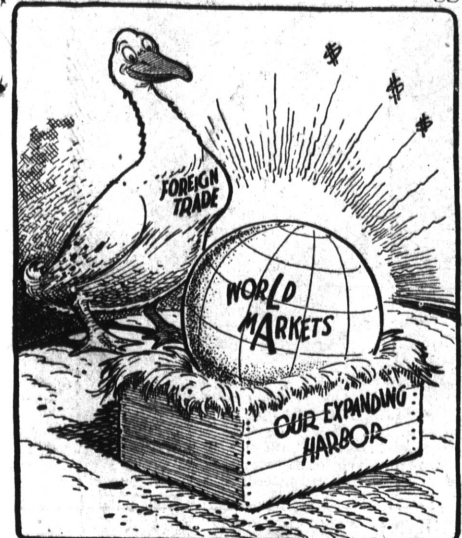


First Comes the Nest -- Then the Egg



Foreign Trade Week (May 21-27) preceded by the celebration of Harbor Day in the Los Angeles-Long Beach port area, is a reminder of how important our millions of dollars worth of overseas business each year is to the economic welfare of all of us. Visit the Harbor... Learn how it works for you!

Harbor Holds Annual Open House Saturday

Plans for this year's observance of Harbor Day indicates that the 100,000 Southern Californians who visit Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor on Saturday, May 20, will be very busy folk indeed.

Harbor Day is the opening gun in the annual Foreign Trade Week which originated in 1926 in Los Angeles county and now is observed in more than 300 coast-to-coast communities.

Highlights of the coming celebration of Harbor Day call for public demonstrations of the fireboats which hurl 26 streams of water high in the air simultaneously; a graphic demonstration of marine rescue work by the United States Coast Guard; and an array of swimming and paddleboat races, as well as a regatta.

Many Things to See
Reeves Field, new navy fleet air base on Terminal Island, San Pedro, will be open for public inspection. Similarly, the Coast Guard base will hold open house, and the army's coast defense at Fort McArthur will offer personally-conducted tours.

For those who seek an intimate view of the port, launches operating from three locations will take visitors on a 20-mile, one hour tour of the harbor.

Shipyards, canneries and docks, as well as some of the merchant vessels in port, will be open for inspection, and upon the return of the fleet from its Atlantic trip last week, final authorization for open house on naval craft is expected to be issued.

No Ditch Wanted to Drain Laguna Dominguez Slough

Any plans for draining Laguna Dominguez, southerly of the area commonly known as Nigger Slough, should not provide for an open ditch that will permit sea water to back up as far as Rosemead avenue, the board of supervisors was told yesterday by Bertha H. Fuller, president of the California History and Landmarks club.

"Ballona Creek is bad enough, where salt water extends a mile up the channel," the clubwoman's letter stated. "However, the land where the sea water now stands was salt water marshes before the new channel was constructed by army engineers several years ago." The club asked the supervisors some months ago to provide for a bird refuge for the migratory flocks that congregate there from time to time.

The new alignment of the road made necessary by construction of the storage reservoir, will eliminate four sharp curves and ease the gradient between Roosevelt highway and Palos Verdes Drive. Leaving the old road just above the Chandler sandpit, the new route continues straight ahead to the southwest, fills and cuts giving a more even gradient, and connects with the new alignment of Narbonne at the head of the reservoir, a half-mile west of the former crossing of Palos Verdes Drive.

TAKE TIME, FIREMEN TOLD

Methods to Quell Oil Tank Fires Explained by G. P. Engineer to Local Department

Instruction on the correct way to battle fires which may occur at the General Petroleum's extensive refinery plant here was given members of the Torrance fire department Monday night by B. A. Moeller, engineer in charge of fire prevention and control for the oil corporation.

Contrary to the usual fire-fighting practices where the time element is of paramount importance, Moeller declared that firemen should take all the time needed to place their apparatus in the most advantageous spots before starting

Two Bobbies Win Herald Carrier Contest

Hard work, courtesy and persistence earned for Bobby Lewellen, Herald carrier boy, the first prize of \$10 in the Carrier Boys' Subscription contest which came to a successful close Monday afternoon. Second prize of \$6 was won by another Bobby—young Master Fulton, who ran young Lewellen neck-and-neck for the top awards.

"Both boys are energetic, capable and always courteous in their contacts with the public," W. B. Woodbridge, Herald circulation manager who had charge of the contest, declared as he finished the final check-up on results of the annual event.

"They deserve congratulations from their friends. Other Herald carrier boys who obtained subscriptions were paid generous commissions for their work."

Finish Grading New Hill Road

Workmen have completed grading the new route for Narbonne avenue into Palos Verdes hills between 262nd street and Palos Verdes Drive north where it will skirt the edge of the Metropolitan Water District's reservoir. Engineers said this week that it will be several weeks before paving is laid and the road reopened to traffic.

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25th YEAR—No. 20.

TORRANCE HERALD

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TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1939

PER COPY 5c

Expect 200 at City Dinner Tonite

Co-op Cannery Machines Moved to Harbor City

Equipment is being removed from the Torrance relief cannery and being moved to the old plant of the Tomato Packing corporation at 1280 West 253rd street, Harbor City, in preparation for a packing season on tomatoes that is scheduled to start late in June, it was learned today. Other equipment is being moved to Harbor City from a Wilmington relief cannery.

The State Relief Administration is also establishing a central food warehouse in the adjacent building last used by the Drakecraft Boat company of Normandie avenue in Harbor City. Both buildings are being strengthened and remodeled.

While details for operation of the cannery are still being worked out by relief officials, it was learned here that the Harbor City plant primarily will handle tomatoes and probably other produce raised by the SRA garden projects in this section. Surplus crops from other sources may be canned at Harbor City.

State-owned machinery from the Torrance cannery, previously operated on a cooperative basis by veterans, is said to be in good condition and ready for operation at the Harbor City plant.

Gas Company Ordered to Cut Rates July 1

The California Railroad Commission yesterday ordered Southern California Gas Co. to reduce its rates \$1,300,000 annually, Commissioner Ray L. Riley announced. The savings, through-out the system of the utility, will become effective with bills rendered on and after July 1.

"This reduction in natural gas rates throughout most of Southern California is the culmination of an investigation inaugurated by the Railroad Commission several months ago," Riley said. "It brings to a total of \$5,500,000 the reductions in rates effected by the commission by its policy of continuous investigation since Jan. 1."

"As the commission's own investigation was nearing completion, invitations to 48 municipalities were issued to three conferences held in Visalia, San Bernardino and Los Angeles, at which rate problems were discussed. Suggestions offered during these conferences are under consideration now as commission engineers are preparing the new rate schedules."

Three Out of Five
"We are hopeful that the new rates to be announced by June 1, so that individual consumers can ascertain their monthly savings under the lower charges. During our investigation the commission staff was aided by representatives of the Los Angeles Board of Public Utilities and the Los Angeles city attorney."

Several weeks ago the commission announced that it had five investigations of utilities under way. Yesterday's announcement is the third successful rate adjustment to result from these studies. Savings of \$250,000 were announced for the elimination of the hand set charge through the systems of Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co., and Southern California Telephone Co., in California.

Last week the commission announced a \$3,300,000 reduction in the gas and electric rates of Pacific Gas and Electric Co., which serves Northern California. The operations of a number of other utilities are also under investigation.

Japanese Farmer Fined in Court

Accused of using an excess of lead arsenate on cauliflower, K. Inouye, Japanese farmer living off Hawthorne boulevard, was arrested last Thursday on a warrant signed by the deputy agricultural inspector in charge of this area. He pleaded guilty before Judge Robert Lessing and was fined \$100 of which \$90 was suspended on condition he is not re-arrested for two years.



RESIST CONSCRIPTION... Prime Minister Chamberlain's proposal to use conscription to put a million Britishers under arms is meeting with some resistance, such as this demonstration by youth organizations in London's west end.

City Park Presents Riot of Color In Flower Harmonies

Home-gardeners who want ideas would do well to spend a few hours at Torrance Municipal park... and talk to Fred Blake, the city gardener, about planting and landscaping.

Blake has the park looking its finest right now. And to keep that recreational area in tip-top form, he has hundreds of plants and flowers getting their growth in a lath-house, preparatory for insertion in the rich earth at the proper times later this summer.

Increased Tax Payments Point to Better Times

Indicating improved economic conditions, County Assessor John R. Quinn said this week that collections on unsecured personal property taxes were 30 percent greater this year for the period ending May 12 than for the similar period of a year ago.

Collections for this year totaled \$356,775, as compared with only \$265,816 a year ago, according to the assessor's records. The increase was \$90,959, or nearly 30 percent.

Taxes on unsecured personal property are due and payable immediately. Deputy assessors making the annual canvass will complete their work in less than two weeks, Quinn said, and persons who have not been visited by a deputy must come to the office to make their declarations.

H. S. Seniors Map Graduation Events Here

High school seniors who will graduate next month planned their informal garden reception and tea for mothers this week and announced the affair would be held May 26. The party will be staged in the patio of the school garden and will feature a program of music and entertainment.

Other senior events scheduled were the commercial department June 2 and the senior prom June 8.

Local Kiwanians Deliver Friendship Chain to Lomita

Greetings of the Lomita Kiwanis club were extended by President Charles H. Wood to a dozen members of the local Kiwanis club, headed by President Dean Sears, when the Torrance men brought the "Chain of Friendship" to the neighboring community Tuesday night. During the dinner program the Lomita link added to the chain. Next week the Lomita Kiwanians will deliver the emblem to the Long Beach club.

Principal speaker at the Lomita gathering was Lieut. Willis Lyman of the Long Beach National Guard who spoke on "National Defense."

EXTENSION OF WESTERN IN ROAD BUDGET

With a number of desired projects omitted in efforts to keep the total down, the county road department's budget today had been cut to \$8,291,435 for 1939-40, according to Supervisor Oscar Hauge of the Fourth district, chairman of the board's road committee.

Allocations to the 44 cities will total \$1,400,000 this year, plus \$17,000 additional for Redondo-Elena street set up as a separate item for the beach city. The budget also allows \$60,000 again this year for Roosevelt highway in Santa Monica.

Western avenue is prominently mentioned for improvement and extension south thru Torrance to connect with Palos Verdes under the project list headed "Tentative program... if and when funds are available... final decision delayed until final budget."

"Tops In Road Program"
In this category, Western's improvement is listed as follows: \$168,000 from Gardena to Imperial highway, \$56,000 from Imperial to 104th street, \$34,000 from 147th to 182nd and \$21,000 from 261st to Palos Verdes Hills. Imperial, which bears heavier traffic with the opening of the Inglewood race track is scheduled for widening between Vermont and Western at a cost of \$45,000 "if and when..."

Reporting to the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce meeting at Long Beach last Thursday night, Ray Baldwin, chairman of that organization's Highway committee, declared that Western avenue project is "tops in the county's road program for this part of the county."

Must Get Right-of-Way
Local officials have learned that it will be necessary for Torrance and the city of Los Angeles to obtain right-of-way thru the Kettler Estate and from a bank group holding property in the Shady Nook Tract along the proposed route for Western's extension before the improvement is authorized.

Only 2.67 acres of the Western extension is in Torrance territory while 13 acres of it lies in Los Angeles city limits.

School Group Now Touring World's Fair

Dressed in their best suits and dresses, their faces beaming with joy, 39 Torrance and Fern Avenue elementary school pupils boarded a special Pacific Electric car here yesterday morning and, accompanied by five teachers, were off for the San Francisco World's Fair.

A number of parents and friends were on hand to wave goodbye to the group which will return Saturday morning at 9 o'clock.

The group is making the trip and spending two days on Treasure Island under arrangements approved by the board of education which will be available to other schools this month. The teachers escorting the young sight-seers are Mrs. Oda Vans, principal of Fern Avenue school, Mrs. Hazel Hansen, Mrs. Juliet Young, Mrs. Vera Godwin and Miss Florence Pell.

Today the youngsters and teachers were making their first round of the fair attractions, directed by special guides. They are staying at the Carleton hotel in San Francisco. Tomorrow they will return to Treasure Island for a last look and then board the train for the return trip. The cost of the excursion was \$10.75 per person.

Bird Attending Instruction School

Edwin A. Bird, office manager at the Department of Employment, 1927 Carson street, has been attending a school of instruction for supervisors and managers of the administrative office in Los Angeles for the past two weeks. He states that several innovations in procedure are contemplated which will materially speed up the work here.

Free Program Begins at 7:30; Highway Plan Details Up for Airing

Approximately 200 dinner guests—and many others expected to come after dinner to hear the program—will attend the city-wide highway banquet-meeting tonight at the Civic Auditorium, according to Howard G. Locke, chairman of the dinner committee of the City-Wide Improvement Association, sponsors of the affair. Locke reported sale of 147 tickets up to 8 p. m. yesterday.

Oil Operator Suicides After Arrest Here

"Judge, you gave me what I deserved... I did not know what I was doing and I had no business being behind a wheel on the highway in the condition I was in."

So declared C. R. Butler, 51-year-old Long Beach oil operator in city court yesterday morning after Judge Robert Lessing had fined him \$100 for drunk driving on Hawthorne boulevard several hours earlier. But the fine will not be collected by the city.

Won't Enforce Payment
Last night Butler, pioneer Signal Hill developer, shot and killed himself in his Long Beach home. He left a letter to his wife, part of which instructed her to come here and pay the penalty to fulfill his promise to Judge Lessing that the settlement would be made today.

Judge Lessing declared that he would not enforce payment of the fine in view of Butler's death.

The oil man, who was one of the Happy Yowell Wild Well gang that fought wild gas wells on Signal Hill in the early '20s, phoned a friend, C. C. Keeler of Long Beach shortly before firing a pistol bullet thru his head. Keeler, alarmed, called police but Butler was found in a dying condition when the detectives broke into his home.

Was Conscience-Stricken
Ill-health was blamed by friends for the suicide and police refused to divulge the contents of his farewell note to his wife. Butler was co-inventor of the Trout-Butler head, designed to check the flow of wild oil wells.

Local police who booked Butler after his arrest and brought him into court yesterday morning said he appeared "very conscience-stricken" and was fully aware of the gravity of his offense.

Definite Figure On Re-valuation Cost Demanded

Los Angeles county supervisors want assurance that a re-valuation of real estate throughout the county will not cost more than the \$100,000 estimated before they will agree to put money in the 1939-40 budget as requested by County Assessor John R. Quinn.

Supervisor Oscar Hauge said he believed the board should be fully informed as to the purpose of the revaluation which Quinn has requested be made at an estimated cost of \$100,000. Quinn has stated that the purpose, under the plan he proposes, is to equalize valuations throughout the county. Some believe, for instance that business property is not being assessed fairly as compared with ranch property.

SRA CAMPERS TAKE IT EASY

Men at Alondra Park Only Average One Hour of Work Daily for Their Upkeep

A report showing the wide divergence in the number of work hours put in by men in the three SRA camps located on county territory, has been forwarded to H. Dewey Anderson, state SRA administrator, by Wayne Allen, chief administrative officer of the county.

Using the records of the past three months, the report showed: That in return for their upkeep, men at Pacoima camp put in about 20 minutes work per day; men at Alondra Park camp put in an average of one hour a day and men at Henniger Flats camp put in four hours a day. Relative efficiency was computed to be 10 percent for the Henniger Flats camp, 2.6 percent for the Alondra Park camp and only three-fourth of one percent for the Pacoima camp. "There is opportunity at both the Alondra Park and Pacoima camps to do work which would reflect credit to the State Relief Administration," Allen said in his letter to Anderson.

Residents Fight Dairy Project

Protests against the proposal to establish a dairy at the corner of Carson street and Figueroa boulevard were lodged with the board of supervisors this week by two owners of nearby property, both residing on Route 1 out of Torrance.

L. E. Rose lives a block and a half away and said he feared the value of his acre would be depreciated if a dairy were to be established.

Grace M. Eberly, also of Route 1, owns three and a half acres 500 feet away from the site of the proposed dairy, and said it would depreciate the value of her property heavily. They asked the county supervisors to oppose the granting of a permit for the proposed dairy.

63,000 Veterans Files Tax Exemptions

More than 63,000 war veterans from this community and other sections of the county have filed their applications for tax exemption this year, but there are 9,000 owning property in the county who still have not complied, County Assessor John R. Quinn said this week.