

# Junior College for Torrance is Being Studied by Kersey

Possibility of establishing a junior college in Torrance was the subject of discussion at a most interesting conference last Friday at the office of Dr. Vierling Kersey, superintendent of the Los Angeles City Board of Education. Representing Torrance were: Mayor William H. Tolson, Chamber of Commerce Secretary L. J. Gilmer, and Grover C. Wright, editor-publisher of The Herald.

While not present at the conference, Thomas H. Elson, principal of Torrance high school, has been active in furthering the movement, and has been designated by Dr. Kersey as spokesman for the Board of Education in the junior college matter. While reluctant to make any definite commitment on the matter at this time, Kersey stated that a study of the junior college situation was being made in this district and that the results of preliminary investigation have been most encouraging. It is expected that more definite information will be available after the beginning of the second semester, Kersey stated.

**Center of This Area**  
Among the points stressed by the Torrance committee was that this community is the geographical center of the area to be served by the contemplated junior college, and is rapidly becoming so recognized by both the state and the county as the logical location for their activities. By locating the junior college in Torrance, the employment and insurance division for the entire harbor area in Torrance and more recently the opening of the motor license office by the Motor Vehicle Department, state officials have gone on record as considering Torrance the center of activities in this area.

Several years ago the county selected Torrance for the headquarters of its health and sanitation work by erecting the Health Center and later added the Welfare Department division office in the same building.

**Elson Making Survey**  
The need of junior college facilities here is generally recognized, as the Compton Junior College and Long Beach Junior College are not only badly overcrowded but difficult to reach. If a decision is made to establish a junior college in Torrance, it is probable that the Compton plan of locating it on the high campus will be followed, although the junior college will be operated as a separate unit from the high school. Inspectors in junior colleges are required to have master's degrees.

Principal Elson declined to amplify Dr. Kersey's statement, but admitted that he was conducting an extensive survey of the local field for the purpose of determining the need and possibilities of establishing a junior college here. It is believed that Elson's recommendations will be very influential as Dr. Kersey spoke very highly of Elson's ability in discussing the subject with the Torrance committee.

## S. W. Advertising Group to Meet Here Tomorrow

Reports from three sub-committees are due to be acted upon during a meeting here tomorrow night of the special group investigating possibility of raising a large advertising fund to promote new industries and create jobs for Torrance and other cities in the southwestern part of the county.

The reports are to be devoted to increased attendance at the advertising group's sessions, selection of a distinctive name for the organization, fostered by Oscar L. Willett, Palos Verdes, and a statement of its program and policies.

Representative citizens from Inglewood, Hawthorne, Manhattan, Hermosa and Gardena, Palos Verdes and Torrance are expected to attend the session, which will be held in the Chamber of Commerce.

## MAY ASK COUNTY VOTE TO DIVORCE DANCING, DRINKING

A county-wide vote on the question of whether public dancing shall be permitted to continue on the same premises where alcoholic beverages are sold probably will be taken at the next general election. It was indicated this week at the Hall of Records.

The county public welfare commission, which has been asked by the Torrance committee to refer to issue licenses in these places, made the recommendation to the supervisors. Law observance groups have appeared before the supervisors on several occasions to ask that liquor sales be divorced from dancing, but each time the supervisors have declined the matter.

Unable to get together with those opposing any change in the present set-up, the public welfare commissioners decided the better way would be to have the supervisors place the proposal on the ballot at the next general election.

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# THOSE MORE THRU HIGHWAYS

## Thousand Men Due to Work On Reservoir

Full construction crews are due to be placed on the Palos Verdes reservoir project for the Metropolitan Water District within a week or 10 days, according to W. "West" Irwin, construction engineer for the W. E. Hall company, builders of the great storage basin.

Only a few men are being employed on the site, located near the intersection of Narbonne avenue and Palos Verdes Drive, at the present time. These are operating heavy grading machinery.

But within a few weeks, about 1,000 men will be telling there, including contractors' field and shop employees and members of the District's staff. No more applications for jobs are being taken at the present time, according to Irwin, who gave several local men this week by Col. N. F. Jamieson of this city, personnel director for the M.W.D.

**Complete by Dec. 1**  
Detailed maps of the project, disclosed for the first time this week by the contractors, show the reservoir, capable of holding 1,000 acre feet of water, will be egg-shaped in a basin in the hills which will be shut off with compacted earthen embankments. The entire reservoir will be lined with reinforced grout.

A 75-foot earth and cement retaining wall will be constructed at the lower end and this will be visible from points near the West basin in San Pedro. The man-made lake will be approximately one-half mile long and one-quarter mile wide. It will be bounded by special culverts which will keep debris from the surrounding hills from entering.

The contract calls for completion of the \$55,580 project by Dec. 1. M. Hjalmerstrom is superintendent for the Hall company and N. F. Crossley is the resident engineer for the Metropolitan Water District. First work on the reservoir began Jan. 11.

## Paralysis Fund Check-In Asked by Earl Conner

Postmaster Earl Conner is trying to complete all details of the Infantile Paralysis fund raising campaign that ended Monday but he has yet to hear from a number of volunteers who assisted in the sale of the "Fight Back" stamps.

He urgently requested those having contributions to turn them in to his office, either bank or to City Judge Robert, Lessing this week.

The student dance last Friday night raised about \$75 which will be turned over to Conner tomorrow Saturday as a major portion of the local fund. The button sale and the student dance, opened to the public for the first time, were this city's sole assistance to the national campaign for the eradication of infantile paralysis.

## Masons to Dine Here Friday Night

Torrance lodge, No. 447, F. & A. M., will hold another 6:30 o'clock dinner Friday evening, Feb. 3, for all members and sojourning Masons in this city.

Next Sunday, Jose Redding, master of the local lodge, and ten other members will represent Torrance at the Masonic breakfast at the Los Angeles Biltmore hotel. More than 2,000 Masons are expected to attend with the Grand Master and other Grand officers.

## HOUSE BURGLARIZED

Sometime between 7:30 and 8 o'clock last Sunday evening, Virginia Brown's home at 1738 California avenue was entered and her driver's license, keys, \$4 in cash, was stolen, she reported to police. Nothing else was molested.

## ATTEND CONVENTION

Glenn N. Jain, assistant city engineer, and Oscar D. Butterfield, city electrical inspector, attended the state electrical inspectors' convention at San Diego yesterday.



HEAD JUNIOR FRATERNAL ORDER . . . The three top officers of the Torrance Chapter, Order of De Molay, are shown here with their advisor, Edmund Day, member of the Torrance Masonic club. They are, left to right: Harry M. Lewis, junior counselor; Frank A. Andersen, master counselor; Day, and Hans Sommer, senior counselor.

In the presence of a large gathering of parents and friends, the first officers of the local De Molay officers and the visiting team from Los Angeles. Following the impressive ceremonies, in which the local De Molay officers and the visiting team appeared in their colorful robes of office for the first time, there was dancing and a reception.

The Torrance chapter has a membership of about 30 local, Lomita and Gardena boys. Plans are being made for several social functions in the near future. In addition to the three ranking officers pictured above, the chapter is governed by: Norman W. Hudson and Robert H. Tolson, senior and junior deacons; Harold E. Massie and Robert A. Owens, senior and junior stewards; Richard P. Miller, chaplain; Leonard Babcock, treasurer; Kenneth A. Perkins, sentinel; William E. Buckley, standard bearer; Marvin Lee, almoner; Hugh C. Allen, marshal; Richard E. Beecher, orator; and Harold E. Kerber, Ralph L. Gilbert, Robert R. Isaacs, Jack C. Thomas, William L. Ritchie, Addison F. Smith and Edgar L. McDonald, preceptors.

## JANUARY BUILDING TOTALS \$115,960

Presaging another big year of home, business, factory and oil development for Torrance, 47 building permits for the first month of 1939 amounted to \$115,960, according to records on file at the city engineer's office this week. Altogether the total for January, 1938 was \$1,811,950, \$1,772,000 of that amount was for two of the past year's major projects.

General Petroleum expansion and the new KNX-CBS transmitter station. Home-building took a jump here last month when 12 new residences, costing in excess of \$29,600, were started. There were 14 oil derricks erected at a cost of \$70,000 and 13 oil tanks, amounting to an investment of \$7,810, were installed. Other January construction included: seven private garages, \$1,200; one industrial building, \$1,500; restaurant building, \$200; alterations and repairs to residences, \$500; alterations and repairs to non-residences, \$500; alterations and repairs to oil tanks, \$1,000; and one demolition job, \$1,000.

Among the permits issued during the past week were eight for new oil derricks, eight for oil tanks and one for repairs to a derrick in South Torrance field. Other permits were granted: Homes Being Erected: Stella Freigh of 1222 Costa, \$2,350; a five-room stucco residence at 1218 Costa, \$3,000, and for a four-room stucco apartment and three-car garage at 1220 Costa, \$2,500; Coline Gasoline Corporation for a cooling tower and concrete basin at Madrona and Sepulveda, \$1,900; Irene E. Davis of 1023 Madrid for a four-room apartment with a double garage at 1103 Madrid, \$800.

Gerald L. Alter for a four-room frame residence and garage at 2417 Sonoma, \$2,500; Ivan E. and Stella G. Howard of 2437 29th for a five-room frame residence at 2443 29th, \$2,000; A. L. Fish of 1452 Englewood for a seven-room frame stucco residence and double garage at 1408 Englewood, \$4,750; Charles V. Reif of 1443 Carson for a frame house, 10 by 18 feet, at 2023 Cabrillo, \$500; R. Beck of Keystone for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 912 Beech, \$2,200; and Homer Rogers of 4411 Torrance boulevard for a five-room frame residence and double garage at 1226 Date, \$2,150.

Clifford Reid and other residents of the district asked permission to withdraw their petitions Monday but the supervisors, acting on advice of the county counsel's office, voted to deny the petition, since it had been placed before the supervisors and the required number of heads of families.

## 100 At Dinner Last Night by Police, Firemen

Exactly 100 city employees and their wives attended the first dinner festivities held by the police and fire departments with their ladies present last night at Fire Station No. 1. In addition to those units, city council members and heads of all departments were guests at the gala function which centered around a fried chicken dinner.

Wives of three firemen—Mrs. Lawrence Summers, Mrs. Charles McConville and Mrs. Russell Parry—and Mrs. C. C. Tolson prepared the elaborate menu. All members of the council were present except Mr. and Mrs. George V. Powell, who were detained at home.

"Skeet" Summers was master-of-ceremonies and it was unanimously agreed that more interest to the hospital and non-profit institution serving this entire area.

To Torrance folks, this date means a rollicking good time at the Fire Memorial Hospital. This party—which is informal (despite its designation as a ball)—is traditionally the outstanding social event of this district and the plans this year call for even a better dance than previously.

Fred Graaf's augmented 12-piece orchestra has been engaged to furnish the music. This is the orchestra that won so many favorable comments a few years ago when they played for dances here. Dancing begins at 9 p. m. at the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

But to make things doubly interesting to those who purchase tickets for this worthy benefit, the committee has announced that \$50 in cash door prizes will be given away. The fifty dollars will be divided into three prizes as follows: first, \$25; second, \$10; and third, \$10.

Sale of tickets is in charge of the National Business and Professional Women of Torrance, which is being assisted by the same organization in Gardena. Preliminary sale of tickets points to a record crowd with a goodly amount of money to be turned over to the hospital and non-profit institution serving this entire area.

## URGENT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO EXTEND CABRILLO AVENUE

In a determined effort to "put Torrance on the highway map" and thus foster its growth, a large group of civic leaders gathered at the city hall yesterday afternoon to urge the city council to launch a major highway program, including:

## Walteria Auto Fire First 1939 Blaze

An automobile fire in Walteria early Tuesday morning broke the record of an auto fires in Torrance since the first of the year. The Walteria volunteer department extinguished the blazing car belonging to H. S. East of Hermosa Beach.

A short-circuit on the wiring caused the blaze which damaged the front of the car and the two front tires. The loss was estimated at \$50. The fire occurred west of Hawthorne boulevard on Highway 101.

## Morals Case to Get Jury Trial Here on Monday

While the parents of the three local little girls before whom Judge Lessing is accused of indecent exposure and lewd vagrancy Jan. 23, watched the proceedings, the 45-year-old Hollywood film laboratory worker, Robert Lessing Monday morning.

At the start of the hearing he was represented by counsel, Attorney John Shidler appearing in his stead. But after the attorney failed to obtain a second continuance of the arraignment, he withdrew from the case. Then Hagerstrom pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting the children and vagrancy. He asked for a jury trial and when this was refused, he asked for a trial by Judge Lessing for Monday, Feb. 6, at 10 a. m., he was returned to jail.

Hagerstrom had been at liberty for several days on \$1,000 bail bond deposited by the National Surety company, an affiliate of the Automobile Club of Southern California. When the club learned the nature of the charges against him and that a car was not involved in the case, it exonerated its bail and returned Hagerstrom to jail.

**Want Maximum Penalty**  
A few minutes after he had been returned to the cells, the Hollywood male was confronted with another charge—that of driving while intoxicated. He appeared dazed when confronted with this third count, and was unable for several minutes to decide how to plead to the latest accusation.

Finally he mumbled to Judge Lessing that he would plead not guilty and stand trial on all three charges. Hagerstrom was then once more led back to jail.

He obtained a \$1,000 bail bond later and was released from jail pending the jury trial next Monday morning. Parents of the children, whose ages are eight, nine and 10 years, are determined that Hagerstrom will pay the maximum penalty—a year in jail—for his misdemeanor.

They have to have a close contact with the case and, they regret that their youngsters will have to testify regarding the case. The attorneys are willing to bring them into court for the trial.

Attorney Shidler, after with (Continued on Page 2-A)

## SATURDAY AT 5 P. M., IS DEADLINE ON PLATES HERE

Run—do not walk—to the corner of Cabrillo and Gramercy if you haven't obtained your 1939 auto license plates by 5 p. m. Friday and Saturday—to secure those blue and gold numerals without penalty.

The Torrance branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles, located at 1601 Gramercy is due to close Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Those who are standing in line at that time will be accommodated. Midnight Saturday is the official deadline on the plates.

The penalty for those who drive around with 1938 numbers after that date is double the price of the license and 50 percent additional on the vehicle registration fee.

So . . . don't say you haven't been warned . . . Get 'em now!