

Live In Torrance

The Torrance Herald

Buy In Torrance

Twelfth Year—No. 53

Published Weekly

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, JAN. 6, 1927

Every Thursday

5c per Copy

PLAN TO GUIDE TORRANCE GROWTH

Two Torrance Men File Entries for Catalina Island Race

HYDE AND PAGE IN SWIM

Chamber of Commerce Secretary and Realtor Join Contestants

TRAINING FOR MONTHS

Two Men Have Worked Out in Pacific at 5:30 a. m. Daily

Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and W. R. Page, Torrance real estate man, Monday entered the \$40,000 swimming race from Catalina Island to the mainland. The big event which has attracted swimmers from many parts of the world will take place Saturday, Jan. 15. The cash awards are offered by William Wrigley Jr. Both Hyde and Page are excellent swimmers and have been training for months. Every morning since midsummer the two Torrance men have taken a long brisk swim in the Pacific at 5:30. At times the temperature has been as low as 51 degrees when they took their morning training swim. One of the requirements of a long distance swimmer is a skin made tough by exposure, according to experts. Both Hyde and Page have conditioned their skins by the early morning workout in the ocean. Friends of the Torrance entries are arranging for boats to accompany the racers. The racers will leave Catalina at 11 a. m. The first contestant to reach the mainland will receive \$25,000 in cash. In case a man finishes first the woman who first finishes will receive \$15,000. If a woman entry beats all contestants the \$15,000 second prize will not be awarded. The swim depends on weather and may be postponed if conditions are not propitious. Hyde has studied the Catalina channel for years and declares that the swimmers will encounter a rough, wind-tossed sea about noon and during the early hours of the afternoon.

Mrs. Minnie Dobrick Is Taken by Death

Mrs. Minnie Dobrick, 55, died suddenly Friday, Dec. 31, at her home at 2775 Carson street. Death is attributed to heart failure. Mrs. Dobrick, a resident of Torrance for six years, was born in Missouri, and is survived by her husband, Chris Dobrick, and four sons—Chris Jr., William, George, and Albert—Dobrick, and two granddaughters, all of whom reside in Torrance; and three sisters—Mrs. Dora Schmidt of Torrance, Mrs. Bertha Schueller of Ferguson, Mo., and Mrs. Lizzie Brinkman of St. Louis, Mo. Funeral services were conducted at the home Tuesday afternoon by Rev. Lang of the Torrance Lutheran Church. Interment was made at Inglewood, under the direction of Stone and Myers.

Observations

The High Cost of Red Tape—Government in Business; Underwriters and Insurance Rates; Wages and Home Owning

A GUN collector recently sought to buy some obsolete war material. Some of it dated back to the Civil War; all of it is old and as little usable as wild charms. It was for sale. But it took days of time of officials to whom the government pays thousands of dollars a year, to negotiate the sale of three dollars' worth of stuff. A private company would have handled such an order between mails. This incident has a lesson for those who wish to learn.

NO nation in the world uses so profusely of the products of its metal mines and oil wells as does the United States, because no people enjoy to as great an extent as do our people the necessities and luxuries which these industries provide. That is why we should all be interested in a constructive and encouraging governmental policy toward these industries.

AN outstanding feature in the annual report of the Industrial Accident Commission of California is the recommendation by the commission that the state compensation insurance fund be given a monopoly in writing workmen's compensation insurance in California.

WHY should the state, in a free country, attempt to crush the business of its private citizens? Why is it not better that the state fund be required to compete with private companies, as the surest means of keeping the state insurance activities in a healthy condition, free from political dry rot that immediately afflicts any monopolistic governmental function?

IT is easy for the private citizen to give up rights; it is hard for him to get them back. The minute he closes one avenue of private enterprise he has closed his future possibilities by that much.

EVERY little while statements are made which indicate that many people believe the National Board of Fire Underwriters to be the arbiter of fire insurance premium rates throughout the United States. This is not the case, however, the board having had nothing to do with this technical phase of the business since 1876—half a century ago. The facts that schedules are formulated by territorial rating bureaus located in all parts of the country, their charges usually being fixed by state laws. These bodies make inspection of properties, and base their rates upon existing hazards, at the same time supplying information showing how premiums may be reduced by lessening the probability of fire.

THE mistaken impression that prevails in some quarters is due, no doubt, to the detailed surveys which the engineers of the national board carry on in the larger cities. Their work, however, is in the nature of diagnosis of municipal fire hazards from a scientific standpoint, and as the result of their examination of about 500 protected cities and towns (which means places having fire department service) the engineers evolved a grading schedule which is used to classify cities according to their fire defenses and physical conditions. The schedule takes cognizance of such matters as water supply, fire department equipment and operation, fire alarm service, topography, wind velocities, and all other factors having a bearing upon the general fire hazard. This service is furnished to municipalities without charge.

THE increase in wages and the greater decrease in prices of commodities during the past few years are cited by Secretary of Commerce Hoover in his recent annual report as demonstrating "one of the most astonishing transformations in economic history." This he attributes to elimination of waste and other contributing factors.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS
In America, where there's a still there's a way.

TO ELECT CHAMBER BOARD

Primary and Election of Torrance C. of C. Set for This Month

TO FILL FIVE VACANCIES

Ten Will Be Nominated and Five Elected in Balloting

Members of the Chamber of Commerce will name five new directors of the organization at the 1927 election, the primary for which will be held this month. Ten will be nominated at the primary, ballots for which will go out shortly. In the primary, members will receive ballots containing the names of all members. Five will be voted for. The ten receiving the highest votes will be nominated. Election ballots containing the names of the ten will then go out and the five receiving the highest vote will be elected—four to serve for two years and one for one year. Terms of five present directors of the Chamber expire this month. They are George Proctor, president of the organization; J. W. Post, Dr. George P. Shidler, James Leech, and W. Harold Kingsley. The following directors will remain in office: Rufus Page, G. A. Maxwell, George W. Neill, and Sam Levy.

Mrs. Huddleston Wins \$500 Prize in Big Contest

Torrance Woman Receives 10th Award in True Story Writing Competition

The talent of Mrs. Nimie Huddleston, 815 Amapola avenue, was rewarded when she received a check for \$500 as an award in the True Story Magazine's \$50,000 prize contest. Fifty thousand manuscripts were entered in the contest, and Mrs. Huddleston won tenth prize. Three hundred and eleven prizes were awarded in the contest, which was conducted by the MacFadden's Publications, Inc., of New York. The contest called for stories written in the first person and recounting actual life stories taken direct from the life of the writer or some intimate associate.

Mrs. Huddleston wrote the story of a girl in Russia, the actual events having taken place 40 years ago. The story was told to Mrs. Huddleston by her mother when Mrs. Huddleston was a child. Readers of The Herald commented on Mrs. Huddleston's ability as a writer when she was writing the well known "I Slay to Hudd" advertisements in the Herald.

Mother of City Trustee Expires; Foley Goes East

Stricken with paralysis while en route to Los Angeles three weeks ago to visit her son, Tom F. Foley, Mrs. Alice Foley, 76, of Grand Rapids, Mich., passed away Saturday, Jan. 1, at 10 o'clock. Mrs. Foley is survived by two sons, Paul Foley of Grand Rapids and Tom Foley of Torrance. Mr. and Mrs. Foley left Sunday with the body for Grand Rapids, where interment will be made.

MILLION-DOLLAR YACHT CLUB TO GO UP AT PALOS VERDES

Sponsored by some of the leading yachtsmen of California, the formation of the Pacific Coast Yacht Club, a new and exclusive organization in the sport world of Southern California, is announced. The site of the new club will be at the Palos Verdes Estates. Plans already approved call for a new \$1,000,000 clubhouse and harbor development as soon as possible.

Members of the board of governors of the new organization are: H. J. Barneson, vice-president and general manager of the General Petroleum Company; Eugene Overton, president of the Los Angeles Bar Association; E. C. Wilson, president of the Wilson & Willard Manufacturing Company; Owen P. Churchill, commodore of the Catalina Island Yacht Club; Mark J. Gillen, secretary Palos Verdes Estates; Cox B. Clark, president of the Corona Lands Corporation; William G. Lacy, vice-president and general manager of the Lacy Manufacturing Company; F. S. Howard, president of the Howard Automobile Company; Rufus P. Spaulding, president of the Hawaiian Sugar Refineries; Francis P. Graves, president of the Francis P. Graves Company; Douglas R. Radford, commodore of the Los Angeles Yacht Club; B. Rey Schaner, commodore of the Southern California Yachting Association; George S. Schoolcraft, Carl F. Johnson, Fred A. Henderson, Tod B. Ford, Fred A. Jenkins, H. E. Gilley, and Freeman Ford, capitalists.

There will be no promotion features to the club, one of the principal objects of which will be to provide facilities both for local yachtsmen and for eastern yachtsmen who have difficulty at present in putting in anywhere in the south bay district.

Francis Bettis (Drydock) Smith, harbor expert of San Francisco, consultant for the United States government on harbor matters, selected the site at Palos Verdes for the new \$1,000,000 yacht club. Mr. Smith has to his credit the building of the Pearl Harbor improvement in the Hawaiian Islands, the construction of the government drydocks at Philadelphia, and other important projects.

Torrance Team Will Wear New Uniforms for Special Feature Double Header Here on Sunday

Chamber of Commerce Day will be celebrated Sunday afternoon by a double-header ball game between the Torrance Merchants nine and the tossers from the Radiant Comedies studio at Hollywood. City officials and Chamber of Commerce directors will be guests of the local club. Mayor John Dennis will pitch the first ball and manager Ed Tansey is trying to find somebody who will try to catch it. Nate Greenko, C.-C. M. O. comedian and commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion, will stage a stunt. The first game will start at 1:30, provided they can find the ball after Mayor Dennis tosses it. The ball team Sunday will be all dolled up in new uniforms. The shirts will be emblazoned with the words "Torrance, The Industrial City." The uniforms were purchased by the Chamber of Commerce. The local nine has made a good record in the league this year, having won six out of seven games. Redondo has led the league so far, but the local players expect to topple the Beachers when they meet. Torrance is the only team that has defeated the league leaders.

Revoke Permit for Madrid Ave. Shacks to Protect Neighbors

Answering a widespread protest against the location of two decrepit small houses on Lot 17, Block 57, Madrid avenue, the Board of Trustees Tuesday night passed a motion canceling the permit under which the location of the buildings was granted and another ordering the buildings removed without delay. The motion on canceling the permit contained the assertion that it was taken out with misrepresentation in that the cost of the buildings was placed at \$2000, whereas the buildings are not worth anything like that amount. The permit was issued to D. Perkins of Long Beach.

Building restrictions on the lot on which the buildings are located require dwellings worth \$2000, and the restrictions are contained in the deed to the lot, it is pointed out. The city's action in canceling the permit and ordering the removal of the shacks is not based on these restrictions, however, but on the asserted "misrepresentation" at the time of the issuing of the permit. Complaints against the two houses were made by owners of the attractive homes on Amapola avenue, who declare that their property values are depreciated by the two buildings. Mayor John Dennis pointed out that in the past two years more than \$50,000 worth of homes have been erected in the neighborhood by one company alone. The houses have all been sold and are now occupied.

Trustee Brooks made the motions for cancellation of the permit and removal of the shacks, and both were carried unanimously. Trustee Brady Wolfe said: "We don't want to work a hardship on anyone, but in cases of misrepresentation it is our duty to act. Had the actual value of the two small buildings been stated when the permit was sought, it probably never would have been issued." Carl Elyde reported to the board that many protests against the shacks had been made to the Chamber of Commerce.

Will Install New R. N. A. Officers

Mrs. Eula Deimer, assisted by Long Beach Camp of Royal Neighbors of America, will install the officers-elect of Torrance Camp Friday evening, Jan. 7, at 8 p. m. Lomita, Redondo Beach and San Pedro camps are especially invited to attend the installation, which will be held at the Women's Clubhouse on Engracia avenue.

Need of Dwellings Stressed As Board Refers Zoning Job

Planning Commission Instructed to Study Future Trends and Prepare Plan to Control Future Development in Torrance

TOPHEAVINESS IN FACTORY ZONES SEEN BY C. OF C.

Chamber Points Out Necessity of Guiding Growth Through Careful Survey and Emphasizes Need for Houses

The important task of preparing a city plan as a guide for future Torrance development and of zoning areas of land now unclassified was referred by the Board of Trustees Tuesday night to the City Planning Commission. An appropriation of \$100 was made for the work. The action of the trustees came as a result of a communication from the Chamber of Commerce, pointing out the necessity of zoning territory for future development, but asking that the planning commission consult with owners of property before zones are finally recommended.

The necessity for zoning has been brought home several times recently by tentative negotiations for development of unimproved property for various purposes. It is the belief of the Chamber of Commerce directors that outlying tracts, now unimproved, should be set aside for development as residence property. The balance between undeveloped industrial property and undeveloped residential property is heavily in favor of industrial property, and it is thought that enough land should be designated for dwelling-house development to insure balanced growth of the city and prevent Torrance from becoming a city of many factories and few homes.

Unless zoning is intelligently applied to outlying tracts, directors of the Chamber of Commerce have reason to fear that Torrance might become hampered in on all sides by industries. It is believed that an intelligent and careful study of all factors in future growth should be made. The survey of Torrance made by Eberle and Riggelman stressed the need of more residential land in Torrance. This report emphasizes the fact that if all the land now reserved for industry were developed for factory purposes the property zoned for residential would be far too small to provide homes for even a fraction of workmen employed in the industries. It is not the intention of the chamber or city officials to discourage the location of industries here, but to balance the future growth of Torrance so that it will be along residential as well as industrial lines—a policy that is favored by industries which more and more are seeking to induce their employees to reside near their work. Much consideration will be given in the city plan study to this coordination of the improved section of Torrance with the unimproved tracts. If such a plan is adopted and present streets extended on paper, future development of newly annexed territory to the north and west would conform, it is pointed out.

Will Ask Crossing Of Sonoma Avenue At Santa Fe Tracks

City Attorney P. G. Briney Tuesday night was instructed by the city trustees to make application to the State Railroad Commission for a grade crossing at Sonoma avenue and the Santa Fe tracks. The company has agreed to the crossing, but permission must be obtained from the commission.

Establish Ten-Foot Setback on Cravens

To provide for future traffic, an ordinance was introduced by the Board of Trustees Tuesday night establishing a 10-foot setback line on Cravens avenue. The setback for any building to be erected on the street would make it possible to widen the thoroughfare at some distant date without disturbing buildings.

Trustees to Make Tree Study Trip

Confronted with several requests to remove trees in the residence district, the Torrance city trustees Tuesday night refused all requests pending careful investigation. The board will make a trip over the city Friday afternoon studying trees in general and in particular trees for which removal requests have been made. The board is inclined to view removal of trees with disfavor unless excellent reasons are obvious.

District Legion Men Guests Here On Tuesday Night

Legionnaires and ex-service men from all over the 19th Legion district will be guests of the Torrance and Redondo Beach posts at the clubhouse of the Bert S. Crossland Post in Torrance next Tuesday night. The local post has arranged plenty of entertainment for the visitors who are expected to arrive in considerable numbers. The Long Beach post is coming over with a rifle and drum corps and will march from the P. E. station to the clubhouse, making a bit of music on the way. All local ex-service men, whether Legionnaires or not, are invited. There'll be a feed, of course. During January ex-service men may join the Torrance post by paying dues of \$5 for the year. After Feb. 1 an initiation fee of \$5 will be imposed.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Perry of San Diego were guests during the holidays at the home of Mr. Perry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Perry, of Pennsylvania avenue.

Merchants Play Double Header Game Here Sunday