

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

# Torrance Herald

and LOMITA NEWS

Two  
Sections  
12 Pages  
This Issue

SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 18

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1931

5c PER COPY

## CHARTER BOARD ELECTION SOUGHT PARK BOND ELECTION WILL BE SET MONDAY

### NO INCREASE IN TAXES IF CHAMBER'S PLAN APPROVED

#### Creation of Large City Recreation Center and Children's Playgrounds Will Relieve Local Unemployment

An adjourned council meeting will be held at 7:30 o'clock Monday night for the purpose of reading the ordinance calling a special election on the question of voting \$150,000 for the acquisition and improvement of a large public recreational center—the first city park in Torrance.

City Attorney Perry G. Briney informed the council Tuesday night that the ordinance was ready but that he wanted to go over it again for a final examination. He said that he would have it in proper form for adoption next Monday evening. The election date will be set at that time.

#### No Increase in Taxes

A resolution from Chamber of Commerce directors to the effect that the bond interest and redemption cost of the issue be taken from the chamber's advertising and promotion fund, thus eliminating any increase in taxes, was presented to the council Tuesday night and ordered filed for future reference.

The chamber's fund, derived from the 10-cent Chamber of Commerce tax, could take care of the carrying charges of the bonds without any difficulty, the directors pointed out.

#### Insures Employment

The passage of the bond issue will insure considerable employment of local men as approximately half of the \$150,000 issue will be spent for wages. It is pointed out by those citizens who have been active in bringing the park question to a decision.

Included in the park program are the following recreational features which the city lacks at the present time: an outdoor athletic building with indoor gymnasium, administrative offices and ample locker facilities for both players and swimmers; baseball diamond; illuminated "indoor" tennis court; handball courts; band shell pavilion; picnic grounds; fireplaces, and rest rooms.

#### Children's Playgrounds

As yet no site has been selected for a recreational center. A thorough study will be made of the locations offered and the best suited for municipal needs will then be chosen.

Another feature embodied in the bond issue is that the \$150,000 sum is expected to include the acquisition and improvement of three children's playgrounds, of about four lots each, in various parts of the city. These areas will be reserved for the use of children only and will be located according to the needs of the park bonds is declared imperative here in order to relieve the present local unemployment situation.

#### Local Labor Exclusively

The necessity of such public recreational centers has long been realized here. It is felt that now is the best time to acquire them inasmuch as the work in cleaning, landscaping and building the various fields, apparatus and park structures will provide work for a large number of local men. Whenever possible, Torrance labor and materials will be used, it is pointed out.

Because there is a grave doubt as to whether the county will award the city any more money for special employment, the passage of the park bonds is declared imperative here in order to relieve the present local unemployment situation.

#### BOYS TO ATTEND SHOW AT SHRINE AUDITORIUM

Principal Herbert S. Wood announced yesterday that the only local observance of National Boy's Week, April 26 to May 2, would be distribution of tickets here to boys who wish to take their fathers or other adult men friends to a program given at the Shrine auditorium in Los Angeles next Thursday night. Admission to the program will be by ticket only. These will be given to boys at the High school.

### Co. Work Fund Near Depleted; Ashley Retired

#### Unemployment Co-Ordinator Rendered Invaluable City Service

Because the county fund for the relief of local unemployment will be exhausted in about two weeks, the directorate of the Chamber of Commerce voted Monday afternoon to terminate the services of Carroll S. Ashley, who has acted in the capacity of Unemployment Co-Ordinator for the chamber since January 9.

Ashley has rendered the city invaluable service in registering the unemployed, preparing reports used in presenting the city's case to the Board of Supervisors before the county granted Torrance the \$15,000 work fund, and in assisting the city in employing several hundred men who have been working in three crews at two days a week.

#### May Be Returned

He was relieved of his duties this week because at the present time there appears no further opportunity for emergency work by the city. In event the park bond issue passes, Ashley may be returned to his post, where, because of his experience, he could aid the city in giving the park work to the men who most need the working hours.

The following letter from Ashley was received this week by Grover C. Whyte, editor and publisher of the "Torrance Herald":

"In undertaking the work of registrar for the local unemployment co-ordination program I fully realized that it would be quite a job. The success of such an undertaking where the general relationship is with the public I felt would naturally be dependent very largely on the attitude of the local press. I, therefore, direct this letter to you as an expression of general appreciation, which I feel personally as well as on behalf of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, for the very loyal and generous contribution of space which your columns have given in conveying messages to the public from time to time during the local effort to relieve our unemployment condition.

"The general spirit of cooperation through the other community agencies and organizations has also greatly aided whatever measure of success we have attained, but I am frank to say it would have been difficult to reach even these other groups were it not for the real spirit of cooperation which you have exemplified. Much yet remains to be done and I gratefully anticipate we may have your continued support."

### Why Does Torrance Need A Charter?

#### Grave Dangers Await This City If It Continues To Operate Without A Charter Under the General State Laws

#### AN EDITORIAL

By GROVER C. WHYTE

What's all this talk about a charter for the City of Torrance? What are the advantages of changing from the present system of conducting civic affairs under the State laws as a sixth class city to the proposed method of operating as an independent freeholder's chartered city?

These are questions asked by well meaning citizens of Torrance when approached by petitioners for the charter. And because few people are informed on these matters, the Herald points out a few outstanding advantages of adopting a charter for the City of Torrance. Let us enumerate some of the more important reasons for adopting a charter.

1. Torrance will soon be the second biggest city (in area) in Los Angeles county. It is now the third in size, and when the northern section of Lomita votes to join this city on May 26, Torrance will be larger than Pasadena in area; and our "Modern Industrial City" will become second only to the City of Los Angeles as the largest incorporated municipal area in this county. Many Torrance citizens feel that this city has already taken in enough territory and that future annexations should be discouraged. Others having the welfare of Torrance uppermost in their minds, feel that some provisions as are proposed in the new charter should be made to keep the control of municipal affairs within the present city limits. They fear the day when densely populated areas close to the present city limits of Torrance will be attracted by this city's low tax rate and vote to annex to Torrance. If the interest of these adjoining communities were the same as those of Torrance all would be well. But it must be remembered that Torrance is an industrial city, and for this reason the officials in charge of city affairs must be industrially minded. It would most certainly be a grave mistake to allow an adjoining community whose interests are largely agricultural to annex to Torrance and take over the reins of city government. With the annexation of the northern part of Lomita, Torrance will have an assessed valuation of nearly \$30,000,000. Do you think it would be wise to allow a thickly populated community with as many registered voters as Torrance but with an assessed valuation of only about \$2,000,000 to join this city and control its municipal affairs? No, most assuredly.

(Continued on Page 8-A)

### Giant Companies Form Merger In Columbus, Ohio

#### Ideco Is Now Linked With Stacey Engineering Corporation

A ten million dollar corporation was born in Columbus, Ohio, yesterday by the merger of the International Derrick and Equipment Company and the Stacey Engineering Company of Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania, according to news dispatches received here today. The new company will be known as the International-Stacey Corporation with headquarters at Columbus, Ohio, it was reported.

The merger was said approved by stockholders of the International Derrick and Equipment Company at Columbus yesterday. Local executives in charge of the "Ideco" plant in Torrance said today that they have received no official word yet of the merger and would not comment in any way on the future activities of Ideco in this city.

#### Both Great Concerns

Both the International and Stacey companies were five million dollar corporations. International has sales offices located all over the world and its six production plants are at Torrance, Beaumont and Houston, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Marietta and Delaware, Ohio. The local plant recently completed a contract for aerial power towers for the Southern Sierra Power Company, which were used to carry high-tension power lines to Boulder Dam.

The Stacey company manufactures large storage tanks for natural gas used by municipalities and private public utilities companies. The company also makes pumps such as used by city water works and other water producing units. Because the eastern reports state that the headquarters of the combined companies will be at Columbus, Ohio, the headquarters of the Ideco, it is believed that International offices will be in charge of the new corporation.

#### 6.99 INCHES OF RAIN

With .04 of an inch rainfall dampening the city to 3 a. m. this morning the total moisture to date for the season is 6.99 inches, according to a report from the High school.

### TWO YEARS' STUDY RESULTS IN DEMAND FOR FREEHOLDERS

#### Would Hold Election to Decide Writers of Charter at Same Time as Park Bond Vote to Save Expense

Culmination of more than two years' study of the charter form of city government by various committees of the Chamber of Commerce was reached Tuesday night when three incomplete petitions were presented to the City Council requesting that an election be held to determine the membership of a board of freeholders to draft a charter for Torrance.

#### Charter Mechanics Are Outlined

#### Vital Points in Creation of Freeholders Board Which Draws Charter

The city of Torrance, having decided to institute proceedings to make this municipality a charter city, thus guaranteeing its civic freedom from a vote-swapping Legislature—a body that now controls every ordinary sixth-class city whatever its status—must abide by constitutional laws for the formation of its charter.

At the present time, Torrance is bound by the blanket regulations of any sixth-class city laid down by the Legislature and because of fluctuating state control is unable to "write its own ticket" in the matter of forming its own laws which are particularly adaptable to a city of Torrance's industrial distinction.

#### How Charter Is Started

Here is an outline of the mechanics that this city will have to follow in forming its own charter:

The document, which is to become the constitution of Torrance if the voters of this city decide in favor of its creation, will be framed by a board of 15 freeholders, chosen by the electors of Torrance at a special election to be held in the near future.

#### Freeholders Nominated

A freeholder is a person having been an elector of Torrance for five consecutive years. The election (Continued on 4-A)

#### Action Expected Monday Night

The petitions presented this week were not complete and were only given the council in order to officially inform the city administrators that such an election is contemplated.

Action on the complete petitions is to be taken by the council at an adjourned meeting Monday night at 7:30 o'clock when the council will act on the ordinance calling the park bond election, at that time the required signatures of more than 15 per cent of the total registered voters of the city is confidently expected to be on the petitions.

#### Given Intensive Study

During the study of the charter of freeholder form of government, of Southern California cities, studied by the chamber committee with the result that the benefits of a freeholder city, adding under its own particular general laws were found to be emphatically better than the present form of regulations imposed by an unimpartial State Legislature.

#### Vote on Charter Itself Later

Then, after ample time has been allowed for all residents to acquaint themselves with the proposed charter, an election is called to decide whether or not it shall be ratified by the people. If this second election carries, the charter is sent to the State Legislature for final approval.

#### Mrs. Erickson May Get Separate Trial

Attorneys for Mrs. Anna Erickson, charged jointly with Mrs. Esther Carlson with the alleged poisoning of August Lindstrom on February 10 at Lomita, will enter court tomorrow morning with a motion for a separate trial for their client to open on April 30. Because of Mrs. Carlson's continued serious illness her attorneys are expected to ask for a continuance of the trial which has been set for that date.

A benefit date to raise more funds for Mrs. Erickson's defense is planned for Saturday night, April 25, at the Odd Fellows' hall on Redondo boulevard. There will be dancing, cards and refreshments and friends of the accused woman are hoping that a large crowd attend.

#### JOINT MEETING APRIL 23

Members of the City Council and directors of the Chamber of Commerce have been invited to attend a joint evening meeting of the American Legion and Auxiliary Tuesday, April 23. A general discussion of civic problems and entertainment is programmed.

(Continued on Page 8-A)

### Police Nab Married Couple For Series of Small Thefts

Local police, aided by a search warrant, solved a series of clothes-line stripplings, one house burglary and the ransacking of a grocery bread box Monday when they arrested Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Cullen, at their home, 1408 Cedar street. Both claimed that they perpetrated the thefts because of hunger and deprivation. Cullen said he had been out of work for the past two months.

Yesterday at a preliminary hearing on the burglary charge the pair were held to answer in the Superior Court. They were taken to the county jail today in default of \$2500 bail each.

Tuesday morning Mrs. Mary Cullen, who is 23 years old and who has been a resident of this city for nearly 10 years, was sentenced to six months in the county jail and her husband, who is 27 years old and a resident of Torrance for the past four months, was given three months in the county jail after they had pleaded guilty to the charge of petty theft.

Mrs. Cullen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Donnelly, former residents of Torrance, told the court that she instigated the clothes-line and house robberies. She also declared she had insisted on her husband robbing a bread box in front of the Continental store on Torrance (Redondo) boulevard of 24 loaves of bread on the night of April 7.

Tracks Lead to Home  
All of the stolen articles, clothing (Continued on Page 8-A)

### SCHOOL WEEK PROGRAMS TO BE GIVEN FRIDAY ANNOUNCED

#### Complete Outline of Exhibitions and Entertainment in All Schools is Presented; Public Urged to Attend

Public School Week, now in progress throughout the state, will be climaxed in Torrance and Lomita, tomorrow, Friday evening, when special programs will be presented at the Torrance Elementary and High schools and at Narbonne High school. H. B. Adams, of the Speakers' Bureau of the Security-First National bank, will speak at the High school on the subject, "The Great Crowd."

Inspection of exhibits and reception by all teachers will take place in the classrooms from 6 to 7 p. m. At 8 p. m. programs will be given in both the Torrance Elementary and High school auditoriums.

#### Narbonne and Walters

At Narbonne High school auditorium, David Roy Arnold, assistant director of municipal recreation at Long Beach, will be the principal speaker. The program will also include entertainment by the Evening High school class in dramatics; dances; character sketches by the Orange Street school; a number by the Lomita agricultural class; music by the combined orchestras of the Lomita and Orange Street schools, and dances by the Kindergarten class of the Harbor City school.

#### High School Program

The entertainment in the High school auditorium from 8 to 9:30 p. m. will consist of the following: Song, "America, the Beautiful," by the audience; typewriting contest by the Commercial department, being the finale of an elimination contest with six contestants, in charge of Miss Jessie Weaver; song by the Junior High Boys' Glee club, directed by Mrs. Marjorie Eischen.

A dialogue from a modern play illustrating the use of good English (Continued on Page 8-A)

### Another \$15,000 Special Work Fund Is Requested of County

Because the \$15,000 emergency work fund awarded the city February 16 by the County Board of Supervisors to relieve the local unemployment situation will be depleted in about two weeks, the City Council passed a resolution Tuesday night requesting the Supervisors to allot another \$15,000 sum for the purpose of carrying on the good work.

The council declared that there are many persons, heads of families and residents of this city, who, on account of the present economic depression, are unemployed and in great need and that public interest and necessity demands that such men be given employment.

#### City Funds Exhausted

It is hoped that the Supervisors will accord this petition the same response as the one directed to the county executives more than two months ago. The men to be employed out of this fund will be put to work improving a number of streets in the city which are part of the county system of highways in Los Angeles County.

The resolution passed this week recites the fact that the city of Torrance has exhausted its funds available for such purposes.

According to the terms of the petition, which will be actively presented to the Supervisors at once, the men will be paid at the rate of \$4 per day of eight hours and that the number of days per week shall be not more than three days per week per man.

The streets proposed to be improved are: further work on Sepulveda boulevard, Hawthorne avenue, Arlington avenue north of 190th street, Redondo avenue north of 190th street, Maple, Hickory, Elm, Fern and Greenwood avenues. The city shall, to the best of its ability, select the most needy of unemployed men for the work.