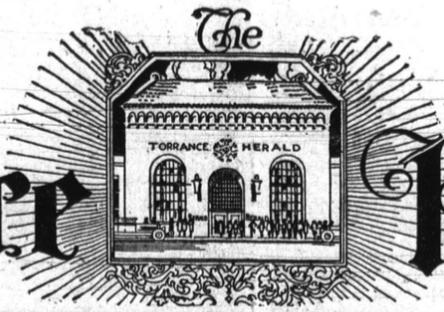


Consolidated Edition  
Torrance Herald and Lomita News

ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN TORRANCE



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NINETEENTH YEAR No. 14

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1933

PER COPY 5c

# OFFER NEW PLAN FOR OPENING BANK

## TORRANCE CHAMBER SUPPORTS COMPTON IN BID FOR FUNDS

Committee Appointed to Arrange Program For Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Meeting On April 18

During the regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, held last Monday, April 3, arrangements for a meeting of the Torrance chamber members were discussed, which meeting, a quarterly one, is scheduled to be held on the third Tuesday in April—the 18th. A committee has been selected to arrange a program which is intended to be interesting and constructive for this occasion, and a large attendance is anticipated.

Consideration was given to an appeal from the Compton Chamber of Commerce to other Southern California chambers to assist the Compton area in securing an allocation of \$600,000 from the permanent school funds of the state of California, for the purpose of reconstructing several high and elementary schools in the Compton school district which were destroyed by the recent earthquake. Resolution was passed by the Torrance chamber directorate urging our district legislative representatives to favorably consider such request for aid.

## MAYOR TAKES UP CHALLENGE OF PRINCIPAL

Writes Letter to City Board Protesting Mowry Statement

In a letter addressed to the Los Angeles Board of Education under date of March 31, Mayor W. T. Klusman takes up the challenge thrown down at the recent meeting of the city council, held Tuesday, March 28, when Guy L. Mowry, principal of the evening high school at Torrance, declared in open meeting that any member of the city council who voted for the repeal of the city dry ordinance laid himself open to recall, and characterized the vote which was subsequently taken as a "farce."

Mayor Klusman takes exception to Mr. Mowry's attitude and closes his letter to the board with this statement: "I am sure that your action in this case will be the proper one."

Copies of the letter were sent to other members of the city council, principals of the Torrance schools, and to the public press. The letter reads as follows:

"Torrance, California, March 31st, 1933.  
"To the Board of Education, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Bouelle, etc.,  
"Mr. Griffin,  
"Gentlemen:  
"I firmly believe that your Honorable Body at all times selects sub-officials, superintendents, principals and teachers, etc., in the school system over which you preside who, at all times, conduct themselves in such a manner as their vocation demands. I fully realize that the aforesaid have their personal rights as any other citizen, but nevertheless, teachers especially owe a duty to every community and set examples before the children especially, as well as the more mature people, and these examples should be beyond reproach.

"I personally value the opinion of all my fellow citizens whosever they may be, whether teachers in schools or any other profession, but I resent very much when one of the High School teachers in Torrance appears before a Council meeting and threatens any Councilman in public, just before a roll call vote of the members is taking place, that 'if any Councilman votes 'Yes' on a certain question he will face a 'recall', and furthermore, when that same teacher adds that the said vote of the Council members is the 'greatest farce' ever pulled over in Torrance. I am advised by legal authority that to intimidate public officials in public by any kind of threats is a serious offense, and punishable the same as bribery, be that as it may, but to my mind such a High School teacher is really not fit to instruct our boys and girls for good citizenship and so forth. Without going into further details, I want to call the attention

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## COUNCIL BACKS MOVE TO DEFER DELINQUENT DATE

The city council at its meeting Tuesday night authorized a wire to be sent to Assemblyman John T. Rawls and a letter to the board of supervisors, endorsing the action of a Long Beach assemblyman who has introduced a bill in the legislature to move up the delinquent tax date from April 23 to June 23.

Many people in Torrance will be benefitted by this move because at the present date their money held for the payment of taxes has been tied up by the bank holiday and the delay in opening on a 100 per cent basis of the local bank.

## Area East of Los Angeles to Be Incorporated

Territory Embracing 29 Square Miles Files Petition

Incorporation of the area east of Los Angeles from Compton boulevard on the south to Alhambra on the north, embracing 28.44 square miles, nearly twice the size of the city of Torrance and five times the size of Compton, is asked in a petition on file today with the board of supervisors.

Hearing will be held April 10 by the board of supervisors, at which time it will be determined whether or not a special election should be called to give the 75,000 or more residents within the area the opportunity of voting on the proposition.

Garden City would be the name of the new incorporated area, which, owing to its large population, would be a city of the second class. Petitions were circulated by the East Los Angeles Boosters' Association. It was stated in a letter forwarded to the petitioners, an unincorporated section immediately south of the city of Bell and bordering along the easterly boundary of the city of Huntington Park and South Gate, already are reported up in arms over the proposal, which would result in increase in taxes all over the district.

## Building Permits Exceed Half Million

A total of \$565,365.90 in building permits were issued at the office of City Engineer Frank M. Leonard during March. Of this amount the largest single permit was issued to the General Petroleum Corporation in the amount of \$556,310.00 for the additions to its refinery plant in the city.

## Hawthorne Man Reported Missing

Leo B. Magruder, age 31, was reported to the sheriff's sub-station No. 3 on Vermont avenue, as missing from his home at 13410 Rose avenue, Hawthorne, this week. Magruder left home in his car at 6 a. m. Monday to go to his work at the Blue Diamond Cement Company plant, and had since not been seen nor had he communicated with his family, according to the report made by Elizabeth B. Magruder.

## LOCAL WOMEN PLAY EXCITING PART IN STREET DRAMA MON.

Mrs. Maude Koehler and Daughter Threatened By Armed Murderer Who Escapes From the Scene of Crime In Their Car

Miss Daisy Koehler, clerk at the Torrance high school, and her mother, Mrs. Maude Koehler, 1718 Martina avenue, were unwilling participants in an exciting drama Monday night when Miss Koehler stopped her car at 78th street and Figueroa to give aid to a man supposed to have been injured in an automobile accident.

Miss Koehler and her mother had been on a shopping trip to Los Angeles and were returning home about 8:30 p. m. Monday, when as they neared the above intersection they saw a car which had jumped the curb on the west side of Figueroa, and a man from whose body blood was running, lying in the street.

A second man was standing near the front of the car, and Miss Koehler said yesterday that her first impression was that an accident had occurred and she stopped to see if she could render aid. No sooner had she stopped than the man standing in the street came toward them. He leaned in the car door, the glass in which had been rolled down, and flourishing a gun in the faces of the two astounded women, commanded them to get out of the car.

"Get out! Or I'll kill you," he said. "I mean it."

For a few seconds the women were too startled to move, and the man, who grew increasingly nervous, repeated his threats and brandished the gun, a .45, which he pointed first at one and then the other.

Mrs. Koehler recovered her presence of mind in a few seconds and grasped the barrel of the gun with her left hand to push it away, and ordered the desperado to stop pointing it at them. Seeing that he was losing time in the argument, the man jerked open the door, grasped Mrs. Koehler by the arm and roughly threw her out on the pavement. He then ordered Miss Koehler to drive him away from the scene, but as he was preparing to get in, Miss Koehler jumped out on her side of the car and ran around to grasp him by the coat. She was unable to pull him out, and fearing he would shoot her, she released him and he immediately drove south with her car and purse containing \$10 in his possession.

During this very brief interval the women screamed to bystanders of whom there were a number who had been attracted by the commotion to help them seize the man, but none of them ventured to raise a hand nor to call the police from the city station only a block away at 77th street.

Prior to this incident the man had attempted to stop a car in which three boys were riding but

## Water Company Attorneys Say Bond Suit Will Not Be Carried Further

Attorneys for Mr. and Mrs. William J. Wilcox will not petition for a rehearing of the action attacking the legality of the Municipal Improvement District Act of 1927 nor will they appeal the case to the United States supreme court.

This was learned authoritatively today from the legal firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, who represented Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox in the action.

With this statement, the way seemed cleared today for the city of Torrance to order the sale of at least part of the \$400,000 water bond issue voted in 1931.

Attorney Norman Sterry, who prepared the state supreme court briefs for Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, stated that the state's court had held with them in the interpretation of the act, except in construing that portion pertaining to profit derived from the business. In this instance the court held that the act did not mean what it said, Sterry said, because the court ruled that any profit that might be made from the water works system, installed with money raised by a section of the city, would not be profit in the

## BEER FRIDAY

No Restrictions in Torrance Pending Adoption of Regulations Next Tuesday.

Final action on the repeal of Torrance's "Little Volstead Act" was taken by the city council Tuesday night, and the way cleared for the sale of the newly legalized 3.2 per cent beer and wine. As the proposed regulatory ordinance cannot be passed until Tuesday next week, anyone with an ordinary business license may legally sell the newly authorized beverages in Torrance beginning at midnight tonight and until Tuesday without a special permit. Brewers representatives report a large number of orders for Friday morning delivery to local grocery stores, drug stores and restaurants.

Dealers are somewhat "at sea" in attempting to arrive at retail prices for the newly legalized beer, as no definite information is available relative to charges to be exacted for municipal and state licenses. Until the license fees have been finally agreed upon, it will be difficult to arrive at a stabilized price for the various brews. Early sales will be confined to locally manufactured brands, as Eastern breweries are not permitted to begin shipping until midnight tonight. Eastern beers will not be available on the Pacific coast until approximately April 12, dealers state.

Councilman Ludlow cast the only negative vote on the final reading of the repeal ordinance Tuesday night. Following the adoption of the repeal ordinance, Councilman Wright, chairman of the ordinance committee, resigned from the committee. Mayor Klusman appointed himself in Wright's place on the ordinance committee, which was confirmed by the council.

Principal features of the proposed regulatory ordinance, which was tentatively agreed upon Tuesday night are:

License fee for manufacturers and wholesalers, \$100 per year. License fee for retailers, \$50 per year where the beverage is served on the premises, and \$25 per year when sold in packages for consumption off the premises. Combination "Off Sale" and "On Sale" licenses, \$62.50 per year.

A filing fee of \$5 is being charged, which will be applied on the license charge if the license is granted, or returned in cases where the license is refused.

The proposed regulatory ordinance permits the city council to limit the number of dealers, the location of the same, and allows the council to pass on the character of dealers. Persons who have been convicted of a felony will not be given licenses.

"On Sale" licenses will be limited to bona fide restaurants and cafes where meals are actually served, and to hotels with dining rooms or guest rooms.

No transfer of licenses are permitted, but a refund or revoked or cancelled licenses will be permitted upon a four-fifths vote of the city council. Where dealers are convicted of violations of the proposed ordinance, the license may be revoked and cannot be renewed for six months. Violations of the ordinance are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$300, or 90 days in jail, or both fine and jail sentence.

When asked what effect the proposed state licensing of retail dealers would have upon the city ordinance, a member of the city council stated this morning that in all probability the fees in the city ordinance would be reduced to compensate for whatever charges are to be made by the state, as it is not the policy of the city council to overburden dealers with excessive taxes.

## SPECIAL TRAIN TO TAKE MEXICANS HOME

Los Angeles county will send another trainload of Mexican residents back to their native country on April 14, which will take approximately another 1000 persons off its charity rolls. This was assured this week when the board of supervisors set aside another \$12,000 from its welfare department funds to pay the cost of the special train.

## QUICK ACTION BY DEPOSITORS WILL AID BANK'S REOPENING

Depositors' Committee Adopts Modified Plan For Purchase of Preferred Stock, After Conference With Chief Bank Examiner

A new and well defined plan for reorganizing the First National Bank of Torrance so that the pioneer financial institution may resume full operations on a normal basis within a short time was announced today by a group of industrial and business men, who have been studying the bank's problems during the past week. The plan submitted by the committee representing the depositors was agreed upon after carefully investigating the banks assets, including its bonds and other securities; and after discussing the bank's problems with Chief National Bank

## What to Do to Hasten Reopening of Bank!

Here's what YOU as a depositor can do to hasten the reopening of the First National Bank of Torrance on a normal basis:

1. Go to the bank immediately and sign the new Trustee agreement for the purchase of Preferred Stock equal to half your bank balance. This replaces the agreements previously signed, which will be returned to you.
2. As soon as all depositors have signed up, the committee will immediately proceed, taking the matter up directly with the comptroller of currency at Washington if necessary to obtain immediate action.
3. The escrow room of the bank has been opened as depositors' headquarters. Information will be gladly given to any depositor, and the office will be open daily, including Saturday, from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m.

## 2 WOMEN DIE OF INJURIES IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Nine persons were injured, two of them fatally, in a terrific auto accident at the intersection of 190th street and South Normandie, which occurred about 7:25 o'clock Saturday evening.

Cars driven by Henry D. Earl, 25011 Le Grande Terrace, San Pedro, and Paul Burch, 619 No. Irena avenue, Redondo Beach, collided.

The dead are Miss Ida Evans, age 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Evans, 25116 Franklin avenue, Harbor City, who died shortly after she had been removed to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital, and Mrs. Paul Burch, 618 No. Irena avenue, Redondo Beach, who passed away at 3:50 Wednesday morning.

The injured were Paul Burch, E. M. Smith, 208 No. Irena avenue, and Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Bankert, 615 No. Irena, who were passengers in the Burch car, and Henry D. Earl, Betty Clark, 1767 Pacific avenue, Long Beach, and Lloyd Earl, 2932 Sawyer, Long Beach, in the Earl car.

All the injured persons were taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for first aid, and Mrs. Bankert was later taken to the Redondo-Hermosa hospital, where yesterday hospital attendants reported that she had been released and had returned to her home. Miss Clark was taken to the Seaside hospital at Long Beach.

Mrs. Burch suffered a jaw fracture and other injuries which caused her death yesterday.

A minor accident, which was reported to police headquarters in Torrance in connection with the fatal crash, concerned R. P. Lohan, 222 So. Lucia avenue, Redondo Beach, whose car side-swiped a coupe on Torrance boulevard about 9:30 Saturday night as he was bringing Miss Burch, daughter of the fatally injured woman, to the Torrance hospital to see her mother.

Examiner Cook of Los Angeles, who is in charge of all national bank examiners in Southern California. New Signatures Required Under the proposed reorganization plan depositors agree to transfer 50 per cent of their respective accounts to three trustees, who are authorized to invest amounts so transferred in preferred stock of the bank as provided for under federal laws and regulations of the United States comptroller of the currency. Trustees named are: Frank Dalton of the D. & M. Machine Works; A. E. Witt, office manager of the National Supply Company of California; and Judge Charles T. Rippy, city recorder. In effect, the new plan is practically the same as the former preferred stock purchase agreement, but new signatures are necessary from depositors in order to comply with regulations of the banking department.

Delay Explained The delay in perfecting a reorganization plan is primarily due to the fact that government banking officials are literally swamped with work, it was learned by the local committee, and for this reason efforts of the bank's officials to date have been retarded. However, the committee believes it has developed a reorganization plan which will meet with the approval of government officials. While bank examiners are not permitted to make definite commitments, members of the local committee report that they were given much co-operation by Chief National Bank Examiner Cook at Los Angeles, and that the reorganization plan submitted is in line with the chief examiner's ideas. Mr. Cook praised the trustworthiness of J. W. Post, president of the First National Bank, and stated that the major problem of the local bank, in common with a great many other institutions throughout the nation, was the depreciated market values of bonds purchased during prosperous times.

Mr. Cook, chief examiner, stated emphatically to the local reorganization committee that the requirements demanded by the banking department now were so rigid that once a bank was permitted to resume normal operations, it would be impossible for it to close. J. W. Post, president of the First National, expressed the appreciation of the officers and directors of the bank for the time

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