

Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

# The Torrance Herald

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## EXPLOSION WOUNDS THREE CHILDREN

### Crucial Experiments on Deep Wells to Be Made This Week

#### TESTS DUE ON DEEP WELLS

Jameson Bails Rogers Hole for Water Shutoff Trial  
KETTLER WELL PLUGGED  
Shell Will Try for Production From Above 4500 Feet

Two important tests in the quest for a second oil sand here are scheduled to be made this week. One is at the Rogers No. 1, old Bush and Voorhis well on Acacia street, where the Jameson Oil Company is bailing for a water shutoff test. The other is at the Kettler No. 2 of the Shell Oil Company, where the hole has been plugged back to 4500 feet and where a water test will be made shortly. The Rogers was cemented off at 4134 feet. While the crew was bailing down to 1800 feet, field representatives of the company declared the belief that the job was successful in shutting off the water. The Shell company recently announced its intention to abandon the Kettler test, but later decided to plug back and try for production above 4500 feet, where a showing of oil and gas was encountered while the well was being drilled. There is nothing new at the Lora J. The well is still pumping a thin fluid, a large percentage of which is water.

#### Torrance Man Escapes Hurts In Death Crash

J. B. Brannigan Uninjured, But Companion, Bert Nixon, Is Killed

J. B. Brannigan, employed by the Western Sheet Glass Company, narrowly escaped serious injury, and his companion, Bert Nixon, aged 55, was instantly killed Sunday, when the car in which they were riding near Westminster skidded on the wet pavement and turned turtle. Nixon, pinned under the overturned car, died before the machine could be lifted from his body. Brannigan was brought to his home on Cabrillo avenue in Torrance, where he was attended by Dr. J. S. Lancaster. His injuries were confined to bruises. The men were driving from Pala when the accident occurred.

#### Scout Campfire Held on Friday

Torrance Scouts conducted a campfire last Friday evening in the park back of the school buildings, at which a number of "stunts" were provided by members of the organizations. The Wolf patrol, Troop No. 2, Robert Williams patrol leader, was declared the winner of the inter-patrol contest and will enjoy, as a result, a swimming party on Thursday evening of this week. Four candidates, Milton and Dale Foster, C. Skousen and Thomas McNeill, have filed applications for membership within the last week. Troop No. 3 is within three members of the closing number, and Troop No. 4 has six places available. The regular meeting of Troops Nos. 3 and 4 for this week will be held in the First Methodist church on Friday evening, and boys interested in becoming scouts are cordially invited to be present.

#### RAINFALL

Sunday's rainfall in Torrance was 0.26 inch. This puts the rainfall for the season far ahead of last year.

#### Three Women Sit as Supreme Court in Texas Title Suit



Mrs. Edith Wilmons of Dallas, Miss Hortense Ward of Houston, and Miss Nellie G. Robertson of Granbury, shown left to right, served as the supreme court of Texas in deciding an important suit involving a land title. All the regular judges disqualified themselves, and the women were appointed as members of the court, with Miss Robertson as chief justice.

#### They All Come Back, Tra-La! They Do, Tra-La-La-La-La!

"They all come back." This time it is Mr. and Mrs. William C. Harris who prove the truth of that statement when it is made in reference to the folks who live here once and then go east again. In witness whereof is the following record of facts: Mr. and Mrs. Harris last fall lived at 2517 Sonoma street. They traded their house and lot for an 80-acre farm in Arkansas. They went east with their two children.

#### Pay of Marshal and City Recorder Fixed by Trustees

The board of city trustees last night adopted an ordinance fixing the pay of city marshal at \$300 a month, and that of the city recorder at \$100 a month, plus 75 percent of the fees on civil suits filed with the court. It was estimated that these fees would not amount to more than \$25 a month at the maximum. Up to the present they have been far below that figure. Trustees pointed out that since the city recorder started hearing civil suits, few such cases have been filed. The change was made at the behest of business men who argued that the Torrance court should handle minor civil cases, making it unnecessary to file minor suits in Lomita.

#### Little Girl Hurt In Fall From Tree

Geraldine, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Bradford of Cabrillo avenue, fell from a tree Friday, dislocating her collar bone.

#### Observations

Four Main Aspects of the Sewer System Proposal; Labor Succeeds in Banking Business—Another Fool Law Proposed—Too Many Laws  
By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

CITIZENS who will vote Feb. 24 on a proposition to bond this district for \$2,000,000 to construct a trunk sewer and pay a proportionate share in the cost of the great outfall sewer and disposal plant should consider the sewer plan from four main aspects. These are: Sanitation and Health; Civic Improvement and Growth; Increased Property Values; Economy.

On these subjects A. K. Warren, assistant chief engineer of Los Angeles county, has the following to say:

**SANITATION AND HEALTH**  
With the total absence of sewage to pollute and contaminate the underground waters, from which the domestic supplies are drawn, it can be expected that these waters will always retain their present purity. However, with the continuous and increasing supplies of poisonous sewage leaking daily from cesspools down to the water-bearing strata, it is but a question of time until the water is contaminated, and rendered unfit for domestic use, without treatment.

**CIVIC IMPROVEMENT AND GROWTH**  
Many industries are anxious to locate in the smaller cities surrounding Los Angeles, but are deterred from so doing because of the lack of sewers. This applies equally well to large apartment houses and hotels, restaurants, and in fact to any institution using a large supply of water.

**INCREASED PROPERTY VALUES**  
The cost of the sewers will be many times repaid by increased values resulting directly from the presence of the sewers. This will show as a result of growth and expansion. A small city cannot hope ever to be a large city without those conveniences (which have become necessities) which go to make the city a fit place to live and provide for industrial expansion.

**ECONOMY**  
It is a fact that, aside from all other considerations, the actual cost of construction and operation of the metropolitan sewer system will be less, to the individual taxpayer, than the cost of building and operating cesspools. Even in the years of maximum cost this is true, and it is also a fact that while the yearly cost of cesspools is a constantly increasing factor to the individual, the cost of the metropolitan sewer system decreases rapidly from year to year after the first year.

THE city of Torrance is served by a sewer system now by virtue of its right to the use of the sewer farm for disposal purposes. But this right will terminate in less than five years, leaving the city with a system of sewer pipes which would, without a disposal system, be entirely useless.

Subsequent to the suit over title to the land known as the sewer farm, the city of Torrance entered into an agreement with the Dominguez Land Corporation whereby the company deeded to the city four and a half acres of land, in return for which the city agreed to present to the company a quit-claim deed to the sewer farm land. It was stipulated, however, that the right to the use of the land for sewer farm purposes would terminate in five years.

This agreement is of distinct benefit to the city of Torrance, which had no title whatever to the sewer farm and which was confronted with the constant possibility of being ejected entirely from the tract.

Had not the big metropolitan sewer system been projected Torrance would have faced a serious dilemma.

If the people of the district approve the proposed bond issue, Torrance, utilizing its present local sewer system, will need only to connect with the trunk line and be assured of immediate disposal facilities.

Other communities in the district must not only pay their share of the cost of the big system, but must also construct their own local sewers.

**SINCE** the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers established the first labor bank in Cleveland, 29 additional labor banks have been formed, and are in process of formation, and preliminary organization steps have been taken for 66 more, according to Frederick J. Haskin, in the El Paso Herald.

When labor banks were first organized it was predicted that their resources would be pooled and the banks would fight capital, as represented by the employers of labor. Persons said the labor banks would be used to finance strikes and other industrial controversies.

As a matter of fact, nothing of the kind has happened. When a labor bank is opened it makes itself liable to its depositors to safeguard their money and return it to them when they ask for it. This being the case, its officers and directors find that they have assumed a tremendous responsibility and that, instead of airing their own views or following their own business lines which safeguard their investments and deposits.

Nothing will so quickly destroy radical ideas in the labor world as the starting of labor banks and the assuming of business responsibility by labor leaders. They soon find that a "labor" bank is not much different from a "capitalist" bank. Both banks are responsible to the law and the penalties await for the man who unlawfully jeopardizes the interest of depositors in either institution.

Capital and labor are synonymous terms—one cannot exist without the other.

AT sessions of legislatures attempts are being made to pass laws making automobile accident insurance compulsory on automobile owners. In addition to this, laws will undoubtedly be proposed to establish monopolistic state automobile insurance or state automobile fund with commissions to collect and expend the same, similar to present state workmen's compensation commissions.

#### SIMPLICITY

Personification of Grace, Is This Smart Summer Gown



By MME. LISBETH

The walking frock for the Riviera, Palm Beach or Miami, or for spring wear, should be the personification of smart simplicity. The model here illustrates what I mean. It is developed in natural kasha cloth in a straightline mode with the new short length—which is not extreme, as shown. It is striped and cross-barred in browns—the season's color—and half a dozen horn buttons of blending shades are also used for trimming. A matching scarf gives a smart finishing touch.

Possibly it is the fact that we have gone collarless so long that makes the high collar so effective. It certainly gives an air to a costume. Try it on at least one new gown and see if you get a thrill out of it. The plainer the frock the more distinguished the effect of the high collar. One woman who has revealed for years in the luxury of an uncollared existence objected strenuously to the choker collar her couturier wished to put on a simple walking costume. She gave in, however, when she tried the frock on sans collar, for she found that one-half the chic of the costume was contained in this feature.

While I hope we will never return to the three-inch wired collars of our mothers' young womanhood, an occasional high collar, especially when it is represented by a soft scarf wound about the throat, certainly gives distinction through its very contrast with the low-necked styles we have been wearing.

#### Former Union Tool Employe Expires

Word was received recently from Corona of the death of Harry Thompson, a former employe of the Union Tool Company, who was found dead in a little shop he conducted in Corona.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were residents of Torrance for eight or nine years, leaving once to live on a ranch that they had purchased near Corona, but they returned to Torrance and made their home at 2020 Gramercy avenue until a few months ago, when they returned to Corona.

#### Match Lit By Tot Touches Off Nitro In Parents' Absence

Nitroglycerine Cap, in Hand of Jackie Javen, Explodes as He Tries to Put Out Blaze Started by 4-Year-Old Brother

#### HOLE BLOWN IN SIDE, THREE FINGERS TORN OFF

Russell and Colonel, Also Sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Javen, East Carson, Literally Peppered With Wounds on Face

When Jackie, 8-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Javens, Sunday afternoon reached out to extinguish a burning scrap of paper ignited by his 4-year-old brother Wesley, who was playing with matches, "while mama and papa were away," one of "the shiny brass things" which Jackie held in his hand exploded, tore a gaping hole several inches wide in his left side, blew off three of his fingers, and literally peppered his brothers, Colonel, aged 6, and Russell, aged 9, with wounds on the face and neck. The "shiny brass things" were powerful nitroglycerine percussion caps.

Wesley, the 4-year-old, who lighted the match that ignited the paper, was not injured.

**Wound Not Fatal**  
Dr. J. S. Lancaster, to whose home the children were taken, declared that the wound in little Jackie's side will probably not be fatal. The blast blew away most of the left side of the child's shirt and underwear and tore a severe wound in the flesh. The force of the flying cap evidently was checked by the boy's ribs.

Colonel and Russell sustained scores of minor wounds in the face and neck. The flying particles were so minute that they did not enter deeply into the flesh, and were extracted by Dr. Lancaster immediately after the accident.

Sunday noon Mr. and Mrs. Javen left the house, which is located on Carson street near Normandie avenue in the "shoestring" strip, and went to the home of Mr. Javen's brother, Harry Javen, 2267 Sonoma street, in Torrance, for dinner. They took their year-and-a-half-old daughter with them. The other five children they left in charge of Harold, who is 11 years old.

**Cap Explodes**  
Shortly before 3 o'clock, while Harold was outside, Wesley, Russell, Colonel and Jackie were playing in the kitchen. Jackie had found some "shiny brass things" and was exhibiting them proudly.

Unknown to the other children, 4-year-old Wesley had found a match. He lighted it and threw it to the floor. It ignited a small piece of paper.

Sensing the danger of the flaming paper, Jackie reached quickly to put it out with his hand. In his hand were the two nitroglycerine caps. One of them exploded.

Hearing the report, Paul Petoski, aged 14, a neighbor's son, ran to the house. He found Jackie with a great, ugly wound in his side and with blood gushing from the injured hand. The faces of Colonel and Russell were covered with blood.

Following Paul, the three children, including Jackie, ran from the house. In the yard they were met by a neighbor, Mrs. Frank Carr, who quickly secured an automobile and drove the injured children to the home of Dr. J. S. Lancaster on Post avenue.

**Sent to Hospital**  
Dr. Lancaster rushed Jackie to the County hospital in Los Angeles, and extracted the bits of metal from the faces of the other two children.

The parents were notified, and Russell and Colonel were taken back home.

The faces of Russell and Colonel were virtually speckled with wounds, but not one fragment struck the eyes of either lad.

None of the children knew where Jackie had obtained the nitroglycerine caps. None knew what the caps were when he showed them in the kitchen before the blast.

Mrs. Javens states that before she left the house she placed all of the matches out of reach and out of sight.

Operatives of the sheriff's department are endeavoring to ascertain where the boy secured the dangerous explosives. One of the caps, unexploded, was found on the floor after the accident.

Mr. Javen is employed by the Hendrie Rubber Tire Company in Torrance.

Western avenue pageant will not be held until March, instead of on Feb. 22, it was announced today.

#### Western Avenue Pageant Will Depict Wedding of Hollywood To Region Surrounding Harbor

The Western avenue pageant will not be held until March, instead of on Feb. 22, it was announced today.

"To celebrate the opening of Western avenue from Hollywood to the sea in March next, the great carnival will be symbolic of the marriage of Hollywood to the harbor," said Charles Freeman Johnson, director of publicity, at the committee's permanent headquarters in the Anderson Memorial building, 828 South Mesa street, telephone 1850, San Pedro.

"The general plan of the carnival is now being written for us by a prominent scenario writer of the Hollywood studios.

"The plot or play of the carnival will include the old-fashioned custom of publishing the bans to the wedding, by a civic ceremony, conducted by civic leaders of progress, broadcast over the radio from KNX, Hollywood, announcing the forthcoming program.

"All sorts of publicity and amusement stunts," said Johnson, "are to be included in this carnival, with an allegorical pageant emerging from the Hollywood hills by way of the Mulholland drive, proceeding majestically the full sweep of Western avenue through Moneta, Gardena, Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City and San Pedro, to the ocean at Point Fermin and White's Point.

"There will be floats representing the brotherhood of communities, an automobile caravan with bands from the navy, army, American Legion, Elks and others, with all sorts of patriotic representations of highway improvement, parks, playgrounds, city planning and community progress."

#### W. B. A. To Hold Public Meeting At Legion Hall

L. A. Drill Team to Be at Torrance Review Installation

Torrance Review No. 37, W. B. A., will hold a public installation meeting tonight at Legion hall, Torrance, when the recently chosen officers of the organization will be seated.

Deputy Great Commander Julia C. Ginn, with a Los Angeles drill team, will exemplify the work. Refreshments will be served, and the review will welcome all who wish to attend.