



We Wish Everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



Near 25th Birthday!

Torrance Herald

TORRANCE HERALD

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(Picture of Herald Staff on Page 6)

With today's edition, The Torrance Herald completes 24 years of community service to this city and its residents. Next Thursday's issue will be No. 1 of Volume 25 of this newspaper under its present name.

The Herald's birth date is Jan. 1 altho the first newspaper published in this city, The Torrance News, issued its Vol. 1, No. 1 edition three months before The Herald was born. A facsimile reproduction of the front page of the first Herald is printed above.

E. M. McGinnis founded the News on Oct. 11, 1913 and the first edition of The Herald was brought out by B. M. Knutson on Oct. 11, 1913. The Herald's first several weeks in the San Fernando Valley. The Herald's first home was located in a small room on Craven avenue in the Brighton hotel building.

Modern Printing Plant
The intervening quarter-century has wrought great changes in the city's voice and historian. From a four-page newspaper, it has advanced to as many as 26 pages for a regular weekly edition and last September the present staff issued a 72-page "Torrance-On-the-Air" special edition that won wide acclaim.

From a staff of three persons, this newspaper's family has grown to 32 workers; it has extended its news coverage as the city increased in size and population; is a member of the United Press, California Newspaper Publishers' Association and was adjudicated a legal newspaper of Los Angeles county in March, 1927. The Herald has been this city's official newspaper almost since its inception.

Editor-Publisher Grover C. Whyte became associated with The Herald in June, 1929 and its sole owner on July 1, 1929. In its modern publishing plant, The Herald produces a wide variety of printed matter in addition to the newspaper and the Tri-City Shopping News. It is completely equipped for any kind of commercial printing, magazines, booklets, programs, business forms, engraved and printed social printing.

Members of Staff
Publisher: Whyte. The Herald's staff which consists of Miss Lute Fraser, who has been secretary since August, 1929; Robert Lovell, mechanical and printer since October, 1924; Ray Brooks, who became advertising manager Nov. 1, 1935; Michael Strasser, city editor 1930 to 1932 who returned here in November, 1935; Mrs. Roxie Sleeth, society editor since April, 1933; Cliff Johnson, Los Angeles correspondent for the past four years; and W. B. Woodridge, circulation manager for the past three months.

In the mechanical department are: La Vern Jones, printer; L. L. Cleveland, linotype operator; Carl Gilbert, stereotyper and pressman.

The Herald and its auxiliary Tri-City Shopping News, which is delivered free throughout the Torrance trading area, is carried to homes here by 20 carrier boys.

APPENDICITIS DEATHS UP
Deaths from appendicitis in the United States have increased 32 percent since 1900.

Salaried Steel Employees to Get Pay Boost

Following the lead of the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, major subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, a change in working schedules for salaried employees of the Columbia Steel Company here will be made beginning Jan. 1, 1939. The new schedule amounts to a 10 percent increase in pay, according to E. M. Harber, general superintendent at the local plant. The full-time work week of Columbia Steel's salaried employees, like those of the Carnegie-Illinois concern, will be on the basis of 5 1/2 days per week to which will apply the present base salary rates which are on a 5 1/2-day basis.

Harber said that the return to the 5 1/2-day base week for salaried employees and the payment of the applicable base salary will result in restoring full-time pay for those salaried employees whose work requires the full 5 1/2 days per week.

Those whose work requires this full time will be paid on such salary rate, which amounts to about a 10 percent increase over present salaries in pay. Those whose work does not require the full 5 1/2 days will be paid on the part-time basis, it is announced.

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Inauguration of New Governor Jan. 2 Will be Only Part of Festivities; Ball, Barbecue and Carnival Jan. 5 Free to All

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 29 (U.P.)—Residents of Sacramento may be startled by the 19-gun salute for Governor Elbert C. Culbertson on his inaugural day Jan. 2 but his barbecue and carnival the Saturday following should be even more exciting.

It isn't often that a governor or anyone else invites the general public to a free meal but that is the tremendous job Olson has invited upon himself. Of course, most of the food will be donated and the entertainment, too, but the magnitude of expecting 125,000 persons to sit down to lunch is a bit staggering.

Olson made no bones about his reason for staging the barbecue in conjunction with the California State Employees' Association. He said the prominent persons and those with formal clothes could attend the formal dinner and the barbecue and could squeeze in the assembly chamber for the oath-taking ceremony.

Romero's Chef
But for the thousands of ordinary citizens who elected him to California's highest office, Olson wanted to show his appreciation. So he invited the whole state to come to Sacramento and figuratively break bread with him.

The extent of the meal was summed up by Edward Romero, the famous chef from Los Angeles who will prepare it, when he revealed it will require 50,000 or more pounds of beef, 4,000 gallons of barbecue sauce, 125,000 French rolls, 10,000 pounds of beans and 25,000 gallons of coffee. It will require 10 assistant cooks to help with the preparation of the food.

OLSON'S LIFE STORY

Culbert L. Olson, first Democratic governor to administer California's affairs since the

Olson took an interest in politics early in life, after an active boyhood which included jobs as railroad brakeman, telegraph operator, farmhand, construction worker and newspaperman. In 1897, while at Washington in the role of newspaper correspondent and congressional secretary, Olson studied law at what is now George Washington University. He later broadened his legal training at the University of Michigan.

He served in the Utah state legislature, practiced law in that state and became connected with various mining, banking and building enterprises. In 1920 he moved to Los Angeles, where he has lived since. He was elected to the State Senate in 1924.

The new governor has three children, Richard, the oldest, who will serve as his father's private secretary, and twin sons Dean and John. Richard is 31, the twins are 21.

But the free meal is not the only highlight of the day's program. Olson's "big name" band will provide music for free dancing all day and a "jitterbug" contest for those over 22 years

of age. Movie celebrities and dozens of entertainers will provide a first class show and athletic events are scheduled. All the talent will be donated.

Mr. Top Gun Ball
Olson's original plan was to have the inaugural ball of Monday night after the inauguration that afternoon. But an immediate protest welled up from Southern California, where most of the movie stars figured on going to the Rose Bowl football game, participation in the parade or otherwise entertaining themselves during the year's holiday. So Olson capitulated to popular demand and changed the date to Friday, Jan. 6, giving everybody a chance to come to Sacramento.

With the cinema audience in attendance, Olson may outshine the lavish 1929 spectacle put on by "Gentleman Jim" Rolph, when 6,000 persons danced in Sacramento's memorial auditorium. That was an all-time high for capital merrymaking.

The Rolph affair was the first since 1903. Governor Frank Merriam continued the custom but it was not so pretentious and he even posted down to prevent those inside from leaving and then reentering. This was in harmony with Merriam's discreet refusal to drink.

To Follow Tradition
Peter Burnett, colorful figure of the old gold rush days originated the inaugural balls in 1849. (Continued on Page 8)

CITY ADOPTS 40-HOUR PAY PLAN JAN. 1

Beginning Jan. 1, 1939 all municipal employees except police and firemen will go on a 40-hour week pay schedule. Unanimous adoption of a resolution to that effect by the city council Tuesday night was the highlight of the last session of 1938. It was proposed by Councilman James Hitchcock and carried without discussion.

The prevailing pay rates will be retained for 30 employees, Hitchcock announced. The reason the police and fire departments will not be affected by the new schedule is that they are now under Civil Service regulations. About 50 city workers will be affected without reduction in pay.

Other councilman proceedings Tuesday night were: **DOUBLE NEGATIVE**... Application made by the city for PWA funds early in September to help construct recreational buildings, a swimming pool and tennis courts in the city park and at Waverly—was denied at a special bond election Sept. 20—has just been refused by the Federal Emergency Public Works administration. This late decision was read to the council by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett while councilmen grinned.

PROJECTS APPROVED... Plans and specifications for the improvement of eight major streets here have been approved by the Department of Public Works. Division of Highways, Bartlett reported. The city was authorized to proceed with the work which will be paid out of the city's general fund.

STUDY LAND PURCHASE... Because he said he had another prospect if the city does not desire to purchase the land for a recreation site, Frank Perry urged the council in a letter to make up its mind about buying some property in Waverly belonging to the P. J. Young estate. Mayor William H. Tolson turned the matter over to the Finance committee for investigation. The committee recommended \$25,000.

ACCEPTS POST... Stating he would be pleased to accept the appointment providing meeting of the conditions for the conflict with his business duties, John Salm was on record as the first newly-appointed member of the new City Planning Commission to accept the post. Mayor Tolson said he believed the other members have also agreed to serve but they, Tom McGuire, John E. McCall, Leonard Young, Scott R. Ludlow, R. J. Deinger, Charles Curtis, W. A. Felker and J. Carruthers—have not written Clerk Bartlett as requested as yet.

SUGGESTS CLUB SIGN... Stating that a bulletin board, listing the various clubs and organizations and when and where they meet, would be of value to the community, the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance urged the council in a letter to erect such a sign in the park across from the Torrance theatre. The discussion brought out conditions for this park was decided to the American Legion post before the city was incorporated in May, 1921. No sign was erected.

NO MUSIC SUBSIDY... Making a verbal report for the Finance committee, Councilman Tom McGuire requested that a subsidy be requested two weeks ago by George N. Mershon, for the Torrance symphony orchestra. At the present time we do not feel able to finance his or anybody's orchestra," McGuire said.

IMPROVE LIGHTING... An appropriation of \$300 to repair and improve the city park lighting system was allowed. **AT M.W.D. EVENT**... Members of the Metropolitan Water District officials intend to participate in the ceremonies Jan. 7 when Colorado River water will be turned into the first units of the Metropolitan Water District near Parker, Ariz.

TO CONVENTION... Director John Stroth of the Public Safety department was authorized to represent the city at the annual convention of the National Association of Fire Chiefs, held in San Francisco, according to Secretary Bowen. (Continued on Page 8)

7 HURT IN CAR CRASH

Seven persons, one of them a six-year-old boy, all occupants of a Packard sedan were injured—two of them seriously—early Christmas afternoon when their car smashed head-on into a large eucalyptus tree at the northwest corner of Hawthorne boulevard and Huntington streets.

The impact spilled the victims into the roadway and the car immediately caught fire. The machine, registered to and driven by Garland A. Gregory, 24, of Buena Park, was totally demolished, according to police who gave first aid treatment to the injured before they were rushed to Torrance Memorial hospital.

Gregory, police reported, was traveling north on Hawthorne and in descending a slight grade at a high rate of speed he attempted to pass another north-bound car driven by Donald Stanton, 27, of Redondo Beach.

But he was going too fast and he lost control of his large sedan. It crashed into the tree, flinging the seven passengers out like so many pieces of wood. The occupants of the machine were:

Herman Derbeque, 27, and Vivian Derbeque, 25, of Los Angeles.

Lester Hardin, 31; Josephine Hardin, 25, and Bobby Hardin, six, of 1617 Amapala; Allen Muir, 39, of Hermosa, and Gregory.

The two women were the most seriously injured. The men were allowed to go to their homes after brief hospitalization and the boy Bobby Hardin is said to be making a good recovery.

Amidst from this city and Redondo took the injured to the hospital where three doctors were summoned to care for them.

Auto Plate Official Opens On Jan. 3
Promptly at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, Jan. 3, at 1601 Grandway corner of Cabrillo, the branch office of the Department of Motor Vehicles will open and start handing out 1939 license plates to all motorists calling with their postcard notices and the required cash.

Notices of the 1939 license and tax fees were distributed this week to all car owners. The local office, in charge of Leonard Tristram, will be open every day including Saturdays (except Sundays) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SCHOOLS RE-OPEN JAN. 3
All schools in Torrance, Waverly and Lomita will re-open Tuesday, Jan. 3, following a week's Christmas vacation.



JITTERBUG IS STRENUOUS... As the above photo, taken at 7:05 a. m., Dec. 24, during the first early morning Jitterbug contest ever held in the Civic Auditorium, graphically reveals. The two couples in the foreground (especially the pair directly in front of the camera) were "cutting rugs" in such an acrobatic manner that it is difficult to figure out just whose leg is whose. More than 250 youngsters "swingerooed" until 8 o'clock last Saturday morning. The pre-breakfast hop was sponsored by the Torrance Coordinating Council.

Young "Jitterbugs" Amaze Writer

By MICHAEL STRASSER

I've "covered" some strange assignments in the two decades I've spent earning my bread and keep by the death rattle of a typewriter but the strangest of all was the one I kept for Herald readers on the morning of Christmas Eve.

Until then I had treasured the memory of reporting a liquor still raid in the San Fernando Valley a scant hour before I was due to appear before an altar and claim a bride.

But that experience paled when I wrenched myself from a warm bed last Saturday morning at the unearthly hour of 6 o'clock to attend a dance!

Sun Spottlights Swingers
It was the first "swingeroo" sponsored by the Torrance Coordinating Council for those indefatigable youngsters smitten by the jitterbug.

I was still yawning as I entered the door to the Auditorium. But after one look at the gyrations, gallops, flashing feet and little forms gamboing to hot music from Don Briggs' 12-piece band I lost my yawning for more sleep.

"Swingeroo" was in the nature of an "experiment." He said such matinal hops were "all the rage" among the youngsters these days (where have I been?) and that as many as 4,000 jammed into Los Angeles' big cathedrals of the dance not so many mornings ago.

"We are just trying out the idea of early morning dances here," Vernon said. "We didn't give this one much advance publicity but I think we'll hold another soon and see if we can't fill the Auditorium."

Jitterbug Is Defined
If the Coordinators do announce another dawn dance I'm going to start warning up my arteries for a fling at jittering myself. I'm all for the boys and girls. If they've got that much pep then the Auditorium and the helpfulness of the Coordinating Council should be theirs from 6 to 8 o'clock—or even from 5 to 9 a.m., the unusual period for such affairs.

Jittering is strenuous, acrobatic (Continued on Page 8)

Record Building Year Nears End

Saturday noon the record book of the biggest construction year in Torrance history will be closed at the city engineer's office. The building total today stands at \$3,134,523 for the year to date, compared with \$1,066,057 for the entire 12 months of 1937.

So far this month \$58,850 in building permits have been taken out here. Last December's construction total was \$25,890. Among the recent permits issued were: A. & T. Oil company for a 2 1/2-foot drain and 1,000-barrel oil storage tank, costing \$810, at 2039 23rd; Tiger Oil company for a wooden oil derrick at 1925 236th, \$5,000; Maldum Petroleum corporation for two wooden derricks at 1919 and 1957 237th, \$10,000, and the Cuba Oil company for a derrick at 1968 236th, \$5,000.

An increase of 2703.2 percent in Torrance building permits last November over the same month in 1937 was given due publicity this week in the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Bulletin. The local increase was the greatest on record, the Bulletin's story showed.

Building-Loan Votes Dividends

At a meeting of the Torrance Building and Loan Association directors this morning two dividends were declared for 1938. A four percent return on all forms of certificates and a four percent dividend on all membership shares for the past year were voted.

This was the 16th annual "melon-cutting" by the Association, which was organized in September, 1922. During its history the Association has never paid less than four percent interest on accounts. All accounts up to \$5,000 are fully insured by the Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation—an agency of the U. S. Government.

Directors present at the meeting included: W. Post, Charles V. Jones, Henry C. March, Charles T. Rippey, Fay L. Parks and W. E. Bowen. They indicated that the outlook for the new year was exceptionally bright as they closed a "most satisfactory 1938." The Association made quite a number of construction loans, especially during the past six months and has several applications for building costs on file to 1939, according to Secretary Bowen.