

Consolidated  
Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

ONLY NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHED IN TORRANCE

# Torrance Herald

OVER 60,000 PEOPLE LIVE  
WITHIN 5-MILE RADIUS

One  
Section  
8 Pages  
This Issue

NINETEENTH YEAR—No. 7

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1933

PER COPY 5c

## \$44,960 ALLOWED TORRANCE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Additional \$24,320 Fund From R. F. C. Loan to State Will  
Put 240 Men to Work  
Here

An additional fund of \$24,320 for the relief of unemployed was allotted to Torrance this week by the county board of supervisors from Reconstruction Finance Corporation's loan to the state. This brings the total for this month to be spent in Torrance to \$44,960.

The request for the additional \$24,320 fund was authorized at a special breakfast meeting of the Torrance city council Tuesday morning, and rushed to the board of supervisors who granted the request the same day. The money will provide 7600 man days' labor at \$3.20 per day and will be used to widen Torrance boulevard west of Madrona and for the grading of Maple avenue, Spencer and Madison streets. Plans call for the widening of Torrance boulevard on the south side an additional 50 feet.

Approximately 140 men were at work this week on the various Torrance projects financed by the February R. F. C. loan to the state. Another 100 men will be put to work on the widening of Torrance boulevard. City Engineer Leonard stated.

Work on the municipal park is progressing daily, and the grading of Elm and Eldorado streets approaching the new Fern avenue school has been completed.

Requirements for work  
Work orders for the various street projects are handled by the city engineer's office in Torrance under direction of the county stabilization department; but those engaged on park development report directly to the county welfare department. Applicants for work must have been residents of the state for three years and of the county and city for one year.

## Prairie Ave. Is Subject of Row In Council Meet

McDonald Tract Residents  
Accuse City of  
Insincerity

A number of residents from the McDonald Tract precipitated a lively squabble at the Torrance council meeting Tuesday night, when members of the group accused the city of not keeping its pre-annexation promises and asserting that the municipality was purposely delaying the opening of Prairie avenue and the General Petroleum Corporation holdings. One member of the delegation asserted that it would be better for the property owners if the McDonald Tract withdrew from the city.

It was charged that other sections of the city had received benefits from county allocations of gasoline tax money, but that McDonald Tract had not. Mayor Klusman answered that while the McDonald Tract residents were threatening a tax strike last year, the board of supervisors allocated \$100,000 from the motor gas fund to pay excessive property taxes in the district.

"This council is not trying to block the opening of Prairie avenue and don't you forget it," shouted Mayor Klusman, "and we're not in cahoots with any corporation either."

"Well, I don't see how the council could be so lethargic and yet be honest," retorted A. Todd, one of the spokesmen for the group. "It took a gum-shoe campaign to get us to come into the city and then the measure carried by only three votes."

Councilman Ludlow intimated that it might be just as well to let the McDonald Tract withdraw from the city if the residents of the tract so desired; but Mayor Klusman remonstrated at the idea. Ludlow then assured the delegation that Torrance was anxious to provide a highway for them to reach the business district, but that he resented the attitude of some of the residents who had spoken at the meeting.

The delegation left, apparently unconvinced of the city's sincerity and unsatisfied with the action being taken on the opening of Prairie avenue.

## KLUSMAN VOTE SAID CAUSE OF SEWER DELAY

Unexplained Switch of Torrance Director Halts Action

Further delay in construction of the White Point outfall sewer loomed today as the result of action taken Tuesday at a meeting of the directors of District No. 5, serving Inglewood, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Gardena, Torrance, Lomita and unincorporated territory.

The delay has come about through the adoption of a different resolution than was adopted by directors of districts No. 1 and 2 last week. The net result, it was pointed out before it was adopted, will be that directors of No. 1 and No. 2 districts must act upon it before selection of a committee, called for in both resolutions, can be chosen.

It was the unexplained switch of Mayor W. T. Klusman of Torrance that caused the additional delay. Klusman, heretofore stating he was an ardent supporter of the project that is to serve Bell, Maywood, Cudahy, Compton, Lynwood and other cities in addition to Inglewood, Gardena and Torrance, voted with the city of Los Angeles, which is opposing the project.

Adoption of the substitute resolution was done over the protest of Mayor Ray Darby of Inglewood, who counseled the directors about adopting anything but the same resolution adopted by directors of districts Nos. 1 and 2. Those voting for the new resolution, introduced by President C. H. Randall of the Los Angeles city council, were Mayor F. A. Jones of Hawthorne, Mayor Klusman, President Randall and Supervisor Frank L. Shaw, who presided as chairman.

Opposing the substitution resolution were Mayor Darby, Councilman Bogard of Gardena and Mayor John Clark of Redondo. Next meeting of directors of districts Nos. 1 and 2 will be March 8.

Following the meeting of district No. 5, the substitute resolution was also adopted by district No. 8. Mayor A. E. Fickling of Long Beach was absent.

## Stores In Burkhardt Building Remodeled

Workmen began the task of remodeling the Burkhardt building this week at Sartori and El Prado. The building at present faces El Prado, but new fronts facing on Sartori avenue are to be constructed, according to a representative of the Long Beach Building & Loan Association, owners of the building.

Three stores, 16 ft. by 40 ft. and a corner store, 35 ft. by 40 ft. are to be provided, it was stated.

## Western Ave. Assn. To Meet Here Next Monday, Says Mayor

Western Avenue State Highway Association will hold its next meeting in Torrance at the city hall, Monday, February 20, at 8 p. m., it was announced by Mayor Klusman at the city council meeting this week. The association's meeting will be open to the public and local residents interested in the development of the highway through Torrance to the harbor are especially urged to be present.

## Around the Council Table

On recommendation of R. J. Deininger, the street department was authorized to transplant young eucalyptus trees now growing wild throughout the Torrance oil fields to suitable places along outlying streets. Deininger pointed out that the unemployed crews had made substantial inroads on the future wood supply for the city yard, and suggested that the young trees be removed to places where they could mature and be useful as windbreaks as well as provide a future supply of firewood.

An offer to donate a right-of-way for the extension of Cherry street, made by property owners in South Torrance, was referred to the street department.

A check for \$77.00 was accepted from the General Petroleum Corporation covering its pipe line franchise tax.

Action on the adoption of an ordinance regulating second-hand automobile dealers were deferred until next meeting, on recommendation of City Attorney Jensen, who stated that a number of representatives from various municipalities were meeting in Lynwood this week to draft a uniform ordinance.

City Engineer Leonard was authorized to negotiate with county and Standard Oil officials in an effort to effect a satisfactory settlement of the dispute over granting of the right-of-way for Sepulveda boulevard.

Fire department was authorized to install three fire hydrants in the Hollywood-Riviera tract and to purchase a chemical tank for the use of Hollywood-Riviera.

## Small Balance Is Shown On Annual Report of Treas.

Torrance Relief Society Aids Many Indigent Families

Concluding a year of unusual activity, during which the Torrance Relief Society cared for a large number of indigent Torrance families, more than the average in past years, the treasurer of the society submits a report to show the financial status of the organization.

At the beginning of the year 1932, the Relief Society had a balance on hand of \$359.45. The greater part of their funds was spent for milk and food, only a small part of the cash received having been used for necessary expenses of the organization.

The complete report follows:  
Yearly Report of Torrance Relief Society  
Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1932.

Jan. 1, 1932, balance on hand	\$ 359.45
Received from drive	5594.61
High School Faculty	
1% Welfare Fund	173.30
Elem. School contribution from L. A. Com. Cheat drive	68.50
Proceeds of Fire and Police Dept. ball	200.00
Contributions, gifts and memberships	108.21
Totals	\$4462.62
Expenditures	
Milk and Food	\$2061.30
Cash to Veterans' Relief Association	264.24
Operating Expenses (rent, gas, telephone, telephone to county Welfare)	171.45
Other expenses for relief	104.19
Total	\$3603.17
Total Receipts	\$4462.62
Total Expenditures	\$3603.17
Balance	\$ 859.45

Respectfully submitted,  
FLORENCE PECKHAM,  
Treasurer.

Accounts audited: J. W. POST.

ASSESSED SMALL FINE

J. J. Wojcik, 1728 261st street, Harbor City, was assessed a \$5 fine in the local justice court February 15, on a charge of malicious injury to property preferred by L. R. Baskins of Lomita. Wojcik pled guilty to the charge.

## High School Students Sponsor "Courtesy Week" to Encourage More Loyalty to Local Firms

Next week, February 20 to 25, has been designated "Courtesy Week," by students of Torrance high school. The idea of "Courtesy Week," as explained by Miss Sarah Vaubel, commercial instructor at the high school, is to be thoughtful and courteous to local business firms and institutions.

In order that students may become more familiar with the stocks and services offered by local merchants and other business houses, students have been asked to contact local business men and discuss with them the advantages of buying in Torrance. Short stories, 25-word statements, line-articles, and slogans will be written by the students setting forth the benefits of being loyal to Torrance business firms.

A committee of judges consisting of Sam Levy, Roland Sanderhoff and Rex Alcorn will award suitable prizes for the best compositions, Miss Vaubel explained. The awards will be made March 17. Rules of the contest stipulate that articles submitted by students be stamped by four local business firms, as evidence that the author of the article has talked with at least four local business men.

"There are 480 families represented in Torrance high school," Miss Vaubel pointed out, "which constitutes a large buying power. It is to encourage these families and others throughout the city to be loyal and courteous to the business interests that are helping to build the city."

Torrance retail stores are co-operating with the high school students by offering Special Bargains during next week. A number of these specials are advertised in this issue.

## Beautification and Widening of Torrance Blvd. Between Tracks Will Soon Be Started, It Seems

The shifting sand dunes and unsightly weeds of Torrance boulevard are soon to be replaced with flower beds and shrubs. This much desired beautification of the main artery entering Torrance from the west seems soon to be realized, as only a few details remain to be settled between members of the city council and officials of the Pacific Electric Railway Company.

Under the terms of an agreement submitted to the city council this week by President Pontius of the Pacific Electric, the city will lease the railroad company's right-of-way between the two roadways for the nominal fee of one dollar per year. The lease is to perpetual, and grants the city exclusive use of the strip between the roadways for park purposes. In return the city is to surrender its reversionary rights to the railroad right-of-way with the stipulation that the railroad will never use the right-of-way except for railroad purposes, of which there seems no possibility.

City Engineer Leonard pointed out to the council that the reversionary rights granted to the city some time ago by the Dominguez Land Corporation did not stipulate any time limit in which the city could compel the railroad to either lay tracks or abandon the right-of-way. For this reason, Leonard stated it would be difficult to force an abandonment of the right-of-way by court action.

Under the plan virtually agreed upon between city and railroad officials, the city will widen the pavement of each roadway three feet, at its own expense. Materials for the additional paving was estimated to cost approximately \$450, and this work will be done by unemployed crews. Shrubs, flowers and grass will be planted between the two roadways.

The tax item, which threatened to prove a stumbling block in the project, was satisfactorily settled. City Engineer Leonard reported this week that the county assessor had agreed to waive taxes on the right-of-way as long as the city used it for park purposes.

Final action on the project was withheld until the next meeting of the council, but it is confidently expected that a full agreement on the remaining details will have been reached by that time.

## All Ready For Formal Opening of Health Center.

All is in readiness at the Torrance health and welfare center, 2300 Carson street, for the formal opening and dedication of the handsome new structure, which will take place on Friday, February 24.

The public is cordially invited to attend the ceremonies which will begin at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon when a reception will be held and inspection of the building may be made.

Special invitations to prominent citizens of this and other communities have been mailed out by the City of Torrance, and a number of county dignitaries are expected to attend.

Mayor W. T. Klusman will deliver the address of welcome. Brief speeches will be made by Supervisor John R. Quinn, through whose aid the health center was built in Torrance; Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, head of the county health department; E. H. Harriman, superintendent of county charities, and two other prominent health officers from districts outside of Los Angeles county with whom arrangements are now being made to secure their presence here.

Other county officers who are expected are H. A. Payne, county auditor; Eugene W. Biscailuz, sheriff, and all members of the county board of supervisors. Judge Charles T. Rippey will act as master of ceremonies. At 4 o'clock the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, will have charge of the flag-raising ceremony.

At 6 o'clock dinner will be served to the officials and all who wish to attend at the Woman's clubhouse, 1422 Engracia avenue. Reservations for this affair must be made by February 23, by letter or telephone to the Torrance Health Center, Torrance 860.

While the official inspection of the building will begin at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Dr. H. C. Smiley, health officer in charge, announces that the building will be open all day to admit any who wish to come early before the regular program begins.

## DEMOCRAT



MAYOR W. T. KLUSMAN, who previously has classed himself as a "progressive Republican," stated at the organization meeting of the Torrance Democratic Club last week, that he would re-register under the Democratic party banner. He was chosen second vice president of the Bourbon Club.

## Eight Involved In Terrific Auto Crash On Carson

Driver of Ford Fails to  
Observe Stop Sign,  
Killed

Asserted failure to observe a boulevard stop at Carson and Avalon boulevard caused the death of one man and serious injury to seven other persons at 10:25 p. m. Monday night.

Ralph F. Welch, 632 1/2 Maltman street, Los Angeles, driver of a Ford coupe, was instantly killed. His wife, Mrs. Mina Welch, and Don V. Welch, passengers in his car, were injured.

Hugh W. Levy, Bernick Levy, Rose Levy, 442 1/2 Avalon boulevard, Los Angeles; Charles Holden, 2330 West 8th street, and Helen Elizabeth Holden, 2823 West 8th street, Los Angeles, occupants of a Buick coupe, were severely injured.

According to reports to Sheriff's sub-station No. 3, Welch, who was driving west on Carson, failed to make a boulevard stop at Avalon. The Levy coupe, traveling north on Avalon, crashed into the lighter car in the middle of the intersection.

A physician summoned from Wilmington pronounced Welch dead. His body was removed to the Los Angeles hospital, Los Angeles. The Levis were taken to their home by friends. Mrs. Welch was removed to Seaside hospital. The Holdens, who were riding in the rumble seat of the Buick, were removed to the General hospital, Los Angeles. They and Mrs. Welch were reported to be in a serious condition.

## Forty Projects Provide Work For Hundreds of Men

Reconstruction Funds Used  
In Road Construction  
In County

Forty work projects, to provide employment for men in Los Angeles county who are now idle, have been evolved by the county road department, which will be paid for out of the funds provided by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation loan lately received.

Among them is the Western avenue extension through the Palos Verdes hills where 200 men were put to work last week. This was the largest single group to be employed.

Many of the projects are located in the canyons and mountainous districts, where roads will be repaired and conditioned for safe and expeditious driving.

More than 1100 men were to be assigned to jobs during the ten days just past on the 40 projects.

## Pedestrian Has Right Leg Mangled

George Foster, 25, new resident of Keystone living on South Main street, was seriously injured last night as he was walking on Carson street in company with his two brothers, when he was struck by a car driven by Anton Despal, Terminal Island. Foster's right leg was badly mangled, both bones below the knee being broken. He was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for treatment. Police investigators of the accident were unable last night to place the responsibility for the accident.

## SERIOUS EARLY MORNING FIRE DESTROYS GARAGE AND 6 CARS

Heavy Loss Sustained In Most Destructive Blaze Occurring  
In Torrance In Many Months; Small  
Insurance Carried

Damages amounting to several hundred dollars resulted from an early morning blaze Wednesday which wrecked a galvanized iron garage owned by Katherine and Rosa Ortmann, proprietors of the Colonial Hotel, and destroyed six automobiles, one of them a 1933 Plymouth sedan purchased less than two weeks ago by Millard Purdue, residing at the Plaza hotel.

Other car owners who suffered loss were:

- W. C. Allen, Plaza hotel, 1929 Model A Ford coupe.
- Frank Ackerman, Colonial hotel, 1925 Chevrolet sedan.
- C. E. Hoffman, Colonial hotel, 1929 Chevrolet; quantity of paint, oils and painter's equipment valued at \$100.
- Jack Modest, Colonial hotel, 1927 Chevrolet sedan.
- Katherine Ortmann, Colonial hotel, 1926 Buick coupe.

Origin of the fire has not been determined. According to Night Patrolman Everett Travioli, who discovered the blaze at 2:30 a. m., Wednesday, apparently it started in the middle stall on the east side of the garage, which is located on Border avenue adjoining the Torrance Laundry and just across the alley from the Plaza hotel.

This stall is used during the day by Miss Elizabeth Holmes, employe of the Torrance Laundry, but is unoccupied at night.

The fire, when discovered, was confined to a pile of old newspapers in one corner of the stall. Travioli went to the Plaza hotel just across the alley to call the fire department and returned immediately to the scene of the blaze. During the few minutes he was absent, the fire had gained such headway that the whole interior was a mass of flames.

Travioli succeeded in breaking the lock on one stall door and dragged out a Chevrolet roadster belonging to Leroy Thompson, the only car it was possible to save. Locked doors and roaring flames, fed by gasoline and oils from the burning cars, made it impossible to attempt a rescue. Popping tires and exploding gas tanks gave the impression of a bombardment, and kept the crowd of spectators at a distance.

Possible use of the empty stall as a sleeping place by some homeless wanderer who carelessly tossed a burning cigarette butt into the old newspapers, or who may have started a small fire of papers to keep warm during the piercing cold of the early morning, is the theory of firemen and police who were called to the scene.

No insurance was carried on the garage, according to Misses Ortmann, but a fire and theft policy covered their car. All other car owners, who suffered the total destruction of their autos, were uninsured with the exception of Purdue, whose new Plymouth was covered. All cars were totally wrecked.

John Sigfred, resident at the Colonial hotel, whose car also is housed at the garage, escaped loss in the blaze due to the fact that he had spent the night out of town and his car was not in its usual place.

No damage was done to the Torrance Laundry but its garage which adjoins the Ortmann garage on the north was damaged to the extent of about \$150.00.

## County Engineer Cures "Cold Feet" At Health Center

While the new Torrance health center gives treatment for a multitude of ailments, the staff itself developed an ailment which necessitated calling on the county mechanical department recently.

The ailment was "cold feet," which William Davidson, chief mechanical engineer, promised he could alleviate by the installation of additional radiators.

Upon Davidson's recommendation, the board of supervisors this week voted him \$43.46 and authorized him to install the radiators. Radiant smiles will be in order for the opening on February 24.

The final contract work, that of cabinet work, was accepted this week by the board of supervisors.

Official approval was asked for the expenditure of \$2200 for linoleum and \$350 for Venetian blinds for the handsome new Spanish type building at 2300 Carson street.

Supervisor John R. Quinn asked that these matters be referred to him.

## Popular Young High School Boy of Lomita Dies

Robert Dale Morter, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Morter, 2232 Lomita boulevard, Lomita, died Sunday after an illness of a few days. Cerebral meningitis was given as the cause of death, which occurred at the Mission hospital, Huntington Park, where the boy had been taken for treatment. Robert was born February 2, 1920, at San Pedro, but had resided in Lomita nearly all his life.

He was a popular student at Narbonne high school. Robert is survived by his parents, one brother, Edward, and one sister, Kathryn. Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 o'clock at Cleveland Garden chapel, San Pedro. Rev. Thomas Grace officiating. Interment was made at Roosevelt Memorial Park.

"Courtesy Week" - Feb. 20 to 25 - Means "Be Courteous" to Local Firms