

# TORRANCE HERALD

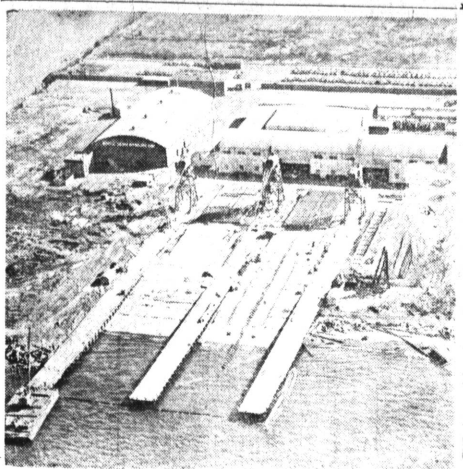
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SECTION A

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1940

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SCENE OF NORTHWEST SHIPBUILDING . . . Two ships can be built simultaneously on ways of this new yard of Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding Corp., at Tacoma. Hulls of five ships to be built here, thence finished at Seattle, on \$19,000,000 contract.

## Harbor City Church Buildings Razed by Fire Early Sunday

Helplessly, with aching hearts, residents of Harbor City saw their community church, Sunday school building and social hall with all their contents destroyed by fire Sunday morning.

Whether the blaze was due to a defective heater or some other cause is not known but when a passerby notified the minister, David Lee Mounts, at his parsonage shortly after 7:30 a. m., that the church was on fire, the building was already a raging furnace, and before Rev. Mounts could get help it was impossible to enter to save any of the contents.

An eye witness, a worker on an oil well about a mile away, said he saw a sudden burst of flame as though from an explosion or spontaneous combustion, and by the time he had driven to the scene the entire church was in flames.

### \$3,000 Insurance Carried

The need of more adequate fire protection for Harbor City was proven because the small truck provided for the community had to be pushed to the fire. A company from San Pedro also responded to the alarm and remained for more than two hours. Firemen succeeded in saving the Harbor City school and the Scout hall located west of the church. Two school bungalows and the Scout hall were scorched by the fire.

One old piano and a chest belonging to the Women's Aid were saved but two pianos and (Continued on Page 4-A)

## Seven Men Tour M.W.D. System Over Weekend

Five local men, Judge Frank Carrell of Gardena and Wallace Ware, attorney for the Asbury Rapid Transit Bus System, made an inspection trip of the Metropolitan Water District's aqueduct system last week-end. They traveled a total of 900 miles in going to Parker, Nevada, where they stayed overnight at the M. W. D. Camp No. 1, to Boulder Dam and Las Vegas Saturday night and then home thru Death Valley.

The Torrancia men in the party were C. T. Rippey, this city's representative on the M. W. D. directorate; Mayor William H. Tolson, City Attorney John E. McCall, Dr. W. I. Laughon and W. E. Bowen.

## Lomita School Principal Heads Want Ad Rhymes Contest Judges

Miss Harriet Michaelis, principal of Lomita Elementary school, headed the group of judges who selected the best rhymes this week for the Want Ad Rhymes Contest. Their selections follow:

### First Prize Winner

A. H. Koehler, 1732 Martina avenue, Torrancia, will kindly call at The Herald-News office in Torrancia for the first prize of \$1. Also, please call at the Trunnell Poultry Ranch in Lomita with proper identification and a copy of this article for a duck fryer, compliments of Mr. Trunnell.

### The ad:

"DUCK FRYERS From Stock that NEVER TOUCHES GROUND, etc. Trunnell's Poultry Ranch, 25,322 Oak Street Lomita 29."

For different, dainty, delectable duck Or, chicken to fry or to stew: You're not taking risks, or trusting to luck, Trunnell dresses them for you."

### Second Prize Winner

Mrs. E. G. Deloree, 1808 West 260th Street, Lomita, will kindly

## L.A. Board to Hear Bus Details Friday

A consolidated hearing on the application of the Asbury Rapid Transit System Torrancia municipal bus line and the Lander Transportation Company for permits to operate bus lines over Los Angeles city streets will be held tomorrow morning before the Los Angeles Board of Public Utilities and Transportation.

On March 21 both Asbury and Lander will be given a hearing before the State Railroad Commission on their applications to formally institute the lines. At these hearings, in all probability, one company will be eliminated, inasmuch as the bus routes are nearly parallel for the first half of the trip from Torrancia to Los Angeles.

However, the city of Torrancia now operates a municipal bus line from Walteria and Lomita direct to Ninth and Hill streets, will enter vigorous protests to the Lander firm's bus proposal. At the same time, Torrancia will support the Asbury application as it has done in two previous hearings conducted in the Civic Auditorium and the council chamber of the city hall.

### Oppose Lander Plan

The Torrancia city council is backing Mayor William H. Tolson's statement that the Lander service is not desired here because it proposes to operate only between Torrancia and Huntington Park. The Asbury line would include Walteria and Lomita and take passengers directly into Los Angeles without necessity of transferring to other buses or street cars.

The bus from Walteria, Lomita and Torrancia to Ninth and Hill streets for nearly two weeks after the Pacific Electric discontinued passenger service last January, has been endorsed by the council, many local organizations and citizens.

The Lander Company wishes to run a bus line from Torrancia to Huntington Park via Gardena which would replace the Gardena municipal line, an agreement to this effect having already been reached by Lander and the Gardena city council.

## Redondo Finally Decides Site for Auditorium

After weeks of debate during which a straw ballot was taken and the ballot box was stuffed with hundreds of assertedly counterfeit votes, the Redondo Beach city council decided Monday night on the purchase of a tract near the city park for the proposed construction of a municipal auditorium. The plot will provide sufficient area for establishment of an extensive recreational project.

The council also approved construction of a second and smaller auditorium in North Redondo Beach. The city will apply for WPA aid and the entire project will cost \$325,000, of which \$125,000 has already been voted in city bonds.

## Rotarians Will See South Seas Movies

Owen Churchill, prominent Los Angeles yachtman, will take members and guests of the Torrancia Rotary club on a sea voyage tonight to the South Seas via Suva, Tahiti and the New Hebrides with the aid of some unusual color movies and an interesting talk reporting some of such a cruise. John Melville will be program chairman.

## Brick Hurler Thru Home Window Here

A brick removed from an incinerator in the rear of the house was hurled thru a window of Mrs. Helen Thomson's house at 836 Sartori avenue Saturday night about 8 o'clock. Mrs. Thomson was not at home but neighbors heard the crash about that time. She could not account for the destructive act but gave police the name of a former tenant who may have been responsible.

### SCHOOL VACATION

With the close of school Friday afternoon all students in local schools will begin their annual Easter vacation of one week. Classes will be resumed Monday morning, March 25.

## Walteria Gets Chinchilla Farm

### Peanut Stand Gets Attention of Whole Council

It's going to take a field trip by all members of the city council to decide whether or not William Kleinfelter may operate his little peanut and popcorn stand on Catalina avenue in Hollywood Riviera.

Kleinfelter applied for a permit to enter this modest form of business two weeks ago but action was delayed until the council as a whole could inspect his proposed site. This is expected to be done during the next week.

The reason advanced by city officials for this close attention to such a relatively small matter is that Hollywood Riviera residents in the past have complained that similar stands were detrimental to the neighborhood and caused considerable litter.

## Celery Plant to Open Next Week

The celery plant now being equipped at 1920 Border avenue in Torrancia is scheduled to open next week. It will be operated by the Gerber Company of Los Angeles. Celery from Lomita, Walteria and Venice fields will be trimmed, washed and packed for shipment to Chicago and New York markets.

A loading platform is being constructed and trimming tables, tubs and new plumbing facilities installed in the building which formerly housed the veterans' cooperative cannery. Shipping from two to four carloads of produce daily, the plant will employ about 20 men, it is reported.

Lettuce, beans and tomatoes may be packed later here by the Gerber firm.

## Culvert Drains Need Cleaning

A lengthy report on the condition of culverts under the intersection of Carson street and Cabrillo avenue, Border and Cabrillo, and at 213th street was given the city council Tuesday night by City Engineer Leonard Young. In general, he said he found the storm drains in bad condition and needing a thorough cleaning.

Several have rusted out and are in need of replacement and others cannot be completely checked until after another rain storm proves their worth following cleaning. No action was taken by the council on the matter.

Engineer Young also reported that the County Sanitation District will not allow storm water to run thru its mains from 223rd and Narbonne. To correct a drainage problem at that intersection, the street department is now raising the grade at 213th to drain the water east to Narbonne and plans to cut a dip there to allow the excess water to continue on east and seek its own level.

## Zamperini Returns by Train Ending L. A. Mystery

Arriving home by train from New York City last night, Louis Zamperini discovered he was "mysteriously missing" in a Los Angeles newspaper which has been "banning" stories of his absence from the U.S. campus for the past few days.

Altho he originally planned to return by plane Sunday, he wrote friends that because of a foot injury he suffered when he fell in a race at Madison Square Garden last Saturday night he decided to return by train. He expects that his foot will be healed so that he can enter the Long Beach Relays next Saturday.

## Stray Bullets Hit Residence

Several stray shots that pinged thru the roof and front screen door of George Strong's residence at 2415 West 235th street last Thursday afternoon caused the occupants no little alarm. Police who investigated found a spent bullet such as is fired from a .22 calibre rifle. It is believed the shots were fired by some amateur rifleman.

## 'SHOWPLACE' WILL HOUSE 3,000 PAIRS

Behind an electrified high steel and barbed wire fence that will soon enclose five large lots at the west end of 24th street and Ocean avenue in Walteria there will be a five million-dollar industry.

Minus the usual fanfare and publicity that accompanies the establishment of a concern of such magnitude, two young men are now going quietly ahead with plans for the creation of first major chinchilla farm in the harbor district.

Late last week A. B. Stagner of Long Beach and Joe Sade of Los Angeles completed negotiations with A. J. Joberg, Walteria real estate broker connected with the Valley Realty Company, for the purchase of the property from Osbie Griffith of Lomita.

### To House 3,000 Pairs

The site, located under the Palos Verdes hills near the old sand pit, will be developed as a chinchilla farm and showplace for this unique industry which is breeding the world's most valuable animals for their beautiful pelts.

Stagner and Sade are connected with the Ingewood Chinchilla Company, it is reported, but will have full charge of the Walteria farm. They plan to stock it with 1,500 pairs of chinchillas the first year and then gradually expand until it will accommodate 3,000 pairs of the almost extinct South American animals "worth their weight in gold."

Surrounding the farm will be a high steel fence set in an elaborate electric burglar alarm system. The initial improvement is to cost approximately \$2,000 within the next 90 days, it is reported.

### Members of "Pool"

It will take Stagner and Sade about six months to equip the place with facilities for chinchilla culture and they plan to open it to the public at stated intervals.

The developers are understood to be accredited members of the national chinchilla "pool," an individualized insurance set-up which protects the breeders of the little animals which are now quoted at about \$3,200 per pair.

## Order Plans for New Library at Walteria

Because the owner of the building in Walteria that houses a branch of the Torrancia library has been lax in completing the repairs to the structure following the damage done when an auto crashed into it months ago, the city council voted Tuesday night to speed preparation of plans and specifications for a new library building.

City Engineer Leonard Young was instructed to prepare the material at once and submit it to Miss Helen E. Vogelson, county librarian, for her approval before calling for bids.

### Located on Park St.

Miss Vogelson informed the council by letter that James Lewis of Long Beach, owner of the present branch library building had failed to complete the repairs and painting and that the exterior was badly in need of a coat of paint to eradicate a sign of a former occupant of the structure.

The new library branch is to be erected on three lots recently purchased by the city of Torrancia on the west side of Park street midway between 242nd and 244th streets. The property has a frontage of 75 feet.

## Damaged Building Will Be Repaired

Acting on instructions of the new owner of the building at 1629 Cabrillo avenue which was damaged by fire Sept. 27, 1938, J. C. Smith of the Torrancia Investment Company erected a barricade in front of the structure this week to protect passersby from any danger of falling brick. John Leffman of Portland, Ore., the new owner, was in Torrancia late last week and announced that he intended having the structure completely repaired and restored to its former strength.

## War Declared On Sign Boards Along Streets

City Engineer Leonard Young declared war on billboards here this week.

He sent term letters to the owners of all signboards facing public streets which fail to conform to the city ordinance, requesting that they either be removed or set back at least 20 feet beyond the city property line.

During the past year while the ordinance has not been enforced, a large number of billboards have appeared along the streets and highways.

## Youngsters Bid to Week of Fun

The city recreation department has planned a full week of activity for Easter vacation. On Thursday afternoon, March 21, a marble tournament will be held in the city park. This tournament will be divided into two divisions, boys and girls under the age of 12 and those over 12. Prizes will be given the winners.

On Friday afternoon, March 22, at 2 o'clock a kite contest will be held in the city park. Prizes will be given for the largest, smallest, best made, best flying, and most unusual kite. Bring your entries and be at the park for this contest which should prove very interesting.

An Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday morning, March 23, at 11 o'clock in the park. Each child has been asked to bring two colored eggs to be used in the hunt. These will be equally divided among all children participating when all eggs have been found. The boy or girl finding the most eggs, or a lucky egg will receive a prize.

### To Issue Most Cards

Following the Easter egg hunt at 2 o'clock the same afternoon, an amateur show will be held at the band stand. All children of all ages are invited to put on their acts. Prizes will also be (Continued on Page 4-A)

## Quandt Tank Is Again Under Fire

After hearing reports that Charles H. Quandt's water tank in Walteria had overflowed several times during the past week, causing a traffic hazard and damage to roads, the city clerk instructed the city clerk to write Quandt that he will be held responsible for any further public damage.

The overflowing tank has been a periodic subject for discussion at council sessions during recent months and several weeks ago Quandt was ordered to appear and explain why it could not be corrected. Later he wrote the council that an automatic shut-off had been installed and no further trouble was anticipated.

## Moose to Celebrate 16th Anniversary Tomorrow Evening

Torrancia lodge No. 785, Loyal Order of Moose, will celebrate its 16th anniversary tomorrow evening. All members are expected to attend for the group picture which will be taken for the Moose magazine. Women of the Moose, Torrancia chapter, have been invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Short talks will be made by T. J. Wilkes, chairman of the interment committee; H. H. Cooke, governor; Don Harding, prelate; J. Lepkin, treasurer; M. W. Johnston, secretary; A. Jean Plong, junior governor.

## Steel Worker Serving Army

Uncle Sam called one of his aides out of the Columbia Steel plant recently when Roy Southworth, Jr., of the sheet mill inspection department, took an extended leave of absence to report for duty as a first lieutenant in the M Reserve of the 29th regiment at Baltimore, Maryland. He is in the Ordnance department.

### ORDER REPAIRS

The sum of \$300 was allocated by the city council Tuesday night for the repair of sidewalks and curbs on Manuel, Engracia and Eldorado avenues.

## Election Campaign In High Gear With 15 Seeking Office

To a casual observer, one unacquainted with the machinations of municipal politics, the current city election campaign is ambling toward the poll date of April 9 with about the same speed as a school board election. But that casual observation is wrong.

The heat is on and while it has not reached the temperature that previous Torrancia campaigns enjoyed at this stage of pre-election proceedings it is certain to increase during the remaining four weeks. No "dark horses" made their appearance before the deadline for filing nominating petitions was reached last Saturday noon and the total number of aspirants for the three city council positions remains at 15.

The incumbents, Mayor William H. Tolson, City Councilmen Tom McGuire and George V. Powell, are seeking re-election to the four-year terms. They are opposed by Lawrence V. (Vernon) Babcock, LeGrande (Grant) Barkdull, Lewis M. Fernley, Wallace H. Gilbert, Joe Hagberg, W. H. Klusman, James W. Loughridge, Gordon L. Mann, James J. O'Toole, Frank Schmidt, Carl D. Steele and William F. Shields.

### Major "Issues" Listed

Headquarters for the "League for Better Government" are being established adjoining the Bank of America. It is understood that this "League" will support the candidacy of Carl Steele, president of the local C.I.O. lodge, S.W.O.C. No. 1414, but the headquarters may be used by any labor candidate.

"Issues" as such in the campaign are confined to general terms so far with the proposed city ordinance affecting nearly all city employees, purchase of city supplies by open bidding with preference to local merchants, representation of labor on the council and divorce local schools from the Los Angeles city system being the most discussed "planks" developed to date.

Other topics gaining in interest are (1) publication of complete financial statements by the council; (2) elimination of any tendency toward "secret meetings" of officials to discuss procedure before regular council sessions; (3) more attention to the annexed territories of the city; (4) development of an enlarged recreation program and park system for the city; (5) allocation of more gasoline tax funds to the city and (6) the one thing all candidates agree on—economy of government to at least keep the municipal tax rate at its present level.

### Harbor Chambers Meet Tonight

The Southside Chamber of Commerce will be host tonight to the Harbor District Chambers at a dinner-meeting in Carl's Viewpark cafe, 3414 West Vernon avenue, starting at 6:30 o'clock. President L. J. Gilmeister will preside and the entertainment features will be presented by T. Kirk Hill.

Principal speaker of the evening will be Paul Livingstone, whose topic will be "Seeing America on the Cuff." He recently completed a three-year tour of America, some 85,000 miles.

For the second time in 22 days, Jack Edward Smith, 19-year-old Day and Night taxicab driver, smashed up his cab, injuring himself seriously and bruising an 82-year-old passenger Monday morning when he crashed into an ornamental light standard on Torrancia boulevard near the Fern Avenue school.

Smith is confined at Torrancia Memorial hospital. After treatment, his aged passenger, J.W. Doyle, was allowed to return to his rooms at the Plaza hotel. The scene of the crash was about a mile east of where young Smith plowed into a power pole on Feb. 18 and smashed up his cab. The Monday morning collision wrecked the front end of the sedan and caused the owner of the cab service to announce he was discontinuing business here.

Smith, who is believed by investigating police to have either fallen asleep or suffered a heart attack, ran into the ornamental light standard, snapped it off and carried it 40 feet before coming to a stop. The driver slumped over against the door. Police said tire marks from where the taxi left the road extended 140 feet in a direct line with the light standard.

Doyle was reported badly shaken up and bruised about the hands, ankles and mouth.

A Japanese woman, Mrs. K. Shikuchi of Redondo, was injured Saturday night in a collision at the intersection of Torrancia boulevard and Hawthorne avenue. Her husband, I. Shikuchi, was making a left-hand turn from the boulevard into Hawthorne when his machine collided with or was struck by a car being driven west on the boulevard by John D. Stephens of 220th street. Shikuchi's car was overturned.

### ATTEND CONFERENCE

City Engineer Leonard Young and Street Superintendent William Gascoigne today began attending the mid-year conference for their departments to be held by the Los Angeles League of California Cities in Los Angeles. The sessions will end Saturday.

QUEEN BRENDA . . . Royal consort to "King Orange" at National Orange Show in San Bernardino, March 14-24, is "Queen Orange Blossom" otherwise known as Brenda Marshall, film starlet. Here she is in regal robes.

## Taxi Driver Hits Light Standard in Second Crash

1 KILLED and 22 Injured in Auto Collisions here to date 1940.

## Enjoy a Different Garden This Year

Not a year passes but there are new varieties in plants, trees and flowers. Every tested variety, in a reasonable price range, is available to you who want your gardens to look different this year. See classification.

### Nursery & Seeds — 43

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