

Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

# Torrance Herald

"There is no Substitute for Circulation."

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## EVIDENCE EXONERATES JUDGE KING; COURT CONSIDERS DISMISSAL PLEA

### Torrance Requests Hunter Throw Out Extortion Charge

Hearsay Evidence on Which Warrant was Issued Controverted by New and Direct Testimony Absolving City Recorder, Justice Is Told

**DECISION ON DISMISSAL UP TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
Hearing of Case of Former Chief Anderson and Attorney Morewood Set for Monday Morning, Sept. 29, in Lomita Justice Court

Motion for dismissal of the extortion charge against City Recorder James L. King was made before Justice of the Peace L. J. Hunter in Lomita this morning by City Trustee J. S. Torrance, the complaining witness in the case, through his attorney, Perry G. Briney. The motion was made on the basis of new evidence, secured since the return of Judge King and Chief of Police B. M. Anderson, and which in the mind of Mr. Briney, Mr. Torrance, other members of the board of trustees and a large number of Torrance citizens, completely exonerates Mr. King from implication in the case of the five Compton men and the asserted extortion.

Judge Hunter heard a vehement plea by Mr. Briney on behalf of Mr. King, but asserted that the case is now in the hands of the district attorney and that the court did not feel justified in dismissing the complaint without first consulting the district attorney. "I will take the matter up with him immediately," said Justice Hunter, "and may make a decision within the next day or two."

Hearing Set for Sept. 29

Preliminary hearing of the extortion charges against Chief Anderson and Attorney A. P. Morewood of Hermosa Beach was set for 10 o'clock Monday, Sept. 29, by Justice Hunter, after attorneys representing the defendants declared they could not appear until that date. Chief Anderson was represented this morning by Attorney John L. Richardson of Los Angeles. Morewood's counsel is Kimball Fletcher.

In making the motion for the dismissal of the case against City Recorder King, Mr. Briney recited at length the details of the investigation conducted by Mr. Torrance and himself at the behest of the Torrance board of trustees. He was backed in his stand by a lengthy statement of exoneration signed by several Torrance citizens who met yesterday afternoon and investigated the evidence on which the complaint was originally sworn out, as well as the evidence on which they based their exoneration plea.

Cites History of Case

In presenting the request for dismissal of the charges against Judge King, Attorney Briney asserted that the affidavits on which Mr. Torrance and the board of trustees had based their decision to ask for a warrant for Judge King were altogether hearsay and in no manner directly implicated the city recorder. These affidavits, according to Mr. Briney, did not state that anyone had known definitely and with first-hand information that Recorder King took any money or knew of the alleged extortion plot. They merely stated, according to Mr. Briney, that the witnesses had "heard" that Mr. King knew of the alleged scheme.

Anderson Absolves King

Since the warrant was issued, according to Attorney Briney, direct and positive evidence that Mr. King not only received none of the money, but that he knew nothing at all of any alleged plot to withhold evidence in the case or of any alleged extortion, has been received. This evidence is contained in an affidavit made voluntarily by Chief Anderson, and in definite terms asserts that Mr. King knew nothing whatever of any asserted extortion. The chief's affidavit does not incriminate himself, Mr. Briney made plain.

"Mr. Torrance," said Mr. Briney, "feels sincerely that in justice to Mr. King, the charge against him should be dismissed. I may add that I myself am honestly convinced that Mr. King has been the victim of an unintended but nevertheless great injustice. We are now positively convinced that Mr. King took no money and that he had no knowledge whatsoever of the alleged extortion."

Urges Against "Assumption"

"It must be understood by all that no man should be considered guilty simply because a charge has been placed against him. There should be no assumption of guilt in this case, until a jury has returned a verdict."

All of the evidence collected in the case will be presented to the district attorney by Mr. Torrance and Mr. Briney at once, and a decision on the request for dismissal of the case against Mr. King should be forthcoming without delay.

The board of city trustees last night dismissed Chief Anderson and appointed Officer William Phillips acting chief of police.

The statement and plea that the people of Torrance exonerate City Recorder King in "the court of public opinion" follows. It was signed after the evidence in the case was studied at length.

To Our Fellow Citizens of Torrance:  
The Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance, with a desire  
(Continued on Last Page)

### Wouldn't Let Her Campaign For Governor Delay Canning



Her campaign for governor of Texas did not prevent Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson from doing her canning. She is pictured peeling peaches in her home (shown here) in Temple.

### County Ordinance Forbids Use of Weapons on Lands Covered by Trees or Grass

A special ordinance recently passed by the board of supervisors of Los Angeles county forbids the use of firearms for hunting purposes, or to smoke on any forest land or land covered with brush or grass. The ordinance follows in part:

"The board of supervisors of the county of Los Angeles do ordain as follows:

"Section 1. The board of supervisors hereby declares that an emergency, due to the extreme dryness of the vegetation and the great danger of destructive forest and brush fires resulting therefrom, exists in the county of Los Angeles.

"Section 2. It shall be unlawful during the period of the emergency hereby declared, for any person to shoot, fire or discharge any rifle, shotgun, pistol or other firearm upon or onto, or to smoke tobacco or other substance, in any forest land or land covered with brush, grass or other inflammable material in the county of Los Angeles outside of incorporated cities, except as provided in Section 3 hereof.

"Section 3. This ordinance shall not apply to the owner of property while on his own land, nor shall it

apply to the discharge of firearms on property, nor to the discharge of firearms by peace officers in the performance of their duties.

"Section 4. It shall be the duty of the county fire warden to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.

"Section 5. Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not over five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not over six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

"Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the passage hereof, because the adoption and enforcement hereof is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety by reason of the fact that the public peace, health and safety is menaced by the dryness and inflammable condition of the vegetation of the county of Los Angeles. It shall remain in effect until December 1st, 1924, unless the board of supervisors shall sooner declare that the emergency and the menace to the public peace, health and safety shall have ceased to exist."

### Lomita and Torrance Linked With Direct Phone Service

Direct telephone lines between Torrance and Lomita were opened by the Pacific Telephone Company Saturday, according to an announcement made today by Miss Ruth Greenlund, chief operator here. It is now possible for telephone users to communicate with the neighboring community direct. Previous to the opening of these new direct lines, calls between Lomita and Torrance were routed through Los Angeles. The rate for calls between Torrance and Lomita under the new service is 10 cents. Later this charge will be reduced, as increased traffic warrants, it is asserted.

#### RELIEF SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the Torrance Relief Society will be held Friday. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 1 o'clock.

#### P.-T.A. NOTICE

There will be an executive board meeting of the P.-T.A. Wednesday, Sept. 3, at 2 o'clock, at the elementary school. Mrs. G. H. SAPE, President.

### NEW CLUES IN DEATH MYSTERY

Police Think Buried Victim Found Saturday is Murdered Watchman

CLOTHES ARE LOCATED

Authorities Believe Grim Tragedy Took Place East of Torrance

Los Angeles authorities today definitely identified the body of the dead man found east of Torrance as that of Albert W. Pruitt of Los Angeles, whose mysterious disappearance from home on April 12 had never been explained. Mrs. Pruitt identified the hair and teeth and clothing of the man. Authorities are now working on clues which may lead them to solution of the method by which Pruitt met his death in the lonely field east of Normandie avenue.

That the man whose body was found buried in a field near Normandie avenue and East road Saturday morning was murdered last March is the theory today of Los Angeles authorities who have taken charge of the mystery. The body was found by workmen who were repairing a water line early Saturday morning, when one of the laborers saw a shoe sticking out of the ground. Torrance police were notified and the case turned over to county officials.

Deputy sheriffs working on the case are now inclined to believe that the victim was C. Ingerman, night watchman of the Winters Construction Company, who mysteriously disappeared on March 22, after receiving his pay. The disappearance of Ingerman was reported to Torrance police Sunday by W. A. Pearson, superintendent of the company, which last March was building the office building for the Julian Petroleum Corporation. The body bore every evidence of a brutal conflict. The man's jaw was broken and his skull fractured by several blows. Six hundred feet southeast of the point where the body was found police discovered clothing which apparently had been stripped from the body before it was hastily buried.

The body itself had on shoes, socks and underwear. In the pile of clothing short distance away there were overalls, a hat and a coat. From this clothing and the gold-filled tooth in the man's mouth, the authorities believe they will be able to identify the victim.

In the clothing was found an envelope bearing a return address as follows: "Portland, Ore., 311 Pine Street."

According to Torrance police, county authorities are working on clues which may lead to an arrest within a few days.

### Standard Oil Co. Gets Only Well Over Weekend

The only new oil well brought in over the weekend was completed by the Standard Oil Company when Sentinel-Joughin No. 8 was placed on production for 250 barrels a day from 3830 feet.

The Shell Oil Company is continuing to drill and core ahead at Ketter No. 2, deep test well, near the Pacific Electric tracks and Redondo road. The depth of the hole yesterday was 4510 feet.

The Standard Oil Company's Weston No. 1, West Lomita test well, is down 4625 feet. No appreciable showings have been encountered.

### Joseph Hamilton Pleases Audience

Torrance music lovers were delighted last evening with a number of "old-time songs" by Joseph Hamilton at the Torrance theatre. Mr. Hamilton is a talented tenor and scored a big hit with local theatre goers. He will sing again this evening at the Torrance theatre.

### Observations

Fewer and Better Newspapers Movement Shown in Long Beach Merger—One Way to Prevent Forest Fires—Marconi's Promise

W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

THE number of newspapers is steadily being reduced. All over the country publishers are learning the advisability of eliminating newspaper duplication. The latest merger, which conforms to the increasing tendency for fewer and better papers, has just taken place in Long Beach, where the Telegram and the Press became the Press-Telegram.

The joining of these two strongly entrenched dailies was a logical move. Increased materials and labor costs have made the business of publishing newspapers a precarious occupation at best. At the same time the public is constantly demanding better papers. So the wave of mergers among publishers has assumed great proportions during the past two years.

There is no doubt but that Long Beach will be better served by one afternoon paper than it will by two. Only a few months ago there were four dailies in Long Beach. The News was recently absorbed by the Telegram, and now the Press and Telegram become one. From the standpoint of the public and the advertisers of Long Beach duplicated circulation is thus eliminated, at a tremendous annual saving to all business houses to which advertising is essential.

In the matter of reduction in the number of papers Long Beach publishers lined up with a movement that has swept over the country since the war. In New York no less than six big mergers have eliminated as many daily newspapers.

Publishers in scores of other cities have learned by stern experience the uneconomical aspects of too many papers and have merged their publications.

The publishers of the Press and the Telegram are to be congratulated in having effected a great saving for the people of Long Beach. How well the announcement of the merger was received is shown in Monday's issue of the Press-Telegram, when scores of business and commercial leaders of the beach city wrote letters of commendation to the managers of the merged papers.

The announcement of the merger in the last issue of the Press reads in part as follows:

"The policy of the Press-Telegram will be to support all civic measures of merit, and to faithfully uphold the public interest. The Press-Telegram has no pet hobbies to promote, and no special privilege to defend. Its publishers accept their responsibilities as trustees for the people wherever and whenever public questions are involved, and pledge loyal devotion to every cause which makes for a better city, a better state, and a better nation.

"In national politics, the Press-Telegram will be the Republican, conforming to the majority views and affiliations of its publishers, who believe that the Republican party stands for sanity and progress, for good government and the conservation and protection of the people's interest. The Press-Telegram, however, will not be blindly partisan, and will reserve the right to independent expression, as conditions justify and state, and a better nation.

"What is best for the public interest will be the measure and the motive of Press-Telegram decisions. It is the inspiration of the merger which is today announced, a statement which will bear the closest analysis. It is a forward step, in that it will eliminate waste while providing higher quality of production. In the past there has been duplication of effort, a duplication of news, and what is not less important, a duplication of demands upon the natural resources of the continent, in the form of standing timber, the source of supply of the white paper which newspapers are printed. Under the new arrangement, duplication of copies will be prevented.

"This will be a saving for those subscribers who have been receiving both newspapers, and it will be a saving also for the advertiser. While the space rate for the combined circulation of between 35,000 and 40,000 must be greater than the rate for either the Telegram or the Press as separate publications, the rate under the fusion plan will represent a substantial reduction in cost. But for this step, an increase in advertising rates would have been required by existing conditions.

"This consolidation is the logical outcome of the situation in the local field, where there have been two afternoon dailies, each with high ideals and each doing its utmost to produce a good newspaper which would be a credit both to the publishers and to the community. Under the merger, time and effort and expense necessitated in doing the same work twice can be devoted to other tasks, all of which will contribute to the higher quality of the Press-Telegram.

"The tendency throughout the country is toward fewer papers, and better ones. Today there are more newspaper readers in the United States than ever before in its history; and there are fewer newspapers, by many hundreds, than there were ten years ago. Some of the more notable mergers have taken place in New York City, where the Herald and Tribune are now published as one paper, and where the Sun, Globe and Mail are combined in one publication. Houston, Texas, and Oakland, Calif., are other large cities where there have been recent consolidations. The same factors which influence this action elsewhere are present in Long Beach, where a year ago there were four newspapers, and which, beginning tomorrow, there will be but two. In every case where these mergers have taken place, so far as now can be stated, there has been a marked improvement in the quality of the strengthened journal.

"Such is the purpose of the publishers of the Press-Telegram. They are confident that the fused paper will be a stronger paper, and so recognized by both the reader and the advertiser."

TWO hunters in Louisiana killed a deer out of season. To hide their illegal act they set fire to the carcass. A forest fire was thus started which burned over 2000 acres of timber land. The two hunters were haled into court and sentenced to pay the United States \$2500, that being the amount the government expended in fighting the fire.

This is a significant decision and may become far-reaching. If individuals who cause forest fires can be forced to pay for the damage done by the flames, there will be fewer disastrous timber blazes.

Assuming that there are 24,000,000 homes in the United States, a statistician writing recently in Radio News says that 13,000,000 of them have automobiles, 9,000,000 have phonographs, and 3,000,000 have radio sets.

Truly our material standard of living is high. If radio can contribute to the moral and spiritual welfare, it will one day be a tremendous force for progress. Otherwise it will remain just a medium for communication and entertainment.

### ITALIANS ATTEMPT MURDER

Two Barrels of Shotgun Fired at Frank Ross of Harbor City Sunday

SPEED AWAY IN FORD

Oil Man Wounded by Five Assailants Who Make Getaway From Lomita

Emptying both barrels of a shotgun into the car driven by Frank Ross, aged 35, five Italians early Sunday morning severely wounded Ross and made their getaway in a Ford touring car. Police in all cities of Los Angeles county have descriptions of the car in which the five assailants drove away, and are watching highways all over Southern California. Ross, who is an engineer for the Shell Oil Company, was in the car with his 10-year-old son when the shooting took place. He is recovering from his wounds at Hillside hospital. The lad was unharmed.

Ross asserts that five men in a Ford had followed him on several occasions. He declares that he does not believe the assailants sought to kill him because of an Italian secret society feud.

Ross lives in Harbor City. When the shooting took place Constable Taber of Lomita immediately notified Torrance police to watch for a Ford touring car with five men in it. Although the roads to Torrance were carefully guarded police did not see the car.

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### BOWLING NOTES

Thursday, Aug. 28			
	First National Bank	Total	
Deininger	211 158 148	517	
Mullin	152 124 95	371	
Schlick	125 125 166	416	
McMillan	188 159 171	518	
Babcock	111 106 120	337	
	787 672 700	2159	

Torrance Tramps			
	Total		
Vonderhe	147 152 125	424	
Higgins	175 113	288	
Bale	118 127 120	365	
Newby	133 165 152	450	
Hanson	154 150 176	480	
Proctor	—	149	149
	727 707 722	2156	

S. P. & S. Cuckoo			
	Total		
Lawrence	120 159 129	408	
Mack	80 71 111	272	
Reeve	91 124 87	302	
Singer	132 110 108	350	
Dick	163 121 110	394	
	596 585 545	1726	

S. P. & S. 409's			
	Total		
Gulpin	142 129 142	413	
Rice	123 134 131	387	
Harvey	52 111 97	260	
Allen	74 71 100	245	
Hutchins	143 130 112	385	
	538 575 582	1695	

### ISSUES WARRANT

Justice of the Peace L. J. Hunter has issued a warrant for the arrest of E. D. Ratliffe, 908 Annapola avenue, Torrance, on a charge of wife desertion. Mrs. Ratliffe swore out the complaint, asserting that Ratliffe left her with two children.

### GOING TO EUROPE

Sten Petersen of Redondo Beach leaves this week for Europe, via the Panama canal.

Mr. Petersen will be remembered by the patrons of the First National Bank as the affable, efficient young man who substituted for various of the bank's personnel during the vacation period of two months.

Mr. Petersen's health has failed, and absolute rest has been prescribed by attending physicians.

### KEYSTONE G. OF C.

Notice—The Keystone Chapter of Commerce will have its regular monthly meeting Saturday night, Sept. 6, at 8 o'clock. A report on the bus line is looked for. There will be an informal dance after the meeting. All welcome.