

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT BOND ISSUE ELECTION WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY

Civic Improvement bond issue proposals calling for expenditure of \$1,400,000 in the next few years on buildings, recreation and street improvements will not be ready for submission to the voters until February, according to Mayor W. H. Tolson.

The mayor said that James Beebe, of the law firm of O'Mel-

veny & Myers, and A. R. Walker, architect retained by the city, had conferred on the proposals and that several conferences with interested parties will be scheduled in the near future.

O'Melveny & Myers, also retained by the city to prepare the bond issue for the ballot, recommended that the various proposals be considered as a "city plan" by the Planning Commission.

A number of proposals involving recreation are being given particular study by Councilman C. M. Gilbert, members of the Recreation Commission, and Dale Riley, superintendent of recreation.

They include the new recreation building for Torrance which may include a swimming pool; the recreation building for the Walteria district, the arts and crafts building for Torrance ball park and the new grand stand at the ball park.

The present plans do not call for the swimming pool in the downtown recreation building, but popular demand among residents of the city undoubtedly will cause the City Council to reconsider and submit the matter of the pool to the voters.

The building is being designed to accommodate one, in the basement.

Some discussion as to the advisability of submitting the new stadium to the voters has been heard, but it is believed that the stadium will pay for itself, as the swimming pool will, if voted upon favorably.

Neither the stadium nor the swimming pool would be a "burden" on the taxpayers in view of the money-making possibilities of each, it was said.

Other buildings provided are a new fire station, reconversion of the present fire station into a police station and courtroom; improvements to the library and civic auditorium.

The bond issue proposal also calls for considerable street and alley work in Torrance.

Torrance faces competition with the County of Los Angeles in its efforts to acquire the Army airport on 101 highway.

The Board of Supervisors has ordered the chief administrative officer to negotiate with Federal authorities for the purchase of surplus airports in this county.

Board action was taken upon a resolution by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby who told the board that when he was in Washington recently he conferred with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and learned that the Army, Navy and Marines were about to declare certain airports as surplus.

On this basis, these properties would be offered to the state, county or to the city in which they are located. If these governmental subdivisions are not interested in the purchase of such properties, then some other city would be eligible to acquire them, Darby added.

He said that if the various governmental bodies are not interested in purchasing these airports, they would be offered to private persons. Under the conditions of sale, the supervisor explained, the Army authorities would require the use of all airports during one month of each year for maneuvers.

Military authorities have already proclaimed the Lancaster Air Base surplus, Darby concluded.

Burglars Get \$225 From Home Of Local Woman

Mrs. Mary Middle, 819 Border ave., reported to Torrance police that \$105 in cash and \$60 in checks were stolen from her apartment last Saturday night during her absence.

She said that she had only been away for a short while when the theft occurred. The house had been thoroughly ransacked by the thieves who were believed to have entered through the back door.

DRAFT BOARD Selective Service board No. 280 is located at 2300 Carson st., in the Torrance Health Center building.

Christmas Decorations Mystery Solved

Torrance merchants and shoppers were shocked the other day to see Christmas decorations adorning the lamp posts of the commercial district.

"Who bought those?" was the frequently asked question.

The Chamber of Commerce denied knowledge of the decorations; the retail merchants knew nothing about them; no "angel" had come forth with the ornaments, but still they were there much to the credit to the community.

The Torrance Herald decided the question should be answered and set about seeking the solution.

Questioned first was City Building Custodian James Brodie. He said he understood the city had bought them. "No action has gone across the council table," this reporter remarked, and he takes in every word.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett then interrogated, came through with the answer.

He revealed that the council, in an informal session, authorized the decorations and agreed to pay the bill at the next regular meeting.

"Who asked for them?" Bartlett was asked. "No one," he replied, "how do the people like them?"

"Fine" was the answer, "but next year let's ask for them and get more and better ornaments."

Local Requests For Action May Keep King Busy

With the return of Rep. Cecil R. King from a long tour of Europe, local interests are renewing demands for his assistance in a number of local projects, it was revealed.

They include: Protection of the interests of the City of Torrance in the Army flight strip at 101 highway and Hawthorne blvd.

Assistance in solution of the housing and materials problem in this area both for veterans and others.

Following through on Torrance's request for consideration of Hollywood Riviera section as a site for a West Coast military or navy academy.

Efforts to maintain the Army hospital as a permanent facility, operated either by the Veterans Administration or by the county.

Securing of an early decision on the location of the Marine hospital proposed for the county, with Rolling Hills as a favored site.

New Group Forms For Hollywood Riviera Residents

During a meeting Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albin K. Peterson, the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association was founded, according to Mrs. William Edwards, publicity chairman for the group.

William Edwards was elected president with Mrs. Albin Peterson serving as secretary-treasurer.

Committee chairmen elected to investigate into the problems of the group, are: Willard Key, restrictions and deeds; Philip E. Rice, water; Raymond Whitney, to check the Torrance City Council meetings and Mrs. Sidney Welch, parliamentary.

Further meetings, it was reported, will be held the first Monday of each month at which time the committees will give their reports.

The first meeting in January has been scheduled in the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Easley.

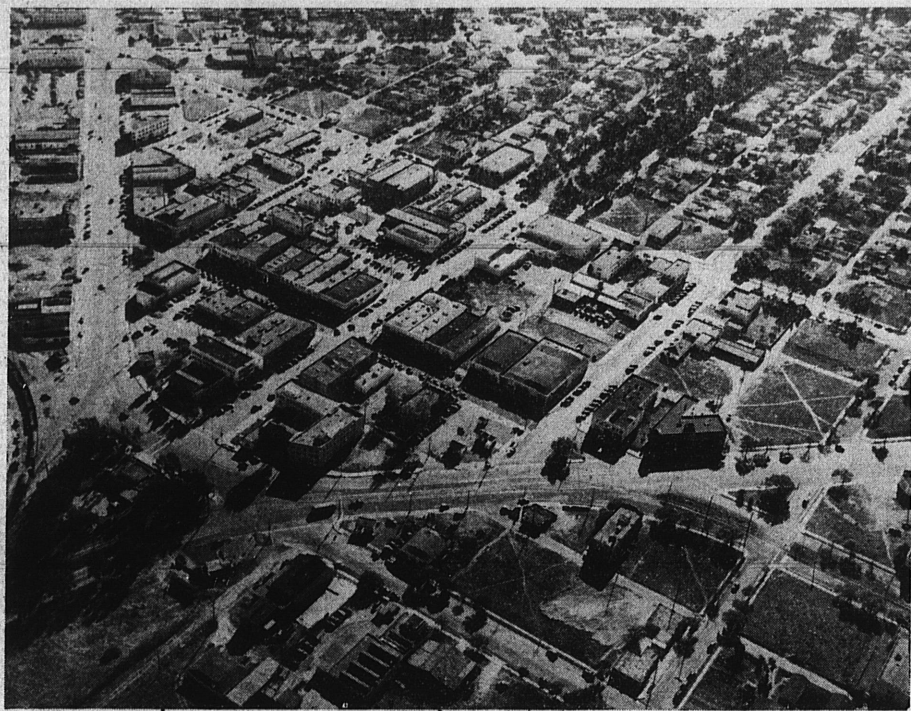
BACK ON JOB Frank J. Daniels, local realtor, is back on the job after spending several weeks in the hospital where he underwent an operation on his arm.

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RETAIL DISTRICT OF TORRANCE . . . Never before photographed from the air is the retail district of Torrance, shown above. The picture was taken from a U. S. Navy blimp from Squadron 31, Santa Ana Naval Air Station, soaring in the vicinity of Columbia Steel Co. Various central district buildings are clearly visible. Some 75 photos of all sections of Torrance were taken. The expedition was sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and financed by the City of Torrance.



TORRANCE FROM THE AIR . . . Above is the first picture ever published of Torrance from the air, taken in a City of Torrance Chamber of Commerce sponsored mission last week from a U. S. Navy blimp from Squadron 31, Santa Ana Naval Air Station. The picture shows the central section of Torrance taken toward the northeast from a point approximately above Crenshaw blvd. and Jefferson st. In the lower part of the picture is International Derrick & Equipment Co., Torrance works.

HEY, KIDS! LOOK WHO'S ON MOOSE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Torrance's big Christmas show that promises to be the last word in comedy riots. There will be thrills and spills furnished by Passolee and Lee, novelty skaters; Barnum and Bailey clown, Joe Brooks and Gus Lind, Arthur Bros. circus clown, Colbert, the Great Magician, will astound all with his impossible feats of magic.

Other acts scheduled to appear on the program will be announced in the Torrance Herald next week.

Among the donations that have been received and pledged for this gigantic party for all children of the district along with their parents, are as follows:

Al Herman, a very talented blackface comedy star, will act as master of ceremonies of the

MOOSE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUND

Please find attached hereto, donation in the sum of \$..... to help defray the expense of the Christmas Party and Entertainment.

Signature.....

members during their last meeting, \$108.67; H. Raymond, \$10; E. M. Scanlon, \$10; W. Arnbach, \$10; J. W. Barker, \$50; A. H. Bartlett, \$10; G. A. Hannan, \$10.

Torrance paid its 1944-1945 tax bill well, according to figures released by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

The delinquency rate for that year is only 1.43 percent, or \$4,589.21 owed on a total tax levy for municipal purposes of \$320,897.75.

The delinquency rate is the lowest that it has been in years.

Being a sixth class city, Torrance taxes are collected by the county through an agreement with the county tax collector's office.

TO DENVER, COLO. Miss Caroline Delano left recently for Denver, Colo., where she has taken a position at Buckley Field.

The new members are Darrel Comstock, Bob Everts, Merwin Jarrett, Corky Northway, Dick Malin, Robert O'Connell and Jay R. Stroh.

PARKIN SUGGESTED TO HEAD CITY AVIATION COMMISSION; OFFICIALS ATTEND PARLEY

Mayor W. H. Tolson will suggest to the City Council that Reed H. Parkin, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, be named chairman of the City Aviation Commission, and that Parkin be allowed to pick the other members of the commission, he said as he prepared to depart Monday for the Western

Aviation Conference which was held Tuesday and yesterday in Sacramento.

The Chamber of Commerce several weeks ago suggested to the City Council that an aviation commission of the city be named, due to the increasing importance of Torrance as a center of the industry.

Torrance has one of the 12 major and secondary airports of Los Angeles county, the flight strip on 101 highway and Hawthorne blvd., developed as a sub-base of March field by the Army Air Forces, and another is under construction at Redondo Beach blvd. and Prairie ave., by Community Airports, Inc., a \$3,000,000 corporation headed by Col. William J. Fox and Major Joe Foss, both Marine Corps heroes.

The Council agreed to meet with the chamber on the proposal, but the suggestion of the mayor that Parkin serve as chairman and suggest his committee has met with the approval of some of the other councilmen.

Attending the Sacramento meeting this week, and due home today, are Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, Councilman C. M. Gilbert, Deputy City Attorney Otto Willett and Harry B. Lewis, president of the Lions club.

Lewis had planned to attend as an interested individual but due to his personal friendship with Gen. H. H. Arnold and several other national aviation figures, he was asked also to represent the city in discussions there.

It was the hope of the city, Tolson said, that at the Sacramento meeting where all interested parties were to be gathered, the City of Torrance could work out a plan for acquiring the Torrance Army airport as a municipal airport. Lewis, a flyer since World War I, and author of several documents on airport development, management, and operation, is ideally

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OWNERS OF LARGE TORRANCE TRACTS ASKED TO RELEASE ACREAGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Torrance Realty Board will survey the large land owners of Torrance to determine the possibility of releasing acreage for subdivision purposes, according to B. C. Buxton, president, and W. E. Bowen, secretary, of the board.

Recently reorganized, the Realty Board recognized as one of its first problems the lack of area for home development.

"We'll have to lift our eyes and forget central Torrance in solving this problem," Bowen declared.

Land owners who are being asked as to availability of acreage for home development are C. N. Ellinwood interests who hold some 900 acres; Del Amo Estates, with several hundred acres of suitable subdividing land, and the Weston ranch interests, who are said to have some land available.

Both the Ellinwood and Weston lands will be served by the proposed Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 upon which the voters will pass on Jan. 15.

It is recognized that water is the first step in converting bare land into home sites. Sewers also are being considered for the whole area, and a street program would follow in event land is made available for development.

It is the intention of the realtors to interest home development companies in the land if the owners of the vast holdings can be interested in releasing the acreage necessary.

Bus service of the City of Torrance throughout that area embraced by the three big interests already has been promised by the City Council.

Overseas Mail Shipment Is Destroyed, Report

Bulk of overseas Christmas mail destined for APO 729 in the Aleutian area was lost recently in a violent storm, according to a War department announcement.

Most of this mail originated in the Christmas mailing period, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, when no request was necessary.

Potmaster C. Earl Conner said that the one parcel may be mailed to any personnel through APO 729 without a request if the package is mailed not later than Dec. 20.

Ask the
Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Just what is a skeptic?
Answer: A skeptic is one who reads all the fine print on a government bond.