

## NEW CHARGES ON STEVENSON

### Spurlin, Civic Booster, Given Final Tribute

With the sudden death last Thursday afternoon of DeKalb Spurlin, 58, this city lost another of its pioneer settlers who contributed much to the development of the community. Mr. Spurlin succumbed at a severe attack of a heart attack suffered while he was riding toward a Los Angeles meeting with Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce.

The veteran realtor and builder was very active in Chamber of Commerce work, having been president in 1922 and serving as a director for several years. He came here in 1916 when the city of Torrance was being laid out. Scores of old friends attended the funeral and many floral offerings from people in other parts of the Southland.

SPURLIN decorated the bier at Stone and Myers' chapel Monday morning. Rev. Ben Lingenfelter officiated and cremation followed at Pacific Crest.

Heavy Julian Loefer, a family of seven children, was born on a farm near Blairsville, Georgia. The family moved to California when he was about 10 years old, settling in Palmdale. Later they went to live in Rosedale in Kern county where Mr. Spurlin's father engaged in extensive bee culture.

As a young man, Mr. Spurlin came to Los Angeles and soon became well-known as a land developer and builder. His first connection with Torrance was the completion of the MWD Palos Verdes reservoir feeder line. Other improvements completed by road crews in the Lomita area have included the placing of larger culverts under 24th street near Walnut to help carry off flood waters which usually inundate the street at that point.

### Ray Brooks Is Honored by Ad Managers

At the annual election held by Southern California advertising managers of the California Newspaper Publishers' association last Friday night, Ray Brooks, advertising manager of The Herald, was elected secretary-treasurer. The election took place at the Clark hotel in Los Angeles where the association holds its monthly meetings.

The association to which practically every newspaper in California belongs is the strongest of its kind in the United States. It unites newspapers in California, both Northern and Southern, and aims at the representing a united front on questions pertaining to newspapers in this state.

Elected president was James Metcalf of the Alhambra Post-Advocate and Franz Steinhilber of the Redondo Daily Breeze, was named vice-president.

### Archeologists Approve Diggings

Approval of the proposed excavation of an ancient Indian mound in the Malaga Cove section of Hollywood River by the archeological department of U.S.C., with the assistance of a WPA project, was announced to the city council Tuesday night in a letter from the Southwest Archeological Association.

The diggings are to be under the direction of Dr. A. O. Bowdin, head of the university's archeological department, with the city in the role of sponsor. The city will be given all relics and artifacts discovered, the university to use the project as field work for its students. Application has been made by the city for the WPA project.

### Three Communities Preparing Children's Christmas Parties

#### AT TORRANCE

Torrance city firemen announced this week that they have received word from the North Pole that Santa Claus will make a second pre-Christmas visit here on Wednesday night, Dec. 21, when they will stage their annual Yule party for all Torrance youngsters.

In addition to the honored guest, there will be a concert by the Municipal band starting the program in the Civic Auditorium at 7 o'clock. Muriel Zabelle's dancing starts, a mallet's number and a comedy skit will proceed the distribution of treats to all youngsters present.

#### AT LOMITA

A free motion picture show at the Lomita theatre and a personal appearance of Santa Claus will be outstanding attractions at the annual children's Christmas party to be held in Lomita Friday afternoon, Dec. 23.

Tickets for admission to the theatre will be distributed through the schools and the cost of entertainment plus gifts of candy to every youngster is being raised by a "milk bottle campaign." The Lomita Chamber is sponsoring the event. Special movies will be shown, starting at 1:30 in the Lomita theatre.

#### AT WALTERIA

An all-local talent program by children and adults will feature the annual Walteria community Christmas party to be held at the recreation center Friday night, Dec. 23.

Arrangements for the festivities are being made by members of the Entertainment Guild of the Walteria Improvement association.

### Planning Commission Formed by Ordinance

Immediately after the final reading of the title to the ordinance establishing a City Planning Commission by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett at the Municipal council session last night, Mayor William H. Tolson announced the

### Relief Society Issues Call for Yule Donations

The Torrance Relief Society wants everyone who has donations of food or clothing (especially food) for Christmas baskets to send the gifts to 2013 Arlington avenue at once. Also a call is made for donations for children from 18 months to 5 years of age.

All organizations are requested to check with the Relief Society about giving baskets, so there will not be duplication in some cases and persons omitted in others. They can call Mrs. Woodington, 690-E.

### P. V. Delinquency To Be Cancelled

Steps to cancel a total of \$2,613 delinquent taxes against tax-deeded property in the Palos Verdes Hills that is being acquired for the Palos Verdes elementary school district were being taken today by county officials, at the request of the district trustees.

Penalties and penalties on tax-deeded property may be canceled by order of the board of supervisors when the property is sold to a school district, as was explained by County Counsel J. H. O'Connor.

Additions to nine school sites owned by the school district are being obtained by purchase of tax-deeded property. The parcels were owned by the Palos Verdes Homes association until recently.

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### OLD ENGLISH YULE MUSIC AT NEW HALL

The Torrance high school music department will present its annual Christmas program in cooperation with the P. T. A., during the formal dedication of the new \$100,700 assembly hall next Thursday night, Dec. 22.

Mrs. Marjorie Eischen Cook, director, announces that the theme of the Yuletide musical program will be "Medieval England in Christmas Celebration." She plans to use the various singing and instrumental student groups in every part of the auditorium which will give the first audience an appreciation of the splendid acoustical engineering that has gone into the building.

The Madrigal Singers, Junior choir, Treble Crof club and the high school orchestra will participate in the gala program depicting in action, costume, and music the old English wassailers, beggars, chorists, knights and ladies.

King of the festivities will be the Court Fool and he will reign as "Lord of Mischief" under the more serious tones from the cathedral chimes blend the whole presentation into praise of peace on earth.

### \$100 Oil Drilling Equipment Stolen

Oil equipment valued at more than \$100 was reported stolen from the Southern California Drilling company's rig at 230th and Narbonne, Monday, according to police. Three crown bolt sheaves and two bronze bearing boxes were listed as missing.

In the same section of the city, loss of electrical conduit and meters from a home was reported by John Koshak of 230th and Narbonne. He furnished police with description of a suspect.

### CAPT. IRWIN W. MINGER

... chased speeders in 1912

The first 25 years were probably the hardest, but the next nine years should be the most enjoyable for Captain Irwin W. Minger, adjutant of the 10th Infantry ("Los Angeles Own") of the National Guard, who will address the Torrance Rotary club tonight. Capt. Minger, 55, is approaching the 26th anniversary of his enlistment and is the oldest active officer of the National Guard-regiment. He hopes to remain active until the arbitrary retirement age of 64 is reached.

Back in 1912, when he used to chase speeders on the old Santa Monica streets which comprised the famous auto speedway, Capt. Minger became associated with the National Guard. He also served in the regular Army from 1917 until 1924. As member of the National Defense committee of the Los Angeles County Council of the American Legion he is in a position to speak on that subject with considerable authority. Arrangements for his appearance at the Rotary club tonight were made by T. A. Mitchell, program chairman.

### New Building In Week Totals \$24,020 In City

Building permits issued from the city engineer's office during the past week totaled \$24,020. They included the following projects:

Mrs. Helen Walker of Hollywood will re-build the milk shed at 2001 174th which was damaged by fire Dec. 7. The building, each of the buildings will contain a three-room and a four-room flat.

C. H. Leboré is erecting a steel oil derrick at 1850 236th for \$5,000. The Alford Oil corporation is placing a 1,000-barrel steel tank at 2039 237th, costing \$850.

The Plymouth Oil company is installing two 1,000-barrel steel tanks, costing \$1,700, on 236th between Narbonne and Eschelman.

The Pasco Oil company is erecting two 1,000-barrel oil tanks at 235th and Pennsylvania for \$1,700 and the Whittier Santa Fe Springs oil company is building a wooden derrick at 1929 237th, costing \$5,000.

WANTS STREET LIGHT A request of the city council by Rev. Father Joseph Fitzgerald, pastor of the Catholic church, for a street light to illuminate the stairs leading to the new church at Engracia and Manuel was referred to the light committee Tuesday night for investigation and recommendation.

### FAILURE TO COOPERATE ALLEGED BY STROH FOR TRIAL BOARD HEARING

With the filing yesterday of three asserted instances of "non-cooperation" on the part of Captain A. D. Stevenson of the fire department, Director of Public Safety John Stroh served notice to the Civil Service Commission that he would like to dispense with the services of the former fire chief whose place he took last June.

### Rotary Speaker

While no date has been set for Stevenson's appearance before the Civil Service trial board, Chairman J. O. Bishop said today that the hearing may be held tomorrow evening. The time depends on Stevenson and his attorney, John Shidler.

Developments this week in the fire department "shake-up" following a fist encounter Oct. 30 between Stevenson and Engineer J. J. Benner were:

Demotion Offer Refused Stevenson was given an opportunity to accept demotion to the rank of engineer without further peril to his position but, according to Director Stroh, after indicating he would accept this reduction, Stevenson refused to "fight it out" before the trial board.

Immediately after learning of Stevenson's decision, Stroh filed a general charge of "non-cooperation with other members of the department" and himself. This was answered by Attorney Shidler in a demurrer which held the new allegations were "ambiguous" and not specific.

Hence, the filing yesterday of asserted instances of "non-cooperation" by Stevenson. Stevenson indicated that he declined to accept the demotion but he declined to resign. He would be retained in detail at the hearing.

Original Counts Stand Meanwhile, Engineer Benner, who was found guilty of being absent without leave and fighting while on duty who was reinstated after a month's suspension, was fulfilling his regular duty at the central fire station. The same charges were originally filed by Director Stroh against Capt. Stevenson and will stand on the Civil Service board's records in addition to the new counts placed there this week.

The trial board which will hear Stevenson's case will be the same as the one that pondered Benner's trial — Chairman Bishop, Bernhard Bunle and Robert W. Roberts. The prosecution will be conducted by Attorney Fred Cross, who served as special counsel assisting City Attorney E. M. McCall in the Benner hearing Dec. 7.

### Butta Purchases Business Block

Sale of the Vonderahe building at the "five points" intersection of Carson, Cabrillo and Cravens avenues, this week to John Butta, proprietor of the Village Winery and Liquor store, was announced this week by the purchaser. The deal was managed by J. C. Smith of the Torrance Investment company. Butta indicates that his plans for extensive alterations of his new property but was not prepared to make a definite outline at the time.

The brick structure has seven stories, two on Cravens, four on Carson and one at the corner which has been occupied by Butta for the past five years. The building was constructed by Paul and Charles Vonderahe at the height of the city's early real estate and oil activity. Butta purchased the property from a finance company.

### Shopping Days to Christmas

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