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The Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

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CITY IS HOST TO 41 CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Harbor District Chambers of Commerce Enjoy Annual Event

KOSTER'S TALK PLEASURES

Wilmington is Chosen For February Gathering of Organization

In the role of host to some 250 representative citizens of the Harbor District, the city of Torrance and the local Chamber of Commerce sent the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce off to a flying start on important activities for the next 11 months when the annual meeting and installation of officers was held at the Women's club house last Thursday night.

The entire program, which consisted of two afternoon sessions and the general public dinner meeting in the evening was one of the best ever held by the organization, which numbers more than 50 civic groups on its roster. There were 41 member organizations represented here.

Speed Industrial Work

During the evening program, an advance timing arrangement was followed which allowed for the presentation of first prize speeches with little or no delay. The meeting adjourned shortly before 10 o'clock. The dinner was served by members of the Torrance Women's club.

An active campaign to clarify the state improvement acts and increased efforts to attract new industries to the Harbor District was launched at the meeting. It was decided to appoint a committee to look into the matter of certain hindrances in the improvement acts and to work out a legislative bill clarifying present conflicting phases of the improvement laws.

Chairman W. Rurus Page, of the industrial committee, who was also installed as first vice president, was instructed to enlarge his industrial committee and to arrange for regular monthly sessions, similar to those held by the highway committee, headed by Chairman Ray Baldwin of Long Beach.

Page Givaz Welcomes

Wilmington was chosen as the host city for the next monthly meeting, which will be held Feb. 10.

Boy Kills Self After Listening To Radio Speech

Funeral Held Yesterday For Youthful Suicide Victim

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon for Ralph Brady, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Brady at 2323 Camino Real, who died Monday morning at the Torrance Memorial Hospital from a 22 calibre bullet wound in his chest inflicted by his own rifle. Mrs. Brady read the Christian Science service at the Stone and Myers chapel and afterwards interment took place at Roosevelt Memorial Park. Young Brady was found unconscious in bed early Monday morning by his mother when she failed to answer her call. His gun, one cartridge exploded, was found on the floor beside the boy's bed.

BILL THE BARBER SAYS

A man, 162 years of age, has been married four times. That would age anybody.

Prize Is No Good To Rippy

Judge C. T. Rippy won the attendance prize at Friday's Kiwanis meeting—but it was practically worthless to him until he made a deal with Ed Tansey. The prize was a card entitling him to two haircuts at Tansey's barber shop. After negotiations with Tansey, the judge announced that four shaves had been substituted for the haircuts.

COUNTY MEN WILL ATTEND ROUND TABLE

Many Pertinent Subjects Are to Be Discussed at Joint Session

Four county officials, Supervisor John R. Quinn, George Jones, county road commissioner; Herbert A. Payne, county auditor, and Dr. John Pomeroy, health officer, will meet with the directors of the Chamber of Commerce and City Council tonight, Thursday, at 8:30 o'clock for dinner and a round table meeting.

The session, which is to be held at the cafe, promises to be one of the most important city-county meetings in recent months. A number of pertinent subjects in which this city is vitally interested are to be presented for open discussion.

Among the topics which will probably be aired are: the establishment of a county health center here, its plans and progress; unemployment relief for local and high school residents; and highway improvement matters.

Income Tax Expert To Be at Chamber

A deputy income tax collector will be at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce March 3, 4 and 5 to assist residents of this and surrounding cities in making out their income tax returns.

Patriotic "Racketeering" Scored

Legion in Move to End Annoyances of Fund-Raising and "Panhandling" Appeals That Are Worthless

Because public esteem and regard for the veterans and veteran organizations is constantly being endangered by fund-raising appeals where the methods used are questionable or where unfair portions of the contributed money goes into the pockets of promoters and not the aid of the needy veterans and their families, American Legion posts throughout Los Angeles County have determined on a course of action to eliminate such racketeering.

The local post has thoroughly endorsed a resolution passed recently by the American Legion County Council that requested the Board of Supervisors and City Council of Los Angeles to immediately pass ordinances placing an effective control over all public solicitations of funds for charitable, philanthropic and patriotic purposes so that these activities may be fully investigated and only the worthy ones permitted to appeal to the public.

There is a possibility that such an ordinance may be requested of the Torrance City Council in the near future, according to post officers. The Legion's resolution declared that "in many fund-raising schemes appealing to the patriotic American spirit, it has been found that large portions of the money collected was diverted into private channels, thereby using American patriotism in connection with the 'sucker list' for the enrichment of private interests."

228 Unemployed Registered Here; Must Have Work

Jobless in Debt More Than \$20,000, Survey Shows; Many in Dire Need

Registration of the unemployed 228 names, Tuesday afternoon when the preliminary report was completed at the Chamber of Commerce. These registration cards depict a condition that requires definite and immediate action.

Charity is not desired in most cases, yet must be accepted by many because of the actual need of the necessities of life which must be given to the members of the family besides the wage earner.

There is a total of \$20,000.23 that represents just what these unemployed are behind in their payments for their property, rent, and necessities of existence. Carroll S. Ashley, registrar of the unemployed here, declared late yesterday.

"The relief societies are working with us one hundred per cent." Still Chance to Register

"The vacation of the cards shows a multitude of different activities from the laborer

Shortage of City Gasoline Said Too High

Where does a shortage of a couple of thousand gallons of city-purchased gasoline go?

That's what the City Council wants to know. The issue was discussed at the meeting of the city council last night. Mayor Dennis during the discussion about the gas received from five major oil companies and one Long Beach oil concern on gasoline quotations for the current year. Dennis said there "was an awful leak" in the city tank located at the fire station because of the high consumption during the past year.

Dennis said that he believed the city could get a better deal by buying direct from local filling stations, even at an increased price because of the shortage. G. A. R. Steiner urged the testing of the tank by air pressure to determine if there was any actual leak. R. B. Smith said that new forms to be filled out by city employees using the gasoline would be ready for use this week and that only those in authority would be permitted to issue the gasoline.

Mix-up Results In No Action on P. E. Extension

A search of the council minutes and reports from the city clerk and city attorney Tuesday night revealed that nothing was ever done in regard to either the demand on the Pacific Electric Railway to construct a line on its Redondo boulevard right-of-way or open crossings over the Redondo right-of-way.

This was the result of Councilman G. A. R. Steiner's query as to "what's become of the Redondo boulevard—P. E. matter taken up at several council meetings early in December."

Both the city clerk and city attorney reported that they did not write the railroad company concerning the matter because neither one, they said, understood who was to write the letter.

Want Police Action

"Those who cannot conduct their 'rackets' on the public streets succeed in doing so by house-to-house, or office visits, annoying the public and bringing discredit on honest citizens."

7 Year Old Mail Theft Is Solved

Seven years ago a package of \$12,000 in bills which had been mailed from the Federal Reserve Bank to the First National Bank of Torrance disappeared on route.

Last week postal inspectors brought Will W. Collins, veteran postoffice employe, back to Los Angeles from El Paso, Texas, to face charges of rifling registered mail pouches of \$50,000 cash.

Collins is reported to have freely admitted his thefts, the first one being the delivery of the package of bills consigned to the local bank. Postal authorities were in Torrance last week reviewing details of the seven-year-old crime.

Locks Prove Clue

In 1928, Collins is reported to have confessed, he stole another package addressed to a Kansas City bank amounting \$38,000. He stated to be transferred from Los Angeles to El Paso about two years ago. Shortly after he moved, workmen discovered several odd padlocks in his home. These turned out to have been the locks on the rifled mail bags.

Collins, married, the father of three children, is reported to have assisted postal inspectors to recover \$29,000 cash of his loot from safety deposit boxes. He was booked on charges of mail robbery.

OFFICER IS EXONERATED OF CHARGE

Police Commission Rules "Manhandling" Claim is Not Justified

Reporting for the Police Commission of which he is chairman, Councilman R. R. Smith told his fellow members of the city board Tuesday night that the Commission had investigated the charges of "manhandlings" brought against Officer Ben Olson by Ralph R. Howe and had come to the conclusion that the claims of manhandling on the part of the police officer were not justified.

Smith stated that the case had therefore been dismissed. Howe, who is the father of Worthington Howe, 17-year-old boy, who claimed the officer had used undue force on him without reason. Smith said if that decision was final, on being assured it was, Howe stated he would talk the matter over with his wife and let the council know his decision concerning a possible suit later.

The council then approved the Commission's report with Councilman G. A. R. Steiner not voting. Steiner is a member of the commission and his son, Charles, had been a witness to the incident which caused the investigation.

City Delayed In Appellate Court Action

Drafting of Petition Just Finished, Briney Tells Council

It appears quite likely that the city will not enter the Appellate Court with its petition of mandamus to effect an early settlement of the legal issues surrounding the \$400,000 water bonds until late this month or the first part of February. Earlier reports indicated that the action would be instituted immediately after the first of the year.

The reason for the delay was explained to the city council Tuesday night by City Attorney Perry G. Briney, who said he had left the drafting of the petition up to an attorney in the firm of O'Melveny, Tuttle and Meyer, the city's special counsel, and the document was only completed the first of this week.

Briney said that he expected to receive a copy of it in the mail some time today. After he has studied it, a matter of some two or three days, the petition will then be submitted to the attorneys for the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company for their perusal.

Last "Friendly" Work

This is done, the attorney explained, in order that all the issues pertaining to the status of the bonds will be included in the action.

He declared that the inspection of the petition will be the final joint work by the attorneys of both sides and that once it is filed in the Appellate Court, the case will be strenuously fought by the lawyers.

The petition asks the court to summon City Treasurer Harry E. Dolley into its presence to show cause why he should not sign the bond issue. Dolley technically refused to do this several weeks ago in a council meeting.

Three Benefit Relief Shows This Weekend

Every resident of Torrance and vicinity is urged to attend one of the three special benefit shows to be held tomorrow, Friday night, Saturday matinee and evening at the Torrance Theater for the Torrance Relief Society's funds.

Through the courtesy of Manager Frank Higgins, the benefit shows will have all net profits from the three shows to the Society for work among the unfortunate families in this city. There will be no advance in price.

Legion's Resolution To Be Hiring Policy Now

A resolution from the Torrance post of the American Legion to the effect that only American citizens should be employed in city work was also adopted by the City Council and read into the minutes of Tuesday night's meeting.

It was reported at the council session that no foreign born work-ers are at present on the city payroll. This will continue to be the policy of the city.

Major Highway Plan Approved

Approval was given the County Regional Planning Commission's maps designating the major and sub-major highways pertaining to Torrance by the City Council on Tuesday night.

The Commission's plans will be used as a guide for uniform growth throughout the county, according to City Engineer Leonard.

Franchise Gets Boot From City

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"I can't recommend it," Councilman G. A. R. Steiner said. "It can wait for the next 100 years as far as I'm concerned," volunteered Councilman Ed Nelson.

"Lay it on the table and let's take a crack at it," suggested Mayor Dennis.

"I move it be rejected," Nelson declared.

"Second the motion," approved Councilman R. R. Smith. Then follows a roll call vote with every councilman voting "aye."—And that's the treatment the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company's request for a franchise to operate in this city received Tuesday night. Henceforth the company has no franchise to operate here, the result of its alleged poor water, exorbitant rates and opposition to the proposed publicly owned water system.

STEEL PLANT GETS SHARE IN BIG ORDER

Columbia Steel May Soon Be Running Full Time Again

The Columbia Steel plant here, a subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, is to get one-fourth of the order announced last week by the Southern Pacific Railroad for 57,741 tons of steel rails according to authentic reports received here this week.

The order is to be divided equally between Columbia Steel, United States Steel, Pacific Coast Steel, and Colorado Fuel and Iron Companies, the announcement said.

There is every indication, it was pointed out, that Columbia Steel will soon be running full time again. While plans for expansion with new mills on recently acquired property have been held up for a time, it is believed that the expansion program will be under way before the close of the coming summer.

"Citizens Only" For City Work

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HI-JACKING ATTEMPT SAID WALTERIA SHOOTING CAUSE

Mistake in the Location of House Results in Tragic Gun Duel in Which Walteria Man Dies After Slaying Gunman

SUSPECTED KILLER BADLY WOUNDED

Long Beach Police Round-up Six Suspects; Inquest and Arraignment of Case Will Probably Be Held Here and in Lomita

A tragic case of a mistaken address and resultant identity.

That is what police and deputy sheriffs believe now was the cause of the gun duel in a modest Walteria residence Tuesday night. An early confirmation of the authorities' suspicions is expected from the two men, one severely wounded, charged with first degree murder of Carlisle Lord, 59, of 2143 Ward street, and from his material witness, who are being held in the county and Long Beach jails.

Lord, his daughter, Mrs. Lucia Lassen; her husband, Paul G. Lassen, and a neighbor, Harlan Huffine, believed they were being attacked by robbers early Tuesday evening at the Lassen's home. Investigating officers said today that their suspicions, that the bandit-killers were hi-jackers who had confused the address of their possible victim, have been strengthened by evidence which will be presented at the proper time.

The inquiry over Lord's death and the slaying of the bandit-gunner is expected to be held here. No definite date has been set as yet.

Lord's Courage Outstanding

The gun battle at the little Walteria home followed the successful attempt of two men to enter the dwelling place on the pretext of inquiring for another man and then, when they were informed of their mistake, continued to force their way in under the guise of law-enforcement officers.

As a result, Lord is dead; one of the intruders killed by the victim lies at the Stone and Myers mortuary; another, after being mortally wounded, leveled his .45 calibre revolver on his assailants, killing one and seriously wounding the second.

The story of the duel, which aroused the entire community of Walteria, pays tribute to the courage of the innocent victim of the attack, who after being mortally wounded, leveled his .45 calibre revolver on his assailants, killing one and seriously wounding the second.

Men Force Way In

About 7:30 o'clock Tuesday night, Lord, father of Mrs. Lucia Huffine, and Mr. Lassen, were engaged in their regular evening game of rummy in a room off the kitchen of the Ward street home.

There was a knock at the door and Mrs. Lassen left the game to answer it. She was confronted by two men, the leader of whom lived here. Mrs. Lassen said one by that name lived at that address.

"Oh, yes he does—we're the law and we want him," came the blustering reply as the men forced the door open and entered the living room. The second man, dressed in a suit, seized the weapon. Mrs. Lassen called a warning to the men in the other room and exclaimed, "There's a hold-up, Dad!"

Dying, Kills One Man

With this, Lassen entered the living room, saw the men and at once grasped with the leader. Lassen was struck by the man with the revolver and dazed. This Lord appeared, armed with his revolver. He leveled the men out. The gunman fired at Lord, mortally wounding the older man, who rallied his ebbing strength, drew a careful "head" on the leader of the intruders, shot him through the eye and then fired at the gunman who had shot him.

His second and last shot was effective. Wounded, the intruder backed out of the room, stumbled past Lassen, who was outside by this time trying to find a rock or a club to attack his assailants, fell into a waiting Ford coupe and was sped from the scene by a third man.

Lord died about 15 minutes later.

Suspects Rounded Up

But he had killed one of the two men instantly.

Then the police were called. While deputy sheriffs were investigating the snafu, the Walteria home, word came from Long Beach police that they had arrested some suspects.

The first was Ray Robert Brown, 40, of 1131 St. Louis avenue, who was placed by police at 1720 Sten-son Place, Long Beach. He was shot through the left side but is believed to have been the man who killed Lord. Another suspect was a man who gave his name as

(Continued on Page 6-A)

14 STUDENTS TO GRADUATE THIS EVENING

High School Auditorium to Be Scene of Program for Winter Class

47 TO ENTER SENIOR HI

J. L. Van Norman, President of Board of Education, to Give Diplomas

Commencement exercises will be held at the Torrance high school auditorium tonight, Thursday, at 8:15 o'clock, in honor of the 14 student-members of the Winter class of '31.

Diplomas will be presented by J. L. Van Norman, president of the Los Angeles Board of Education, to the following graduates: Dan Barnard, Marie Carlin, Paul Copeland, Dallas Danford, Kathryn Fordyce, Merle Gilbert, Ara Lindley, Mary Lisani, Lucille Oliver, Manabu Onada, Myrtle Perkins, Josephine See, Richard Stevens and Joe Tavan. Eight boys and six girls. Joe Tavan is class president.

Baccalaureate Held

Yesterday afternoon Principal Herbert S. Wood presented certificates of advancement to the 47 pupils of the Junior high school and semester. Monday morning, January 26.

Baccalaureate exercises were held at the high school auditorium Sunday evening with approximately 260 persons present.

Program is Given

The commencement program tonight opens with the singing of Recessional by the Madrigal Singers, the new name of the combined glee clubs. This will be followed by the invocation pronounced by Rev. J. B. Danford. A vocal solo, "In a Luxembourg Garden," by Kathryn Fordyce, and oration, "National Insurance," by

(Continued on Page 6-A)

When Knighthood Was in Flower

Days of Old Are Revived—But in a More Modern Setting; Sudden Halt in Gory Battle Reveals

Back and forth across the terrain they charged.

Knights in full armor, brandishing gayly decorated lances, battled in full view of King Arthur and his court.

At the battle neared its gory peak, one steel-clad warrior, in a voice hoarse with fear, cried:

"Hey! Wait a minute—I got a cramp from sitting in this thing and I can't straighten out my leg on account of this blasted tin-ware!"

A "Local" Knight

A halt was called while the stricken lancer was removed, laid on the ground and his metal accoutrements removed to permit flexing his leg. Then we saw—

Our own C. E. "Chick" Curtiss, garbed in a mail shirt and steel helmet, clamber out of his bantam car and take a look at its tires.

Yes, sir, "Chick" had discarded his business suit in which he is seen daily at the Dominguez Land Corporation's offices at 1510 Craven avenue, and was wearing the latest thing in armor. He had turned movie actor—and with what a part!

Danger From Rain

There were nearly 80 galloping peat cars in the battle scene—each one occupied by its owner and another extra who carried a

spare. They had been recruited for scenes in Will Rogers' next picture, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," the talkie version of Mark Twain's famous yarn.

Curtiss as the owner of a pigmy spear was asked to lend his assistance—at a good fee—and, wanting to see how the talkies were made, accepted. He was on the job about four days.

One day it rained—but let him tell it!

"We didn't work that day because the director and all his 'yes men' decided we might have a flock of accidents—caused by our costumes rusting on us!"

Admits He's Good!

The scenes were filmed at the old Lasky back-ranch, located near Burbank and the First National Studios. Curtiss had George Dye, former Alabama football star, riding with him as lancer.

"Chick" says the picture ought to be good—not alone because he was in it, but because the story with Will Rogers should make prime entertainment. It may come to the Torrance theater. If it does, Manager Frank Higgins ought to run an ad in the Herald declaring:

"LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD IN MOVIES!"