



Happy New Year



Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

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ANNEXATION ELECTION DATE IS SET TORRANCE 1926 PROSPECTS BRIGHT

WILL VOTE TUESDAY FEB. 9

Trustees Receive Petition Signed by Thirty-one Qualified Voters

90 PERCENT FAVOR MOVE

Electors and Owners of 95 Percent of Property For Joining Torrance

People north and west of Torrance will vote on Tuesday, Feb. 9, on a proposition to annex some 2000 acres to the city of Torrance.

A petition signed by 31 residents of the area was accepted by the Torrance Board of Trustees last Saturday morning at an adjourned meeting. Monday night the board passed through first reading an ordinance calling for a special election. This ordinance will be adopted finally on Jan. 4.

The ordinance names the former's office at the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, camp as the polling place. The following election board is designated: Judges, Margaret Felker, Henry N. Greenke; Inspector, Reginald F. Springer.

By the provisions of the statute it is necessary to publish notice of the election four times in a newspaper outside of Torrance. The notice will be published in the Culver City Star.

Get Legal Advice
The contention of Torrance officials that the Torrance annexation proceedings take legal precedence over those started recently in Redondo Beach was bolstered this week by an opinion given by one of the most able corporation attorneys in California. As this is written no petition for annexation has been presented to the Board of Trustees of Redondo Beach. It is possible that none will be presented.

A canvass of the voters in the vast territory proposed for annexation to Torrance shows that about 90 percent of the qualified electors favor the proposal. It is definitely known that the owners of more than 95 percent of the property in the area are enthusiastically in favor of consolidation with Torrance.

Local Man Has Exciting Fight With Marauder

S. P. Grace, 2122 Gramercy avenue, had an exciting hand-to-hand grapple with a house-breaker Tuesday night. Mr. Grace was alone at home when he heard a noise in one of the bedrooms. He rose and approached the room. A man stepped out of the door. Grace switched on the light and seized the marauder. They tussled, tipping over the dining room table. The man wrenched himself free and escaped. The burglar had broken into the house at about 6 p. m., while Mr. Grace was dozing. Several drawers in a dresser had been opened, but nothing of value was missing. Thieves entered the tool-house at the Elementary School building last Tuesday night and made away with about \$50 worth of tools. The police are working on both cases.

Observations

A Brief and Unmasterful Discourse Upon Some of the Fallacies Connected With This Democracy Business as Opposed to Autocracy

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

DEMOCRACY is a beautiful theory. It looks well on paper. The world has yet to learn whether it brings lasting and permanent benefit to the individuals it is designed to liberate.

Speaking from the standpoint of one who considers himself about an average representative of the great American middle class, I must say with candor that so far I have noted mighty little liberty being shovled under my nose by virtue of my residence in the greatest democracy (on paper) that the world has ever known.

Government is that something set up by men as a medium of authority on matters affecting the lives of the persons who set it up. In establishing this thing called government, and in allowing it to function, each individual must sacrifice something of his own selfish desires for the sake of society.

AUTOCRACY sent down its edicts from above. Democracy is supposed to send them up from below. Autocracy existed by virtue of force. The law came to the people from thrones.

Democracy came into being when people tore the crowns off the heads of kings, in whose stead leaders chosen by popular vote were substituted.

So Democracy, indirectly at least, insofar as leaders represent the people, finds its laws coming from the many.

Theoretically, at least, the method of running this thing called government changed when elected representatives supplanted potentates.

BUT I wonder if the situation, as it affects you and me, has really changed.

In the days of feudalism an individual held sway over his vassals. They fought for him and tilled his soil, in return for which he guaranteed them food and shelter. The best fighter usually got the best house and prettiest girl and the most food. Democracy did away with all that. The individual feudal overlord was cast out. But somebody had to provide shelter and food for the populace. So the individual lord with his vassals was supplanted by the legalized group, which we call the corporation.

The difference between the overlord and the corporation is small. The individual has become the group. But whereas the individual guaranteed food and shelter to his people and existed only so long as he could care for their wants, the corporation guarantees nothing and exists as long as there is a market for the thing it makes or sells.

I hold no brief against corporations. I am a director of a couple myself—small as they are. But I cannot see where men have actually bettered themselves very much by putting a legalized group where the feudal overlord used to hold sway.

DEMOCRACY has many things in its favor. It makes the casting out of offensive personalities in government less bloody than such a procedure used to be. Democracy can and sometimes does save the people from a group out of government control without a drop of bloodshed. Under autocracy it took a revolution to accomplish it.

Even more important to individual happiness is the pretty theory of the thing. The individual under autocracy could only say: "There goes the King. Hail the King! If he is not a good King we will cut off his head."

But in a Democracy the individual can say: "I am King. Hail the King! If the men I elect are not good I will vote them out."

OF course Democracy is based on the assumption that the individual knows enough, is intelligent enough, to decide whether a man or idea is good or bad. Whether this assumption is correct remains to be seen. Democracy is young. But the assumption pleases our vanity and we believe it because we like to believe it. It really is much easier to make a homely girl think she is pretty than it is to convince a pretty one that she is ugly.

DEMOCRACY is supposed to liberate the individual, to raise him up. I wonder if it does either. What man is more free of economic bonds today than were his ancestors when Democracy was only a blurred dream? Is there anything to be said against a system that guarantees freedom, but does not liberate? I think so. Nor have I any more than the usual objection to economic slavery. I am only trying to make clear that Democracy's success in doing the things it is supposed to accomplish is open to question.

A MOMENT back we were discussing government from the standpoint of the sacrifice each individual makes that government may be established and exist.

Careful analysis of Democracy from this standpoint seems to show that the personal sacrifice under Democracy is almost as great as that which was necessary under Autocracy.

Things that Autocracy did for us, we now must do for ourselves. The time that the average individual once gave to his home and his family must now be spent, in a great measure, on matters affecting the community and the state. We have, under the all-embracing altruism of Democracy, even dragged the women away from the crib and hearth and into the turmoil of the market place, the mill, and the halls of state.

OH, I am probably as patriotic as the next one and about as willing to give of my time to community and group affairs. But sometimes the sacrifice one must make for the state and the community seems too great a price—particularly when what one gives to his group and his state is taken from what once were leisure hours about one's home and wife and children.

Said a man to me the other day: "You must come to this meeting. It is most important. It is possible that we can get this new highway to pass through Torrance."

(Continued on Last Page)

RUSH JOB ON BIG TANK

Lomita Scene of Work on World's Largest Reservoir

TO BE DONE IN 100 DAYS

Pan-American Project Brings Camp of 400 Men to District

Work is progressing day and night on the first of two oil reservoirs to be constructed in Lomita by the Pan American Petroleum Company. The huge container now under construction will have a capacity of 4,000,000 barrels. It will be, it is reported, the largest in the world. As soon as it is completed another will be started. It is estimated that each reservoir will cost \$1,000,000.

Each of the reservoirs to be built will cover 25 acres of ground; 1500 feet long, 600 feet wide, and 42 feet deep. During construction the contractors will be required to move 325,000 cubic yards of earth for each reservoir, or a total of 650,000 cubic yards.

After the embankment has been completed—which in itself is by no means a simple operation, due to the fact that the fill must be built to an exact grade and compacted continually to prevent a settling of the walls—a concrete lining will be placed. Each reservoir will require 10,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete, which will involve the use of 75,000 sacks of cement in the making. More than 2,500,000 feet, board measure, of lumber will be used for roof construction in each reservoir.

In constructing the first of these two giant oil storage reservoirs the contractors have met a problem. The contract provides that the first one shall be completed in 100 days. In order to meet this condition the contractors are working 24 hours each day, with a large camp near the site, which accommodates 400 laborers. Electric lights are provided, flooding the entire 24-acre reservoir site, which enables the night crew to work with as much efficiency as those on the day shift.

Carollers Sing Torrance Awake Christmas Morn

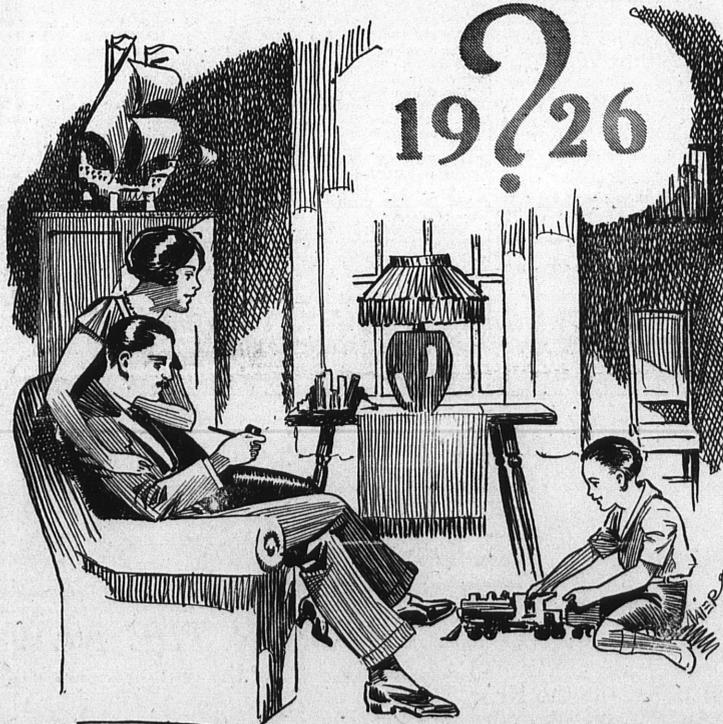
Revival of Beautiful Custom Popularly Received by Residents

Torrance awoke before dawn Christmas morning to the music of human voices singing Christmas carols.

Throughout the entire residence district between 5:30 and 7 o'clock ten singers, reviving the beautiful custom of carol singing on Christmas, started the day for Torrance with the rendition of old-time holy songs. It was the best Christmas awakening Torrance ever had.

Members of the party were Mrs. Mary Lingenfelter Thompson, Miss Lois Lingenfelter, Miss Martha Lingenfelter, Miss Ruth Lingenfelter, Mrs. R. V. Roelofs, Mrs. W. J. Neelands, Mrs. Ermina Baugh, Luther Pierce, Dr. W. J. Neelands, Fred Lessing.

What Has It in Store for You?



Santa Leaves Wee Baby Sister Under Tree For Torrance Girls

Christmas eve, when the two little Rowe girls, aged 10 and 5, respectively, went to bed, Mrs. Howard Rowe, their mother, 1724 Manuel avenue, told them that Santa Claus might leave a baby brother before morning.

When the two little girls awoke Christmas morning and

hurried out to the Christmas tree to see what old Saint Nick had left for them, there, sure enough, in a basket, was the baby. But Santa had made a slight error, for it was a baby sister and not a baby brother that he had left.

Just the same the two little Rowe girls are mighty happy over their Christmas present.

Oil Worker Is Killed on Del Amo Ranch Rig

Arle F. Ruggles, C.-C. M. O. Employee, Dies Instantly Tuesday Morning

Arle F. Ruggles, aged 28 and unmarried, was instantly killed at 2:20 Tuesday morning while working on the rig of Del Amo No. 92 of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company.

The drilling crew was lowering six-inch pipe into the hole when the sheave in the traveling block broke, blowing off the guard and falling to the derrick floor. Half of the sheave struck Ruggles on the head.

Ruggles lived in Redondo Beach with his mother. He was a brother of George Ruggles, former resident and substantial property owner of Torrance.

A coroner's jury at Redondo Wednesday decided death was due to an unavoidable accident. Ruggles' body was sent to Greenfield, Mo., where burial will take place in the family plot.

Year's Building Permits Reveal Steady Progress

Practically All of Construction During 1925 Is of Permanent Type

Steady development of Torrance is revealed by the building permits for 1925, which were issued for construction costing \$357,605.

While this amount is less than the aggregates for 1923 and 1924, the 1925 building program was of a more substantial nature than that of previous years. The permits for 1923 and 1924 were in a great measure for oil derricks. For 1925 more than 80 percent of the permits issued were for dwellings and permanent buildings not connected with the oil industry. The permits for 1925 were \$24,000 larger than those of 1922.

STORES TO CLOSE

Business houses here will observe the New Year holiday by closing all day Friday.

Glass Factory Will Open Soon, Expert Asserts

Refinancing and New Equipment to Insure Production, Says Accountant

That the plant of the Torrance Flat Glass Company will be reopened soon and that steady production seems assured was the statement of Eugene M. Berger, certified public accountant, who has completed a survey of the company's financial status.

Mr. Berger announced that all employees of the company have been paid in cash and that a refinancing plan has been adopted which insures the future success of the concern.

New equipment which is expected to eliminate mechanical difficulties encountered during the past few months has been ordered and will be installed as soon as it arrives, it is stated.

Torrance Theatre Policy for Better Pictures Started

The Torrance Theatre is ready to start off the new year with a policy of better pictures, exhibited in an improved show house. In preparation for what Mrs. J. C. McVey looks forward to as the best year in the history of the theatre, dressing rooms and the lobby have been redecorated. The ventilation system has been improved and the floors repaired. The policy of showing better pictures starts with the ensuing week, when each change of program brings a big feature. Among these are Ramon Novarro in "The Midshipman" and Mary Pickford in "Little Annie Rooney."

BRILLIANT YEAR IS AHEAD

Several Local Shops Promise Increased Production During 1926

STEEL PLANT IS RUSHED

Salm Will Boost Output 33 Percent During Year

Prospects that 1926 will mark an epoch in the progressive history of Torrance were everywhere evident as 1925 drew to a close.

A canvass of next year's outlook for industries operating in Torrance and a recapitulation of the developments known to be shortly ahead are creating a spirit of unusual optimism here.

Steady improvement is predicted for local industries.

At the Columbia Steel Corporation's plant large orders remain unfilled and there is every indication that 1926 will be the biggest year in the history of the local mill—this despite the fact that a new record was established in 1925. The Columbia has not been affected by the slump which was felt during 1925 by many west coast industries. Production has proceeded at a fast clip at the Torrance mills throughout the year and W. L. Booth, manager here, predicts that 1926 will set up still another record, with the plant operating full force at all times.

The layoff and part-time operation at the Pacific Electric shops which ended with resumption of full-time schedules recently will not recur, it is confidently predicted.

Salm Plant Busy
John Salm of the Salm Manufacturing Company said today: "We have every reason to expect a record-breaking year in 1926. Our production will be increased a third." The Salm Company is using more abrasive shells than all other similar concerns in the business.

The Torrance Flat Glass Company, refinanced and with new equipment installed, will resume operations shortly. While no immediate prospects of increased production are in sight for the Union Tool Company, R. R. Smith, plant manager, said that conditions will not be worse. A spurt is expected shortly after the first of the year, but greatly increased production cannot be hoped for until the present overproduction of oil is a thing of history. Oil stocks on hand are increasing daily, with a resultant decrease in drilling operations by both large and small operators. The Union Tool Company's production is dependent on oil drilling. A substantial increase in the price of oil might speed production, but none is expected for some time.

Santa Fe Word
Important announcements affecting the progress of Torrance are expected after the New Year, if the Santa Fe exercises its option on the 800 acres of Torrance oil and industrial land now owned by the Dominguez Land Corporation. With the Santa Fe actively interested in the development of Torrance, 1926 opens with brilliant prospects here.

MOOSE SMOKER
A "smoker" will be a feature of the next regular meeting of the Loyal Order of Moose, Jan. 7.

A grand rally of members is expected.