

Torrance Herald



TENTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., FRIDAY, FEB. 15, 1924

NO. 10

Superior To Drill Industrial Tract Well To 5000 Ft.

Torrance No. 13, Near Glass Factory, Down 4300 Ft. Thursday

The Superior Oil company intends to drill Torrance No. 13, on the Torrance industrial tract south of the Western Sheet Glass company's plant, to a depth of 5000 feet.

This information was received this week from an authorized source. On Thursday morning the well had been drilled to 4300 feet.

In view of the failure of several companies to get producers in the Plaza del Amo street district, which is even further south, but west of Superior's Torrance No. 13, operators are watching Superior's deep test with interest.

Cement Job Wet
The attempt of Bush and Voorhis to establish the fact that operators have drilled through a productive formation in all parts of the oil field here was unsuccessful when the company failed to get a water shutoff on its Washburn No. 1 on East Acacia street. The well was cemented at 3200 feet in the belief that production might be increased by a high cement job. The company has not yet given up hope for success of this test of the upper sand and shale, but has re-cemented at the same level.

PALMER WILL OPEN SECOND GAS STATION

Feb. 23 Date of Opening at Carson and Arlington

Fred Palmer announces that Palmer Service Station No. 2, at the southwest corner of Carson and Arlington streets, will be formally opened Saturday, Feb. 23. The new station will be modern in every sense of the word and Mr. Palmer promises excellent service to motorists. Gasoline, grease and oils will be sold.

Maccabee Officers Installed Tuesday

The officers of the Maccabees, Torrance review, No. 37, were installed Tuesday evening by Deputy Grand Commander Julia C. Ginn, assisted by Mrs. Eastland and Mrs. Heineman, installing chaplain, Mrs. Hunt, and a drill team, of Los Angeles.

The guest of honor was Lieutenant Supreme Commander Mrs. Minnie W. Aydelotte of Oakland.

Mrs. Aydelotte was presented with a beautiful bouquet, Mrs. Ginn with a vase, and the retiring commander, Mrs. McCaffrey, with a past commander's pin.

Mrs. Laven rendered two piano solos. About one hundred out-of-town guests were present, representing Los Angeles, Lomita, San Pedro, and Redondo Beach.

After the installation a social hour and refreshments were enjoyed.

The new officers of the review follow: Commander, Mae Tomkins; lieutenant commander, Anna Stadis; past commander, May Lowry; selector Rachel Gay; keeper of records, Sarah Campbell; chaplain, Nettie Steinheil; lady-at-arms, Mary Blanchard; sergeant, Anna Guelich; sentinel, Marian Lynn; picket, Eugene Roberts; captain of guards, Charlotte Leonard; color bearer No. 1, Marian Wright; color bearer No. 2, Mary Roberts.

JULIAN NO. 6 PUMPING 400 BARRELS DAY

Reviving confidence in the southern part of the field east of Narbonne avenue in Lomita, the Julian Petroleum corporation's No. 6, the southern outpost on the east side, is producing 400 barrels a day on the pump. The yield was measured Monday and Tuesday. Clean oil turned into the tank for 48 hours amounted to slightly more than 800 barrels.

Julian has hauled equipment to his well just south of No. 6, and will probably rig up within a few days. The southern outpost on the west side, Julian's Splittcoesser No. 1, is turning about 150 barrels of clean oil into the tanks daily. The well is pumping about 150 barrels, but is cutting considerable mud and sand. Standard's Kettler No. 1 is a better well than it was a few days ago. It is now pumping 100 barrels of 15 gravity oil a day.

WILL SING



The Connors, noted singers, will be at the Methodist church Sunday morning. On account of the widely recognized talent of these singers a large attendance is expected at the morning services.

EDISON OFFICE TO OPEN HERE NEXT MONDAY

Mrs. M. E. Cleary to Be in Charge in Torrance

The Southern California Edison company will open its Torrance office on Monday, Feb. 18, W. E. Oliver, district manager, announced today.

The new office is located in the new building at 1415 Marcelina street, just south of the postoffice, and nothing has been overlooked for the convenience of the public.

Mr. Oliver stated that the Torrance office will be in charge of Mrs. M. E. Cleary, who has been identified with the Southern California Edison company for the past eleven years. Mrs. Cleary comes to Torrance from Hermosa Beach, where she has been agent for the past year and a half.

Residents of Keystone, Lomita and Harbor City will now pay their bills at the Torrance office.

Torrance P.-T. A. Has A Splendid Meeting

One hundred and twenty were present at the regular meeting of the Parent-Teacher association held in the music room of the high school Wednesday afternoon.

After the singing of "America the Beautiful," the flag salute, and the reading of the minutes of the January meeting, all other business was suspended to allow the speaker of the afternoon, Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis of the Juvenile Protective association of Los Angeles, the floor.

In a brief talk Mrs. Lewis outlined the work of the association, which is preventive rather than corrective, dealing with all members of the family instead of one child, much as a doctor deals with all symptoms of the disease instead of only the most prominent one.

Willis M. Brook, from the Progress club, extended an invitation to the next meeting of the club, February 18, in the Methodist church.

Miss Loretta Condey gave two piano selections, the Sextette, from "Lucia," and "Kamenow Oestrou," by Rubenstein.

The "hot dog" sale was reported a success, \$14 being added to the treasury, which the treasurer reported as showing a balance.

It was voted to spend \$15 for records for the portophone for the use of the elementary grades.

Mrs. Russell's room won the cake awarded for having the most mothers present.

At the next meeting, which will be held on March 11, in the evening, at the elementary school, the fathers are to be present, and their votes will count instead of the mothers'.

A party will be held March 7 in the new auditorium at the high school to raise money for the P.-T. A. treasury. All members are asked to sell tickets for this affair.

Opens Furniture Store on Carson

Lewis Ripple, an experienced furniture dealer, has opened a new and second-hand furniture store in the Vonderhe building at 1919 Carson street. Mr. Ripple formerly was in the furniture business in Michigan.

Walton Refuses To Be Candidate For Supervisor

Frank Walton, Compton banker, has declined to become a candidate for supervisor from this district.

Observations

An Attempt to Answer Question Why Men Do Not Go to Church as Often as Formerly

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

REV. J. W. MORRIS, pastor of the Methodist church of Torrance, propounds an interesting question. In a letter sent out to many men of Torrance he asks that they express what in their opinion "is the reason so many men neglect the church, and fail to attend worship on Lord's Day."

The question goes to the very root of American life. The alarming falling off in church interest is a matter that should hold the attention of every man and woman who believes in the value of Christian worship. So let us consider it without regard for sect or creed. To the future welfare of the country's social structure, the continued existence of our churches as great moral forces is important—so important that general church conditions should be discussed with no thought of denominations.

It is true as Rev. Morris points out that the falling off in church attendance all over the country is alarming to all who believe that material progress is worthless unless it goes hand in hand with spiritual advancement and moral betterment.

We are confronted with the bald fact that attendance in Protestant churches has been declining for some years.

Now let us frankly give thought to some of the reasons.

- 1—Church attendance has decreased because:
 - 1—Automobiles and good roads make Sunday excursions enticing.
 - 2—Organizations outside of the churches have taken over many functions previously performed exclusively by the churches—social and charitable activities chiefly.
 - 3—Rapid communication by mail, telegraph and radio has diverted interest from home centers, with resultant decrease in interest in affairs of home centers, churches included.
 - 4—An increase in the number of churches of different creeds has made the attendance to each church proportionately less.
 - 5—Dissension between various sects and even dissension among members of the same sect have brought about rationalism and decreased attendance in every church.
 - 6—The hour of morning services in most Protestant churches does "not take notice of the modern desire of the American family to "go some place Sunday." (But whether services earlier in the morning would bring out a larger attendance is a matter that only tests will establish.)
 - 7—Churches require too much of their pastors.

Please understand we are not criticizing the churches. This is an attempt to answer an important question presented by Rev. Morris. We discuss the question openly and frankly with only one desire—to add our little bit to a comprehensive study of the problem, which, if the study be sufficiently widespread, may eventually help the greatest organizations of human welfare in the world.

Now let us consider the reasons for the falling off in church attendance.

1—Only a few years ago it was impossible for Americans to leave their home towns on Sunday unless they walked, hitched up the horse, or took a train. So the great majority stayed at home. They went to church. Then came the automobile and the paved road. Far places became easily accessible. A vigorous people, loving the great outdoors, Americans took to the road in cars on Sunday.

2—Everyone over 30 years of age remembers when the church was the outstanding social and charitable organization in its community. Through its social activities and its charitable work the interest of residents of the community in the church was maintained and held fast. Then there arose a mania for organization among Americans. Lodges, social clubs, automobile clubs, country clubs, dancing clubs, whatnot came into being. Then came organizations like the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Red Cross, Child Welfare organizations, other charitable institutions. Altogether these new organizations robbed the church of two of its chief functions. The social activities of every community were transferred from the church. So were its charitable activities. The functions were surrendered by the churches voluntarily, but none-the-less certainly.

Charitable and social organizations are worthy—but they have taken away two interests which formerly attracted men and women to church and to the support of churches.

3—A few short years ago, before automobiles were scurrying over the highways, before the days of rapid communication, the home influence on the young was pronounced. There were few diverting influences. The beckoning hands of the great outside were seen less frequently. But as modern inventions made the transmission of mails, newspapers, telegrams, radio easy, as they made long distances short, the home influence and the church in each community suffered. The horizons of human interest moved outward to far distances. The distant became enchanted to the detriment of the close-at-hand.

Spread a person's interest thinly over a wide area, almost unbounded on the face of the earth, and the institutions at his very elbow suffer in decreased interest.

4—There never can be too many churches for the welfare of Christians. But there may be so many in a community that attendance at each is small. What influences have brought about sectarian differences among Protestants need not be discussed here. Suffice to say that these differences have brought into being an amazingly large number of denominations, each of which is bent upon the establishment of churches. Each new sect attracts men and women from others. There are only so many potential or actual church-goers in any community. Multiply the number of churches which they may attend and you subtract from the attendance at each. The surprising thing is that the basic differences of religious opinion upon which these many churches establish themselves are minor when viewed in the light of the wondrously simple, gloriously divine teachings of Jesus Christ.

Which is right and which is wrong, is a matter which the individual must decide for himself. This is a discussion of meagre church attendance and not a treatise on differences in religious practice or theory.

And it must be evident to everyone that the vast increase in the number of denominations during the past twenty years has made for decreased attendance in all Protestant churches.

5—The bitter war being waged between the Fundamentalists and the Modernists in many churches has divided these churches. Internal dissension in any organization, especially in organizations built upon the deep convictions of religious belief, is injurious to undivided support. When dissension enters, interest flags and church attendance drops off automatically.

6—We must face the fact that a large number of potential church-goers in every community wish to "go some place Sunday." Then we should ask the question: "What are the Protestant churches doing to meet this modern tendency?" The desire of families to get in their cars and go for a picnic or a visit to some nearby beach or mountain or city is strong and answered every week by thousands. If these thousands were given the opportunity to attend church, say at 8:30 or 9 o'clock in the morning, would not more of them attend church and "go some place" afterward? A test might answer this question.

7—How a minister of the gospel finds time to perform all of the tasks which modern churches thrust upon him is more than anyone who studies the situation can possibly understand. Congregations certainly have a tremendous confidence in the capacity of human beings. By what they require of their pastors one would judge that a minister is a superlative combination of financier, diplomat, orator, student of metaphysics, college professor, house-to-house canvasser, and musician. Under the modern system of church organization your minister must give so much thought and energy to keep his church out of the pits of financial disaster, so much time to the thankless task of trying to increase the size of his congregation by new members and renewed

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Charge Auto Man Sold Banks Many Fake Contracts

BIG MEETING OF PROGRESS CLUB MONDAY

"The Romance of Electricity," a new moving picture, will be shown at the Progress club meeting Monday night, by the courtesy of the Southern California Edison company. This picture has never before been shown in Torrance. It is heralded as one of the most beautiful pictures ever made of California's most wonderful scenery. Walter G. Blossom will deliver a lecture while the picture is being shown.

With scores of additional members having joined during the past month, the Torrance Progress club will meet at the Methodist church Monday night, Feb. 18, at 7:30 in what directors of the organization believe will be one of the best attended and important civic meetings held in Torrance in months.

Since the last meeting all of the standing committees have been appointed and have been hard at work, with results that are gratifying to the directors.

The Progress club is dedicated to "the progress, growth and upbuilding of the city of Torrance" and the promotion of community pride by the encouragement of better acquaintance among the residents of this rapidly growing city.

Directors of the organization make plain that the club is not dedicated to the cause of any group or faction, but that it stands for constructive progress and will devote its energies toward the realization of those projects which are designed for the benefit and welfare of Torrance.

Special entertainment will be provided for the meeting Monday night. Business of interest to everyone interested in the growth of the city will be discussed.

J. Rahn Disappears; Title To Torrance Cars In Dispute

Title to automobiles of many Torrance residents was opened to dispute recently by the alleged activities of the firm of J. Rahn & Son, Redondo dealers in Willys-Knight and Velle cars.

A warrant is out for the arrest of Rahn, who disappeared from Redondo with his son several days ago.

Rahn's activities, it is alleged, included the discounting of spurious contracts with banks and finance corporations.

Contracts Duplicated

As a result of this asserted action, it recently came to light that more than one contract for the same car had been sold by Rahn to various financial institutions. It is alleged that the Redondo dealer sold spurious contracts to finance companies and made the payments on the same for some time. As the asserted spurious contracts increased in number, police say that Rahn was unable to keep up the payments and disappeared.

Shortly after his disappearance the payments on the alleged worthless contracts stopped. Investigation by finance companies and bankers who had purchased contracts from Rahn resulted, according to officials, in discovery of the fact that the dealer in many cases had sold more than one contract for the same car.

Several Torrance men, who had purchased cars from Rahn, were interrogated. It developed that all of them had made their legitimate payments on the cars, but the question arose as to which contract sold by Rahn should be considered the legal one.

The car of H. F. Rees was confiscated by the sheriff's department. Other Torrance owners of cars in dispute are Harry Gadeky, George Parr, Frank Meinzer, and E. J. Rice.

"THREE-IN-ONE" BUILDERS

By THE MYSTERIOUS COWBOY



You have heard of the Vonthrockwat Building Co., building contractors and designers, of Torrance. Perhaps the odd name has intrigued your imagination. It is a composite word, woven together quite uniquely to typify a genuine service in worthiness. Here is how it comes about:

Three partners, veterans all, banded together in recent times after having been drawn toward one another by a Spanish-American war session in Long Beach. W. C. Von Hagen is noted in the fore part of the odd appellation, his is the Von part of it; next the Throck belongs to that charming personality, C. T. Throckmorton, and lastly Geo. D. Watson fulfills the scheme. A clever thing, that name, and, indeed, clever are the fellows who are back of it and its meaning.

They are designers and builders of anything in the way of homes, business blocks and what nots. A bungalow or a Woolworth tower is just as easy to them; no better and more conscientious builders are to be found anywhere.

Mr. Von Hagen, an educated gentleman and a graduate of the famous Shattuck Military College, is a man of considerable worth in technical and executive lines. He served his country ably in the Spanish-American war. He was with the Torrance Window Glass Co. for seven years, and is well known in this district.

Mr. Throckmorton is from Missouri, I mean not in the skeptical sense but with regard to his nativity. He went out to the Philippines when Dewey was there and saw active service in the military ranks. After the war he was used by our government in installing numerous lighthouses throughout the archipelago. He is an able man at his building trade.

Geo. Watson is too well known for any lengthy explanation. He came here eleven years ago for the Union Tool and has remained with them ever since. His was the third family in Torrance. The pioneer of pioneers.