

Re-Introduction of The Lomita News Hailed by Civic Leaders



These heads of Lomita, Waveria and Harbor City groups welcomed The Lomita News at a "pre-view" dinner party last Thursday night . . . They declared the publication will help greatly in the development of their communities . . . Photos taken by Lomita News photographer.

'News' Offers 100% Coverage of Four Nearby Communities

With the first issue before them—12 hours before it was distributed to every home in their communities—23 leaders of Lomita, Waveria and Harbor City organizations greeted The Lomita News as a friend returning after nearly 10 years' absence last Thursday night at Sally's Chicken Inn, corner of Narbonne and Highway 101. They were participating in a "pre-view" dinner given by the publisher of The News, Grover C. Whyte, to reintroduce the publication that was combined with the Torrance Herald in April, 1930.

Henceforth, all residents of Lomita, Waveria, Harbor City and Rolling Hills will enjoy The Lomita News as a separate publication, devoted exclusively to the welfare and development of their communities.

The first issue of the successor of The Lomita News Letter, original publication in that community, excited wide-spread interest in the four communities and reports reaching the News indicate that it has been accepted as a vigorous, news-erammed publication with an editorial policy which will contribute much toward the betterment of the district.

Unique First Issue

"We desire to come into your homes and organization as a newspaper of strictly local interest, carrying news about yourselves, your friends, your children and the community in which you have chosen for your home," Publisher Whyte told the group attending the inaugural dinner. "We want to do our share toward the growth and prosperity of the district. With this thought in mind, no solicitation for advertising was made for the first issue because we wanted local advertisers to first see the sort of newspaper we intend to publish before asking them to support it," he pointed out.

The informal dinner-meeting did much more than re-introduce The Lomita News, its publisher, staff and policies. It was hailed by a number present as a splendid start toward a closer neighborliness among the organizations and groups. Several suggested that similar informal gatherings of all groups active in the communities should be held quarterly in the interest of continued development and improvement.

Announces Civic Contest

The second issue of The News will be distributed to every home and business place in the four communities tomorrow (Wednesday) morning and all the news of the past five days. Thereafter the regular publication time will be Thursday morning with 100 percent coverage of the large area.

Miss Birda Padcock, who was a well-known newspaper woman in the Lomita area for years before she became postmaster, is city editor of the publication with Michael Strasser, city editor of The Herald as managing editor, and Ray Brooks serving the paper in the same capacity as he does The Herald, that of advertising manager. With Publisher Whyte, they spoke briefly at the inaugural dinner and then the meeting was opened for general comment.

This produced a number of expressions of support for The News and several constructive suggestions for community betterments. Publisher Whyte announced a contest, open to every organization in the four communities, to determine the out-

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Athletic Gear Pledged for Boys' Center

An adequate amount of athletic gear has been pledged by local organizations, firms and interested residents to start a boys' gymnasium here but the Coordinating Council, which is sponsoring the proposed athletic center is still confronted with the problem of finding a building to house the project.

Charles Underwood, newly appointed chairman of the Council's environment committee, has completed a survey of all city organizations and reported that sufficient amount of gymnasium equipment has been offered to at least start the recreation center on its way when and if a building is obtained by the city.

The equipment promised includes a rowing machine, weights, volleyball, basketball, gear for badminton, boxing, wrestling and other sports. Underwood has told Judge Robert Lessing, president of the Coordinating Council.

When the city council meets next Tuesday night, City Engineer Leonard Young is expected to report on his survey of the old American Legion building on Harbor avenue as a site for the athletic center. This structure is similar in size and condition to the building that houses the Whittier gymnasium, after which the local project will be modeled.

East Torrance to Get Improved Fire Protection

Better fire protection is to be provided for the East Torrance area from 103rd street to the Harbor, according to a recommendation made by Fire Chief Ralph J. Scott of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles fire commission is forwarding his recommendation to the city council.

Last July the Torrance fire department discontinued service in the area, which belongs to Los Angeles city, despite protests of some property owners. Previous to date the local force answered calls and stood by until equipment arrived from the San Pedro fire station.

Two Men Arrested As Mental Cases Early This Morning

Believed to have suffered their mental lapse as result of too much liquor, Jimmy Cooper, 26, and Jack Morris, 46, both residing in a local hotel, were taken in custody early this morning after they had caused a disturbance at their place of residence.

Young Cooper was scheduled to be taken to the Los Angeles county psychopathic ward and Morris, who was sentenced to the Military hospital at Sawtelle for treatment a week ago following his arrest for intoxication here, was to be returned to that institution.

DIRECTORY CANVASS COMPLETED

Climaxing an intensive five-week canvass of every business house, residence and firm in the city of Torrance field workers from the Long Beach office of the Los Angeles Directory Co., this week brought to a close the work of registering every resident here for the 1940 city directory.

According to directors of the company, the new directory should be off the press before the end of December, and distributed locally sometime before the first of the year.

To facilitate complete coverage and absolute accuracy, if any individual or firm has been inadvertently overlooked, officials of the company request that such persons or firms contact The Herald office and supply the necessary information.

Field workers operating in this area during the past five weeks report "the finest reception we have ever had." So far as is known, the workers contacted only one individual who refused to supply the necessary information. This was, however, obtained through other sources.

Five Patients Enter Hospital

Five patients were received at Torrance Memorial hospital during the past week. They were Joseph Corsaro, eight years old, of Redondo, Saturday for an appendectomy; Mrs. Amanda Gerhart, of Harbor City, Nov. 16, for an appendectomy; Mrs. Sue Kohlhaas of Hermosa Beach, Tuesday for surgery; Anily Masevich of Hermosa Beach, Wednesday for medical care, and Mrs. Lydia Puterbaugh, Redondo Beach, Wednesday for medical care.

BURGLAR REPORTED

A burglar who entered Mrs. Branscomb's home at 1928 Andrews Wednesday night was about to make off with two rifles, taken from a closet shelf, when he was "scared off," according to police reports.

Cats Blamed for Gold Fish Thefts at School

Take it from Sergeant Frank Schumacher—no human is responsible for the theft of gold fish from the Elementary school pool.

Police Chief John Stroth advised all night patrol officers this week to tour the school grounds several times nightly in an effort to apprehend the gold fish purloiners.

But Sergeant Schumacher insists that neighborhood cats are enjoying nocturnal fish dinners, gleaned from the pool.

"Why, the other night I saw a tom cat ambling off the school grounds licking his whiskers and with a satisfied smile on his puss," the sergeant declared. "If we catch him in the act, we won't even bother to bring the body in."



MAIL BOX IS READY NOW! . . .

At Santa's own request, wired from the North Pole yesterday, Postmaster Earl Conner has set up a mailbox at the triangular park in front of the Torrance theatre for the EXCLUSIVE collection of children's letters to Santa Claus.

That old fellow will be in Torrance NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT, DEC. 1, at 7 o'clock to collect the first batch of his letters AND ALSO to announce details of his CHRISTMAS GIFT CHEST.

Arrangements have been made for him to ride into the city thru the business district on the fire department's newest truck, preceded by the Torrance Municipal band.

More than thirty valuable prizes will be awarded that night to adults who come to Santa's reception! See the FRONT PAGE of your copy of THE HERALD or THE TORRANCE SHOPPING NEWS next week for the lucky numbers which will win these splendid gifts.

SO DON'T FORGET—SANTA'S COMING HERE DEC. 1.

Annuity in Swedish Bank Gives Resident More Fun Than Cash

"Well, you see, it's this way. Of course, your pension plans may be all right, and I wouldn't be the one to say they aren't. But for me, well, I guess I just don't like ham and eggs well enough."

That was how diminutive Mrs. Andrew J. McPherson of 1627 Post avenue explained her lack of interest in the recent 30-Thursday proposition and her love for Stockholm, capital of Sweden—a love she has retained for 69 years or since she was only two weeks old.

For it was then that her

Pioneers of This City and Lomita to Wed Today

George W. McKenzie, for 20 years a resident of Torrance but who, for the past year and a half has been making his home near Sunland, and Mrs. Lulu Towne, a long-time resident of Lomita, are scheduled to fly to Las Vegas, Nevada, today (Friday) to become husband and wife. The ceremony will culminate a courtship of two years' standing. Mrs. Towne has lived in and around Lomita for the past 30 years.

Following the ceremony which, it is expected, will be performed in the presence of two of the groom's daughters, Mrs. A. W. Smith and Mrs. C. L. Ingold, both of Torrance, and a son, Roy, of Burbank, the couple will leave for a short honeymoon. When they return they will probably make their home in Burbank where McKenzie is connected with a structural engineering plant.

The groom's third daughter, Mrs. Grace Simonson, of Dayton, Ohio, will probably not be present at the services. Both McKenzie and Mrs. Towne have been married before.

FIRE PLUG ERUPTS

A geyser shot up in front of 617 Cota avenue for more than an hour last night until city water department employees managed to shut off the fire plug "crater." The plug was not broken off but rusted off underground.

The Washington monument cost \$1,300,000.

Cat Absorbs 60,000-Volt Jolt and Lives

The ancient, and by now highly revered superstition of uncertain origin claiming that the carnivorous animal of the Felidae family, known six days a week simply as the cat, is nine-lived, nearly gained added prestige Tuesday night when, at approximately 9:25 o'clock Torrance experienced a two-minute "black-out."

And all because, according to C. C. Bartlett, district manager for the Southern California Edison Company, a black cat entangled himself in the lightning arresters at the 190th and Western avenue power plant and received a 60-thousand volt jolt with the resultant disruption of service in Torrance.

But the cat could really take it, and was not to be outdone by the tremendous shock. He just wigged himself out, sans fur, and started on his topsyturvy way. Had it not been for the mercy of Edison workers at the plant, he would now probably be living on the assets of his "second life." But the black cat who caused Torrance's black-out was put out of its misery.

Gas Fumes Take Life of W. A. Phillips

A victim of gas asphyxiation, self-administered, William A. Phillips, 68, was found dead in his bed at his home, 1518 Anapola avenue, yesterday morning. He had fixed a hose to a gas heater and covered his head with a coat, according to Police Chief John Stroth who said Mr. Phillips had been dead about eight or 10 hours when he was found by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Fred Baker.

No note was found and relatives cannot advance a reason for the suicide, Stroth reported. Two windows in the room were open but the gas was confined by the man's coat. Mrs. Baker told Stroth that she smelled gas when she returned from a lodge meeting late Saturday night.

Funeral Saturday

But she could not find the cause of the smell. Yesterday morning when Mr. Phillips, who was a retired painter for the Pacific Electric railway, did not appear, Mr. and Mrs. Baker looked for him. They immediately called police but it was evident that life had expired hours before.

Mr. Phillips was a native of New York City who had lived here for about 20 years. He was a former member of the Odd Fellows lodge. He was survived by his sister, Mrs. Ella E. Quigley, 712-A Anapola; a brother, Rufus A. Phillips, residing at the Brighton hotel, and his stepson, Fred Baker.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Stone and Myers' chapel with Rev. F. T. Porter officiating. Interment will be at Inglewood cemetery.

Arkansas produces the bulk of the country's aluminum ore.

Mattoon Debts Burden North Torrance Area

Even if the proposed refunding of the Alondra Park A. and L. District 28 indebtedness, is carried out with the county assisting by paying half of the remaining huge debt, North Torrance property owners must continue to pay three other Mattoon Act assessments.

It is for this reason that Mrs. Lela M. Gomer, John Salm and other property owners in that district have opposed the refunding plan which was endorsed by the Alondra Park Taxpayers' Association Nov. 16.

The other Mattoon Act assessments which are pyramiding their debt load in North Torrance are:

Prairie Avenue Improvement district, No. 213; 182nd Street Improvement district, and the Moneta Water Company Improvement district.

Only Means for Relief

The total obligation, of which a small part has been paid, runs close to \$50,000 on property owners within the confines of those districts, according to Mrs. Gomer. She maintains that a tax strike, prosecuted over the remaining years that the Mattoon Act bonds are in force, is the only solution to the assessment problem.

"It isn't reasonable to assume that the bondholders will scale down their value of the securities binding the district just because the county is asked to refund the debt," she said this week. "On the contrary, they will probably demand a premium on their bonds."

"Now, if we proceeded with a tax strike and thus refused to pay the Mattoon Act obligations, I believe the bondholders would become more reasonable and would take a cut when they understood we property owners were united in our refusal to continue payments," Mrs. Gomer insists.

NO. 70 REFUNDING SAID IN PROGRESS

Refunding of the remaining indebtedness in County A. and L. No. 70, formed for the improvement of Normandie avenue near Torrance, is under way this week by the county counsel's office.

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Look For Your Name Among Classified Ads!

The Herald continues a Hidden Names contest today. Look for your name among the classified ads for a double pass to a movie. Watch—read—this page each week. Perhaps your name follows this ad—

Beauty Aids —30

Keep Youthful—

Gray Hair tinted by Specialists
Machineless Waves ... \$6.00

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