week, May 15 to 21.

Miss Clementina de F. Griffin, principal of Narbonne high school, will be heard over KHJ (Friday) morning at 11 o'clock when she will discuss the Air Mail essay contest for high school students. Material for her radio talk was compiled by Miss Paddock.

"Air mail means a great deal to Lomita residents," the postmaster said. "We have a number of families whose husbands, brothers or sons are members of ships' crews or serving in the Navy and they are constantly using air mail for quick contact with their home ties."

DISTRICT POSTMASTERS CONFER ON PLANS

A meeting of all postmasters in this 17th Congressional district was held at the Torrance postoffice yesterday afternoon to arrange plans for observance of Air Mail Week on a uniform basis.

Police Seek Slugger of F. Winkler

All police officers were instructed late last week to be on the watch for a dark complexioned man with bushy hair who probably drives a small roadster and frequents pool halls. He is sought as the assailant of Felix C. Winkler, National Supply worker, early last Thursday morning.

En route to his home at 1507 El Prado after quitting work at midnight, Winkler stopped in the Torrance Bowling academy for a few minutes. On leaving he was followed by a stranger who slugged him, breaking his glasses and cutting his chin, at the alley entrance off Arlington avenue near B. C. Buxton's home.

The man ran when Winkler yelled for help. Police have been unable as yet to locate the slugger. Obviously robbery was the motive for the attack but this failed.

FUNERAL RITES FRIDAY FOR CONGRESSMAN COLDEN AT SAN PEDRO, ROOSEVELT

Scores of civic leaders from all parts of the Harbor district were at a Los Angeles railway station this morning to stand in tribute as the body of Congressman Charles J. Colden, who died in Washington last Thursday, arrived accompanied by his wife, his sister, Rep. John Costello and the House sergeant-at-arms.

Also accompanying the funeral party are Representatives Dockweiler, Los Angeles; Scott, Long Beach, and Welch of San Pedro.

Funeral service for the 68-year-old Representative will be held tomorrow (Friday) morning at 11 o'clock at the Cleveland Mortuary in San Pedro. Interment will follow at Roosevelt Memorial park near here.

Pallbearers will be Earl Conner, Leon L. Dwight, Dr. E. L. Moore, Wm. R. Earl, Dr. C. W. McQuarrie and E. K. Barton. Honorary pallbearers from Torrance will be Mayor William H. Tolson, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Judge Robert Lessing, Councilman J. V. Murray, J. W. Post and Grover C. Whyte.

Mr. Colden entered Walter Reed hospital at the nation's capital two months ago, had been in failing health for some time. His death followed three days of suspense for immediate members of his family who knew the end was near. Word of the Congressman's passing was received here with a deep personal sense of loss by many friends.

Was In Second Term

His confreres in Congress attended a funeral service in Washington Tuesday afternoon. In addition to his wife and sister, Mrs. B. C. Hall of Marysville, Mo., Mr. Colden is survived by two sons and two daughters. He was born on a farm near Peoria, Ill., in 1870.

A life-long Democrat, he came to San Pedro in 1912 from Mis-

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STUDENT AID WORK OKAYED

Following a recent personal inspection of the student work plan in operation at Torrance high school, Robert L. Wilson, supervisor of student aid for the National Youth Administration in California, this week wrote Principal Thomas Elson that he approved the local program and rated it among the best in the state.

Wilson said he was recommending that the school be awarded additional "units" which are $6 per month per student. At the present time the high school has seven units or $42 to distribute monthly among 11 students. Because of this division, some students are receiving less than the maximum $6.

John Haig, business manager at the high school, said this week that two students each are doing clerical work in the main office, library and English department, two are employed in gardening work and there is one each assigned to clerical duties in the Science, Art and Print shop departments.

As It Must to All Men . . .

CHARLES J. COLDEN
. . . from farm to Congress

FRANK R. LEONARD
. . . city is his monument

FLAGS AT HALF-MAST and sincere expressions of regret marked the passing of the two well-known public officials pictured above. The resolution of sympathy passed by the city council Monday in memory of City Engineer Frank R. Leonard follows:

"WHEREAS, the death of Mr. Frank R. Leonard has removed from our midst the City's Engineer and a most valued citizen; and

"WHEREAS, the city long enjoyed the personal efforts of our late esteemed friend and worker, in his death the city council has suffered an irreparable loss, and every member thereof sorrowfully regrets that his passing at this time was a part of the divine order of things;

"NOW, THEREFORE, we, the city council of the city of Torrance in special meeting assembled this 18th day of April, 1938, do hereby express our profound grief occasioned by his death and our heartfelt sympathy for those dear members of his family who are left without his gentle guidance and sympathetic encouragement;

"BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy thereof be forwarded to Mrs. Eleanor A. Leonard."

The resolution was signed by Mayor William H. Tolson, Councilmen George V. Powell, James E. Hitchcock and Tom McGuire.

Congress Race Wide Open

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Aspirants Busy Lining Up Support

Who will become the next 17th district Congressional representative? This question was agitating political-minded residents thruout the area this week as result of the death last Friday evening of Congressman Charles J. Colden in Washington.

Mr. Colden's passing has made a more or less controversial issue for the past several months of outstanding interest for Harbor district politicos. It is believed doubtful that an immediate successor of the late Congressman—his widow or someone else—will be appointed by Gov. Merriam in view of the short time remaining until the November general election.

Formidable prospective Democratic candidates were inclined to side-step the issue as long as it appeared that Mr. Colden would be a candidate for a third re-election and potential Republicans favored a fence-straddling position.

Now things are vastly different and the hopes of many a Harbor district resident to sit in the House of Representatives began to glow with last Saturday's dawning. There's no telling the number of candidates or from what sections of the district they will come for public recognition of their aspirations as the campaign develops.

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CITY ENGINEER LEONARD'S PASSING ENDS NOTABLE PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER

A distinguished career in municipal service which began in 1926 came to an end early last Friday morning when City Engineer Frank R. Leonard succumbed at the age of 74 years at his home, 1803 Andreo avenue. The present city of Torrance which he helped carve out of the bean fields and sand dunes in 1911-12 stands as his monument.

All of his fellow-city officials and co-workers in the city hall, together with scores who knew him many years attended the impressive funeral service held Monday afternoon at Stone and Myers' chapel. There Rev. Ben Lingenfelter an intimate acquaintance, quoted from the Scriptural description of Barnabas—"he was a good man"—to pay tribute to Mr. Leonard.

Until the last two months, the City Engineer was active in his work of continuing the physical progress of the city he laid out more than a quarter century ago. Then his failing health forced him to take a leave of absence. His death was attributed to leucemia, a blood disease. At his side when the end came were his devoted wife, Mrs. Eleanor A. Leonard, and his daughter, Miss Eunice.

Leader in Gold Rush

Mr. Leonard came here 14 years ago to live and he was an engineer for the Dominguez Land Corporation, original subdividers of the city. As city engineer he saw the community moulded into industrial, business and residential districts and he had direct charge of many of the municipality's largest projects.

A native of Bristol, Wisconsin, where he received his early education and professional training, Mr. Leonard journeyed to Alaska at the start of the famed gold rush of 1898. In the far north he had many interesting and perilous experiences. Together with a partner he hiked some 150 miles thru heavy snow and ice to reach Nome with the first 30 gold-seekers to pene-

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JOINT MEET NEXT TUESDAY

A joint membership meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and the Torrance Retail Merchants' association has been arranged for Tuesday night, April 26, starting with a 7 o'clock dinner at Daniels cafe. Members of both organizations are urged to attend and to make their reservations at once with Secretary L. J. Gilmeister.

Principal speaker on the after-dinner program will be Robert O. Vernon, assistant general freight agent for the Dollar Steamship line and a past-commander of the Merchant Marine post of the American Legion. Vernon will discuss "The American Merchant Marine."

Presidents E. M. Barber of the chamber and Harvel Guttenfelder of the Retail Merchants' association will preside at the gathering.

Honored

WILLIAM H. TOLSON
. . . retains Citizen No. 1 rating

Advanced

LEONARD YOUNG
. . . drops 'Assistant' for 'Acting'

Loaded School Bus Catches Fire

Twenty-five high school students were momentarily endangered near here Monday afternoon when a school bus transporting them to their homes caught fire near the intersection of East Road and North Elliott street in the county territory.

The youngsters were promptly unloaded by the driver, Samuel Ortiz of 1635 East 106th street, and stood beside the road watching him fight the blaze with the extinguisher carried in the bus. The fire is believed to have been caused by defective or worn-out wiring.

Members of the Torrance fire department summoned to the scene finally quenched the blaze after Ortiz had exhausted the chemical in his extinguisher. Another bus was then called to take the students home.

Fraud Charged In Damage Suit Over P. V. Tract

Seeking $3,000,000 in damages, a suit was on file today in Superior Court against H. L. Weymouth, San Pedro contractor, and Dr. George G. Averill, Waterville, Me., banker, charging fraud in connection with the sale of a tract of land in the Palos Verdes Hills to the Palm Springs Land and Development Co., Inc.

The complaint charges that Weymouth and Dr. Averill deceived the development company when a contract was entered into for the purchase of 100 acres with an option on an additional 400 acres. The sellers represented themselves as owners of a $57,000 water tank on the site, the complaint alleges, when in reality the tank is owned by the city of Los Angeles.

The development company claims it spent $30,000 in developments and improvements and made many tentative sales in a 10-acre section known as Palos Verdes Manor. The plaintiffs demand return of the money expended and the $3,000,000 damages for loss of anticipated profits.

COUNCIL MEETS TUESDAY

A regular meeting of the city council will be held next Tuesday night, April 26.

No Change in City's Personnel

Without ceremony but with a happy spirit of friendliness that augurs well for a continued harmonious administration, the municipal "family" of Torrance began a new term Monday night with two new members.

There was a lot of good-natured wise-cracking as the council sped thru the routine work of canvassing the ballots of the April 12 municipal election and then installed Councilman-elect John V. Murray, well-known barber, as a member and inducted Mrs. Harriett Leech in office as city treasurer.

The smiles and laughs continued as Councilman James E. Hitchcock began his second term and A. H. Bartlett started his fourth successive four-year period as city clerk.

Absentee Votes Tallied

In recognition of his successful administration, Mayor William H. Tolson was re-elected to head the council. He was originally chosen for that position Feb. 25, 1937, and has two more years to serve on the council as has Councilmen Tom F. McGuire and George V. Powell.

Previous to this part of the meeting the votes of the municipal election of April 12 were canvassed and the tallies from nine absentee ballots added to the totals received by the 19 candidates.

Hitchcock picked up seven more votes to make his total 1,080, Murray gained four for 889, Wallace Gilbert one for 625, Howard Raymond two for 550, Ondús Hill two for 455 and Frank Schmidt and James M. Wright gained one each.

To Announce Committees

City Clerk Bartlett drew eight of the absentee votes to make his total 1,426; Mrs. Leech acquired one more for 1,267 and Scott R. Ludlow was given eight more for 768. The council found that the election polled 2,405 votes—about 55 percent of the total municipal registration.

Mayor Tolson made a short talk in which he thanked the council, now complete with five members, for the honor of being re-elected mayor and announced that he would submit his committee appointments at the next regular session, which will be Tuesday night, April 26.

Club Women Are Late

He said there would be no changes made in the present appointive municipal officers. The council advanced Leonard Young from assistant city engineer to acting city engineer succeeding the late Frank R. Leonard and adopted a resolution of sympathy for forwarding to Mrs. Eleanor A. Leonard.

A group of Mrs. Leech's fellow-members of the Torrance Business and Professional Women's club arrived at the meeting just as it was adjourning a few minutes too late to see this city's only woman public official installed in her office.

Storm Drain Survey Ordered by Supervisors

A survey of the county's present storm drain system and of what drains are needed to protect residents of the county from future flood damage was ordered this week by the board of supervisors at the request of Supervisor Leland M. Ford.

The survey would cover the size, length and location of storm drains built by the county from 1917 to 1930 and of those constructed as relief projects from 1930 to 1938.

Cities' League Meets Tonight

A number of city officials will attend the monthly dinner-meeting of the County League of Municipalities tonight at Signal Hill's city hall. Frank C. Balfour, supervising right-of-way engineer for the state, will be the principal speaker.

TWO DEEP WELLS HELD TO 350 BARRELS IN SOUTH TORRANCE

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700-Barrel Producers 'Beaned;' Lakeside Blows in Gas; Pesco on Pump; New Rigs Go Up

Topping all previous deep-sand production even tho they have been "beaned down" far below their capacity output, two of Frank Kelly's deepened wells went on the pump this week in the booming South Torrance field.

This production, Pesco Oil company's Four-Way well flow Tuesday night at the northwest corner of 231st and Pennsylvania and the flurry of excitement caused by the Lakeside Oil's gas gusher on Sepulveda yesterday morning, took the spotlight in the South Torrance field.

Kelly and O'Brien's Emerald Oil company's Weller well at 231st and Narbonne came in Monday night. It is now reported producing a good 350 barrels. The flow has been "beaned down" considerably, the well being capable of producing 700 barrels or better, according to information received yesterday by The Herald.

This is far above any previously reported production, the former record being held by Charles W. Camp's hole on the north side of 230th at Pennsylvania which consistently pumped a daily average of around 275.

Kelly and Newcomb brought in their Huyck No. 1 at 229th and Pennsylvania on Sunday. Production there is reported at 350 barrels with the flow curtailed from a much greater volume.

No production test has yet been made at the Pesco Four-Way, this being planned for today or tomorrow, it is said. When Lakeside blew in its gas well yesterday morning operators surrounding that project were quite uneasy for a time, fearing that a fire might break out. Cars blocked Sepulveda and traffic was halted for a time on Pennsylvania until the gasser was brought under control without damage. No oil was reported.

Doyle's Bond Lease No. 1 is said to be wet and the operator plans to pull tubing to remedy it. The Doyle No. 2 on the Neill lease at 229th is doing its 100 barrels daily consistently.

Patton Oil's Meacham No. 1, which was brought in flowing April 5 is producing between 175 and 200 barrels cutting less than one percent. Superior Oil is preparing to cement its second well, the Steinhilber lease No. 6.

Everett Grubbs is running tubing on his No. 1 at Sepulveda and Pennsylvania, having gun-perforated Tuesday night. This hole is down to 5,000 feet. Grubbs' No. 2 and No. 3 are still holding up with good production of high gravity oil.

McDonald and Burns are starting two new rigs on 231st street and the Texas company has built a steel derrick on 229th. This is being rigged now.

GOOD PROGRESS ON HARBOR CITY WELL

Harbor City's oil well is now down more than 2,000 feet, according to H. E. Deal of the D. & B. company, owners. The test hole is located on Vermont near Lomita boulevard.

Deal expects to reach an oil zone level about the first of next week bearing unforeseen difficulties. Corings are to be taken for comparison with the log of the original Harbor City well drilled some 24 years ago several hundred yards to the north. It is reported that oil leases are being quietly renewed in the district.