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Notes From Washington

By
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Congressman, 17th District

I admit I was quite skeptical on November 15, as I sat in the ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel and listened to Harry Hopkins make his statement to the governors, mayors and other officials that he planned to put four million persons to work within 30 days. That seemed a stupendous, superhuman task. And I was not the only one who had doubts as to the ability of Administrator Hopkins to make good on such an extravagant promise. But now on the 16th day of December as I read the newspaper announcement that the almost impossible feat has been achieved on the promised schedule, I must express my surprise and admiration for the man who has accomplished so much. Harry L. Hopkins, Civil Works administrator, like Gen. Hugh Johnson, is a dynamo of energy. As a public speaker, Hopkins is more mild than General Johnson. Hopkins has a happy disposition and his wit keeps his audience in a fine mood of attention.

The administrator has worked under terrific pressure day and night to put over his huge program. Hopkins was given a free hand and he took short cuts and dashed through the webs of red tape like a race horse through a cloud of feathers. Some of his field men gummed up the work in their local territory but a big majority of them clicked with the leader and the program has gone over the top with a bang. His feat will go down in history as a marvel of performance.

President Roosevelt no doubt was impatient with the slow and methodical processes of the NRA and RFC and in order to give immediate employment, the CWA was expanded and given additional funds for a comprehensive program. RFC and NRA loans are necessarily slow because most projects require careful examination by engineering, financial and legal experts. Then there is such a variation of laws in 48 states that there is no way in which these loans can be standardized. One has but to glance over the list of applications for government funds to get an idea of the immensity of the task that confronts the officials in Washington.

The political divisions and agencies of California alone have made nearly 200 applications for funds. Los Angeles county has a dozen requests for various projects including flood control for approximately $40,000,000. The city of Los Angeles has seven applications including the board of education's, amounting to nearly $60,000,000. San Francisco has asked for aid for another dozen projects running up to around $18,000,000. Long Beach has filed 20 requests for over $5,000,000 including nearly $3,5000,000 for harbor improvements.

Los Angeles harbor department has a number of items asking for more than $6,000,000. Each item must run the three gauntlets of the three divisions, legal, engineering and financial. For instance, the application for funds for the Fifth Street Front presents difficulties entirely different from the fish harbor program. The Santa Fe railway approach to the harbor is an entirely distinct proposition. So it is that each project is subjected to a microscopic examination by the three divisions of the department, the legal, the engineering and the financial. If anyone imagines it is an easy task to get over these three hurdles, he has another think coming.

The big allotments to California have been about equally divided between the North and the South. The Oakland bridge got the biggest slice of over $61,000,000. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California received $40,000,000 and the power department of Los Angeles received nearly $23,000,000. These large loans were made by the RFC and the rate of interest is higher than that of the PWA. This was a case of the early birds getting the toughest worms. San Francisco and Northern California were fortunate in getting more small allotments than Southern California but have so far been unable to meet the government requirements. They, therefore, have over $15,000,000 sewed up which they may lose entirely. Both San Francisco and Los Angeles have their "big shots" in Washington to pry out more funds but they have been working in harmony and no casualities have occurred to date.

Secretary Ickes of the interior department is becoming a rival of Gen. Hugh Johnson in his frankness and force of expression. He

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1933 BUILDING PERMITS REACH LARGE AMOUNT

Building permits for Torrance during the 12 months just closed reached the impressive total of $33,637,811, which is many times the amount shown by the books in the city engineer's office for 1932.

Last year's total ran up to $789,899, an average of $65,825 per month. This year's figure represents an increase of 425 per cent. The large permits taken out by the General Petroleum and Columbia Steel companies for building operations at their respective plants helped materially to swell this year's total.

Health Officer Warns Against "Hidden Death"

Season of Fatalities From Monoxide Poisoning Has Now Started

Warning against "hidden death," which in the last four years has claimed some 100 lives in Los Angeles county, was issued today by Dr. J. L. Pomeroy, county health officer, with the official arrival of winter.

"Hidden death" is carbon monoxide poisoning, Dr. Pomeroy explains. It is so called because it is odorless, colorless, tasteless and gives no warning. Victims become suddenly weak, collapse on the floor, and become unconscious, unable to summon aid.

"Faulty gas heating appliances and lack of adequate ventilation which result in improper combustion are the chief causes of this 'hidden death'," the health officer sttaed.

To checkmate the ravages of the poisoning, these rules are suggested to everyone:

1. Keep all rooms thoroughly and properly ventilated.
2. Never sleep in a room with the gas turned on.
3. Avoid the use of gas or other heating appliances of inferior grade.
4. Open garage doors when "tuning up" your motor.
5. Have all fixtures and appliances which burn fuel tested and repaired at regular intervals by reliable workmen.

Virtually all of the fatalities from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred in the months from December to April, the health officer stated in conclusion.

Vista Highlands May Get Sewers

Efforts to obtain sanitary sewers for the Vista Highland tract in Torrance, as well as portions of South Torrance which are not included in the present Lomita sewer project, are being made by City Engineer F. R. Leonard and Chief County Sewer Engineer Warren, it was stated at the Torrance city council meeting Tuesday night. It is planned to have the projects financed 100 per cent by the federal Civil Works Administration, Leonard stated.

Upton Sinclair to Speak Here

Upton Sinclair, former Socialist, who is now seeking nomination on the Democratic ticket for governor of California, will make an address at the American Recreation hall on Carson street, January 18, it was announced by Dr. Van Velzer of Gardena this week.

Tax Collections Far Exceed Sum Paid Last Year

City Clerk Receives Check For $53,188 As First Installment of Local Taxes

Tax collections in the city of Torrance are far above the figures of last year, according ot City Clerk A. H. Bartlett who received this week a check for $53,188 from County Tax Collector W. O. Welch, representing a portion of the funds due this city from collections through his office.

Further payments will be made from time to time as the taxes are paid into the county office until the time for payment expires in April.

This sum of $53,188 exceeds by about 77 per cent the amount received in the first remittance last year. Part of the money is for current taxes and part of it represents delinquent taxes which are being paid in steadily increasing proportion. This shows a substantial improvement in the condition of property owners in Torrance, who are now beginning to feel the effects of new connections with regular payrolls.

More Charges Are Lodged Against Trio of Bandits

Preliminary hearing was held in Justice Frank Carrell's court at Gardena yesterday for James E. Harrington, Roland S. Lawrence and Jack Jensen, the trio of youths who were arrested by Torrance officers two weeks ago after a series of robberies in this district.

The men were given a preliminary hearing here on charges preferred by victims in this district and were bound over to the superior court for trial.

Charges in the Gardena district were preferred by H. Okinaga, 11315 Freeman avenue, Lennox, and Bert Parmerlee of Western and Strawberry Park avenues. Okinaga was robbed of $180, some clothes and a watch. Parmerlee lost $5 in cash. A gun was used in both instances, it is alleged.

J. Fred Speheger Is New Member of City Police Force

J. Fred Speheger, 1307 Portola, has been appointed a member of the Torrance police department, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of Sergeant J. B. Edwards who has returned to the force at Pasadena.

The new officer is one of the old residents of Torrance, having lived here for the past ten years.

Basich Bros. Get Inyo County Work

Contract for road grading and resurfacing work in Inyo county has been awarded by Earl Lee Kelly, state director of public works, to Basich Brothers of 20550 Normandie avenue, Torrance, on their low bid of $128,963, it became known today.

The bid was submitted by the local firm for grading and resurfacing a strip of about 5.8 miles of the California state highway between Dougherty's corner and Burcchim canyon in Inyo county.

Large Crowd Attends City Firemen's Party

Packages of candy were distributed to 825 children at the city firemen's annual Christmas party held this year at the municipal ball park. The surplus of goodies was equally divided among the churches of Torrance to be given out to the youngsters of the congregations. A large crowd attended the exercises.

Al Harder Hurt In Fall At Home

Al Harder, proprietor of Harder's Market, slipped and fell in the bathtub at his home this week and severed an artery in his arm when that member struck a window. Fourteen stitches were required to close the wound.

BURGLARY

By breaking the glass in the door at the Cra-post grocery, Post and Cravens avenues, thieves entered the store Sunday night and made away with some cigarettes and a little small change.

—And Ring in the New

The year 1934 is going to be okay. You can take the word of Baby Le Roy himself for that. The youngster has taken up the matter personally with old Father Time and guarantees the world health, happiness and a return to prosperity.

LOMITA MASONS WILL INSTAL OFFICERS AT OPEN MEETING

Open installation, to which a cordial invitation is issued to all interested, will be held Friday night, December 29, by Lomita Lodge, No. 644, F. & A. M., in Odd Fellows hall, when Amos Charles Towne will succeed Charles Severin Pedersen as worshipful master.

Worshipful Master Albert Scott Crossfield, P. M., inspector of the ninety-ninth Masonic district, will be installing officer and will be assisted by John Roy Winters as master of ceremonies.

To a march played by Mrs. Rowena Airey the newly elected and appointed officers will enter and the audience will sing "America."

Following the installation of the worshipful master, there will be a saxophone selection by Darmon Dwyer and Albert Hines.

The senior and junior wardens will then be installed.

A program of dances arranged by the courtesy of the Theatrical Arts studio of San Pedro, with Ruth Spere and Neil Hall in charge, will furnish entertainment. Mrs. Mae Langford will act as accompanist.

The treasurer, secretary and chaplain will then be installed, followed by a vocal duet by Mrs. Rowena Airey and Mrs. Beulah Armitage.

Following the installation of the senior and junior deacons and the marshal, Benny Airey will give a trumpet solo.

The senior and junior stewards and the tyler will be the last to be installed and following vocal selections by Arthur K. Russell, the address of the installing officer will be given.

Officers elected and appointed to serve with Mr. Towne are George Washington Murphy, senior warden; John Lawrence Sanders, junior warden; Daniel Franklin Naulty, treasurer; Oscar William Thistle, secretary; Job Albert Paddock, chaplain; James Earl Barringer, senior deacon; George Joseph Cannon, junior deacon; John Roy Winters, marshal; William Brewster Puckett, senior steward; Ray Martell Parden, junior steward, and Charles Luther Morlss, tyler.

Past masters of the lodge are O. W. Thistle, 1926; J. R. Winters, 1927; J. G. Wilson, 1928; A. E. Perkins, 1929; Charles Greig, 1930; Wm. P. Hall, 1931, and Norman P. Herr, 1932.

Local Firm Is Made Defendant In Civil Suit

Basich Bros. Sued By Northern Contractor For Labor, Materials

Basich Brothers, Torrance contracting firm, are made defendants in a suit for $18,473 asserted to be due R. J. Kennedy for labor and materials furnished for a rock crushing plant, in a suit on file today in Los Angeles county superior court.

The complaint charges that Kennedy was engaged to design, build and operate a rock crushing plant at Belmont, in San Mateo county, for furnishing highway construction materials for the highway between San Mateo and Redwood City. Estimated amount of the materials run through the plant has been placed at $10,000, according to the state highway inspector in charge of the job, the complaint states.

While this plant was in operation beginning May 12, 1932, with equipment amounting to $2700, additional equipment was furnished the following August 20 which the contracting firm was either to return or pay for, in the amount of $5135, it is asserted in the complaint. This the firm has declined to do, and Kennedy asks payment of $18,473.

Important Study Project Conducted By Torrance Man

Phillips Brooks, 1328 Portola, made one of his regular trips to the Huntington library at San Marino today, where he is carrying on an important study project under Dr. Theodore D. Beckwith, of the University of California at Los Angeles, for the cause and control of "foxing" in books. Mr. Brooks, who is specializing in bacteriology, has been engaged on the project for some time, and his investigations and conclusions have attracted wide interest and have drawn inquiries from many libraries over the United States.

For the layman, who is not familiar with the technical term, "foxing" is the tendency of the leaves of a very old book to develop brown spots which detract from the appearance of the page and eventually cause it to become illegible. The damage thus done to old and valuable manuscripts and printed books, which could never be replaced, is obvious.

Conclusions, drawn by Mr. Brooks from his close study of the problem, tend to show that the trouble is due to a fungus growth and not to the effects of dampness although that may be a contributing factor in allowing the growth to start. Discovery of the cause and development of a control for the disease will be of inestimable value to libraries everywhere.

Kiwanis Club Officers to Be Seated Tuesday

Ninth Annual Party Held At Hollywood Riviera Clubhouse

L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will be installed president of the Kiwanis Club, at their ninth annual installation party to be held at the Hollywood Riviera club Tuesday evening, January 2.

Dinner will be served at 6:45 p m., and the past president, Dr. R. F. Bishop, will then proceed with the ceremony of seating the new officers.

Others who will be installed are Alden Smith, vice president; Charles T. Rippy, treasurer; Howard G. Locke, secretary; and seven directors, Henry Grubb, Floyd Jones, Robert L. Lewellen, Al Turner, L. J. Acree, William Shawger and G. M. Calder.

Cars Damaged In Three Accidents Over Week-end

No One Seriously Hurt In Series of Crashes In This City

Three automobile accidents, occurring in and near Torrance, over the week-end and holiday, were reported to the city police department. Cars were damaged but no one was seriously injured.

Mrs. Rowena Wilhelm, 733 Sartori avenue, driving along Torrance boulevard on Christmas eve with her husband, was reported to have sideswiped a car owned by Eddie Dunlap, 2468 Torrance boulevard. The night was very foggy, and Dunlap's car is said to have been parked on the highway without lights.

Dunlap is reported to have become somewhat rude in his arguments over the affair and is said to have struck Wilhelm and pulled Mrs. Wilhelm's hair.

He was placed under arrest and was given a hearing Tuesday in the municipal court. He was fined $10 which he paid.

On the same evening a head-on collision occurred between cars driven by A. G. Bartlett, 1967½ Plaza del Amo, who was turning from Martina on to Carson street, and that driven by Mrs. Roy Sivard, 1603 220th street. Donald Sivard, age 2½ years, received scalp wounds and was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for first aid. Bartlett explained to police that the wheels of his car seemed to lock as he was making the turn and he was unable to avoid the collision.

On Christmas Day, Mrs. Eva Candlish, 1531 North Curzon avenue, Los Angeles, driving a Packard sedan, collided with a Buick driven by S. H. Smith, 1412 Lagoon, Wilmington, on Hawthorne boulevard near Huntington avenue. Nancy Pat Smith received a bump on the head, but the other occupants of the cars were not injured. The accident was witnessed by Fred A. Parrish, 830¼ North Las Palmas. Both parties made reports of the accident to the police department. Both cars were somewhat damaged.

County Library Branch May Remain Open On Sunday

Feasibility of keeping the Torrance and Lomita branch county libraries open Saturday afternoons and Sundays in order to provide "white collar" jobs for a number of unemployed women as a Civil Works project, was under consideration today.

The proposal was made to the board of supervisors by Supervisor Gordon L. McDonough, who said he believed two or three women could be employed at each of the 149 branches in the county.

One of the problems in relieving unemployment now is to aid the person who cannot do manual labor to get a job, Supervisor McDonough pointed out.

It is obviously of no benefit to try to put a musician to work digging ditches, and the dearth of jobs for women is equally serious, the supervisors have declared. Supervisor McDonough said he believed Los Angeles city and a number of municipalities might take up the idea if the county's experiment proved to be practical.

OVER 50 PER CENT INCREASE IN CHRISTMAS TRADE NOTED

Torrance Merchants Generally Report Much Better Holiday Buying Than Last Year

Substantial increases in Christmas retail buying are reported by practically all Torrance merchants, the average holiday trade this year exceeding last Christmas by over 50 per cent. Scarcely a local merchant reported less than a 30 per cent increase, and in a number of instances, the volume was over twice that of last year. A careful check-up made by the Torrance Herald this week shows the following comparisons among the various lines of merchandise:

Department and clothing stores: 40% to 70% increase.
Food stores: 30% to 100% increase.
Jewelry stores: 40% to 55% increase.
Furniture stores: 50% to 100% increase.
Drug stores: 30% to 40% increase.

Unemployed Take Notice

Despite the strenuous efforts of Torrance city officials during the past week to secure a release of work orders under the CWA for Torrance unemployed, no definite information as to when local men, who are not welfare cases, will be given employment is available as this issue goes to press.

Numerous trips to the CWA offices in Los Angeles have been made by Mayor Conner and City Engineer Leonard, but federal offices are in such confusion trying to handle the Herculean task of approving the hundreds of projects throughout the county, that it is impossible to say definitely just when the three Torrance projects will be approved, Mayor Conner states.

Food Supplied

However, arrangements have been completed for issuing pork and dried apples to any families in need. In order to secure this food, men must first be sure that they are registered at the Torrance city hall for work under the CWA. They may then go to the Red Cross depot at Gramercy and Cabrillo avenues and secure a supply of pork and dried apples. It is expected that butter, eggs and chicken will later be available.

While there are some 481 unemployed men in Torrance, only 258 of them have registered at the CWA headquarters at the Torrance city hall, Leonard states. Of the 198 men who had previously registered with H. W. Beach at the Co-operative Relief Association, only seven have re-registered at the city hall and until these 191 men re-register with the CWA at the city hall there is no chance of them securing work on Torrance projects when they are approved, which is not expected for a few days, Leonard states.

Christian Church Choir Presents Cantata Sunday

Next Sunday evening, December 31, the choir of the First Christian church, Torrance, will present their Christmas cantata, "Messiah's Advent," which sets forth the Messianic prophecy and fulfilment. The text is taken from the Holy Scriptures and sacred hymnology. The first part, ten numbers, deals with prophecy. The second part, 12 numbers, deals with the fulfilment. Solos, duets, quartets, are featured in connection with the choruses.

The choir personnel is as follows: Sopranos—Adeline Aldrich, Ruth Granger, Esther Terry, Margaret Kibbe, Dorothy Elder, LaVerne Armstrong, Mesdames Ludlow, Babcock, Beall, Buckley, Summerfeldt. Altos—Francis Granger, Mesdames Rowell, Foote, Denny, Elder. Tenors—C. B. King, John W. Selby, Leonard Babcock, George Elder, Elsworth Barkdull. Basso—Scott Ludlow, Harry Schaefer, Earl Babcock, John Waugh. The cantata will be directed by Mrs. Chas. H. Cunningham, teacher of piano and voice. Mrs. Helen Schaefer, accompanist.

Beaver Scouts' Toy Hospital a Success

The toy hospital conducted by the Beaver patrol of Scout Troop No. 4, assisted by Rev. Nettie Denman, turned out very successfully this year. Fourteen boxes of toys were donated by the people of Torrance, oranges were given by the Veterans Co-operative Relief Association and candy by the Scout Mothers of Troop 4, and all were distributed to needy children of the city. The boys of the Beaver patrol and Rev. Denman express their appreciation to all who helped them in this work.

Annual Canary Show to Start Next Saturday

Hundreds of Pets Entered In Competition At the Alexandria Hotel

The canary fanciers of the Torrance and Lomita district are getting their birds ready for the sixth annual bird show, given by the Los Angeles Canary Fanciers Club. It is to be held at the Alexandria Hotel on December 30 and 31.

One of the features of the show will be the birds trained to whistle "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here," "Rock-a-Bye-Baby" and "Sidewalks of New York." Rollers can be taught to whistle any tune.

Foreign birds of different types will be shown in another division.

Any child who owns and cares for his bird may bring it to the showrooms, in the Alexandria Hotel, Saturday morning, December 30, before 10 o'clock.

These birds will be judged for care only and the three children whose birds show the best care will be given trophies.

Will Open Bids Next Week For State Highway

Action On Long Projected Road Through Wilmington Gets Under Way

Bids for the construction of State street through the city of Long Beach, which will connect with an extension of Sepulveda boulevard in Torrance, will be opened January 3, it was announced today by the state highway department in Los Angeles. The link, 1.8 miles in length, extends from the west Long Beach city limits to Pacific avenue in Long Beach.

Paving will be asphaltic concrete, according to the specifications posted for contractors this week at the highway offices in the State building in Los Angeles. Also involved in the contract is the laying of concrete sewer pipe, moving of several electroliers, removal of 350 tons of broken stone culvert foundation, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

City Police Have a Quiet Holiday

City police spent a quiet holiday and few arrests were made for any cause. The general expectation that Christmas would usher in a wild time for the bibulously inclined was not fulfilled. Only three or four arrests were made for intoxication in a public place. Those who had a certain amount of drinking to do, did it in the privacy of their own or friends' homes.

P. T. A. MEETING HELD NEXT THURSDAY

The Tenth District California Congress of Parents and Teachers will meet at the Los Angeles high school, 4600 Olympic boulevard, next Thursday, January 4, at 9:30 a. m.