

DISASTER DEMANDS PROBE

AN EDITORIAL

The people of Los Angeles County, shocked by the disaster which swept down the Santa Clara valley leaving death and ruin in its wake demand to know what caused the break in the St. Francis dam. Hundreds of lifeless bodies mutely join in the call for an immediate and searching investigation. If human beings are responsible through wilful neglect or negligence those persons should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

If the catastrophe was due to natural causes beyond the prevention of the human mind and hand, officials and engineers who were responsible for the construction of the dam should be absolved from blame.

Only a complete investigation, without whitewash, without fear or favoritism will satisfy the demand that the responsibility be placed, and that without delay.

It is not enough that engineers who designed the dam and directed its construction explain the break in statements to the press.

It is not enough that individuals unofficially lay the blame on Nature.

Only a penetrating investigation conducted by unimpeachable men will suffice.

The St. Francis dam has gone. In the swirl of its maddened waters float lifeless forms of men, women and children. What were fruitful homes are muddy flats. What were peaceful homes where rang the laughter of children and where lived the love of men and women are broken and scattered over the valley.

What of other dams? What of other valleys below other dams where men have built their homes and tilled the soil—trusting that the concrete works above them will hold?

What of dam construction now projected for the future? If the St. Francis dam broke will the other hold?

God knows the present catastrophe provides enough justification for an investigation. But the future of Southern California adds still other potent reasons why the break must be probed to its depths.

Let there be no delay—no compromise—no whitewash.

Eshelman Ave. Petition Ready

Will Circulate Document on Receipt of County Cost Guarantee

City Recorder C. T. Rippey, chairman of the roads and highways committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce is in charge of the circulation of the petition requesting the improvement of Cabrillo avenue and Eshelman avenue from Camino Real in Torrance to Applian Way south of Redondo boulevard in Lomita.

Upon receipt of positive assurance that the county will bear half of the expense of the improvement, the petition will be circulated. Mayor Dennis of Torrance and John Holm of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce have been negotiating this week with county officials regarding the county's share of the cost.

The Eshelman improvement is part of the plan to make a new direct highway connecting with Western avenue in Torrance and using Cabrillo as a portion. At the southern end it would connect finally with the extension of Narbonne avenue through the Palos Verdes hills.

Actor to Favor Scouts Friday

Albert Burgess, well known actor on the Orpheum Circuit and graduate from the ranks of the United States Navy amateur dancers will entertain Boy Scouts of Torrance Friday night at the Scout Clubhouse. Mr. Burgess is a personal friend of Robert Lewellen, Scoutmaster of Troop No. 3 which is putting on the program. Mr. Burgess will stage a skit and favor with clog and soft-shoe dancing. Mr. Lewellen invites all adults who are interested in Scouting.

A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

BILL BARBER SAYS

Man is versatile—works like a horse—eats like a wolf—sleeps like a dog.

Torrance Herald

FOURTEENTH YEAR—No. 11

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1928

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CANDIDATES DISCUSS LIGHTS

Relief Society Raising Fund to Aid Flood Sufferers

WALTERIA VOTES TO ANNEX

Residents Ballot 87 to 49 in Favor of Joining Torrance

AWAIT 60 DAY PERIOD Territory Not Officially in Torrance for Two Months

By a vote of 87 to 49 residents of Walteria Monday elected to annex to the city of Torrance.

Interest in the question was high. One hundred and forty three persons were registered. One hundred and thirty eight voted. Two ballots were thrown out.

According to legal procedure the City Council of Torrance must canvass the vote and officially notify the secretary of state at Sacramento. Walteria will not become a part of Torrance until sixty days after receipt of the result by the state.

The property annexed to Torrance by the election has an assessed valuation of about \$300,000 it is estimated.

Stage All Set For Club Play

And tomorrow night, Friday, March 16th, comes the Annual Women's Club Play. This year it is a mystery play, full of thrills and shivers; replete with stolen pearls and hidden gunmen. It is in plot, almost a complete tourist's guide to Chicago. Doesn't that promise thrills enough to tempt even a blasé theatre-goer?

Miss East this year is unusually good with Mr. L. Gorne Danford and Miss Virginia Buxton carrying the leads. And how! Sam Levy and Mrs. H. H. Dolley again play opposite each other, with Mr. Levy garnering the laughs as usual.

Miss Edle Berenson and Hurum Reeve will long be remembered in their roles of boarding house keeper and desk sergeant.

N. H. Jamieson is a sleuth, with rubber heels "in everythin", and Mr. Chauncey West aiding his gum-shoed activities.

Jay Allen sinks in and out. He is the menace and he promises to be a big surprise in his role.

Those who saw last year's play with little Mrs. Dewey Quigley as the hissing maid, will receive a distinct shock when they see her this year. She offers the comedy relief with a distinct characterization.

Mrs. Julia Neelands is the owner of the string of pearls so mysteriously stolen from her and upon which the plot hinges.

This year's play is a departure from the plays given by the Women's Club in the past. There is mystery, enlivened by comedy and sweetened by romance. It should intrigue everyone, young and old for there is every element of plot known to playwrights the world over, in its three acts.

The play is directed by Mr. Willis Brooks and will be given at the Torrance High School auditorium, Friday evening, March 16 at 8:15.

Former Employee of U. T. Co. Dies

Funeral services were held in Long Beach Sunday for Edward Pascoe, a former resident of Torrance, who died suddenly on Feb. 29 at a Long Beach hospital. Mr. Pascoe was taken with a hemorrhage as he was taking his car out of the garage. Neighbors called a doctor who advised that he be taken to a hospital. He passed away shortly afterward.

Mr. Pascoe was born in England forty-eight years ago. He had resided in Arizona where he was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Coming to Torrance he worked at the Union Tool Company and afterward in the oil fields. He leaves a mother in England and a cousin in Harbor City.

Columbia Steel Completes Fourth Open Hearth Ahead of Time; Fire Started Today

The fourth big 50-ton open hearth furnace was completed today in the Torrance plant of the Columbia Steel Corporation, according to W. L. Booth, manager of the Torrance plant.

The completion of the new unit was effected several days ahead of schedule, as it was thought when work was started on January 20 that it would be impossible to complete the new furnace until the end of March.

The oil was turned on this morning at 9:15 o'clock but the furnace will not be in operation for two or three days as it takes that long to warm up a new furnace.

The opening today of this fourth open hearth furnace will greatly increase the capacity of the Torrance plant and will add materially to the ever growing payroll of the Columbia plant here.

Torrance Man Has Pair of Fish Caught by Nature and Held in Stone for 50 Million Years

Fifty million years old and still in good shape is the astonishing record of a couple of sun perch which were sent to W. T. LaPier, a guest at the Ironton Hotel, recently.

Agnes ago when nearly everything west of the Appalachians was still under water this finny pair was hatched and grew to be thriving youngsters of about 4 inches long, when some cataclysm of nature known principally to geologists and other students of nature, overtook their dwelling place and the perch found themselves buried deep in mud and slime which during the slow progress of time became sandstone and the two little fish became remarkably well preserved fossil specimens.

More ages passed, the waters receded and the sandstone became an outcropping in the vicinity of Kemmerer, Wyoming, from which

Odd Fellows Will Stage Dress Parade Before Ball Here

Starting with a dress parade through the business section of the city, the annual St. Patrick's Day dance given by the Triple City Lodge of the I. O. O. F. Saturday, promises to be one of the outstanding community social events of the year.

The parade will be led by the twelve piece Torrance Boy Scout drum corps, followed by the San Pedro Cantons in full dress, the Spanish-American and World Wars uniforms, the Odd Fellow drill team in uniform, followed by members of local and visiting lodges.

The line of march will form at Recreation Hall at 7:15 o'clock, thence on Carson street to Cabrillo, to Sartori, to Post; returning via El Prado to the Recreation Hall on Carson street, where the dance will be held. All Odd Fellows and others in the parade are requested to be at the hall at 7 o'clock sharp.

Dancing will begin at 8 o'clock and the public is cordially invited according to Fred Freeman, who is in charge. The hall has been attractively decorated in St. Patrick's Day colors and appropriate favors will be given all who attend.

"We have sold enough tickets now to make this affair a big success," stated Mr. Freeman, "and we want the whole district to turn out and have a good time with us."

Veteran of Two Wars Passes Away

Funeral services for John Herman Gores, 44, a veteran of the Spanish-American and World Wars and postal service were held at the Harbor City church Tuesday afternoon, with Rev. Miller officiating. A postal ritual service was also held.

Mr. Gores was born in Pittsburgh, Pa. He served nine years in the navy, and 18 months in the postal service.

Survivors are a daughter Emma, son John, son-in-law and mother, Mrs. Mary Gores of Harbor City; a sister, Mrs. Edna Anderson of San Pedro; his father, John Gores and three sisters in the East, Mrs. Dora Seaton, Mrs. Katherine Meadows and Mrs. Emma Stein.

DONATION
Trio Rebekah Lodge, at their session last night, donated \$36 to the Flood Relief Fund.

ASK LOCAL PEOPLE HELP

Mrs. Steinhilber Issues Plea for Cash to Aid Stricken

SOCIETY DONATES \$25 Torrance Herald Will Acknowledge Donations Made to Fund

The Torrance Relief Society is taking contributions to the fund for the relief of sufferers in the flood-swept valleys of Southern California.

Mrs. Nettie Steinhilber announced yesterday that contributions will be received at the following places:

Mrs. Steinhilber, 1739 Gramercy avenue, Phone 270-W.
Mrs. Isabel Henderson's, 1804 Gramercy avenue, Phone 95-W.
Torrance Herald.

"Torrance will do its part, as it always has," said Mrs. Steinhilber. "The Relief Society is grateful that the people of this city have provided it with funds which enable us to start the local subscription with a donation of \$25."

All contributions will be acknowledged in The Herald.

Torrance Relief Society\$25
Torrance Herald10
Total\$35

Acre at Corner Is Sold for Big Price

Announcement of the sale of an acre at the corner of Carson street and Vermont avenue at a new high record price was made this week by J. C. Smith of the Torrance Investment Company. The acre which changed hands brought \$8,500 which is the highest price obtained for an acre since the oil prices on land pre-empted in this district. Walter and Ella Howard of Los Angeles were the buyers and George Mateljan the seller. The transaction was made through the agency of the Torrance Investment Company.

Mrs. Groves Is Given Surprise

Mrs. S. L. Groves, first past noble grand of Trio Rebekah lodge was given a delightful surprise Monday evening, when members of Trio Past Grands Association gathered at the bakery for an evening of games, and a general good time.

Refreshments were served at the close of the evening to Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Jack Ferguson of Torrance in the district of Winton and Beach; Mrs. E. W. Brumpton, Mrs. H. M. Owens, Mrs. H. B. Goodrich, Mrs. O. E. Hunt, Mrs. John Waite, Mrs. Alex MacPhail, Mrs. H. C. Anderson and Mrs. Frank Baker.

Women Will Hear Talk About Birds

Mrs. E. E. Knight of Yorba Linda, state chairman of Birds and Wild Life, will speak at the Women's club at their next meeting, March 21.

Mrs. Orbert Sinclair, whose father was with Luther Burbank for twenty-five years, will speak on "Luther Burbank as I Knew Him." Mrs. Sinclair comes from Hermosa. This is the luncheon meeting and all reservations must be in by Monday evening. Phone Mrs. W. H. Gilbert before 6:00.

Donations Asked for Survivors

Donations of clothing for the survivors of the San Francisco dam tragedy, will be received by the Torrance Relief Association, and those who have clothes to give are asked to leave them at the Walsh upholstering shop, 1803 Cabrillo avenue, which is open at all hours during the day.

Observations

Ten Years Ago—The Breach in the Allied Line—Foch Generalissimo—Pershing's Offer—The First American at Cantigny—The Regular's Rifle

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

DO you remember ten years ago? Do you recall those anxious days when the German hammer pounded the Allied line to powder—those days of quickened heart beats when the British and French were driven apart—separated by a German wedge?

Do you remember the worry in the United States—the fear lest the war would be lost before the full force of our power could make itself felt?

THOSE were days which tried the souls of men and nations—days when destinies hung in a trembling balance—days when every hour was pregnant with doom.

The French and British were forced apart. The Germans were pouring men, guns, ammunition into the widening breach. The destinies of continents, whole races, were at issue.

A HASTY conference of generals. Insistence on the part of our square-jawed Pershing and others for unified command, acceptance by Great Britain—acceptance which had been withheld for months that grew into years.

Foch in supreme command—one leader for all, selfish nationalism cast aside for the moment, all interests pooled in the face of a common crisis.

Foch in command—hurled Chinese road workers, Italian labor battalions, old men worn with war, troops from everywhere picked up and thrown into the storm to close the breach! Do you remember that? Do you remember the quiet grimness on faces in those trembling days?

WE did not know it then—what Pershing did. We know it now. It is a most touching sequence in the vivid reel of war.

Since he stepped foot on French soil our commanding general had been fighting generals, foreign offices, chancelleries, all the Allies against scattering American troops among French and British forces. Daily, week after week, month after month he had insisted upon an American army, fighting under the American flag and commanded by American officers.

Every dodge known to statecraft was used against him. Britain and France even sought to discredit him in Washington. Still he stuck to his point.

BUT then the crisis! Who has not thrilled at the record of that simple meeting in the garden at Foch's headquarters. Pershing had driven far over France to greet the generalissimo. They met under the trees. Without heroics, simply, Pershing said, "All that we have in troops and materiel are yours to use as you will in this crisis"—or words very like those.

Foch touched him on the shoulder, gently. They eyes met. Foch thanked Pershing with the same simplicity in which the offer was couched. Witnesses never tire of describing that meeting in the garden.

AND then do you remember what happened? The next great German blow, wave after wave of men in gray-green sweeping forward—fresh, clear-eyed troops, veterans of two training fronts, hurled into the line—troops itching for action, trained in accordance with the West Point code that the best defense is an attack. The First American Division, hard-boiled regulars.

IN they went, infantry, artillery, machine gunners, engineers, ammunition trains—ambulances. In they went and then all hell broke loose as American-manned 75's and howitzers belched a red barrage. In they went—and on they went.

THE story of the battle is an epic—but the day that it first was told in brief military phrases it was something more. It was a beacon in the dark, a flash of white light in the void, a gleaming rift in the gray fog of despair.

French and British fell back. The American First dashed to the attack. Objective after objective fell. Into the environs of Cantigny they went. They took the town itself, swore, grinded, dug themselves in. Then the counter-attack—the concentrated hate of the whole German staff driven against these upstart troops who had the nerve to consider themselves soldiers! They should be taught!

It was a terrific counter attack, but the veterans of those regular army infantry regiments broke it up with the rifle. Nobody can use a rifle quite like an American regular, except possibly a Marine. West Point teaches that after all the rifle is the weapon of the infantryman and that a regiment which can use it accurately is better than two regiments rifle-averse but versed in the use of grenades and other auxiliary arms. They drove those counter rushes back with the rifle. They won Cantigny and they held Cantigny.

NEWS of the victory swept over the world. For the first time an American division acting as a unit in a major operation had proved itself superior to the Germans. We may not have realized it then but we know now what that meant to France and Great Britain. It meant that here was a new, young, fresh, brave ally whose soldiers could beat the best that Germany could send into the fray.

It spoke worlds. Frenchmen, morale at the lowest ebb since 1914 hitched up their belts again. So! These Americans can fight after all, eh? Tres bien. We shall beat the Germans yet.

I WAS not at Cantigny. The Second division of which I was a member was at that time moving from its training sector over to the part of the front where the real stuff was taking place. But I will never forget the thrill that ran through our outfit when we got the news of the victory. We'd known all along that when the test came any American division would prove itself.

Our infantry had only one sore spot. Why couldn't they have been sent in instead of the First?

They had their chance a few weeks later at Belleau Wood—you know what they did—and still later they went into action alone with the Admeur First at Soissons, when they drove that wedge into the Chateau Thierry salient—the wedge which proved the turning point of the whole war.

But that was on July 18—and is yet another story. Ten years ago—every day is an anniversary now to the men who served in France.

NEW PLAN FINDING FAVOR

Dennis, Maxwell, Raymond Advise City Eliminate Middleman's Profit

TO HOLD COSTS DOWN Suggest City Itself Might Install System Using Local Labor

Installation of a lighting system in Torrance at such a time and in such a way as to improve employment conditions here is favored in a statement issued by Mayor John Dennis, Councilman Charles E. Raymond and G. A. Maxwell, City People's League candidates for City Councilmen yesterday.

The three candidates have studied the lighting problem from all angles and declare that plans and specifications are now almost at a point where definite action may be expected within a few weeks.

The statement issued by the three candidates follows: "We are convinced that a vast majority of the people of the City of Torrance desire a lighting system provided it can be installed and maintained at reasonably low costs.

Plans Almost Ready "To answer this demand the City Engineer under instructions from the Council has been busy preparing a comprehensive plan of a lighting system so that costs may be secured and the whole matter placed before the taxpayers of the city for their counsel and advice.

"These plans are almost completed. Just as soon as they are ready we believe definite guaranteed maximum costs of installation and maintenance should be obtained and the people warned of them so that the matter of a lighting system economically priced may be settled.

"We stand with the present council in its policy of insisting upon complete competition in any and all bids which may be secured. We commend the policy which has frustrated light post agents from hindering the city by petitions which would specify certain post types and thus eliminate competitive bidding.

"The plan for securing a lighting system contemplates getting guaranteed costs from all lighting companies for all types of posts.

Alternative Idea "It may be that the city would do even better by drawing its own plan of a post and getting bids for construction of such posts from foundries. In such an event it is possible that local factories would bid on casting the posts. At any rate such a system would probably eliminate a middleman's profit.

"If this plan were followed the city could then either let a contract for installation or do the work itself employing Torrance labor exclusively.

"If the City of Torrance can buy posts of its own design direct from a foundry competitive bidding is guaranteed and at least one profit saved for the people. If, in addition, the city can economically install its own system we know that Torrance labor would be used. At any rate guaranteed estimates of installation costs should be secured and compared with estimates of costs if the city should do its own work. All other things being equal we would favor buying direct from foundries and having the city do the installing, for under such a plan Torrance would not only get a lighting system economically but would provide much work for local residents at a time when many of them need it badly.

"We pledge ourselves to go into the matter deeply and thoroughly, and to provide a lighting system for Torrance at the lowest possible cost and at the earliest possible moment.

"It is our conviction based on study of costs elsewhere that the installation of an adequate system here should not cost more than \$1 per front foot and would probably cost less."