

Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

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TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1931

5c PER COPY

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS ASSURED CITY

FULL BUS SYSTEM REPORT TO BE GIVEN COUNCIL SOON

Santa Monica Official Addresses the Round-Table Meeting of Directors and Officials Here Last Night

Members of the Transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce, assisted by Frank Leonard, city engineer, and Carl Hyde, secretary of the chamber, were instructed last night to prepare and submit a full report on the proposed municipal bus system to the City Council for their official body's consideration at the earliest possible moment.

This report will include all data connected with the creation of a transportation system that will make Torrance the hub of operations providing fast and cheap bus service to the surrounding communities of Compton, Redondo, Winkler, Harbor City, Redondo, Montera and Gardena.

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REQUEST \$40,000 INCREASE IN POSTOFFICE ALLOCATION

Postmaster Writes Committee, Urging City Be Awarded \$125,000 Fund for Federal Building; Depicts Crowded Quarters of Present Office

Launching a campaign to increase the allotment for a new post-office building to \$125,000, or \$40,000 more than the amount recently authorized by Congress, Postmaster Alfred Gourdier has written to the Inter-Departmental Committee, care of the supervising architect, at the nation's capital, full details of the urgent need for larger quarters and the increased expenditure.

Gourdier enclosed a drawing of the present postoffice building with all of the furniture just as it is placed now to depict the crowded condition of the office.

Further illustration of the need for increasing the allotment to Torrance was given by the postmaster in a table of comparisons with the city of Redondo. That community has received an allotment of \$125,000 for a new postoffice. The table shows that Redondo has but six square miles of territory to Torrance's 18.79 square miles; has a population of 9239 to this city's 7266; an assessed valuation of but \$10,980,153 to Torrance's \$28,717,422; and exceeds the local postoffice in stamp sales, \$41,718 to \$23,248.

In order to illustrate the pressing need for a Federal building here, Gourdier also enclosed a map of the city showing the diversified industries located here, and declared that "the Atchison

County Court System Fails

The proposed county court system for Los Angeles County alone, planned to supersede the present justice of the peace courts, failed of approval this week when the assembly judiciary committee at Sacramento reported the bill tabled.

The measure, as it stood, would have provided 22 county court judges in Los Angeles County at a salary of \$7500 yearly. The present 48 justices of the peace would have been swept out of office and future judges would have been limited to practicing attorneys only, it is reported.

Exhaust From Car Used For Man's Suicide

Paul Harestad Takes Life in Fit of Despondency Over Coming Trial

Believed to have been despondent because of an approaching trial in which he would have been the defendant, charged with a serious morals offense, Paul Harestad, 44, of 2016 Gramercy avenue, ended his life some time Monday night by asphyxiation, according to police reports.

He was found dead behind his sedan automobile, a blanket wrapped about his head near the exhaust pipe, early Tuesday morning by W. B. Gaines, a C. O. M. O. oil worker, between Vine and Oak streets, three blocks south of the International Derrick and Equipment plant on Carson street.

With just a few more days to go before he has reached the century mark, Dr. Wightman has the appearance of a man at least 25 years younger. Similar told me that, up to about three years ago (when he suffered a paralytic stroke), he was as hale and hearty as a man of 65. He wears glasses, although he has had to give up reading. He takes short walks and displays a keen interest in politics and church matters. One of his greatest delights is listening to the sermons heard on the radio—but he seldom misses attending the First Methodist Episcopal church here.

Because of his age, Dr. Wightman speaks very slowly and his hearing is somewhat impaired—but his bright, kindly eyes proved that he understood all my questions and that he was doing the best he could to answer them. His steady hand patting the dog and his courtesy to me proved his peaceful, benevolent nature.

"I was born April 1, 1831, in the town of Friendship, Allegany County, New York. By a process of division of territory, Friendship was divided into two parts—called Friendship and Bolivar. Later Bolivar was divided into Bolivar and Wirt and I was found to be living in Wirt, although I had no inquest.

Unlucky Lomita Grocer Robbed Twice in Week

F. E. Campbell, unlucky grocer at Narbonne and Ocean avenues, Lomita-Wilmington, has several empty shelves since thieves have visited him twice already this month. Campbell's little store is in Wilmington. The first bandit broke in the back door (in county area) and Dean Wintermute, deputy sheriff, investigated.

Seven days later another thief broke in the front door (in Wilmington territory) and Wilmington detective had to do sleuthing. Campbell has lost merchandise valued at \$200 as result of the robberies.

Life Span of Century Is Reviewed

Dr. A. R. Wightman's Life Reveals His Unceasing Service for Others WILL BE HONORED ON TUESDAY

"Work at Useful Things," is Torrance Centenarian's Recipe for Longevity; Has Message to Young People of This Age

By MICHAEL STRASZER

On the eve of his 100th birthday, an event that a number of Torrance civic organizations will assist him in celebrating next Tuesday noon at a gala "century luncheon," Dr. Anderson R. Wightman, A. B., M. A., Ph. D., recounted his life and observations this week for the Torrance Herald.

Seated on the davenport in Mrs. Sinclair's attractive home, his trusty cane firmly grasped in one hand while he stroked the family's fox terrier with the other, Dr. Wightman carefully told me of his life's teaching—for he has always been close to that profession, although he has also been a farm boy, student, missionary, rural mail carrier and homesteader.

Complete plans for the "century luncheon" honoring Dr. Anderson R. Wightman Tuesday noon, March 31, were announced yesterday by Rev. R. A. Young, of the First Methodist Episcopal church. The event will be held at the church auditorium and reservations must be made with Rev. Young, 374-J, or Mrs. J. O. Bishop, 287-W, not later than Monday noon by all those who wish to attend.

Dr. W. C. Loomis, superintendent of the Long Beach district of the church, will be chairman of the luncheon. Bishop Charles Wesley Burns, of the San Francisco area, will be the speaker of the day. Other church, city, club and social leaders will participate in the program in honor of the centenarian.

There will be music and entertainment in addition to the short talks and Dr. Wightman is expected to make a few remarks.

Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, Dr. A. L. Buker, a student at Nebraska Wesleyan University at the time Dr. Wightman was dean of the language department, will give a "century sermon" at the First Methodist Episcopal church. There will be special music by the choir, under the direction of R. F. Hogue, and Arthur G. Solomon will be the soloist. A large attendance is desired.

Writer On Staff Wins Big Award

Fame and fortune comes to Herald correspondent

That should be the headline to this story—only it wouldn't fit. The "Belaurie Ebba" who won the second prize of \$250 in the awards by the Good Housekeeping magazine for the best letters submitted in the publication's survey of the nation's most distinguished women, is none other than Miss Bira Paddock, the Herald's correspondent at Lomita.

Belaurie Ebba is Miss Paddock's real name, she tells us. As correspondent for the Herald, Miss Paddock has turned her weekly news in an interesting, but we never knew she had literary ambitions until we found out about her winning the Good Housekeeping award. Besides "covering" Lomita for the Herald, Miss Paddock also serves the Long Beach Sun as Torrance-Lomita correspondent.

Jensen's Office Is Battle Scene

Accused by J. H. Jensen, local attorney, of disturbing the peace as the result of an asserted fight that caused considerable damage to his office furnishings, Gordon R. Baird, 45, of 1829 Cabildo avenue, and Bert Homer, also 45, a San Diego real estate salesman, were arrested by Officer G. L. Dolton Monday.

Baird was released on \$50 bail and Homer on \$100 bail to appear for trial tomorrow, Friday, afternoon at 2 o'clock.

According to police reports, the alleged fight occurred during a conference between Baird, his wife and the attorney to determine a property settlement. Homer, Mrs. Baird to the attorney's office, is the man asserted by both Baird and Jensen to have started the fight.

LEGIONNAIRES WILL DIRECT CARS EASTER

Traffic To and From Park to be Regulated by Two Posts

A special dress rehearsal of the entire student chorus which will participate in the "Children's Easter Sunrise Service" at Roosevelt Memorial Park, April 5, will be held at 12 o'clock noon Saturday, March 28, it was announced today by Alfred H. Deeks, director of the program. All Torrance students who are to take part in the service should be present at the rehearsal. Sound news-reel camera men will be at the park Saturday to take motion pictures of the chorus in action.

Residents of Torrance and Lomita who will attend the first "Children's Easter Sunrise Service" on April 5, at the Roosevelt Memorial Park will experience little traffic congestion as members of the Torrance and Gardena American Legion posts will act as special police at the all-Harbor District event.

The Legionnaires will be under the direction of Commander Clarence Steele, of the Los Angeles post, and will direct traffic on all roads leading to the park.

Hi-Y Club Is Started At High School

During the past week a new organization has been formed at the Torrance high school. This is the Torrance Hi-Y club, composed of a group of boys interested in promoting clean sport, deeds, actions and increased interest in high school and civic affairs in general.

Officers of the Hi-Y club are: John Prugh, president; Wilson Page, secretary; George Lancaster, treasurer, and Lendell Elder, reporter. At a business meeting Monday, the club adopted a constitution and later during the week the members received their membership pins, which the club reporter declared "are the best looking pins in the school."

In addition to the officers, the club is composed of the following: Lee Herring, Bob Nourse, Harry Putman, Lawrence Stevenson. (Continued on Page 3-A)

ABANDON FERN ST. SITE IN FAVOR OF TORRANCE BLVD.

Commitment by Board of Education Given Chamber on Eve of Bond Election To Be Held Friday

Definite and positive assurance was given Dr. J. S. Lancaster, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Educational committee, yesterday by both Frank A. Bouelle, superintendent of schools, and William A. Sheldon, secretary to the Board of Education, that Torrance will get a new elementary school if the school bonds carry at the election tomorrow.

The two school officials told Dr. Lancaster that the present Fern Street school location would be abandoned in favor of a site now owned by the Board of Education between Torrance (Redondo) boulevard and El Dorado street and between Fern street and Elm avenue. The new school will include the last named site which includes the whole block with the exception of the Torrance boulevard frontage.

In addition to the new school, the school authorities also pledged the addition of more vocational courses in the Junior and Senior high schools here when the decade school instruction merits such expansion. At the present time there is no chance for a Junior College in Torrance nor for a separate Junior high school, they stated.

These commitments from the school authorities were in response to a letter written by Dr. Lancaster as chairman of the chamber's Educational committee, which sought to obtain some idea of the physical benefits the city would obtain from the local endorsement of the school bonds.

Both Bouelle and Sheldon indicated that the need for a new school to replace the present inadequate temporary bungalows which now occupy the Fern street site was so great that even if the event the bonds did not carry, the new building will be constructed out of the regular school budget for 1931-32.

Three Propositions The polls Friday will be open from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. Notice of the polling places were mailed to registered voters in Torrance this week. In case of failure to receive such notice, voters are asked to call either the Torrance high school, or telephone 6011 and ask for "electoral information." A two-thirds majority of the vote cast is necessary to carry the bonds.

If the bonds carry, the Board of Education has stated that no time will be lost in starting construction of the proposed new buildings. This is because of the urgent building situation and the present low cost of construction materials.

Easter Proclamation

Mayor Urges Torrance Residents to Attend Children's Easter Sunrise Service on Morning of April 5

To the Citizens of Torrance and Neighboring Citizens in Gardena:

In view of the time honored observance of the Easter season and particularly the consecration that is afforded the custom of sunrise services, it seems particularly significant that plans and arrangements have been made for an inter-city observance of this most worthy occasion under auspices that will permit not only commendable advantage but particularly fitting accompaniment through the use of the world's mightiest pipe organ in Roosevelt Memorial Park. In view of the fact that this observance and exercise is to be made through the embracing interest and devotion of the school children of this and our neighboring municipality, it offers a most unusual and unique opportunity for the creation of what may be expected to become an outstanding district institution from year to year.

It, therefore, behooves me as Mayor of this City jointly with my fellow Mayor Mr. Wayne Bogart of Gardena, to issue a public proclamation urging all citizens to countenance this undenominational, yet inter-community, observance of Easter at sunrise Sunday, April 5th, where the voices of our young people will be raised as a significant spiritual token of common understanding in our praise to the Almighty for the blessings bestowed on our communities in this Southland during this season.

It seems particularly fitting that the proclamation should also be dedicated to the children, expected to participate in this noteworthy coming event because its only measure of success and good fruits will be dependent upon their hearty and joyous participation.

I, John Dennis, Mayor of the City of Torrance, therefore commend this occasion to the consecrated attention and interest of our citizens as one wholly worthy of their interest and support. Done in the City of Torrance this 17th day of March, 1931. (Signed) JOHN DENNIS, Mayor, City of Torrance.



Dr. Anderson R. Wightman