

# The Southern Counties

# Torrance

Torrance  
Population  
8200

5c per Copy

### At Washington

Southern California is represented in the U. S. House of Representatives by five Congressmen, three of whom are residents of Southern California. Awaiting the opening of Congress, on December 2, four Southern California Congressmen last week, at Washington, busied themselves with the affairs of their constituents, figured in the following activities:

Tariff-Debate. Great is California's stake in the tariff revision bill now being debated in the U. S. Senate. Reason: California's greatest industry, agriculture, depends directly upon tariff protection from foreign competition for its prosperity. In tariff revision, indication of a change in tariff, indicates that there is a growing feeling among California members of the House that they should vote against the bill if it comes back from the Senate in its present form, carrying the debenture farm plan, and with the flexible provision (giving the President power to raise or lower certain tariffs in emergencies) eliminated.

Congressman W. E. Evans, of Glendale and Arthur Monroe Free, of San Jose (representing San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, etc.), last week said they would support the bill. Hoover, however, against the incorporation of debenture, the elimination of the flexible provision, even if it meant that no bill at all was passed.

Said Representative Evans: "I intend to vote against the bill as long as it is in the House, and as long as the debenture is left out. . . . We won't stand for the debenture, and we insist upon the President being given the power to raise or lower rates in emergencies, and as much as we desire a tariff bill we will not support it if it is brought to us (the House) in its present form."

Representative Free expressed similar views, was certain the conservative lower branch of Congress would not approve of the bill in its present form.

Dirigible Base. Aid plenty was he prepared to give, but help was what Congressman E. D. Swing, of El Centro, needed most last week, as he prepared to lead a hard and long fight in Washington to obtain, for San Diego, the Pacific Coast dirigible base for the U. S. Navy (see Army & Navy).

Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce will be a bitter fight over the selection of the site before the Naval Affairs Committee and the House. . . . Will be glad to have any assistance you may care to furnish.

Federal Buildings. Aneat the Federal building program in Southern California (postoffices, buildings, etc.), Los Angeles, Culver, Congressman Joe Crane and W. E. Evans last week had the following to report:

To be sought by Congressman Crill for his constituents: 1) A 500-bed annex for the hospital at the Sawtelle Soldiers' Home; 2) a \$10,500,000 new Federal building for Los Angeles; 3) a \$1,500,000 postoffice for Hollywood; 4) a \$350,000 postoffice for Santa Monica; and \$200,000 postoffices for Beverly Hills, Sawtelle, Culver City and Inglewood. To change the name of Sawtelle to West Los Angeles.

Following two conferences with Treasury and Postoffice Department officials Representative Evans announced: 1) That no change is contemplated in the expansion program of the Los Angeles Federal building; 2) that title papers of land for the Pomona and Long Beach postoffices have not yet been received by U. S. Attorney McNabb, therefore plans for the two buildings have been delayed.



PHIL D. SWING  
Help was what he needed.

seven associates, Hyatt hopes to reach a decision which will be final. And the Los Angeles Supervisors, with so many investigations, hope the matter will be settled once and for all.

At the end of the week, even before any final reports had been made, four of the Supervisors were already doubtful that any dam would ever be built in the San Gabriel Canyon. Most doubtful of all was Supervisor Beatty, who represents the district just below the dam site. He said he would oppose any dam in the canyon if there was the slightest possibility of its failure. Both Supervisors Shaw and Wright have opposed the use of the site ever since the landslide of Sept. 16. As for Supervisor Wright, only complete agreement on the part of all the engineers would induce him to vote in favor of the location.

### Gambling Ships

Strong drink was served, dice rattled, cards flipped, roulette balls chattered aboard the gambling ships Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 27 and 28, at San Gabriel Canyon. All last spring and summer, the ships, anchored off the coast of Southern California and safely beyond the three-mile limit, prospered. Irate citizens complained, branded the ships as "moral evils," sought to have them eliminated. They succeeded in their attempts. The ships were beyond the three-mile limit, beyond jurisdiction of authority, the complaining citizen struck back by appealing to the State Legislature to legislate against taxibots, other craft used to transport passengers to the gambling ships. On August 14 the law went into effect, but before State authorities could enforce it, Federal officials stepped in, eliminated the ships themselves, towed them into Los Angeles Harbor, charged them with carrying a menace to navigation.

Last week, however, in the Los Angeles court of Superior Judge William T. Aggeler, the judge found Section 4 of the law that dealt with the illegal transportation to and from the ships, unconstitutional. This section, which with the Federal provisions relating to inter-state commerce, prohibited the carrying of passengers to and from the ships, was held to be unconstitutional. He further held that "this law is unconstitutional in that its complete enforcement would be destructive to the rights of carriers to use their property."

As an illustration of his assertion the judge pointed out that if the law were to be effective against the small transport launches, which are used to carry passengers to gambling ships, it must be equally effective in counties where there are instances such as a railroad company in Los Angeles where gambling is permitted; the taking of passengers by any ocean liner upon which gambling is allowed; or carrying anyone any place outside of California where gambling is permitted.



SUPERVISOR GRAVES  
... made the best of a mess.

for \$44,500 asserted damages. They declared that the "shimming" occasioned by the power plant had ruined their properties, spoiled their sleep (News Review, Nov. 4-10).

Last week Superior Judge S. M. Marsh, of San Diego, heard the complaint, then visited the power plant in search of more concrete data. He did not deliberate long; soon decided that the public service rendered by the plant was so great for the city to consider stopping operation. He inferred that the plaintiffs' mental attitude could bear revision; suggested the vibration would be less evident if they were less prepared to be annoyed by the faint quivering.

### Boulder Hearing

There was an outward lull in the Boulder Dam proceedings last week, preparatory to a meeting early this week of all interests concerned, with Secretary of the Interior Ray Lyman Wilbur. Close observers, however, summing up the events of the past fortnight, saw indications that Wilbur's "power pudding," made last month, might be due for a re-baking. Reason: Not everyone concerned was happy over the recent allocation of power, and this week's meeting was planned for a hearing of all dissatisfied prospective customers.

Envoys to Wilbur's conference who loomed as pugacious grumblers were four. Most pugacious, Arizona prepared to press her claims for more power through a suit in the United States Supreme Court. Nevada, the California, and Utah's Colorado River Commission has a grievance too. In all probability the Utah commission will protest against the sale of Boulder power at the price suggested by Wilbur (1.53 mills per kilowatt hour). Utah claims that this price is too low to enable the project to pay for itself as well as furnish funds for reclamation in the Boulder Dam area.

Los Angeles envoys left for Washington with the intention of gaining an increase in Boulder Dam power. Said Los Angeles representatives: The people of Los Angeles need every kilowatt hour of Boulder power available, after the demands of other states and districts have been met. We will try to convince the Secretary of the Interior that the city's needs and rights should be more fully recognized.

In the meantime, the Metropolitan Water District board was holding several meetings of discussion, prior to Wilbur's hearing. To the board it seemed that, with everyone clamoring for more power, it would be advisable to make the Boulder Dam still higher than proposed. Therefore the board drew up a resolution that the height of the dam be increased from 550 feet to 575 feet, thus adding an additional 100,000 horse-power.

Later, at another meeting, the Metropolitan Water Board passed another resolution, namely, to ask Secretary Wilbur's permission to sell to member cities of the district excess power from its allotment. There would be a period during which the district cannot use all the power allotted it. Under the present arrangement all the excess power will be turned back to the government, which will allocate it to other municipalities or private companies. The district wishes to sell this excess at cost to member cities.

From Arizona, which is preparing a suit protesting against its share of the "power pudding," came news last week that all of the Arizona Colorado River Commission, in Los Angeles, C. Walter Reed, secretary-manager of the Northwestern Arizona Development Association at Kingman, declared that leading citizens of Kingman wanted the County to have the undivided sentiment of Northwestern Arizona back of them when they say they are not in accord with the breaking off of Arizona from the tri-State compact. Said Reed: "We want Arizona to be a part of the Boulder Dam project. We want square miles of territory in the Colorado River. Cheap hydro-power is desired to harness up its great mining industry."

Scowling, rebellious, the five women branded their conviction, as unjust, filed appeals. Last week, as they awaited further decisions, they learned of the date when they were to appear in court. District Attorney George H. Johnson scheduled another hearing for this month, named its purpose as the investigation of the charge that these women had maintained and conducted a home for children without having procured the necessary license.

Surprised were interested individuals to learn of this new hearing. It had been assumed that the complaint would be dismissed if the apprehended women were convicted of conspiracy to fly the Red flag, a more serious charge. The convicted Communists now to another conviction, an additional jail term, perhaps a large fine.

### Yucaipa Reds

In the San Bernardino mountains this summer, young children disappeared themselves over the hillsides, ran races, played games, grew sturdy and brown under the shadow of a Red flag. Dismayed were State and county authorities when they learned of this, immediately set about investigating. Soon they charged the Yucaipa Red Camp's leaders with conspiracy to fly the Red flag, with operating an unlicensed home for children. Last month, the women were convicted on terms of five months to five years in the Quentin (News Review, Oct. 28-Nov. 3).

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### City Merger

Close to the bustling, central City of San Bernardino nestles the city also bustling City of Colton. Previously has it been suggested that these two communities merge into one; derive mutual benefit, be better enabled to cope with the municipal problems. Last week the municipal issue of amalgamation was revived when Colton's Fred Robbins, chairman of the committee of citizens, announced that Colton voters would personally express their opinion on the subject at a municipal election in April, 1930.

Statistically, the result of the proposed merger would be a city of more than 50,000 population. Merger obstacle: Colton owns a municipal lighting plant; San Bernardino does not disapprove of municipal operation of public utilities. To eliminate this factor, Public Works Commissioner Robbins proposed to sell its plant for approximately \$300,000, to apply the funds in this manner: to pay the proposed merger as "a sound economic move," hoped it would materialize.

### Twosome

When Tract-Owner Mrs. Mary K. Watson, her mother Mrs. Sarah Kellogg, her employed Harry L. Foster made ready to vote regarding annexation of the City of Ventura, the three thought they had a monopoly on exclusive elections. (News Review, Nov. 4-10). Not so.

In Santa Ana last week, Mr. and Mrs. John Mangold wanted the City Council hear their plea, took the matter under advisement, named December 5 as the date of a special election. On that day, the polls will be open throughout the entire day, the two votes will be painstakingly cast, then carefully counted by the election board, itself composed of the duct of voters.

### Sown by Plane

Sick, disabled veterans are despondent at times. They find life cheerless, drab, uneventful, colorless. Eager are their comrades to brighten the long days; to make them gay, alive, sparkling. Last fortnight, alive, sparkling, Pasadena Legionnaires thought of a scheme to gladden gray days, jubilantly, executed it.

Sown in the Morongo Valley and

## EL NIDO SEEKS EXEMPTION TORRANCE

District Annexation Issuing Despite Opposition From Those Outside

El Nido community identified a desire to annex, and have presented intention to circulate for annexation, which was at the council meeting.

Outlines of the year's work for the Torrance District Garden Club were made Thursday evening at a meeting of a special committee appointed by President C. B. Bell for that purpose. Mr. V. L. Maxfield, chairman, and his committee composed of Mr. Herbert S. Wood, Mrs. N. F. Jamieson, Mr. Charles Leloff, of Keystone, and Mr. Jesse Tomkin, of Lomita, announced that for the coming year will include many community projects.

First, there will be a Better Gardens contest to begin in January and last over a period of five or six months. Details of this contest are being planned by a special committee and will be announced soon.

At the last meeting of the club, the unsightly approaches to Torrance were discussed and it was pointed out that not a single approach to Torrance gave the incoming motorist a favorable impression of the town or brought out the beauty of the town. The committee decided to start work beautifying the worst one, Western avenue from the curve to Border avenue at once. Mr. V. L. Maxfield and Mrs. N. F. Jamieson will take care of the work.

Another community project, which will require the co-operation of the entire community was the decision to make an attempt to cover all vacant lots with California poppies. Years ago, the entire town and surrounding country was a mass of golden poppies in the springtime and gold over what would be otherwise been unsightly vacant land. Can we again create this lovely effect? The committee thinks we can, and will have an announcement of ways and means to accomplish this to announce in one of the coming issues of the Torrance Herald.

Thousands of people travel each year to Beaumont to see the maze of glorious cherry blossoms and admire their beauty, and have thereafter associated the name of Beaumont with cherries. Ventura has long been known as the "Poinsettia City" in every yard the poinsettia trees are given a prominent place. In the springtime, Eureka's gardens blaze with beauty of the delphiniums, and Portland is known as the city of roses.

All of these cities have earned their fame because they have adopted the community flower, and co-operation among the citizens has done the rest. Torrance people are desirous of doing the same thing, and in the near future a committee of experts will be appointed to make a list of several flowering shrubs or flowers that are particularly suited to Torrance and are particularly hardy, easily grown, very inexpensive, and shrubs that will present a mass of beautiful blossoms at some time in the year.

It is believed that this, when accomplished, will give Torrance a name that will equal the name of the cities aforementioned.

After the experts have compiled the list, it will be submitted to the community to be voted upon and the community shrub or flower chosen. Then the agriculturists of the following year they will be sold to residents at an extremely nominal sum. It is hoped to obtain the shrubs in this manner for 25 or 30 cents or lower.

A project of the immensity of this one cannot be completed during the first year; but the foundation can be laid for a beautiful Torrance that will create much favorable comment during the coming years.

Mrs. Jennie Torrance Welch, sister of the founder of our town, who was the speaker at the last meeting of the Garden Club, was much interested in the plan for planting poppies here, and presented the Garden Club with \$5 to be spent towards that purpose.

## BELL NAMES COMMITTEE ON CONTEST

Garden Club Will Sponsor Better Gardens Contest to Last Several Months

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## CROWD FILLS AUDITORIUM AT MCGROARTY LECTURE

Well Known Californian Delights Torrance Audience with Talk on Olden Days

By LUTE FRASER

With a capably crowd to mark its financial success, and the delighted comments of all present to measure the great worth of the initial offering on Friday night, the Torrance Women's club launched its 1929-30 lecture course with a talk on "California," a glimpse of the old days, by John Steven McGroarty.

Under the management of Mrs. Harry H. Dolley and her committee, arrangements have been proceeding forward for some weeks for this series of lectures. Only four numbers will be given, but each one will be of the highest merit in its field.

Every one who has been taken in the clubhouse auditorium, when Mrs. Frank Sammons, president of the Women's club, in one of her gracefully characteristic speeches, introduced Mr. McGroarty. Her droll reference to an acquaintance that "might have been" brought laughter from the crowd in an appreciative chuckle and a witty retort from the distinguished guest. Since Mrs. Sammons considerably postponed her visit to the home of a mutual friend in Balboa, where the McGroarty's were guests, because "John had the Torrance Herald," she was writing a play and he is very tired and would rather not see anyone just now," some twelve years passed before they met, and "not until tonight," said Mrs. Sammons, "did John know just what he missed."

Mr. McGroarty, with his years of labor in investigations, his sure knowledge and sympathetic insight into the ways of the old California, drew to his listeners a most appealing picture of the Spanish don.

Like an old neighbor who drops in to sit by the fireside and spend an hour or two in pleasant reminiscence, Mr. McGroarty talked in his quiet easy fashion, sketched for his hearers the everyday life of those early pioneers, those who truly mastered the wilderness and prepared the way for those of us who have chosen this California to be our home.

Out of the wastes they wrung their wealth; their cattle roamed the hills, their vineyards and gardens provided their living; few in number, their possessions were of vast extent. Open-handed hospitality, loyal friendships, trustful faith in their fellowmen, were the foundations of their characters and in this ideal way their lives were passed until the coming of the American changed the old order of things and the sway of the dons was no more.

Of the missions and the coming of the padres, Mr. McGroarty spoke at some length. His descriptions of the work of these men brought home to his audience how astounding were their accomplishments. They were men of God, who dared the dangers of the savage mountain wastes and to a benighted race taught the first glimpses of a higher life and the first consolations of religion. They were men of action, who planned a tremendous work and led the way to its final completion. They were teachers, who not only showed the way to accomplish but made the tools and instruments by which success was won.

Every mission from San Diego to Sonoma is a colossal monument to the integrity, intelligence and persistence of these devoted men.

In closing Mr. McGroarty spoke briefly of those men of a later day, also pioneers of this great commonwealth. To the men of the days of '49, to these decent men, much is due, in appreciation of their splendid work, and more, in appreciation of their splendid moral fiber. This third phase of the development of California is to be the theme of a new play now planned and in the making by Mr. McGroarty, which will take its place with those other gems from his pen and brain, the Mission play, and La Golondrina.

State law which requires that public improvements entailing expenditures in excess of certain nominal sums be submitted to competitive bidding, be awarded to the lowest bidder. Not observed has been this regulation in San Bernardino County; contractors wanted to know why.

Last week, Deputy District Attorney James L. King declared that the Board of Supervisors' handling of highway construction had been illegal, that the San Bernardino County charter counteracted the State regulation concerning contracts. Entirely lawful is the system whereby a competent engineer, purchasing agent attends to all purchasing of materials.

### Gabriel Re-Survey

Engineer E. C. Eaton, returning last week from scouring the mountains in search of a series of small dam sites, found both among Los Angeles County Supervisors and geologists, quibbling in disagreement concerning investigations of the San Gabriel Dam location.

The County Supervisors, in the first place, had quibbled over the employment of two engineers to make another survey of the location in San Gabriel Canyon. Several sharp tiffs resulted as the Supervisors discussed the Supervisor MacClellan told the board that Supervisor Graves, in opposing the employment of two name consultants, did so in a spirit of advertising; that he showed this when he suggested the best way to defeat the proposal was to vote against paying salaries for consultants. Retorted Graves: "I resent that remark. Supervisor Shaw and I are trying to make the best of this mess. I have never made a good play before this board for advertising."

When the nine engineers had thoroughly examined, each singly, the base of the dam site, and had collaborated, they informed Eaton that they were unable to agree on a single report. It was undoubtedly determined, however, that at a depth of 100 feet below the surface there was no improvement in rock conditions. Near the bottom of the shaft, a foot of clay with seepage water was encountered, and the presence of this seam so far below the surface, they frowned a dubious frown, for they realized that excavation to such a depth would mean the removal of 2,000,000 cubic yards of rock at a cost of more than \$7,000,000. This sum would not leave enough from the \$25,000,000 bond issue to build the high dam, thought the experts.

In accordance with the new State dam law, Los Angeles County Supervisors last week finally, after prolonged discussion, placed the matter of the dam site into the hands of the State. To State Engineer Hyatt and six consulting engineers and geologists went the task of finally determining the feasibility of San Gabriel Canyon as a site for the proposed high dam. Also to help Hyatt, the State Department of Agriculture has appointed Federal District Engineer E. W. Kramer, famed as a consultant on many a dam. With these

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Statistically, the result of the proposed merger would be a city of more than 50,000 population. Merger obstacle: Colton owns a municipal lighting plant; San Bernardino does not disapprove of municipal operation of public utilities. To eliminate this factor, Public Works Commissioner Robbins proposed to sell its plant for approximately \$300,000, to apply the funds in this manner: to pay the proposed merger as "a sound economic move," hoped it would materialize.

### Victor Anaheim

Anaheim residents Mr. and Mrs. George Fendley, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Timme took exception to a neighboring gas engine generating plant, brought suit against the city

### Road-Building

Much official red tape has ruined many a project, spiked many a development scheme. San Bernardino County Supervisors have long been aware of this, therefore have been content to handle their own highway construction and maintenance, unaffected by outside jurisdiction, intensifying their highway program, involving many thousands of dollars each year. A highway commissioner supervises all activity, purchasing agent buys all materials, and no official interference is encountered.

Disgruntled, full of ire, San Bernardino contractors have protested, have threatened court action. They based their complaint on the

**TWO ISSUES A WEEK 'TIL CHRISTMAS**

Look for Your Paper Tuesday Afternoon and Early Friday Morning, Beginning This Week

Beginning with this Tuesday, November 19, the Torrance Herald will be published twice a week until after Christmas.

This action was decided upon by the management of the Torrance Herald in order to afford local merchants and other advertisers the opportunity of advertising their Christmas stocks more frequently during the holiday period.

There will be no added cost to the subscriber. The Tuesday issue will in every sense be a regular issue of the Torrance Herald with full news content, features,

and all the regular departments of the Thursday issues. During the period from now until Christmas that the Herald is issued twice a week, the Thursday issue will be delivered early Friday morning, before the carrier boys attend school.

Advertising copy for the Tuesday issue will close at 5 p. m. Monday and for the Thursday issue at the usual time of 5 p. m. Wednesday.

Never have Torrance merchants offered such a variety of Christmas gifts as they have bought this

(Continued on Next Page)

the volume of building construction throughout the Pacific Coast and inter-mountain states is steadily growing. The rail purchases of the western roads involves millions annually. The great oil development in Southern California uses immense quantities of pipe each year, and the broad fruit regions of California and immense quantities of pipe each year, and the broad fruit regions of California and the Northwest with their mighty canneries constitute one of the largest tin plate markets in the world. Wherever you go the world over, you see Pacific Coast fruits sold in tin cans. This demand for tin plate is enormous and has already called for a \$4,000,000 expansion of the Columbia tin plate plant at Pittsburg, California.

The demand of oil country supplies from Southern California, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and other oil producing states is growing despite Federal efforts to curtail production. In Southern California present projects involve the laying of hundreds of miles of gas lines.

The foreign trade within reach already represents a huge volume of business, which is growing constantly. Japan has just commenced its program of stable, permanent construction. When the great earthquake destroyed whole cities a few years ago, the Japanese decided they would do only temporary work until a general plan of building could be arrived at. The real work and the real call for steel products have just begun. China is growing by leaps and bounds industrially and is becoming a large factor in export trade of all sorts from the United States. China

(Continued on Page 8)

## ENA HOST M. LEGION TONIGHT

All be host tomorrow evening 20 to more than 20 Legionnaires, including the commander of the district, and representatives of the Legion posts who were for a meeting of the District, of which Lomita are a part.

Legion men, according to C. W. McQuarrie, Jr., of Gardena Post No. 10, public is invited and lend. Everything is

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be introduced and where an entertainment of these acts of vaudeville circuit will be given. Carl Sturzenacker, president of Gardena Lions club, will welcome visiting Legion men to Gardena Valley and Carl Rosecrans and Ben Long will make brief talks. At the close sandwiches and coffee will be served free of charge to everyone, the latter effort being made by the Gardena Legion to express their appreciation to the community for the hearty co-operation of its citizens.

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**IMPORTANT!**

Look for your next issue of the Torrance Herald, before school FRIDAY morning, instead of Thursday afternoon.

**ONLY 29 DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS**

SHOPPING