

A Newspaper
for All the People
All the Time

The Torrance Herald

Torrance
Population
8200

NEWS REVIEW SECTION

FIVE

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Pageantry

Escondido's Play

Like many another Southern California city, Escondido is unwilling to forget the early history of the State. Escondido citizens grudgingly water the past, making dim the memories of irretrievable bygone days.

Recently, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, both held lavish Spanish fiestas. No mimickers, Escondido people also celebrate the past, but in a different manner. Every year, Escondido's theatrically inclined folk present the pageant-play, "Felicitia." More than 100 actor and actress recruits from the community aid one Benjamin F. Sherman, the city's actor-playwright who, wrote and now directs "Felicitia." A generous donation to the community drama movement is Escondido's annual play.

More adequate a title for the play, "Felicitia" might be its subtitle, "An Epic of the Battle of San Pasqual." It is the re-enacting of this famous battle—which in reality took place but a mile away from the scene of the present play—that is major in interest.

Under spreading live oak trees in the open air, and separated from the stage by a softly babbling stream, sits the audience. Behind the stage rises a rocky, oak shaded hill where gallop the characters of the famous battle. Organ music from an Indian Mission and soft sung Indian lullabies drifting in from the hills provide an unusual atmosphere.

The play: By authority of historical accounts, General Kearney's American troops met General Pico's Mexicans in the little valley of San Pasqual on December 6, 1846. The Yankees' powder, was wet, they were ragged, hungry, worn out, mounted on obstinate, half starved mules. The Mexicans, riding fine chargers, armed with long lances, drove the Americans to the hills, made them seek shelter in hiding, in a clump of cactus. Such is the beginning of "Felicitia."

A love story follows this exciting introduction. It is the story of Felicitia, an Indian princess, who finds wounded an American Captain. To her hut she takes him, there to care for his wounds. Love unites them in a common bond, and the story leads thence to its beautiful climax.

Comedy, the lighter side of entertainment, is successfully introduced here in the person of two Irish recruits sent—in the play—from Hoboken.

Many a performance in the nature of pageantry becomes bore-some before the last scene is passed by Felicitia does not. Good acting, sustained plot both combine to hold interest. John Steven McGroarty, author and producer of California's nationally famous Mission Play, said: "The Felicitia Pageant-Play is the finest I have ever witnessed. I can suggest no changes in plot or details of presentation—nothing to add—nothing to take away."

Yang-No Village

Nearly a century and a half ago, on the ground where now towers Los Angeles' City Hall, stood the small, serene Indian village of Yang-No. For years there had come not the slightest tremor to disturb the placidity of existence; then one Indian-summer day in 1781 came a solemn procession of Spanish troopers and brown-cloaked friars. Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de los Angeles was the name these strangers gave the settlement.

Brought to life again last week were all these events—into public eye came the countless changes happening to the City during Spanish and Mexican regimes; during the days of the Bear Flag State and those of the State's acceptance into the United States. A brief ceremony enacted last week in the historic Plaza, honored the founding of the City; its founder, Felipe de Neve; the old Avila adobe home which was the City's headquarters in 1847.

Practically the only bridge over the gap of 148 years is this old home. Lately it was condemned by the Los Angeles Health Department. In the nick of time a corporation was organized to save the structure as a landmark, a link with the past.

In evidence everywhere at last week's ceremonies were dazzling Spanish costumes, painted Indians, Franciscan friars. High lights of the celebration were street dancing, Spanish music, yet another feature—the exact repetition of the mass said on that morning in 1781, by the Franciscan friars.



ESCONDIDO'S EPIC OF THE BATTLE OF SAN PASQUAL

A Padre from San Diego baptized Chief Pontho's Felicitia.

Science

500 Skulls

Marking the beginning of what will be a graphic comparative study of mammal and reptile life, on display last week were placed two tubes of crania in the hall of the Fleischmann Annex at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The display shows the development and modification of types of the creatures during the ages.

Side by side are specimens of the largest and smallest crania of California animals in modern times. To add interest, two skulls of early types of man are also included; they are of the Neanderthal and early American Indian types.

California animals represented in the display are the sea lion, wild cat, mountain lion, Santa Rosa wild hog, sheep, and deer. From other countries are cassowary, alpaca, African porcupine, chimpanzee, orangutan, and spider monkey. Although only forty skulls have been placed in the cases, more than 500 have been prepared for exhibit. The collection will be added to continuously.

Super Sleuth

Undaunted was California Institute of Technology Research Assistant J. H. Ransom last fortnight by the mere fact that a 4000 tube of radium had disappeared to an ash dump ten miles away. Like a super sleuth he got out his delicate electroscopes, tracked the treasure through a rubbish can, two blazing incinerators, and tons of ashes at the Coyote Pass refuse dump ten miles distant.

Containing fifty milligrams of the precious metal, the tube disappeared from the offices of Dr. J. B. Williams of Los Angeles while a patient was being treated. At the call of the doctor's insurance company came Ransom with his tiny detector. In the physician's office the fibers of the instrument quivered slightly; they quivered more at the office building incinerator; they led the trail ten miles to the dump where the fibers finally closed together.

It was only a few months ago that the research assistant succeeded in finding a tube valued at \$5000, which had been thrown into ashes at the Pasadena Hospital. In a few weeks he has saved \$9000.

Ended, Star-gazing

To an end has come the quarter-of-a-century foothold of California scientists in the southern hemisphere, over 6000 miles from home. Last week was announced the approval of the University of California Regents for the sale of the Lick Observatory station at Santiago, Chile. To the Catholic University of Chile will go the observatory on Cerro San Cristobal, Santiago, which was established in 1903 on funds donated by the late D. O. Mills, then a Regent.

Transportation

Sespe Highway

Outstanding for its versatility of development is Southern California's San Joaquin Valley. In its acreage are the largest proven oil and gas areas in Southern California, 100 miles in extent. Productive, too, is the agricultural development of the Valley.

Mushroom growth and quick discovery of its resources has rushed San Joaquin Valley too quickly along the path of progress. Its output has exceeded its facilities for transportation. Tied up in the matter of transportation lies the future development of this important central southern section of California. Tied up too is the future of Los Angeles Harbor, outlet for San Joaquin Valley resources.

The Valley's expansive width requires two main highways, southerly, think road proponents. One must serve the agricultural development from the trough of the Valley eastward to the foothills. Another is essential to prove the oil and gas districts westerly from the trough of the Valley.

Valley men have prepared a new highway, an artery through which may flow the life blood of San Joaquin Valley, its produce. From Bakersfield, off the gold State Highway it would begin, branch off in a southwesterly direction to San Emidio in Kern County. There it would meet another fork of the same highway coming from Maricopa, continue almost directly south to Fillmore, then down to Santa Monica.

Already, from Taft to San Emidio, is an old dirt road. The Valley road planners would have this stretch paved. From San Emidio down to Fillmore, much of the road is in the nature of mere wagon tracks. This stretch would be paved. From Fillmore the proposed road would go down to Moorpark, thence to the coast.

H. W. McCray, chairman of the San Joaquin Valley Travel and Tourist Traffic Committee, gives full support to the proposed road (Sespe Route). Said he: "The Sespe Route will best serve to transport the Valley's produce. Moreover, it will become one of the outstanding scenic drives in the western California. The climb up the Sespe (near Fillmore) from 500 feet in elevation, to an elevation of 3000 feet in 35 miles, alongside a stream of living water on a grade of approximately only two per cent, is an exceptional condition."

The proposed route will traverse beautiful, undeveloped Santa Barbara National Forest for approximately 100 miles. Thus it will open many a hitherto dormant recreational playground, so near to 2,000,000 people in the Valley to the South, to Los Angeles' marketing centers.

More beautiful still would be the route if plans to landscape the surroundings were finally put through. Landscape gardeners and plant-life authorities would decorate the route with flowering shrubs, trees, other plant life, under natural conditions. The plants would be conformed to the remarkable climate variances from the interior Valley, over the mountain ranges, to the coastal climate. In Mandeville Canyon, for example, the greatest botanical garden in the world. Another suggestion calls for a bird and wild life sanctuary in the same canyon.

Extensive has been the development of California, due to its many and well-built roads. Many another road will be built before California reaches the zenith of development. Only natural is the need of San Joaquin, and of the Los Angeles trading area for the new Sespe Highway. That the needs of the Valley and of Los Angeles require more paved highways is unquestioned, think the proponents of the Sespe project.

Ash Trays

When lighted cigars or cigarettes are thrown from traveling automobiles, fires often result. Homes, forests, brush-lands have been burned.

Last week George H. Cecil, executive secretary of the Los Angeles County Conservation Association, addressed a committee of the County Board of Supervisors. He urged them to set an example of safety by equipping all county automobiles with ash trays. The Conservation Association was going into the business of manufacturing ash trays. They would cost \$1.00. The profits would be turned over to further conservation work in the County.

To carry out Kersey's ideas a committee was appointed. It consisted of Willard E. Givens, city school superintendent of Oakland; Frank H. Boren, district school superintendent of San Mateo county; Gordon Gray of San Diego, member State Board of Education; H. S. Upjohn, county school superintendent of Los Angeles, and Nicholas Ricciardi and Sam H. Cohn of the State Department of Education.

More Bookkeepers

Many were the arguments brought forth last fortnight by Herbert L. Miller of the Santa Ana Board of Education to support his stand that a thorough course in book-keeping and business training was more meritorious of the school's financial support than was the supplying of athletic equipment.

Over the question as to whether or not the school board could afford to buy a late model book-keeping machine was the argument precipitated. Said Mr. Miller: The educational courses at the high school were being curtailed by the trustees because of a lack of funds; there was very little curtailing in the purchase of athletic equipment; in the last fortnight the Board of Education had spent \$500.00 to pay a student body bill for athletic materials. He recommended that sundry items on the school budget for the following year be eliminated to allow the purchase of the book-keeping machine.

Santa Ana business men, declared Miller, were in need of competent book-keeping machine operators; it was the business of the high school to supply the need.

Miller was right, decided the other members of the Board. As a result a general going over of the school's financial situation has been started. The budget committee was asked to review the accounts in an effort to pare off some of the proposed expenditures that blocked the purchase of the necessary educational equipment.

Education

Eight Years

For eight years Dr. Arthur Braden has watched the California Christian College, at Los Angeles, grow from a tiny institution of fifty students to one of 528. For seven of those years has he guided its destiny as college president.

Last week the educator's resignation became effective. Dr. C. F. Cheverton succeeds him temporarily. The former president, however, will be connected with the college for a year longer in an unofficial capacity, stated he last week.

The department's chief problem is to know how to adapt the talk to the necessities of education, so the pupil will see and hear to the best advantage. The instrument must be perfected for use in schools. The subjects must be ones which will command attention. In line with his recognition of car-mindedness, Kersey said his department proposed to develop the use of radio for educational purposes.

Disturb
Themselves.
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forfeited heretofore.
Joe Taven and Robert Kembel returned Wednesday from a 10 days' trip to Vancouver. The trip was made by auto.

nothing to prevent the City of Torrance from running a nice clean new line of pipes right along beside them and let the water company keep their smelly old green lined pipes filled with yellow stinking water just as long as they want them.

ON WATER

PLAYS TONIGHT

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Sewer Ordered for South Side Redondo Blvd.

A new sewer line was authorized by the City Council last evening for the South side of Redondo boulevard between Madrid and Cravena avenues.

The present sewer in the alley on the south side of Redondo boulevard was laid before the lots were cut down to street level, and as a result the sewer is higher than the street.

On recommendation of City Engineer Frank Leonard, the Council ordered a sewer laid for the present on the south side of Redondo boulevard from Portola to Arlington avenues connecting with the sewer already located in the alley north of Redondo boulevard. This expense will be about \$150 and will be paid by the City of Torrance.

Industries Ask Better Service from P. E. Office

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directed a communication to the Pacific Electric Railway, requesting more modern office equipment and additional help to facilitate shipments of freight to and from Torrance.

A number of shippers including the larger industries in Torrance have complained that the addition of a comptometer and other up-to-date office equipment would in their opinion greatly improve the paper work of the Pacific Electric office in Torrance and better the service to shippers materially.

Business Men's Luncheon to Be Held Fortnightly

Business Men's group of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce resumed its luncheons this week. It was decided to hold them hereafter on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Earl's Cafe, 12:15 o'clock.

A committee will be appointed to sell monthly tickets, so that a more accurate count can be anticipated. This action was taken in fairness to Earl Conner, who has frequently prepared luncheon for forty when only half that number came.

Kettler Opposes Extension of Cabrillo-Eshelman Ave.

The Cabrillo avenue-Eshelman project was given a set-back this week when the City Council received a letter from Benjamin W. Shipman, attorney for the Kettler interests, informing Torrance people that the Kettler interests were not in favor of the proposed extension of Cabrillo avenue through their property.

In the letter, Attorney Shipman stated that the Kettler interests felt that their holdings would be more valuable as potential industrial land if held in one piece than if divided into two parcels. He stated that he was cognizant of the fact that the City of Torrance could enter condemnation proceedings to acquire the right of way, but expressed the hope that this action would not be taken. He predicted that the Kettler land would soon be needed for industrial purposes and stated that he believed such development would be more of an asset to Torrance if the proposed street were not put through at this time.

Lay Plans for Big Trading
Center in Torrance—Prob-
lems Discussed Frankly—
Next Meeting Oct. 1

Plans for a greater retail center in Torrance were laid at an organization banquet Friday evening attended by a large majority of Torrance retail merchants.

The banquet room at Earl's Cafe was crowded to capacity as the most enthusiastic gathering of local merchants that has ever met in Torrance discussed vital problems affecting their businesses and the future development of Torrance as a trading center. The meeting was in the nature of a round table discussion and was conducted in a very frank and open manner.

The meeting was called to order by Harry H. Dolbey and later turned over to R. F. Hogue, who was elected chairman. Committees on organization and code of procedure are to be appointed and a secretary selected.

It was decided to keep store window lights burning until 10:30 p. m. each night to encourage more people to window shop.

A fall opening window display was voted which will be staged tonight, from 7 to 10:30 p. m. Merchants have prepared very attractive displays of Autumn merchandise for the Fall Opening Event tonight and the rest of the week.

Membership in the new Retail Division is limited to merchants who buy goods at wholesale and sell them at retail. A membership drive will be conducted soon to enlist those who were not at the meeting. There are no dues. Meetings will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:10 p. m. when a dinner will be served. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, and every retail merchant in Torrance is invited to attend, according to R. F. Hogue, chairman.

Cars Crash on Carson Street

Cars driven by Charles McEwen 1616 E. Carson street, and Margaret Huffer, 1444 Post avenue, collided on Carson street between Harvard and Western Monday evening at 8:15 p. m.

McEwen, in his report to the police, stated that he gave the signal to turn right and Margaret Huffer drove to the right of him and the collision resulted. The cars were only slightly damaged.

Weather Machine Transferred to High School

Weather statistics for Torrance will hereafter be kept by the faculty and students of the Torrance high school. The City Council authorized the transfer of the Government weather machine this week to the high school building. A maximum temperature of 97 degrees was registered this week on Tuesday. The rain gauge showed .05-inch after the shower Tuesday night.