

# It's Up to You - - Do You Want Buses?

Do you want a bus service to Los Angeles? If so, your attendance at the State Railroad Commission's hearing in Torrance tomorrow (Friday) morning is imperative! There will be strong opposition by powerful interests outside of Torrance to granting a franchise to the Asbury Rapid Transit System for continuing the present service (now free) on a paid passenger basis.

Unless the citizens of Torrance, Lomita and adjoining communities attend this meeting in overwhelming numbers and demand a bus

service, there is little possibility for favorable action by the Railroad Commission, and this district will be cut off from the outside world as far as public transportation is concerned. This means fewer residents, lower property valuations, and less business for everyone, locally.

The meeting is scheduled at 10 a. m. Friday morning in the Council Chamber of the Torrance City Hall, but it is hoped to get such a big crowd out that it will be necessary to adjourn to the Civic Auditorium. This is the time to make your voice heard!

Be there and get as many of your friends to come as possible!

## TORRANCE HERALD

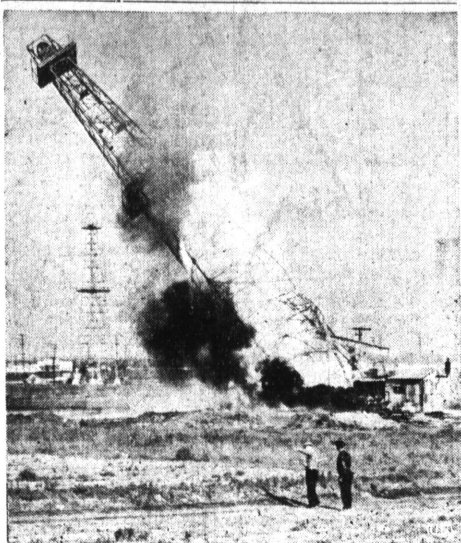
26th YEAR - No. 3

SECTION A

ESTABLISHED 1914 - TWO SECTIONS - 14 PAGES  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1940

PER COPY 5c

### Bus Hearing Friday is Vital to City



**DERRICK CRASHES IN GAS FIRE** . . . An alert cameraman snapped this picture as the 125-foot steel derrick tower of an Ohio Oil Company gas well at El Segundo crashed shortly after a spectacular fire broke out. The flames, which shot more than 150 feet into the air, were visible for 25 miles while the roar of the inferno was clearly audible in Torrance for several days. Firemen and oil workers are reported winning their fight to cap the flames.

### Japanese Boy Killed in Bike-Car Crash

A 15-year-old Japanese bicycle rider was the first victim of an automobile collision here his year. Mikio Okita of Redondo Beach died at 8 o'clock last night in Torrance Memorial Hospital of injuries suffered at 5:15 p. m. when he collided with a car driven by Shoji Kikkawa, 50, Gardena, on 182nd street near Prairie avenue.

The driver told police he was going east on 182nd street and turned out to go around a car parked on the wrong side of the highway when the boy, who was also riding on the wrong side of the road, ran into his machine. Kikkawa rushed the injured youth to the hospital. An inquest will be held.

"I want to repeat the warning I gave all young bicycle riders right after Christmas. Follow the traffic regulations, ride on the right side of the street with the traffic, give hand signals and have your lights on after dark." Police Chief John Stroh said after receiving the report of 1940's first auto fatality here.

Jured bodies 14 feet, a hit-and-run truck driver eluded a witness-pursuer and also escaped being nabbed by Long Beach officers when he left the truck on a car lot on American avenue early Saturday morning. Despite an intensive search by local and Long Beach police, aided by sheriff's officers, the hit-and-runner has not been located as yet.

Meanwhile, Betty Buckley, 18, of Redondo Beach, and Eugene Leslie, 21, of 23231 Hawthorne avenue, are slowly recovering from their injuries at a Hermosa Beach hospital. Miss Buckley suffered skull fractures, an injured left knee and bruises. Leslie is being treated for a fractured right leg and severe lacerations about his head and face.

The young couple were walking on Catalina avenue in Hollywood Riviera toward Redondo Beach facing the traffic. They were struck by a truck coming towards them and thrown 14 feet into a ditch. The driver did not stop, according to police.

**Escapes Pursuer**  
A witness to the collision, Norman Roland Boutte, Rolling Hills, took after the truck and obtained the last three numbers of its auto license. One report made to local police stated that the hit-and-runner, when he saw Boutte gaining on him, suddenly stopped and jumped from the machine. He ran toward the ocean and disappeared among some trees.

Boutte then turned around and drove back to where Miss Buckley and Leslie were lying and took them to the hospital. (Continued on Page 6-A)

**Button Sale**  
Sale of "Fight Infantile Paralysis" buttons (at from 10 cents on up to as much as your purse will stand) here is meeting a willing populace of "customers" eager to do their bit toward helping victims of that disease and ultimately stamp it out of existence. Postmaster Earl Conner, general chairman of the annual drive, reported today.

"I believe we'll see every resident in Torrance wearing one of the little red, white and blue shields before the campaign ends Jan. 31," he said. Conner reported that the local committee had received funds from the Southern California Infantile Paralysis Foundation this week with which new shoes and a new body brace were purchased for 10-year-old Vernon Sandstrom, local victim.

### Mrs. Clara Shafer Takes Top Prize in Ad Rhymes Contest

Herald-News Want Ad Rhymes were carried into the office of Fire Chief J. E. McMaster of Torrance this week and he and his assistants, Firemen Gordon Northington, J. R. Winters and J. J. Benner, immediately went into a huddle.

No partisans these men, but like all good firemen they stick for what they believe is right until Hades floats ice bergs—the pros and cons for each rhyme were discussed, advanced, withdrawn. It was warm work, getting increasingly hotter until it became obvious that the very intensity of arguments might cause a fire at any moment right in the chief's office! When creation seemed inevitable unless something was done about it these men turned on the waters of understanding and came to unanimous decision on their selections.

Following the first jury were another group picked in Lomita

### Factory Frolic Survey Will Be Made Here

Should the Factory Frolic be continued and staged here next fall for the third year? This is the question to be put to all business men and every organization in the city by the Chamber of Commerce.

The survey is being undertaken now, President R. R. Smith said, in order that if there is a popular demand for the three-day festivities, a community-wide organization should be set up at once to plan the 1940 event. By arranging for the Frolic well in advance, the usual "last month rush" is eliminated and industrial firms and merchants can arrange to include cost of exhibiting in their current budgets.

At the meeting of the Chamber directors this week, the proposal of William H. Stanger that the civic organization seek to interest other communities in a series of inter-city pistol matches on the local range was favorably received. The chamber leaders agreed to bear the city's share of expenses for trophies in event other communities will enter the proposed matches and likewise pro-rate the cost.

A regular membership meeting, as provided under the Chamber's by-laws, was called for Wednesday evening, Feb. 7. The program will be arranged by Chairman A. H. Siligo of the membership committee and Secretary L. J. Gilemister.

The Chamber endorsed the proposed plan to drain Laguna Dominguez (formerly known as Nigger Slough) with the aid of a Federal appropriation. All surrounding cities and communities have been asked by the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce to approve the plan now being worked out for presentation to the Federal Board of Engineers in Washington, D. C.

### AUTO PLATE OFFICE BUSY

With the demand for 1940 automobile license plates running 25 percent more than last year at this time, the Torrance branch office of the Department of Motor Vehicles, located at 1311 Cabrillo avenue, is the "white spot" on the department's map. It was learned today from Manager Leonard E. Tristram.

"We have received information that the distribution in Southern California is generally much slower than last year," he said. "But we have issued 5,500 sets of plates here up to noon today. This week's distribution is 25 percent larger than last year. We are issuing about 400 sets daily here."

All motorists in this area, which includes Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, Waltham, Gardena, San Pedro, Wilmington and the Los Angeles city area, may obtain plates at the 1311 Cabrillo headquarters from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. except on Saturdays when the office closes at noon.

Motorists who have lost or who have not received postal card assessment notices of automobile license fees may obtain their 1940 license plates by presentation of their 1939 registration slips and payment fees. Tristram said:

"Each year many motorists face the penalties for delinquent registration under the belief they must have the postal card notice in order to obtain their licenses," Tristram said.

### It's Still Christmas! . . . Bus Rides Are Free!



**CIVIC LEADERS HAIL BUSES** . . . "Come on folks! Free rides to and from Los Angeles from Lomita, Torrance and way points!" is the cordial invitation signaled by F. H. Asbury at the left of the door to one of his Maack buses now serving this community without charge. Asbury is president of the Rapid Transit System bearing his name.

### Mail Service Badly Hit Here

Discontinuance of all P.E. passenger service here last Sunday night has seriously disrupted the Torrance mail schedule with the result that local industries and residents have just about swamped Postmaster Earl Conner with complaints. Conner, in turn, has been referring the criticism to his superiors and hopes that a better schedule of mailings can be announced soon.

But right now the drastically curtailed receipts and shipments of mail on account of the lack of transportation for U. S. mail to and from Los Angeles is causing considerable difficulty to Torrance industries. There were seven outgoing dispatches and six incoming shipments of mail before the P. E.'s abandonment of its Torrance passenger lines. Today there are only four shipments each way here.

The last dispatch from the Torrance postoffice now closes at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. This is proving a great hardship to local firms who want to keep their correspondence clear, sending out immediate replies to letters received that day. Until Sunday, the last dispatch closed at 6 p. m.

### WHY DELAY ZONING ORDINANCE?

### Planners' Postponement Halts Home Building

—An Editorial

A real threat to greatly retarded, if not almost entirely halt, construction of new residences in Torrance for the coming year in the recent action of the City Planning Commission in granting an additional 90-day extension on the public hearing of the zoning ordinance now under preparation.

We are wondering if the members of the Planning Commission—all of whom have always had the best interests of the city at heart—realize the tremendous handicap they have placed upon development of this city during the coming year by postponing action on the zoning matter? Under revised rulings of the Federal Housing Administration, it is going to be practically impossible to obtain approval of a loan for new residences in unzoned territory, and nearly all property that is available for the construction of moderate priced houses is unzoned. Consequently, aside from the few choice high priced lots in the close-in area, prospective home builders will be barred from FHA loans, which means that there will be little if any new moderate priced residences built this year in Torrance as practically all this type of construction is financed thru FHA insured loans.

Furthermore, by postponing action on the zoning ordinance until April, the entire zoning matter will be tossed into the coming municipal campaign, which is most undesirable as zoning is a highly technical matter requiring careful study and certainly is not a subject that should be left to politicians to play with as suits their selfish political aims.

Even if the matter were again revived on April 9, the earliest possible date under the 90-day extension of the public hearing, the zoning ordinance would still have to go thru the City Council. The State law requires additional public hearings by the Council, and it is doubtful if it would be possible to get the zoning ordinance into effect until next Fall. This means that an entire year's building operations would be lost—all because a group of frightened folks in North Torrance (McDonald Tract) are afraid zoning will hurt their chances for oil development.

In spite of the fact that North Torrance residents were assured that their property would be left open for oil development, and in fact, they were told to "write their own ticket" as regards zoning of their property in McDonald Tract—and even after they were granted over 30 days to hold meetings and discuss the matter—they still asked for—and received—an additional 90 days to "think it over."

We have no argument with North Torrance residents concerning the zoning or lack of zoning in their district, but we think it is unwise for the Planning Commission to let this small group of protesting annexationists thwart up-building of the entire city.

It requires legal opinion to determine if the 90 days extension can be nullified and the zoning matter allowed to proceed at once, but most certainly, if anything can be done, it should be, and NOW!

### Last Red Car Leaves Empty Ahead of Time

The big red car no longer go from Torrance and Redondo Beach to Los Angeles via Gardena and their passing from the local scene was marked last Sunday night by only one thing:

The last car sped out of Torrance at least 15 minutes ahead of schedule with only the motor-man and conductor aboard.

It was supposed to have left here at 8:59 p. m. A Herald cameraman arrived at the station at 8:43 to record on film the last goodbyes of the passengers. But before he could swing his camera into action, the last car appeared, paused and then went on its lonesome way out of Torrance—forever.

In Redondo Beach the passing of the passenger line was observed with torpedo salutes placed on the tracks and the prolonged whistling of the last car from the time it left Avenue 1 until it turned around onto Diamond street.

### Census Returns May Be Mailed

Heads of local business firms are being interviewed this week by I. A. Allen of this city, authorized field representative, regarding the Federal Business Census. In a number of instances, Allen found that the business men were adverse to giving him information which they regarded as confidential. In each case, he has left a franked envelope for them to mail their returns to the area office in Watts or to the national capital.

The Torrance Retail Business Men's association, at a special meeting early this week considered the census matter and members were advised to avail themselves of the mail returns if they desire. Allen says that he took a four-day examination to obtain the position of canvasser and that he regards statements by those he interviews as confidential matter.

The census is a Federal project and the forms must be filled out completely, according to Federal law.

### Must Halt Powerful Interests

If Torrance, Lomita and other neighboring communities are to continue to be served with the present bus line to Los Angeles, it will be necessary for local citizens to turn out en masse and forcefully urge this service before Examiner William Gorham at a hearing to be conducted by the California Railroad Commission at the Torrance City Hall tomorrow (Friday) at 10 a. m.

This warning has been broadcast by Torrance city officials and Lomita and Torrance Chamber of Commerce officers who have been working feverishly for the past week to maintain the present emergency free transportation to Los Angeles as well as provide some acceptable permanent service shortly after next Tuesday, Jan. 23, when the present free bus rides are scheduled to be discontinued, according to present plans.

Every organization, service club and other groups in all interested communities are urged to send as many of its members as possible to the hearing Friday and to appoint one member from each group to talk at the hearing. Those addressing Examiner Gorham are requested to particularly stress the importance of securing a decision from the Railroad Commission as soon as possible.

### FREE RIDES TO HEARING

Arrangements have been made to provide residents of Waltham and Lomita with free bus rides direct to the City Hall for the railroad commission hearing Friday morning. One or more buses, as required, will leave Waltham at 9:15 a. m. tomorrow and will travel via Highway 101 to Narbonne and thence to Torrance. Drivers are instructed to pick up anyone enroute who signals for a ride.

**Proposed Fares Told**  
The earliest possible date is next Tuesday, when the commission meets in Los Angeles at the State building. Should favorable action be taken by the commission at Tuesday's meeting, the Asbury Rapid Transit System will be given an emergency interim permit to operate on the same route as the free buses are now running. In its application before the (Continued on Page 8-A)

### Ad Worth \$5 to You . . .

In trade! And that isn't half the story. Here is the ad of an upholsterer who has long been in business in Torrance and is looking for patrons with a good idea. Why not investigate his recovery offer now? Turn to the classified page and classification—

Service, Miscellaneous—44

### Upholstering—

Keep this Ad. It's worth \$5.00 in trade on any two-piece Overstuffed Set to be recovered at the BUSY BEE UPHOLSTERING SHOP. This Ad good for 30 days only. 1577 Carson St. Torrance 546-J.

Read, Use Herald-News Want Ads Regularly for Profit! Get The Habit!