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NEW BIDDERS WILL COMPETE FOR BUILDING CONTRACTS

Seven Sets of Plans Have Been Issued From the City Engineer's Office; Bids Opened Friday

At least seven contracting firms have indicated their interest in bidding on the construction of the proposed civic center buildings in Torrance. Plans and specifications have been issued to the Monolith Construction Company, Ellis Construction Company, Ray Daum, Duff & Vandenberg, and Petley and Matchan.

All Los Angeles firms, who offered bids when called for under the original plans. New prospective bidders are W. E. Allen and the Pacific Realty Building Company, of Long Beach.

Their bids will be opened at the adjourned regular meeting of the city council, to be held Friday evening, December 27. Due to the fact that some of the councilmen will be out of town on December 24, date of the regular meeting, and also because of its being Christmas Eve, the session will be adjourned until the later date.

All offers submitted will be referred to the city engineer and consulting engineer for study before action is taken to accept them.

Under the revised plans it is expected that the new figures will bring the cost of the buildings within the financial limit set by the bond issue and the federal grant.

Young Japanese Found Inside Storm Drain

Unconscious Youth Believed Near Death From Fever and Exposure

Attracted by groans coming from a storm drain, W. C. Jarman, caretaker at the Royal Palms golf course, White's Point, investigated and found a young Japanese, lying unconscious from illness at a point 110 feet from the end of the 36-inch pipe.

In order to rescue the young man it was necessary to dig a hole through the earth and break the pipe above his body. Apparently he had been in the pipe for at least 24 hours, as he had pilled his head on a Sunday newspaper, dated December 5. No identifying papers were found, and up to yesterday he was still unknown to authorities.

The man is about 22 years of age, weight 135 pounds. He wore red knit bathing trunks under a pair of gray trousers, white shirt, brown suede leather jacket, low black shoes. He was taken to the county hospital branch at San Pedro, where he was found to have a temperature of 104, and symptoms indicating typhoid fever. He is not expected to recover.

Japanese authorities have been contacted in an effort to learn his identity, but so far have not placed him. The only clue found was a driver's license, on which all writing was illegible except the word "Lomita." It is believed that he is a resident of that section.

Local Stores Open Every Evening 'Til Christmas

Retail stores in Torrance will remain open every evening until 9 o'clock from now until Christmas for the convenience of holiday shoppers. All food markets will be open Saturday and Tuesday until 8 o'clock and a number of food markets will also be open on Monday until 8 p. m.

By mutual agreement among downtown druggists, the Dolley Drug Company, Sartori and El Prado, will be open all day Christmas Day.

Santa Claus has promised to be on hand in the business section of Torrance every afternoon and evening until Christmas with candy gifts for the children.

Firemen Will Entertain Kids At Annual Party

Free Theatre Matinee and Gifts For Children Monday P. M.

Mark next Monday afternoon on your calendar, all you Torrance kids, and be at the Torrance Theatre at half past one to get a seat at the children's matinee. The Torrance fire department is putting on its annual children's party. The band will play outside the theatre, until almost time for the picture to start, and will play one or two pieces inside the showhouse for your entertainment.

Manager DeWitt B. Van Derlip has selected a film that will be of special interest to juveniles, and the boys of the fire department will be on hand to see that you are taken care of and behave yourselves nicely.

After the show, Santa Claus will be found outside with a sack full of goodies which he will hand out to each and every one. The band will play until the gifts are distributed.

In the evening the band will play on the streets in the downtown district until the stores close at 9 o'clock.

The Loyal Order of Moose lodge has planned to hold its Christmas party at 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon at the Moose hall on Torrance boulevard.

Community Xmas Program At Narbonne

Lomita's Community Christmas celebration this year will be held at Narbonne high school auditorium, Monday evening, December 23. The program will include music by the Lomita Harbor City Community Chorus singing carols, and a Christmas play, presented by the Lomita Community Presbyterian church, directed by Mrs. Gertrude Boyle.

Three Christmas trees have been set in balconies above the front entrance of the high school, illuminated with colored lights. The entertainment will be free to all and the public in general is invited to attend and take part in the festivities.

Car Thieves Are Busy On Friday

An epidemic of petty thievery in automobile tires and accessories struck Torrance last Friday night, several owners being victimized. Paul Kneisler, 701 Emerald, lost all the door handles from his car, parked near the Columbia Steel plant. One window was broken.

Frank Perkin, 2208 Gramercy, lost all tires from his car. Stewart Holland, 2119 Gramercy, reported the loss of an auto robe and two blankets, while his car was parked at the Columbia Steel plant. Ernest Bergman, 803 Sartori, reported the theft of his car, which was found stripped of five wheels and tires.

F. K. Watanabe, residing on Hickory street south of Carson, was the poorer for the loss of a walking plow.

Two Drivers Hurt In Auto Collision

With the width of a 100-foot boulevard to choose from, Gonzales Herrera, 116 1/2 Sunset Court, Redondo Beach, and Wallace Halverson, 129 So. Catalinas, Redondo Beach, selected the center of the road for driving purposes this morning. The result was a head-on collision, a mile west of Hawthorne boulevard on State Highway No. 101. Herrera was taken to the General hospital with a broken hip. Van Derbeken received a severe injury to his left leg. Both cars were wrecked.

Sewer Project Moves

Vista Highlands Improvement Is Approved By Los Angeles WPA Office

Approval by Los Angeles officials of the WPA, and the forwarding of papers on the proposed Vista Highlands sewer project to the state administration bureau has advanced the project to the second stage of development, according to word received this morning by Mayor Scott R. Ludlow.

The project will bring, if it is finally approved, a much needed improvement to the west end of this city. The district affected is bounded on the north by Torrance boulevard, south by Monterey street, east by Cedar avenue and west by Maple avenue. It includes approximately 35 acres of residential section. Cost of the project is estimated at \$74,268, of which the city of Torrance will be called upon to supply only \$1,735 to cover the cost of supervision.

Three Mothers Killed

Daughters and Son of Slain Women Escape Serious Injury In Accident

In one of the inscrutable tricks of fate, the lives of three mothers were snuffed out, in an early morning automobile accident yesterday, while the daughters and son of the three women escaped with minor injuries.

The accident occurred at 2:05 a. m. Wednesday, at the intersection of Vermont avenue and Willow street. A light sedan, driven by Miss Helen Tejan, 3511 West 15th street, struck a tank truck and trailer. The car was demolished.

Mrs. Helen Tejan, age 53, mother of the driver of the car; Mrs. Bessie Gibbs, 44, of 1331 Albany street, and Mrs. A. J. Connelly, of 3871 Walton street, all of Los Angeles, were instantly killed. Their mangled bodies were found at widely separated places along the highway.

Miss Tejan, Fred Gibbs, son of Mrs. Gibbs, and Miss Bea Francis, daughter of Mrs. Connelly, were caught in the wreckage of the car and escaped serious injury. Miss Tejan suffered a broken kneecap, and cuts in the scalp and left ear. Mr. Gibbs received a scalp wound and cuts about the face. Miss Francis received deep gashes in her left leg and lacerations of the scalp and forehead.

The party was returning from San Pedro, where Miss Tejan and Gibbs, professional dancers, had been filling an engagement at the Cabrillo cafe.

The three young people were brought to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for first aid and Miss Tejan was taken to the General hospital in Los Angeles. The other two were able to go to their homes.

The driver of the truck, William Van Etten, of Long Beach, who was driving from Torrance to that city with a load of crude oil from the local fields, is being held pending an investigation.

Lomita Residents Give Tentative Approval to Proposed Zone Plan

Lomita residents in the vicinity of Lomita boulevard and Narbonne avenue this week gave their tentative approval to a zoning proposal outlined at a meeting with zoning engineers of the county regional planning commission Wednesday.

Several changes are to be made in the zoning plan, at the request of approximately 25 residents who attended the hearing, and the final hearing on the matter is to be held January 8, it was announced.

William J. Fox, chief engineer of the commission, explained the zoning plan to the residents. Werner Rucht, zoning engineer who now is in charge of the zoning section, answered a number of questions asked by property owners, who are to be given protection by the zoning.

The steps to zone the area were taken in response to a petition from a number of residents, filed with the supervisors on August 6, by the Lomita Chamber of Commerce. Population of the area is under 5,000 persons, it was stated.

Regulations laid down by the Federal Housing Administration provide that in order to obtain federal housing loans the area in which the property is located must be zoned, it was explained. This is one of the reasons for starting the proceedings.

HOSPITAL BALL to be held again ON FEBRUARY 22

The second annual "Hospital Ball" for the benefit of the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital will be held on Washington's birthday, February 22, at the Surf and Sand club, Hermosa Beach, it is announced by the staff of physicians and surgeons at the hospital who will have charge of the party this year.

Preliminary plans are now being formulated to make this affair one of the most delightful social gatherings of residents throughout the entire Southbay-Industrial area.

Downtown Area Decorated With Christmas Trees

Merchants Raise Funds to Give Cheery Yule Atmosphere to Streets

Streets in the shopping district of Torrance were given a Christmas "dress" this week, when silvery yule trees were placed around the ornamental lighting standards. A number of the trees were decorated and lighted. A fund of approximately \$100 was contributed by local merchants, under the direction of F. L. Parks, chairman, to defray the expense of the street decorations.

Local merchants report increases in holiday sales over last December of from 20 to 45 percent. Apparently, Torrance retail merchants anticipated the increased demand for holiday goods, as their stores are still well stocked with a widely diversified and attractive display of gift goods, and late shoppers should have no difficulty in making Christmas purchases here. Extra salespeople have been engaged so that shoppers will be given prompt attention.

Santa Fe Denies Compromise With S. P. On Bus Line

Widespread press comment and applications of Santa Fe Transportation Company for permission to operate in point to point passenger traffic in California, now pending before California State Railroad Commission, has caused much confusion in the public mind, according to Robert Brennan, of Los Angeles, attorney for Coast Lines, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway; also attorney for Santa Fe Transportation Company.

In order to clear up any misunderstanding in the matter, the following statement has been released by Mr. Brennan:

"As the result of a conference among representatives of the Santa Fe Transportation Company, Pacific Greyhound Lines, Inc., Southern Pacific Company and the railroad commission on November 25, 1935, for the purpose of ascertaining the attitude of the commission respecting the propriety of taking official action by public bodies on the pending applications of Santa Fe Transportation Company for certificates to operate on certain highways local bus service to be coordinated with Santa Fe rail service, the following statement was authorized by the commission:

"The commission shall continue to welcome and consider any testimony from any of these civic, commercial or political bodies which shall reflect their studied and voluntary views. Therefore the commission will welcome and consider any competent testimony from any person that may appear and which testimony may reflect facts and conditions within the knowledge of the witness which bear weight on either side of the issues presented."

"This is a clear cut statement of the commission's attitude in connection with these bus applications," Brennan points out.

"Newspaper articles persist that at the conference a compromise was reached between the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific interests. The subject of compromise was not discussed at all, statement to the contrary notwithstanding.

"The filing of these applications with the commission has been productive of a lively public interest. The public perceive that there is in the offering a modern transportation service combining both rail and bus, with interchangeable ticket privileges. Every day the merits of the applications become more obvious," said Mr. Brennan.

STEEL ERECTION CREW BUSY ON PRESSURE TANK TOWER

First Section of Structure Is Up and Cross Braces Are Being Placed; Work Started Friday, 13th

Within three days after the city council approved the award of contract to the Hoagland Engineering Company of Long Beach, for the construction of Unit B of the city water system, the company moved machinery and materials onto the site west of Cedar avenue. Work on the steel tower was started Friday, December 13, and by Monday the crew of steel erectors had made considerable progress with the job.

Woman Dies In Car, Train Collision

Mrs. Margaret Consol, 426 Carson street, who was injured at 8:05 p. m. Friday in an automobile accident at Watson station, corner of Truck boulevard and Willow, passed away the following day at Seaside hospital. Mrs. Consol suffered internal injuries when she was crushed by the impact of a collision between a Pacific Electric train and the Pontiac coupe in which she was riding.

Her husband, David J. Consol, received a slight concussion and other minor injuries.

At an inquest held at Stone & Myers mortuary Tuesday afternoon, Consol testified that he and his wife were en route from their home to visit relatives in Long Beach. When they approached the intersection where the fatal collision occurred, Consol who was driving stopped his car, on seeing the wigwag signal the approach of a train.

He stated that he waited for some seconds, and another car which had stopped beside him, started and crossed the tracks. Believing that he also had time to cross, he started and reached the tracks just as a train bore down on the crossing. He was struck on the head and thrown from the car. His wife was caught in the door as the car overturned.

Both were taken to the Seaside hospital at Long Beach for treatment, where Mrs. Consol passed away the following day. She was about 51 years of age. The couple have been residents of Keystone for a number of years.

Funeral services will be conducted Friday at 2 p. m. from Stone & Myers in Torrance. At the close of the inquest the coroner's jury returned a verdict of unavoidable accident.

New Coins and Bills At Torrance Bank

Nice, crisp bills, or new shiny silver pieces make excellent Christmas gifts, say the tellers at the Torrance National Bank. The bank has on hand a quantity of bright new money, both in bills and silver, of recent coinage. Any one of the pieces would look well on the Christmas tree. Call at the bank any time before Christmas to exchange your old coins or bills for new ones if you wish to make this type of a gift.

Herald To Publish Monday Morning On Christmas Week

Next week's edition of the Torrance Herald & Lomita News will be distributed at 6 a. m. Monday, December 23, instead of Thursday afternoon. By this arrangement, members of the Herald staff will not only have a few days' leisure to enjoy the Christmas holidays with their families and friends, but the publishers will be able to better serve the advertisers, many of whom are planning special pre-Christmas offerings which will be advertised in the Monday morning issue.

Advertising copy for the Monday morning issue should be supplied not later than 5 p. m. Saturday. The complete newspaper and shopping news distributions will be given throughout the entire trading area on Monday morning.

Carrier boys are requested to report at the Herald office at 6 a. m. Monday. There will be no issue on Thursday.

WILMINGTON man on trial FOR MURDER

Felix Franco, 74-year-old Wilmington resident, was scheduled to go on trial this week in Los Angeles superior court on charges of murder, growing out of the butcher-knife assault on Jose Rodriguez, 42, of Lomita.

The attack on Rodriguez was perpetrated last November 3, and the victim died a few hours afterward at the General hospital.

Rodriguez lived at 3029 239th street, Lomita, and the assault took place at Blinn and O street, after Franco had accused Rodriguez of enticing his son, Mercedes Franco, 42, away from home.

Franco lives at 1410 East O street, Wilmington, according to police. He was held for trial following a preliminary hearing in Los Angeles municipal court, last November 13, and his trial was scheduled to open in the superior court some time Thursday of this week.

Birthday Party Planned For March

When the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce meet for their March session, the Lomita Chamber of Commerce will be host to the gathering. Twenty years ago next March, the Harbor District group was launched at a meeting held in Lomita. The meeting to be held in March 1936 will mark the 20th year of its existence, and the Lomita Chamber is planning a birthday party, which no doubt will draw a record attendance.

The few men who are left of the original group who founded the organization will be guests of honor.