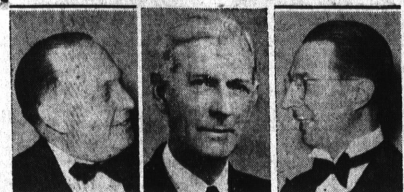


## KIWANIANS HOLD DIVISION MEET AT RIVIERA TONIGHT



ROGER MARSHALL HARRY LANE DEAN SEARS  
... of Santa Monica ... of San Gabriel ... of Torrance

Several hundred Kiwanians from 12 clubs in Division One of the California-Nevada district of Kiwanis International will gather tonight at the Hollywood Riviera club-house for the first Division dinner-meeting of the year. Torrance club, headed by President Dean Sears, will host to the meeting.

Roger S. Marshall of Santa Monica, lieutenant-governor, will preside during the business session and the principal speaker will be Harry Lane of San Gabriel, district governor. Marshall and Lane will be making official visits at the local meeting.

During the dinner, a program of entertainment will be given. This has been arranged by President Sears and will consist of ocarina numbers by a Kiwanis quartet from the Southwest Los Angeles club and solos by Joe Waugh, member of the Santa Monica club and district song leader.

Final arrangements for the Division gathering were made by the Torrance club's president at a dinner meeting at Marshall's home last Thursday night. All past presidents of the local club will serve as a host committee to welcome the visiting Kiwanians.

Clubs included in Division One who are expected to have representative delegations at the meeting tonight are: Angeles Mesa, Beverly Hills, East Los Angeles, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Southwest Los Angeles, Westwood Village, Wilshire-Los Angeles and Torrance.

## Marijuana-Doped Cigarette Blamed for Youth's Agony

Today, a week after a frightful ordeal that finally placed him in custody of attendants at the Psychopathic ward of the Los Angeles general hospital—a raving, superhumanly strong man obviously suffering from a violent narcotic poison—Earl W. Bretton, 19, of this city is still unable to recall what caused his temporary mental derangement last week-end.

He is confined at his home with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Babcock at 2008 Gramercy avenue, a badly shaken but recovering victim of what police believe to have been marijuana poisoning, unintentionally administered when he accepted a cigarette from a stranger at a cafe in Wilmington.

Young Bretton, adopted son of T. L. Bretton, father of Mrs. Babcock, suffered intense agony for more than 12 hours while the poison raced thru his system, robbing him of his faculties. His experience proved a dreadful shock to friends here who rallied to his assistance when summoned by Wilmington police.

Accompanied by Walter Detrick of 722 Border and Oris Henry of 720 Border, the youth started out last Thursday evening for what was to have been a ride to Wilmington with Mrs. Babcock. It ended with a frantic effort on the part of Babcock, Sam Levy and police Chief John Stroth to get the violently deranged boy into an institution where he could receive the medical care he so obviously needed.

Bretton, Detrick and Henry stopped at a cafe in Wilmington for a class of beer. According to Wilmington police interviews with Detrick and Henry, they only sipped their drinks and Bretton did not touch his. However, the boy recalls accepting a cigarette from a man he did not know at the cafe and smoking it.

The trio then got into their car and started on toward San Pedro. But Bretton began to act very strangely. He shouted and struggled to get out of the machine. At N and Blyn streets he became violent and subject to muscular convulsions. When Wilmington police arrived he was in a bad way. He managed to get out of the car, walked, fell and then ran. The officers had a hard time catching him and holding him for ambulance. At the Wilmington hospital police learned his identity and summoned Babcock and Sam Levy, who had employed the boy for odd jobs. Chief Stroth also went to young Bretton's aid. Because he could not be treated at the Wilmington institution, the boy, laced into a straitjacket, was rushed to the Geola Street revolving hospital in Los Angeles. But his condition was so violent that attendants refused to admit him.

From Geola Street, the youth was taken to Lincoln Heights jail infirmary but by that time (Continued on Page 2A)

# TORRANCE HERALD

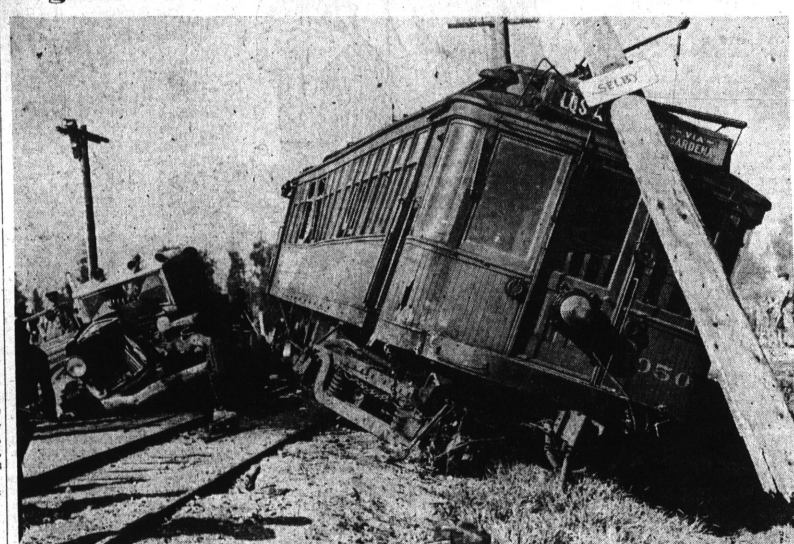
ESTABLISHED 1914 — 12 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS

26th YEAR—No. 11.

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1939

PER COPY 6c

## Alondrans Plan Long-Term Tax Strike Fog Blamed for Red Car-Truck Crash Here



—Photo courtesy Redondo Daily Breeze.

Above is shown the wreckage that resulted when a Pacific Electric car, bound for Los Angeles, crashed into a heavily laden lumber truck and trailer at the P. E. crossing on Hawthorne boulevard near Nido early Monday morning.

The motorman on the red car suffered minor cuts and bruises but the truck driver escaped unhurt. Early morning fog obscured the vision of both motorman and truck driver, according to police.

## Excavation of Indian Mound Denied by WPA

"I think we should continue efforts to dig up those poor Indians or whatever is under that mound, if it takes all winter!" declared Councilman James Hitchcock Tuesday night, when the municipal board received notice from the Works Progress Administration in Washington, D. C., that the project for excavation of the pre-historic Indian mound in Hollywood Riviera was denied.

Two reasons were given for the denial of the proposed work which was to have been done under the direction of the archaeological department of U.S.C. with the city receiving all relics unearthed. The WPA Project Council division recommended disapproval because the mound is located on private property and because the famed Smithsonian Institution disapproved the idea.

Smithsonian's objections were based on the fact that no details were given of the facilities at the Torrance public library for museum exhibition of the relics and artifacts believed in the mound and no trained "curators" are available here to take proper care of the findings. WPA should be guaranteed publication of results of the excavation.

Officials Irked at 'Buck Passing'

"We should notify the city of Los Angeles that Western avenue, so far as Torrance is concerned, is well taken care of and that Los Angeles should do its share of maintaining that thoroughfare," declared Councilman James Hitchcock Tuesday night at city council meeting when a petition, demanding Western's improvement between Carson and 22nd street, was forwarded here from that city via Los Angeles county.

The petition, signed by 25 names, was first presented to the Los Angeles county board of supervisors who, in turn, passed it on to the Torrance council for action. Leonard Young, acting city engineer, reported that the street "is not in bad shape, although it has a few chuck-holes on the Los Angeles city side."

"Furthermore," continued Hitchcock, "we should inform the county that the improvement of Sepulveda boulevard is of more vital and pressing importance and should be attended to first." Engineer Young was instructed to notify the city of Los Angeles that the requested improvement is on that city's side of Western avenue.

## Trimming-- Not Death for El Prado Trees

Experts from the California Tree Service of Hollywood will begin trimming the tall eucalyptus trees bordering El Prado park Monday morning, it was announced today by Councilman Tom McGuire, chairman of the City Planning Commission, to which body the troublesome tree problem was referred by the city council.

First trees to be topped and trimmed will be the row on the north side of El Prado between Arlington and Manuel avenues, according to McGuire.

California Tree Service, whose slogan is "Tree Surgery With a Conscience" are specialists in the treatment of eucalyptus trees. McGuire states. Prominent among their clients are Cedric Gibbons, William Randolph Hearst, Wm. Wrigley, Jr., and a score of famous motion picture stars. The company recently trimmed and topped the giant eucalypti at Universal Studios, which are familiar landmarks.

Cost to the city will be approximately \$3 per tree, McGuire stated.

SONS TO MEET

A number of local Sons of Legion will attend the district meeting in Compton tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock.

Employees Relations Maintained on Satisfactory Basis

Thirty members and interested spectators attended the meeting of the Torrance Coordinating Council Monday night at the city court room. The Council voted to send a letter to the city council, asking for information regarding the possibility of holding the second annual Factory Frolic here this fall. This letter, and its receipt by the council is published elsewhere in this edition.

A local boy will be sent to the Boys' State at Sacramento this summer, at the Coordinating Council's expense, to participate in a week-long Americanization outing sponsored by the American Legion.

It was decided to allow slacks to be worn by schoolgirls attending the regular Friday night dances, sponsored by the Council, in the regular Friday night dances, sponsored by the Council in the Civic Auditorium but that unusual aerobics would be banned during the "jitterbug" contest. President John Miller presided at the session.

## Motorman Hurt As P. E. Car Hits Lumber Truck

Altho an expensive Diesel truck was badly damaged and it took more than five hours to put the Pacific Electric car that the truck hit early Monday morning back on the tracks at Hawthorne avenue near El Nido, the truck driver escaped almost unscathed. The motorman of the electric car was not so fortunate. William D. Yarder of Redondo Beach, suffered severe cuts from flying glass as result of the impact.

The truck, carrying a load of lumber and a loaded trailer, smashed into the P. E. car at 5:05 a. m., during a dense fog. The car was thrown off the rails and the truck's engine was badly crushed.

Joseph F. Marcomb, 43, of San Pedro was driving the Diesel and he escaped with hardly a bruise even after the load of lumber was thrown forward and down over his cab.

Both Motorman Yarder and Driver Marcomb told investigating officers they were going at a slow rate of speed on account of the fog but neither observed the other until just before the impact. The P. E. car was in charge of Conductor C. T. Blakeley of Redondo Beach and was carrying only two passengers at the time. It was enroute from Redondo to Los Angeles.

Coordinators to Send Youth to Boys' State

Thirty members and interested spectators attended the meeting of the Torrance Coordinating Council Monday night at the city court room. The Council voted to send a letter to the city council, asking for information regarding the possibility of holding the second annual Factory Frolic here this fall. This letter, and its receipt by the council is published elsewhere in this edition.

A local boy will be sent to the Boys' State at Sacramento this summer, at the Coordinating Council's expense, to participate in a week-long Americanization outing sponsored by the American Legion.

## Association Meets in Auditorium Tonight to Map Bond Fight

(For a revealing statement of Alondra Park's financial history and declaration by a prominent Los Angeles research engineer that Alondra Parkers are "paying a ransom for something that is dead as a doornail," turn to Page 2 of today's Herald.—EDITOR.)

Determined to obtain release from crushing assessments that have burdened their property for years, Alondra Park property owners are ready to declare a five-year tax strike embracing every one of the 8,000 acres within the Alondra and Improvement district. Unless the county board of supervisors does the unexpected and comes to the aid of the district with a substantial contribution toward the assessments, every effort will be made at a meeting here tonight to clamp down on all payments for the Mattoon Act bonds in the district.

## North Torrance Taxpayers Seek Assessment Lift

Another group of taxpayers, the North Torrance Improvement association, indicated to the city council Tuesday night they were determined to stage a tax strike similar to the one threatened by Alondra Park and A. and I. District 70 taxpayers to obtain relief from assessments.

A letter to the council, signed by Mrs. Lela Gomer, secretary of the North Torrance association, requested the city to undertake measures to lift the indebtedness for the improvement of 182nd street and Prairie avenue. Mrs. Gomer's letter pointed out that the council was being notified "in ample time to work out a plan for relief with the board of supervisors" because the property owners are not going to pay any more assessments for those streets.

City Attorney John E. McCall reported that there is a balance due of \$9,000 on one side of 182nd street and that the delinquencies are 50 to 70 percent. Mayor Tolson assured Mrs. Gomer, who with John Salm, spoke from the audience about the assessment situation, that the council would see what could be done. The problem was referred to the city attorney for a report at the next council meeting.

Bondholders Adament

The executive committee, composed of Mayor William H. Tolson and City Attorney John E. McCall of this city; Judge Frank Carroll of Gardena, Mayor Colfax Bell and a host of other bondholders of the Mattoon Act bonds, met last night at the headquarters of the North Torrance and Bert L. Cook of Lawndale, conferred with the supervisors Tuesday night. They agreed to the result of the meeting tonight.

This group, and others, learned from Deputy County Counsel Smith that also a sales of Mattoon Act Alondra Park bonds had been made at around 85 since the start of the strike, most of the large bondholders are showing little concern with the present extent of the refusal to pay the assessments. They consider their security ample and are not offering a refunding deal could be made with them now at less than par value of the bonds, Smith stated.

The county worker was extremely careful in his remarks, lest anything he said be construed as favoring the tax strike but by implication Smith gave the executive committee to understand that to be really effective in "souring" the Park bonds, the strike would have to be carried on over a period of several years.

Refusal to pay the assessments would have to be continued until such time as there was insufficient revenue from the assessments to pay the interest to the bondholders, the committee understood.

Oversight Held Secure

Smith pointed out, in response to questions, that property owners are in no way jeopardizing their interests by segregating the Mattoon Act assessment and refusing to pay that portion of their taxes at least until five years had elapsed when the property could then be sold by the state because of the default.

There is no way provided whereby the bondholders can foreclose, Smith also said that those who pay the park assessments when the strike is on are at a disadvantage and ultimately will have to pay more than those who refuse to contribute to the assessments.

Deputy Assessor Here Thursdays to Aid Taxpayers

A deputy county assessor will be located at the Chamber of Commerce every Thursday afternoon from today until May 25 to assist local property owners in filing their tax statements. The temporary office will be open here from 3 to 5 o'clock each Thursday afternoon.

Those filing notices at their homes that the deputy assessor has called but found no one home should appear at the Chamber of Commerce on those afternoons from 3 to 5 o'clock, as required by law.

Rain Total Here Is 11.73 Inches

City firemen who have been gauging rainfall here during the past three months added up the total Tuesday and reported the season's rainfall to date here is 11.73 inches. The first rain was on Dec. 19. Monthly totals were: December, 6.06 inches; January, 2.87; February, 2.79 and March, .61 inches.

## Big Steel Sees Business Improvement

Net Loss of Seven Million in 1938 Less Than Expected

NEW YORK, March 16—In contrast to the unprofitable record of 1938 when the corporation lost more than seven million dollars, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, told stockholders this week in his annual report that 1939 prospects for the industry are improving. He said: "At the time this report is written it is gratifying to observe that conditions in the iron and steel industry indicate an improving tendency. During the first two months of 1939 orders for steel products, as well as production and shipments, have shown some improvement over the December average, and were substantially better than during the corresponding period in 1938."

Big Steel's net loss for 1938 was \$7,717,454 after deducting all general charges, including depreciation, taxes and interest on debt. This loss compares with a profit for 1937 of \$9,944,358. The tonnage of steel produced for sale by the subsidiary companies, of which Columbia Steel

EDWARD R. STETTINIUS, JR.  
... tonnage losses shrinkage