

Building Permits

For Week...\$ 26,750
For Month... 77,325
For Year... 598,305

Torrance Herald



NINTH YEAR

Price 5 Cents

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, MAY 18, 1923

Price 5 Cents

NO. 20

First Oil Field Fire Destroys Tanks and Damage Boilers

Favorable Wind Prevented Flames from Spreading to Derricks and Other Wooden Structures

Fire, of unknown origin, Wednesday morning swept the fuel tanks of the boilers behind the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company's Torrance No. 5 and No. 9, completely demolished two 200-barrel tanks, wrecked the four boilers, and threatened six big storage tanks a few yards away.

Every available man on the Chanslor-Canfield Midway wells was pressed into service fighting the flames and the Torrance fire department was called out.

A dirt fire break was thrown up between the blazing tanks and the storage center to prevent the burning oil from spreading to them. It was feared for a time that the heat from the flames which shot in the air 100 feet or more, would ignite the storage tanks.

A favorable wind that blew the flames away from the derricks along Carson street prevented the fire from spreading to these wooden structures. Hundreds of passing motorists stopped to watch the Chanslor-Canfield Midway crew battle the fire, which was the first serious fire in the Torrance field.

By putting the boilers out of commission, drilling in Torrance No. 7 was halted temporarily until a line was run in from another set of boilers. Torrance No. 9 was preparing to get steam from the boilers but was forced to make other connections.

The fire would have proven serious had it spread to Torrance No. 5 which was put on production about two weeks ago.

Three Days Of Demonstration Fess Grocery

Five of Leading Wholesalers Will Be on Hand To Show Goods

A public reception extending over three days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 17, 18, and 19, is now under full way at the Fess Grocery, Masonic Temple Building, Torrance.

Mr. Fess arranged with several of the largest wholesalers to send demonstrators to his store for the three days so that under skillful guidance his customers and the people of Torrance may be accurately advised of the super-qualities of the different goods represented at this store. In a way, the three days will be termed "Grand Opening" of the Fess Grocery in its new home. Decorations are attractive, goods artistically arranged and there are numerous clerks to take care of all who call.

Some exceptional bargains are offered also, especially in coffee, canned fruits, cookies, crackers and other delicacies. Special prices of these are found in the advertisement of the Fess Grocery on another page of this issue. It will pay you to look the list over, mark the items that appeal to you, and come to the store fully knowing just what you want to carry away or have delivered at your home.

Alto Brand coffees, Bishop's crackers, Curtis Company olives, M. A. Newmark fruits, Johnson, Carvill & Murphy Company Mazola oil, Linit starch, etc., will be some of the features of the opening demonstration.

ASKS FOR PAVING

Residents in the district bounded by 22nd street, Plaza del Amo, Arlington avenue and Cabrillo avenue requested by petition that the city council take the necessary proceedings to pave their streets with a substantial material. Oil and gravel were barred by the property owners. They demand something better. The matter will receive the proper attention of the city engineer. The property owners will meet some evening next week with the trustees in special session to decide on the character of pavement, costs, etc.

NEW REAL ESTATE OFFICE

Wells & Drake have made application for a building permit to erect a real estate office on the lot across the street from the First National Bank building.

MASONIC SERVICES TONIGHT

Formal ceremonies for the dedication of Masonic Temple, Torrance Lodge No. 447, F. & A. M., will be held tonight, Friday, May 18, at 8:00 o'clock, under the personal direction of David J. Reese, Grand Senior Warden of the State of California. All Master Masons are invited to attend. A chicken dinner will be served at 6:00 p. m.

F. C. Sharp and H. M. Tolson motored to Cedarpines Park, in the San Bernardino Mountains, Sunday.

WARNING TO AUTOISTS

The accidents and near-accidents that have happened in the past few days impel Chief of Police Anderson to issue the following warning: "All drivers will be prosecuted who cut intersections, or turn in the middle of a block, especially in the business sections of Marcellina, Cabrillo, El Prado and Sartori street." Chief Anderson stated further that in the majority of cases the offenders are local people, and insists that leniency need not be expected in case of arrest.

Midway Petroleum To Drill 40 Acres South Of Town

Mrs. Mary A. Phillips and Mrs. Elizabeth Koster Combine Twenty Acres Each on Twenty-year Lease

As evidence of faith in the ultimate outcome of developments at the Union well now drilling on the Weston Ranch, one mile south of Torrance, the Midway Petroleum Oil Co. negotiated a forty-acre lease Tuesday with Mrs. Mary A. Phillips of Lomita and Mrs. Elizabeth Koster of Wilmington. Each of these lessees own twenty acres, only 1100 feet distant from the Union well, and lies at the extreme end of Weston street just before the turn is made south towards Meadow Park.

The lease is for twenty years. One thousand dollars per acre bonus was paid and \$10 per month per acre for the first year and \$20 per acre per month thereafter, with one-sixth royalty. Prospects for present drilling is problematical, but it is evident that the Midway Petroleum Company considers this valuable oil property and have been negotiating for a lease for some time.

Reports from the Union well continue favorable. It was reported Friday that salt water had been struck at 4450 feet and that a cementing job was now under way with difficulty. One report said the well continued to flow high gravity oil for several hours when the salt water strata was punctured, and that it is only a question of days now until the well is brought in.

Considered even more significant of what the Union Oil Company thinks of this district, a report this week that this company had leased the section of 640 acres from the widow of the late C. N. Ellinwood. The property lies west of Arlington street, crosses Anaheim boulevard and extends to the foothills of the Palos Verdes estates.

CARD PARTY A SUCCESS

The card party held Wednesday evening in Legion Hall under the joint auspices of the Woman's Club and the American Legion, was a huge success, from a monetary as well as social standpoint. About 100 were present at the affair which was given for the benefit of disabled veterans.

The prizes, which were donated by business men and members of the club, were won by Miss Reeve, Mesdames Turner, Greaves and Levy, and Messrs. Gourdier, Hanson and Basch.

Refreshments of doughnuts and coffee were served. The committee takes this opportunity to publicly express their appreciation of the donations of fifteen dozen doughnuts, each, from the Gardena and Perfection Bakeries, and three dozen from the Rock Bottom grocery. The coffee was contributed by Paige's grocery.

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NEW CITY HALL FOR COMPTON

The city trustees of Compton are planning to call a special election for the purpose of voting bonds in the sum of \$122,000, to be used for the construction of a new city hall and library building. A small portion of the funds will also be used for water and sewer extensions, it is said.

GETS OIL IN BATH TUB

When the family bath was prepared last Sunday morning at 527 Miller street, Lomita, crude oil settled on the top of a half-filled bath tub. A second attempt to fill the bath proved a similar result. Bathing was then postponed until the evening and attempts to eliminate the effects of a non-prospected oil well met with the same condition. A heavy gas flow was noticed at the faucet and when a match was applied a long blue flame burned for several minutes—in fact until it was shut off. The gas pressure at this home has been noticed for ten years and has been lighted many times for the amusement of visitors. The water supply comes from a well 500 feet deep one block away.

TRIPLE CITY AND TRIO SHOW

Do not forget the date of the show to be given in the Torrance Theatre Monday evening, May 21, by the Triple City Lodge, I. O. O. F., and Trio Lodge of Rebekahs. A good six-act feature, a comedy and five all-star vaudeville acts, supplemented by a jazz orchestra sounds mighty good, so get your tickets early from any member of either lodge. If you want to get them at the window the night of the show you may be out of luck. All tickets will be sold at the popular price of thirty-five cents.

BUILDING PERMITS THIS WEEK

The following permits were issued at the city clerk's office for the week of May 10 to 17. W. W. Johnston, lot five, block 300, California house; George Ovaneroff, 1013 Border, addition; Root, Rhodes & Dyer, 716 Amalpa, dwelling; P. E. Land Company, 1317 Portola, dwelling; Pueblo Land Company, 231 Arlington, store building; H. S. Bates, 1337 Engracla, garage; A. W. Hemsalt, 1104 Cota, dwelling; Eva Durant, 1024 Portola, screen porch; G. E. Middleton, 1217 Cota, garage; A. S. Ryaiter, lot four, block twenty-three, oil derrick; Superior Oil Company, lot five block eleven and lot fourteen block ninety-two, oil derricks.

ENTERTAIN PHOENIX FRIENDS

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Horton entertained a number of Phoenix, Arizona, friends at their home, 1528 Marcellina avenue, last Wednesday evening. The guests included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Platts, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Platts, Madeline Platts, Eileen Humphrey, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mayfield and son Carl, Miss Figgie of Los Angeles, Mrs. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Will Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chambers, Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Lake of Redondo. Games were enjoyed during the evening and music was furnished by the Platts orchestra. They have moved here recently from Glendale and are living at Sparling Court.

Prospects Bright For One More Producer The Coming Week

Lumber on Ground For Two New Wells on Carson Street—For Hub Oil Lease and Superior Oil Co.

With Torrance No. 4 on the Chanslor-Canfield Midway lease drilling at 3200 feet yesterday, the prospects for another producer on Carson street by the latter part of next week were bright. This well was cemented five times before the water was finally shut off.

DRILLING ON WILDCAT WELL

Developments Eagerly Watched As Favorable Showings Continue

Drilling was again resumed at the Peterson-Barker wild cat well at Western and 213th after several weeks of persistent efforts to land the drill collar that was lost, together with seven lengths of casing twisted off in the fishing job. Late Tuesday night a charge of nitro-glycerine was lowered and an attempt was made to shoot the collar and pipe to one side. This proved successful to the extent that drilling was resumed with side-tracking operations. It is claimed the well is now down between 2400 and 2500 feet with oil showings very encouraging. Everyone connected with the well is lending every effort to rush the work since drilling has been resumed and are eagerly watching developments.

The fact that an oil and gas showing was struck before the fishing job occurred and that the logs of the well were checked up closely, with the wells on the west side, makes the well particularly interesting.

Fifty or sixty acres in this vicinity has been purchased the past thirty days by local people who have every faith in the final outcome of the well. Advance in price of lots, half acres and acres east of the well has been slight the past three weeks, but upon proper developments at the well land values will go skyrocketing. A tract of ten acres is being syndicated this week by local investors at about \$5000 per acre and many are taking advantage of this opportunity.

ASK FOR FRANCHISE

The Petroleum Midway Oil Company has made a written request to the city council for franchise to lay pipe lines for oil and gas on the north side of the Long Beach and Redondo Road. They also requested permission to lay a temporary line on the same street, which was granted.

"Lest We Forget"

LEGION MEMORIAL FUND MAKING PROGRESS; WHERE THE GRAVE FUND STANDS

To April 21.....\$16,810.37
Week ending April 28... 6,282.69

Total to April 28...\$23,093.06
The American Legion Graves Endowment Fund will be invested in perpetuity and the income used annually to provide decorations for the graves of 32,000 American soldiers and sailors whose bodies will forever lie overseas. At least \$100,000 is needed—\$200,000 can well be used—to increase the principal of this fund, the nucleus of which is a million francs now on deposit in France.

The contributions from Torrance are as follows:
Previously reported.....\$24.00
American Legion Auxiliary... 8.50
Anonymous contributions... 10.00
Mrs. Nellie Crossland..... 10.00

TOTAL.....\$52.50
Anyone wishing to subscribe to this memorial fund, make your checks payable to "The National Treasurer Graves Endowment Fund, American Legion." Send your contribution care of Commander Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, Torrance, Calif.

Dr. N. A. Leake is driving a new Chandler sedan.

The Hub Oil Company's Smith No. 1 was taken off production temporarily this week to drill it about 100 feet deeper and to run in a new string of casing. The water was never entirely shut off in this well and in going down to cement off the water the Hub officials decided to deepen the hole.

The drill was first stopped at 3605 feet in a shell formation, and while the Hub drillers felt that they should have gone deeper, the advice from the state oil and gas bureau was to stop. Since then, however, the Hub officials have become convinced that the hole should have been drilled deeper, because of the easterly dip in the structure.

By deepening the well the Hub officials not only expect to increase its production but also to increase the gravity of the oil, which was around the thirty mark when re-drilling operations began this week.

The Hub's Frier No. 1 and the Gilmore Petroleum No. 1 well, in the adjoining block, are standing cemented at 3154 and 3180 feet, respectively, and will be drilled in within the next week or so. These wells are cemented deeper than any of the others in this locality, and it is believed that the deeper cementing will solve the water trouble all the new wells to the east have encountered. Just north of Frier No. 1, the Chanslor-Canfield Midway's Torrance No. 6 is making good progress and is drilling at about 3000 feet. It has not been decided at what depth this well will be cemented, though it is believed the Chanslor-Canfield Midway drillers will follow the example of both the Hub and Gilmore experts.

The Chanslor-Canfield Midway's Torrance No. 8, spudded in with electrical machinery on the old Redondo-Long Beach boulevard, west of Cedar street, last week, was yesterday reported going down fast. This well is offsetting the Midway Northern Oil Company's first well and will go a long way toward showing how the structure of the field is running. There are a good many experts who believe that the main axis of the field will run through the district where these two wells are located, and a great many others that believe the main axis is farther to the north.

Lumber was put on the ground for two new wells this week. One of the wells is located on the Hub lease north of Carson street adjoining the Debu Rabbity, and the other is on the Superior Oil Company's lease just north of Carson street and east of Cedar street. This is the first well to be put down by the company of which W. M. Keck is the head, and passages immediate drilling on other leases held by Keck in the Torrance field.

The rig builders this week completed the derrick for the Trimble-Rhea well on lots six and seven in block fifty-five, and preparations were made to install rotary machinery at once. The Sentinel Oil Company was waiting for machinery to arrive for their rig just west of Cedar street on its five and a half-acre lease on the north side of Carson street. The derrick was completed last week.

MORE PATCHING

Upon information of W. T. Klusman before the city trustees Tuesday night that the cracks in the pavement in Arlington were so wide that it was dangerous, City Engineer Jessup said he would request the Willite Company to make temporary repairs once more, although he believed resurfacing of the street would be under way before three weeks. Some of these cracks are over twelve inches wide and are a menace to autoists, and may result in serious accidents.

The interior of the Brighton Apartments is being thoroughly renovated.