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SECTION A

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BANK ROBBERY AT LOMITA FAILS

PROPOSED CHARTER PRINTED TODAY; COPIES ARE AVAILABLE

Every Elector Urged To Read and Study Document Which May Be Had in Pamphlet Form At The City Clerk's Office

With this issue of the Herald, readers will find the complete proposed city charter—the document which, if approved by local electors at the general election, April 11, 1932, will raise this community from the all-too-general classification of sixth class to the status of a chartered city, permitted to write its own destiny, subject to local conditions.

Justice Court Now Occupies New Quarters

Makes Tenth Change In Its 20 Years of Existence; Old Furniture Used

For the first time in the history of Lomita township, the Justice Court held sessions in Torrance this week, although the new court and county quarters in the Sam Levy building on Cravens avenue are not complete.

The council expressed the hope that all voters in Torrance would obtain a copy of the proposed charter and carefully study its contents before the date of the election. More than three months will elapse before a decision is necessary and in that time all electors should find an opportunity to give the matter careful scrutiny and deliberation.

Lindstrom Estate of \$5000 Is Given To His Three Sons

August Lindstrom, retired Lomita lumberman, who whose death two Lomita women faced charges of murder, left an estate of \$5000, it was revealed Tuesday in the Superior Court where the Citizens' National Trust and Savings bank was appointed to administer the estate.

Following his death, his housekeeper, Mrs. Esther Carlson, and a neighbor, Mrs. Anna Erickson, were arrested when circumstances pointed toward complicity in his death. Mrs. Carlson died in the General Hospital while awaiting trial, and Mrs. Erickson was acquitted. The estate was left to three sons, Peter H. Lindstrom of Chicago, Charles Lindstrom of Glendale, Arizona, and Amos Lindstrom of Woodenville, Wash.

NEW LICENSE PLATES NOW BEING DELIVERED BY STATE

Counter deliveries of 1932 license plates started at Sacramento and all branch offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles and at the offices of the various automobile clubs Tuesday. Branch offices are located at Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, Long Beach, Fresno, Hollywood, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Jose and Stockton. A special corps of workers are on hand to handle the rush.

To obtain new plates, applicants must present the white certificate of registration and the usual fee of \$3. January 15 Deadline. The certificate must show the applicant's present address and in addition to the usual information must show the number of cylinders of the car to be registered and the serial number. Approximately 2,000,000 sets of licenses must be handed out between now and January 15. It will be illegal to drive after that date unless the car owner has applied

Read It—Smile! 1932 To Have Five Double Holidays!

Five double holidays are included among 14 holidays in 1932 and—joy of joys—they will be of the week-end variety. The five doubles are Washington's birthday, February 22; Decoration day, May 30; Independence day, July 4; Labor day, September 5, and Christmas day, December 25. Christmas falls on Sunday, but by law Monday is the legal holiday.

There are three Tuesday holidays—the Presidential election on May 3, the primaries on August 30 and the general election on November 8. Four of the 1932 holidays fall on Friday—New Year's day, January 1; Lincoln's birthday, February 12; Admission day, September 9, and Armistice day, November 11.

YULE EVENTS BETTER THAN PAST YEARS

Every hour the spirit of anticipation grows keener among the younger generation of the city, while the grown-ups, hurried and distracted by shopping expeditions and preparations for December 25, are gradually getting the same spirit as the calendar moves onward to Christmas.

But there are events preceding the great holiday which are arousing the youngsters—and, it could be truthfully reported, even the oldest—to the delights of the coming Yuletide season. These events will be held next Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Beginning at 3 p. m., December 23, a free dog and pony show will be given on a soon-to-be-erected platform adjoining the Bank of America on Marcella avenue facing the community Christmas tree of 1000 lights. Here J. G. Kennedy's trained pets and the smallest horse in the world will put on a program which should draw all the youngsters in the community.

All-City Celebration. This program will be given under the auspices of the Merchants' division of the Chamber of Commerce. In the evening of Wednesday, December 23, beginning at 7 o'clock, the annual Christmas celebration under the direction of the Torrance Fire department will be held at the same place. A short program, staged by the church organizations of the city, will precede the distribution of gifts by Santa Claus, himself, to every boy and girl attending.

This year's celebration will surpass previous Yule observances, according to the firemen. All boys and girls present will receive presents of candy, apples, nuts and toys from Santa and will be conducted up to that grand old fellow in orderly lines to prevent any delaying congestion.

Will Pack Yule Baskets Dec. 23

The Torrance Relief Society requests that all donations for Christmas baskets be handed in at the Society's rooms, 1803 Cabrillo avenue, not later than 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, December 22. The baskets will be packed Wednesday morning and distributed Wednesday afternoon, December 23. The rooms will not be open on Thursday, December 24. The Relief Society acknowledges with grateful thanks the following gifts: Proceeds of the Police and Firemen's dance, \$121.25; Girls' Club, National Supply Co., for Thanksgiving baskets, \$48.70; party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Murray, \$5; Royal Neighbors, \$5; Woman's Auxiliary, Episcopal church, 24 children's dresses, new, and six boys' waists, new.

Harbor Chambers To Install Officers Here On January 14; Hawthorne Meeting Reported

Highlights of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce meeting at Hawthorne last Thursday evening were: Page president to succeed A. E. "Chief" Henning, and Carl L. Hyde, first vice president; Harvey C. Fremming, director

of the county bureau employment stabilization, who declared the adoption of the six-hour day and five-day week would solve the jobless problem tomorrow; (3) Lieut. Gov. Frank F. Merriam's vigorous talk in opposition to the proposed establishment by the state of work camps for the unemployed; and (4) the introduction of a plan by Frank Walton of Compton to form a corporation of communities and land interests of the coastal plane to protect water resources. Page will be installed in office here January 14 when the Harbor group will again hold its annual installation meeting. In this city, Burr McIntosh, writer and radio philosopher, will be the principal speaker at this meeting. Other officers elected at Hawthorne were Lieut. Gov. Merriam, second vice president; George E. Preston of Harbor City, third vice president;

Next Herald Will Be Issued Wed. Morning

The next and only edition of the Herald to be published Christmas week will appear Wednesday morning, December 23.

This edition will contain the last Christmas advertisements of local merchants and storekeepers and will give them the benefit of reaching residents of Torrance and vicinity two days before the great holiday. All Herald carrier boys will report at the office at 7 a. m., next Wednesday morning.

READ THE HERALD BEFORE STARTING OUT ON YOUR FINAL PRE-CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TOUR!

Wild Flowers Will Beautify Avenues Leading Into City

With the earth all mellowed and loosened up by the rain this week, the city of Torrance is starting an extensive wild flower planting campaign under the direction of William Gascoigne, street superintendent. The seeds gathered by the street department last fall from wild flower

planting in various sections of the city is being used for the sowing this week.

Gascoigne said yesterday that he expects to make the approaches to the city, Western avenue, Torrance boulevard and Hawthorne boulevard, share in the major portion of the planting. Vacant lots in the main section of the community will also be cultivated.

How to Plant 'em. In the preparation for and planting of California wildflowers, some authorities advise one to follow nature's dictates, which means, of course, to do little in the way of preparing the soil for sowing the seed, the street superintendent pointed out.

Wild flowers fit well into Southern California's plans for city beautification, and during the past several years, hundreds of vacant lots and parkways have been made attractive with them. It is the civic duty of everyone to at least beautify the parkway of vacant property, if not the first ten or 20 feet of the frontage with a planting of some sort, and California wild flowers are generally used as they make a colorful display.

How to Remove Weeds. Plantings can be made any time after the rains start up to the early part of February. Most vacant lots are covered with a wide variety of weeds, almost all of which drop their seed in the late summer or fall. This means that the soil is usually full of weed seed in the fall, which germinates and comes up all through the winter. The first step in making a planting of California wild flowers is to clear off the weeds. One of the (Continued on Page 4-A)

Zaligen Hoogdag! Or--If You Wish-- A Vesele Vanocce!

Yes—and Spetan Bozic and a Hauk—Houtou or Genogelyke Kerstid!

Which is wishing you a Merry Christmas in more ways than one! Do you know that Santa Claus is the "one ghost that is always welcome" and that "he was honored, worshipped, persecuted, imprisoned and tortured?"

Or that Santa Claus lives in Slater, Missouri? Or what "Father Whippor" has to do with Christmas?

For details about these and many other Yuletide facts regarding the coming Christmas, you should read every word on the first page of today's All-Colored Herald comic section which was compiled by John "Strange As It Seems" Hix.

STORES WILL REMAIN OPEN IN EVENINGS

Late Closing Hour Starts Tonight For Convenience of Local Shoppers

Starting tonight, most of the stores in Torrance with the exception of the food markets, will remain open until 9 o'clock for the convenience of shoppers who want to "clean up" their Christmas buying early.

A survey of the shops and stores made by the Herald this week showed that every effort will be made by local business men to assist patrons to complete their gift-purchases right here in Torrance. The merchants' stocks are up to par and a wide selection is offered in almost every line of merchandise.

The 9 o'clock closing will be in effect every evening except the Sunday up to and including Christmas Eve. On Thursday, December 24, all grocery stores, meat markets and vegetable stands will be open until 9 o'clock.

School Board Blocks Work In Vista Tract

Once more the Los Angeles Board of Education "threw up" the matter of Torrance's proposed city charter as a cause why improvement concerning the Vista Highlands tract should be postponed until the charter is voted on by the people. This time the proposed street improvement in the Vista Highlands tract left the Board of Education "dampener."

In answer to City Engineer Leonard's letter stating that the street work surrounding the Fern Avenue school would cost the school district about \$2300 in the Torrance boulevard blocks, and \$7920 in the Sonoma avenue school holding, the school authorities said that on recommendation of the local finance committee, any action concerning the board's attitude on the work should be deferred until after Torrance settles the charter question.

City Goes Wet! Old "Jupe" Pluvius Dumps Bucket Over Torrance

Brimming curbs, raincoats, goloashes, steamed windows and enthusiastic—more or less—comments on the downpour accompanied 1.57 inches of rain here Sunday night and Monday.

The storm brought the season's total to date to 4.57 inches, according to the High school gauge. Last year at this time Torrance had received but 1.66 inches of rain.

"Hamlin No. 1 may flow later but at present we are going to put it on the pump," Higgins Brothers said yesterday at the well on Palm street. Machinery as being brought to the well and the crew is busy cleaning out preparing to get ready for the pump. The well has a splendid gas pressure and a good oil gravity but the well stood idle so long that there is so much water to bring in a flowing well at this time.

GUNMAN FIRES AT ASSISTANT MANAGER, MISSES, ESCAPES

"Stick 'em Up!" Order Does Not Daunt Bank Official Yesterday Afternoon; Robbers Get No Money

Disregarding the curt command to "Stick 'em up an' make it snappy!" F. W. McMullen, assistant manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank at 1123 Narbonne avenue, equally brief, consigned the gunman-speaker to the nether regions and ducked under the counter at 2:25 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The gunman fired in McMullen's general direction, missed and fled with a companion who had remained standing near the door of the bank. They made their getaway in what was thought to be a Pontiac sedan. An unauthorized pursuit was undertaken by Lomita residents who happened to be in the vicinity of the bank but the trace was lost after the bandit car turned off Narbonne avenue at Rose street.

Cabrillo Avenue Improvement to Be Pushed Again

Low Cost of Pavement and Possibility of County Aid Lend Impetus

Announcing he was making his regular quarterly visit to the council in behalf of Cabrillo avenue's improvement, Earl Conner, prominent engineer, launched a discussion of that long-sought-for public work which ended with the suggestion that he and others interested in the improvement should at once start work on a 51-percent petition which would institute proceedings to make that main artery a credit to the city.

There have been new developments concerning Cabrillo avenue which may lend impetus to the street's ultimate paving from curb to curb and realignment of P. E. tracks. These were: That the job can now be accomplished for about \$20,000, one-third of the estimate made a year ago; or for a cost of less than \$10,000 to property owners adjoining Cabrillo; that the county would very likely give financial aid to the project once it has reached the stage where all proceedings for the improvement were complete and the work ready to start; that the \$12,500 payment demanded by the Pacific Electric for the realignment of its tracks and the right to pave clear across the street might be held off until

"When he came up to the window he said 'Stick 'em up an' make it snappy.' I told him to get out of the building and ducked under the counter. He fired, but whiffly, and ran out the door," the assistant manager said.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT HIGH SCHOOL QUIETLY IMPRESSIVE

As the last beautiful note of that old, old hymn "Silent Night" died away at the High school auditorium Friday afternoon, the assembled students and teachers uttered "O Christmas Song," the most impressive Christmas program ever staged at the local school ended. There was no applause; none of the hoisterous release

impressiveness of the whole program. In such setting and with the lights behind the window being constantly changed to lend a new, soft color to the well executed representation of stained glass art, the singing groups gave those old Christmas songs—"Holy, Holy, Holy," "Adoramus Te" (sung in Latin); "The Sleep of the Child Jesus" (sung in French); "The Birth of Christ," a French Noel carol; and "Lo, How a Rose," a 15th century madrigal.

They had witnessed a Christmas program whose sincerity and beauty surpassed any Yuletide observance ever given locally. All credit for the presentation should go to the Madrigal Singers, the Junior A Cappella Choir and Mrs. Marjorie Elschen, director of music. The observance was presented, complete, twice during the afternoon so that all students and teachers could see and hear it.

Perfect Stage Setting

The stage setting was equally as impressive as the program itself. A large illuminated medieval stained glass window containing the figures of Mary, Joseph and Baby Christ was set at the rear of the darkened stage. At the extreme right was a pulpit backed by a large candelabra. The Madrigal Singers were grouped at the far left of the auditorium. The singers were clad in white surplices. The auditorium was dark. A high school student, Edward Hartwell, designed the perfect representation of the stained glass window. Student Hartwell accomplished a very creditable piece of stage art with his setting and it contributed a great deal toward the