

## Page Mr. Geyer!

### Maybe He Can Explain Political Mess at Lomita Post Office

By GROVER C. WHYTE

It may make sense to political-minded Congressman Lee Geyer to tell Postmaster Birda Padlock of Lomita (who has nearly years' postal experience to her credit) that she has not had sufficient experience for the office and at the same time nominate to the office his political neehest approach to postal training was distributing campaign literature for Geyer; but to rationally-minded citizens it all unds like so much phooey, and the "fighting schoolmaster" going to have a tall time explaining his logic to his class of tings "pupils" (if any) when e Congressional recess time mes around.

Letters from the U. S. civil ices commission to the 15 ndidates who recently took the amination for postmaster in lomita were received late last ck by the applicants. The munication verified earlier ports that holders of the covd three top positions, (from hich the appointment is suped to be made) were: Albert Owens of 2347 West 24th ice, Earl F. Fischel of 1932 osevelt Highway and Martin derson of 2309 West 24th et.

**Ridiculous Excuses**  
All others of the 15 candidates luding the incumbent postster, Miss Birda Padlock, reved no report on their grades obtained mimographed form ers which informed them it s found they had "not suffi ent experience for the office." n came the report that Consmman Lee F. Geyer had recmended Fischel for the apntment—although Fischel had no previous post office exence.

Miss Padlock, previous to her five years as postmaster at nita during which time the ce increased its volume 60 cent, served nine and one-half rs in every department of the Pedro post office including most important departmental as head of the money order on.

**No Grades Given**  
Two other candidates, who e not graded, had had previ-

ous postal experience. In fact, contrary to the almost universal custom of the civil service commission, no grades whatever have been announced. Besides those mentioned above, other Lomitans who took the examination were: L. P. Frock, W. H. Peightal, Irley E. Burton, Carl Haller, William Gibson, Wallace Mulrean, Thomas E. Hill, Frank Andrews, Fred Bunje, Leon J. Boudreaux, and Matt Kerber.

**Mosher In Mess**  
An amusing sidelight to the political farce is the sudden change of heart on the part of E. M. Mosher, publisher of the Lomita Progress. Until the move to unseat Postmaster Padlock, Mosher was an ardent Republican. Nothing he could say about the New Deal was bad enough. But all of a sudden, Mosher began running gobs of political burbs in his newspaper praising the works of arch-liberal, extreme New Dealish Geyer.

Then came the enlightening information that Geyer had recommended Mosher's man (Fischel) for the job as postmaster. What strange bed-fellows politics can make of some folks, especially when they have a private ax to grind.

**Owens Most Popular**  
Maybe the Congressman is within his political rights in wanting to replace Miss Padlock because she did not plug hard enough for him last election, but Lomita people are quite within their rights too in demanding that an efficient person be appointed in her place. Of the three in top position on this civil service list, the majority of Lomita residents favor Albert L. Owens—not only because he had had previous postal experience, but is an efficient, honest, courteous man, who holds a responsible position with the Motor Coach company. He stands far above all three in ability and popularity.

If Geyer feels that a change must be made, it is to be hoped that he will reconsider and recommend someone who will be satisfactory to Lomita residents instead of rewarding a political henchman.

## June and Fiscal Year Building and Postal Reports Show Gains

June business here showed a definite uptrend, according to postoffice and building figures for the month.

Postoffice business for the fiscal year ending June 30 as the greatest in the history of the local Federal agency, Postmaster Earl Conner pointed out.

Continuing what City Engineer Leonard Young said was "the althiest building period in the ten years in Torrance," home construction accounted for more an half of last month's building mit valuation total of \$49,555.

Twelve new homes were started at a listed construction cost of \$28,550, more than twice as any as were under construction here a year ago, Young said.

Postoffice business for fiscal ar 1938-39 reached \$40,167.72, gain of \$1,442.86 over the preus fiscal year's gross receipts hich were \$38,744.86. Other st fiscal figures at the Torrance postoffice were:

1937-38.....\$39,352.42  
1936-37.....33,842.97  
1935-36.....28,299.52  
1934-35.....25,618.94

Gross postal receipts during June quarter amounted to \$38,464, an increase of \$1,387. over the same quarter in 1933 hich saw \$8,999.01 transacted in sal business here, Conner reted.

**HOME BUILT BRING MONTH**  
New home construction on 12 idences accounted for more an half of the June building alere. The home valuation s \$28,550 while the total new struction for the month was 555 as compared to \$119,415 the same month last year.

e total building for the first if of 1939 now stands at \$412, 0. The six months' total in 38 was \$2,280,637, according to liding department records.

In addition to the home onstruction last month, a \$12,000 enhouse was started, six garages erected at a cost of \$1,500, additions, costing \$1,800, de to residences; two work es were built for \$1,500, an court started for \$2,880, and r building reported.

Building permits were issued

### Mink Kittens On Exhibition at Fur Farm

Several hundred mink kittens, fuzzy little animals predestined for \$5,000 mink coats, are now on exhibition at the North Torrance "minkery" of Fur Farms, Associated, at 2227 West 182nd street.

Rapidly outnumbering silver foxes and chinchillas, which previously have been the chief fur-bearing animals raised in the area, nearly 2,000 minks are now being reared at the local farm which has been enlarged several times since it was opened a little more than a year ago.

Several hundred mink kittens have just emerged from the weaning stage. The farm is said to be the largest mink-producing center this side of the Rockies.

this week to E. A. Day for a two-room addition to his present residence at 1323 Anapola, \$400, and Earl R. Crandell for a five-room house and garage attached at 2375 Torrance boulevard costing \$3,000.

**GAINS CONTINUE AT LOMITA P. O.**  
Reporting gross receipts of more than 60 percent increase over figures of five years ago when she took office, Postmaster Birda Padlock said this week that receipts at the Lomita postoffice last month were the greatest of any month since April, 1937, excluding the Christmas business.

Business at the Lomita postoffice last fiscal year gained five percent over business of 1937-38, she announced. The quarter's figures for April, May and June also showed a substantial increase over the same quarter a year ago.

# TORRANCE HERALD

25th YEAR — No. 27.

SECTION A

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 10 PAGES  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1939

PER COPY 5c

## BASEBALL TOURNEY BEGINS SATURDAY

### STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES SCHEDULE

#### TORRANCE CITY PARK

		1st ROUND		Day	Night
Day	Date	Team	versus Team	Time	Time
Saturday, July 8		Shell A. C.	vs. *March Field	1 p. m.	
Saturday, July 8		Bank of America	vs. *El Centro	3 p. m.	
Saturday, July 8		Pepsi-Cola	vs. *Illinois Cleaners		8 p. m.
Sunday, July 9		El Centro	vs. *Glendora	1 p. m.	
Sunday, July 9		San Pedro Jadrans	vs. *Ft. MacArthur	3 p. m.	
Sunday, July 9		U. S. Rubber Co.	vs. *Caffers & Sattler		8 p. m.
Monday, July 10		Dr. Ross' Dog Food	vs. *T-L Merchants		8 p. m.
Tuesday, July 11		L. A. Carpenters' Union	vs. *Pasadena Merchants		8 p. m.
Wednesday, July 12		No. American Aviation	vs. *S. P. Longshoremen		8 p. m.
Thursday, July 13		Standard Oil Refinery	vs. *National Youth Adm.		8 p. m.
(2nd ROUND)					
Friday, July 14		Illinois Cleaners	vs. *Bank of America		8 p. m.
Saturday, July 15		Ft. MacArthur	vs. *Shell A. C.	1 p. m.	
Saturday, July 15		March Field	vs. *Pismo Beach	3 p. m.	
Saturday, July 15		S. P. Longshoremen	vs. *U. S. Rubber		8 p. m.
Sunday, July 16		Pismo Beach	vs. *Standard Oil Ref.	1 p. m.	
Sunday, July 16		Torr.-Lomita Merchants	vs. *S. P. Jadrans	3 p. m.	
Sunday, July 16		Pepsi-Cola	vs. *Dr. Ross' Dog Food		8 p. m.
Monday, July 17		Pasadena Merchants	vs. *Glendora		8 p. m.
Tuesday, July 18		National Youth Adm.	vs. *L.A. Carpenter's Union		8 p. m.
Wednesday, July 19		Caffers & Sattler	vs. *No. American Aviation		8 p. m.

NOTE: Asterisk \* indicates Home Team

### Air Defense Meeting to Be Held Tuesday

Commander Lyle C. Doan has called a meeting of all organizations and industries in the city for Tuesday afternoon, July 11, at 3 o'clock in the city council chamber for the purpose of preparing for the air defense exercises in Southern California.

The aerial war games will be staged August 1 to 3 and all civilian groups have been urged by Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz to cooperate with the Army and Navy Air Service in holding the tactical exercises.

Local groups and residents will be informed as to the scope of the air program and told what they can do to help in the aircraft warning service that has been planned for the entire Pacific Coast.

### STEEL MEN ADVANCED

Promotion of Lou Greenman, chief time keeper at the Columbia Steel plant for the past eight years, to personnel manager this week made possible a step-by-step advancement for seven other Columbia Steel employees this week according to an announcement made today by Superintendent Henry T. Lintott. Some 15 or 20 changes in personnel were likewise made at the local plant, Lintott said.

Greenman succeeds Howard Swallow as personnel manager. Swallow, who has been with Columbia Steel since the fall of 1936, expects to enter private consulting work. Other promotions were: Maxwell Smarte to Greenman's position from office supervisor in order department; J. J. O'Donnell to Smarte's position from Rolling Mill and Foundry order trader; Paul Fortin to O'Donnell's position from Sheet Mill load provider; Graydon Smarte to Fortin's position from Sheet Mill finishing department; George Wilson to Smarte's position from clerk; Daniel McLaughlin to Wilson's position from Rolling Mill inventory clerk; William M. Everett to McLaughlin's position from Sheet Mill finishing department weighmaster.

Lintott has made a temporary assignment of Everett's former job to an employee from the ranks and expects to announce the definite promotion in the near future. It was learned at the Columbia plant today that Walter Wallace who has been stationed at the firm's display at the San Francisco Exposition has returned to his position in the metallurgical department here. Jack Snow will be appointed Hot Mill turn foreman, effective July 16, Lintott said.

### SCHOOL BOARD UPS SALARIES

#### Supervisors Anticipate No Increase In Taxes

Prospect of a 19-cent jump in the general county tax levy, which now stands at \$1.51, was discounted today at the Hall of Records after county officials had taken a second look at the preliminary budget presented to them Friday for adoption for the new year 1939-40.

Supervisor William A. Smith, who was the moving force in cutting salaries of some 60 department heads and lesser officials in order to effect a saving of about \$50,000, said today he believed that it would be possible to avoid any increase in the county tax rate next year, a statement in which other members of the board concurred. A boost in the county assessed valuation is predicted at the Hall of Records. At the same time, the board indicated that salary cuts for other department heads are looming, although it declined to approve a suggestion of Supervisor Gordon McDonough that a special committee be named to decide what was a fair salary for every department head, considering the responsibilities involved.

Smith said he thought that each supervisor was elected to use his own judgment in that respect. Matt Simon representing the county employees association, told the board that it appeared there was discrimination in cuts made in 22 department heads.

Janitors, known as building custodians, were given an extra week's work and pay at an estimated cost of \$25,000 for next year.

Then the board ordered Superintendent Vierling Kersey to bring in further recommendations on additional increases in supervisory and administrative positions.

### Pencil Portraits of Prominent Personalities

Sketched by ELIZABETH LOSEY

He saw World War service as a soldier on four fronts and today he's continuing that service on the home-town front. Texas-born Mayor Tolson came to Torrance 24 years ago next month. He has been this city's chief executive since March 1, 1937, and has five years' service as a member of the city council. Altho his civic duties take up a great share of his time, he is continuing his business career in trucking and for the past one and one-half years has been connected with the M & M Transfer company. The mayor is married and has two children, Bob, 18, a Junior college student, and Billy, nine, who is in elementary school here. The family lives at 2102 Arlington avenue.

Mayor Tolson's chief interests are, first, the general welfare of Torrance and then new highways in and out of this city and further development of the Torrance civic center. An able, conscientious official, he was recently elected president of the Southwest District Highway association and also heads the Alondra Park Taxpayers' association.



WILLIAM H. TOLSON  
Mayor, City of Torrance

Overseas nine months with the 51st division, he values his American Legion membership. He is this city's ninth mayor.

### Legion's Disaster Mobilization Test Due Soon

Every effort will be made by the local American Legion Post and Auxiliary to complete a 100 percent mobilization when the Legion's annual disaster test will be held some time between now and July 15. Commander Lyle C. Doan has urged all members of his post, the Auxiliary, Sons of Legion, Boy Scout Troops, police and firemen to cooperate in the mobilization.

These units are to report at either the American Legion clubhouse or the central fire station when the mobilization call comes thru over radio networks. The test will start at noon on the day to be chosen and continue until 9 p. m.

A report on the number who respond will be sent the various headquarters of the Legion.

### HARRY ALCORN DIES TUESDAY

Ill since last December, Harry L. Alcorn, pharmacist here for the past 11 years at 2203 Torrance boulevard, passed away Tuesday afternoon at his daughter's home in Van Nuys. He was 66 years of age, a native of Stillwater, Minn.

Funeral service was held this afternoon at Stone and Myers' chapel with Frank Steinbiller, Christian Science reader, officiating. Members of the Torrance Masonic lodge assisted in the rites and private cremation followed at Pacific Crest. A large number of friends of the genial, hard-working drug store owner attended the obsequies.

Mr. Alcorn came to Torrance from St. Mary's, Idaho. He had a great many acquaintances here and was regarded as a man of sterling character and high business integrity. Altho he never sought public office, he was deeply interested in civic affairs and was always ready to do his part in community enterprises.

He was a member of St. Mary's (Idaho) Masonic lodge, No. 63 and of Eastern Star, Idaho chapter, No. 49. Mr. Alcorn was also a former veteran member of the Torrance Kiwanis club. In addition to his wife, Mrs. Ella M. Alcorn, and daughter, Mrs. Olive Ann Singer of Van Nuys, he was survived by five brothers, four in Spokane, Wash., and one in Stillwater, Minn.

In very poor health for the past several months, he was removed to Mrs. Singer's home Sunday.

**COUNCIL MEETS TUESDAY**  
Next scheduled meeting of the city council is set for Tuesday night, July 11.

## DOUBLE-HEADER AT CITY PARK DIAMOND TO LAUNCH SERIES

Promptly at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon the California State Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament will get under way at the city park diamond with a double-header on tap for fan enjoyment. Shell Athletic club of Dominguez and March Field will tangle in the initial encounter with Bank

### Quiet Fourth Here Was Not So Uneventful

It was the quietest Fourth of July Police Chief John Stroh has seen here in 16 years—BUT

The holiday started off Monday night with a fire caused by a firecracker that destroyed a five-car garage, a "cut-down" racing car and a large quantity of household goods at 716 Portola;

Four small boys and a 33-year-old Lomita longshoreman were treated at Torrance Memorial hospital for firecracker burns;

American Legionnaires sold more than \$400 worth of fireworks and closed their empty stands the night of the Third;

A Redondo Beach WPA worker was jailed for driving while intoxicated after he had crashed his car into another machine on Highway 101 and fractured his wrist late Tuesday night, and

A monkey caused the major disturbance of the holiday in the 2000 block on Gramercy, successfully eluding his pursuers until late yesterday morning.

Otherwise, it was a safe and sane Fourth for Torrance residents—or at least those who remained at home. Elsewhere throughout the nation the mid-summer holiday took a toll of more than 700 lives—75 of the fatalities occurring in California.

**Simian on Rampage**  
Typed across a whole page of the police blotter was this comment by Police Chief Stroh:

"The quietest Fourth I have experienced in 16 years. Not one call up to 4 p. m. Everything OK in town and in the country. Ten people in town and all at the two shows."

But at 5:50 p. m., monkey-shines began to happen. A pet simian owned by a family which recently moved into the 2000 block on Gramercy decided things were much too quiet on the Fourth. He escaped and began an investigation that only stopped when he was recaptured some 18 hours later—a tired but still active ape who had worn off most of the hair from his tail with his swings thru the trees.

**Chase Ends Yesterday**  
The police report of the monkey's antics is most illuminating: "5:30 p. m.—Monkey loose in neighborhood of 2015 Gramercy. Was last seen with his tail in the air coming down a large pepper tree in rear yard of that address and headed in general direction of San Pedro."

"Sergeant Ashton and Officer Barnett in close pursuit. Big game hunting excursion came to an end after monkey had put three blocks and 14 houses between himself and pursuers."

Early yesterday morning a resident at 2016 Gramercy phoned police that the simian was perched on his roof and the chase was on again. The owner finally recaptured the animal.

**Threatens Other Buildings**  
A firecracker tossed on an overstuffed chair setting outside of a five-car garage at 716 Portola is believed by firemen to have caused the blaze which attracted hundreds of spectators to the scene as the flames shot high in the air Monday night.

The garage was practically destroyed altho firemen managed to prevent spread of the blaze to other nearby garages and homes. Young Smith's racing car, in which he had recently installed a Crager motor in preparation for speed dashes at Harpers Dry Lake, was badly damaged but can be repaired.

Mrs. Mary Smith was owner of the garages. A large quantity of furniture, bedding and other household goods was lost in the flames.

**Firecracker Victims**  
Those treated at Torrance Memorial hospital for injuries sustained

of America opposing El Centro in the twilight game. The first night game of the tourney will be played Saturday night at 8 o'clock between Pepsi-Cola and the Illinois Cleaners of San Fernando.

Twenty teams are entered in the Tournament which is to decide the California state champion. Double-headers are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday afternoons and there will be games every night thru July 30.

**First Round Games**  
El Centro meets Glendora in the opener Sunday afternoon, July 9, and the San Pedro Jadrans and Fort MacArthur's base-

### PISMO BEACH WINS DISTRICT TOURNEY

In a 12-inning game, Pismo Beach defeated Bakersfield Coca-Colas July 4th to win the single elimination, four-team district baseball tournament. Pismo Beach's team will be entered in the state championship games here and will play at the city park diamond for the first time Saturday afternoon, July 15.

ballers will play at 3 p. m. Sunday night the U. S. Rubber nine tangles with Gaffers and Sattler.

Games scheduled for the remainder of the first round are: Monday, July 10, 8 p. m.—Dr. Ross Dog Food vs. Torrance-Lomita Merchants; Tuesday, July 11, 8 p. m.—L. A. Carpenters' Union vs. Pasadena Merchants; Wednesday, July 12, 8 p. m.—North American Aviation of Inglewood vs. San Pedro Longshoremen, and Thursday, July 13, 8 p. m.—Standard Oil of El Segundo vs. National Youth Administration of Hermosa Beach.

**Free Tickets for Players**  
Street banners publicizing the games have been thrown across all entrances to the city and located in the business district. The light standards of the park are being decked with bright colored pennants and Dale Riley, state baseball commissioner in general charge of the tourney, said today all details for the major sport event are near completion.

Scores of former players have presented photos of themselves with teams at the Chamber of Commerce and received season passes to the Tournament.

This offer of free tickets to all games will continue until the opening of the championship series. Any resident of Torrance who has played baseball with a uniformed team of any kind may obtain a season pass merely by showing a picture of his club at the Chamber of Commerce and identifying himself in the group.

**At Least 38 Games**  
Single admissions to the games are 25 cents for all over 15 years of age. Children up to 15 are to be admitted free. The Tournament committee has placed on sale a five-game ticket—good for admission to any five games—for \$1. These may be obtained at any local barber shop, the Chamber of Commerce or at the box-office to the city park diamond.

Brief opening ceremonies are scheduled Saturday afternoon before the start of the first game. The winner Municipal band is expected to be on hand and Mayor William H. Tolson will toss the first ball. A number of big-league scouts and former star ball players will be present to watch the semi-pro clubs in action.

Thirty-eight or 39 games are to be played to determine the winning ball team which will receive a large gold trophy and a share in the gross gate receipts. The winner will also be credited as the California state champion ship club and entitled to represent the state in the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress games at Wichita, Kans., next month.

**COORDINATORS' MEETING**  
A meeting of the Torrance Coordinating Council will be held Monday night, July 10, at 8 o'clock in the city hall. Judge Robert Lessing, president of the Council, urges all members to attend.

(Continued on Page 2-A)