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CITIZENS AIR OPINIONS AT C. O. C. SESSION

Housing Shortage and Other Civic Matters Discussed By Chamber Members

An interesting and lively discussion of civic problems was held Tuesday evening at the quarterly membership meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, presided over by Sherwood McIntyre, president.

The acute housing shortage was the subject of the most spirited discussion, during which talks were made by Grover C. Whyte, DeKalb Spurlin, Donald Findley, B. W. Lenz and J. C. Smith. The need for the erection of 300 to 400 houses was stressed, and President McIntyre promised the aid of the chamber in solving this urgent problem. The advantages of home building under the Federal Housing Act were explained, and it was suggested that the chamber endeavor to interest Los Angeles contractors to build large groups of houses, as well.

Alden Smith urged the formation of a merchants' credit bureau. He stated that the lack of facilities for determining the credit standing of local residents was working a hardship on many worthy people who are justly entitled to credit. J. W. Leach suggested that each of the information desired could be secured from local banks.

Mayor Scott Ludlow gave an interesting report on the developments of the municipal water department and the city's plans for future expansion. He also discussed other civic matters, including the municipal park, the flood conditions at the Hydril plant, and expressed his appreciation of the co-operation which had been given city officials by the Chamber of Commerce.

The need for united community support of the hospital benefit ball to be given February 22 was pointed out by B. W. Lenz and Grover C. Whyte. The advisability of securing sewer facilities for the residences let near the Hughes-Mitchell plant was discussed by W. Rufus Page, and a number of other important civic matters were referred to by other members.

Union Oil Co. Co-operates In Fighting Flood

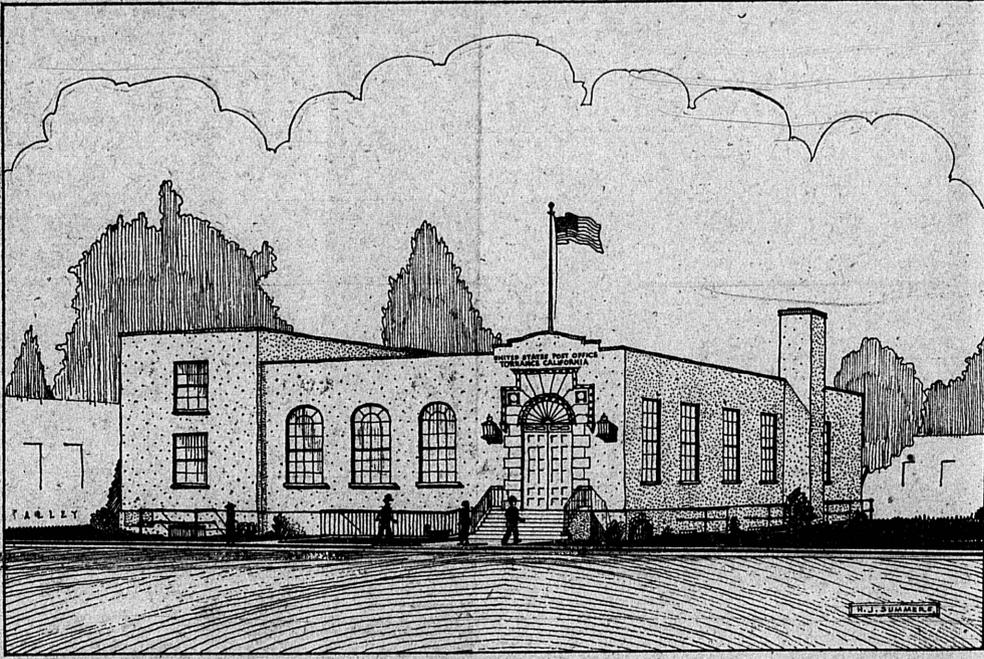
To Construct Dike to Divert Surplus Water From Hydril

Additional steps to abate the flood water nuisance at the Hydril property on Lomita boulevard will be taken soon, following the recent visit of Mr. Kange, executive of the Union Oil Company, which also has large holdings south of the boulevard. Hydril already has a dike on its property, which by consent of the Union Oil Company will join on to a similar dike to be built by that company, which will divert flood water into a natural drainage channel in South Lomita.

The city of Torrance is also attempting to aid the Hydril company, whose property is flooded after each heavy rain, by drilling two dry wells, into which it is expected that a portion of the surplus will be carried down into the subsoil. This week the city installed a pumping outfit to lift the water from the Hydril property to the proposed Union Oil dike. It is expected that the dike will be inadequate to check the flow of water, a centrifugal pumping outfit will be installed by the oil company. Mr. Kange stated.

The result of these activities will be, it is hoped, not only to keep the Hydril company free from flooding, but to keep the highway along Lomita boulevard free from water. At present this boulevard is covered with a lake many inches deep for the best part of a mile after heavy rains, an obstruction to traffic.

TO BEGIN ERECTION POSTOFFICE IMMEDIATELY



Unless unfavorable weather develops, work will be started within a few days on the new postoffice building in Torrance, it was learned yesterday from Harold Hansen, Los Angeles contractor, who was awarded the general contract for the structure January 7 by Washington officials. Mr. Hansen was in Torrance checking over the site on Marcelina avenue preliminary to beginning excavation work.

It was also announced yesterday that the electrical wiring work would be performed by the Torrance Electric Shop, whose bid of \$2169.40 has been accepted by the general contractor, in keeping with the policy of the federal government of providing as much local employment as possible on federal projects.

Hyde Gets Post As Secretary to Municipal Com.

New Organization Will Circulate Petitions For An Amendment to Charter

Carl L. Hyde, well known Torrance resident, is the secretary of the newly formed Municipal Affairs Committee, which has set up offices in Los Angeles and started the circulation of initiative petitions to have a charter amendment placed on the Los Angeles city ballot on April 2 that would increase the city's revenues.

The amendment would compel public utility gas companies to pay for their use of the streets in Los Angeles. If the proposal carried, it is likely that the other 43 municipalities in the county will seize upon it as a means of producing additional revenue.

"The proposed amendment is merely an enabling act empowering the city council to issue franchises to such companies, providing the city is given the right to purchase the companies' property at any time and providing franchise taxes set up in the amendment are paid annually," L. S. McGahan, chairman of the organization states.

The committee plans to conduct intensive and extensive research into city governmental activities, particularly concerning itself with revenues and expenditures and making detailed analyses of departmental functions, McGahan explains.

FINAL PAPERS WATER DEAL DELIVERED

City Accepts Deed and Water Company Accepts Check For \$137,000

Formal transfer of title to the water distributing system in Torrance was made Tuesday afternoon in Los Angeles, when E. C. Nelson, president of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company, accepted a check from the City of Torrance for \$137,000 and city officials in turn accepted a deed for the water company's holdings, as the escrow was closed. Those present when the transfer was made included: City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, City Treasurer Harry H. Dolley, and Herbert Summers, assistant city engineer, representing the City of Torrance, and E. C. Nelson, president of the water company.

On February 1, the office of the water department will be moved from the present quarters on Post street to the building owned by Sam Levy, directly opposite the city hall on Cravens avenue. It is planned to retain the present personnel of the water company with the exception of E. C. Nelson, manager, whose duties will be taken over by City Engineer F. R. Leonard.

No change in the present schedule of water rates is anticipated by city officials for the next 60 days, in order to permit a careful check of revenues, and expenses under municipal ownership. However, it was predicted by a number of city officials this week that a reduction in domestic rates of 25 per cent would be put into effect before the heavier consumption of water next spring begins.

Robinson Freed of Manslaughter Charge By Court

Found Guilty of Hit and Run Driving, Will Ask Probation

Sam Robinson, Torrance resident, originally charged with manslaughter and hit and run driving as the result of a fatal accident in South Los Angeles last November 9, was found not guilty of manslaughter but guilty of hit and run driving at the conclusion of a trial in Los Angeles county superior court last week.

Robinson applied for probation and hearing has been set for January 24, at which time sentence is to be imposed upon him if the court decides he is not a fit subject for probation. The court permitted Robinson to remain at liberty on the \$2000 bail which he posted following his arrest. He was bound over to the superior court last November 30 at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing in Los Angeles municipal court.

His trial had been set for Monday of this week, but was unexpectedly advanced to January 9, and tried without a jury in department 42.

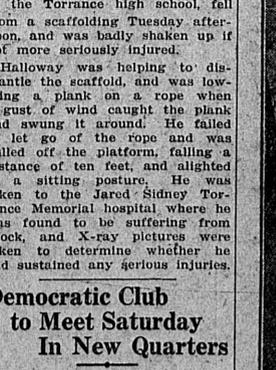
Wind Causes Man to Fall Ten Feet From Scaffolding

Fred Halloway, 11167 South San Pedro, Los Angeles, who is employed by the R. E. Campbell Company, on construction work at the Torrance high school, fell from a scaffolding Tuesday afternoon, and was badly shaken up if not more seriously injured.

Halloway was helping to dismantle the scaffold, and was lowering a plank on a rope when a gust of wind caught the plank and swung it around. He failed to let go of the rope and was pulled off the platform, falling a distance of ten feet, and alighted in a sitting posture. He was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital where he was found to be suffering from shock, and X-ray pictures were taken to determine whether he had sustained any serious injuries.

U. S. C. Plans Open House For High School Seniors

Seniors of Southern California high schools and junior colleges and the general public are to be guests of the University of Southern California at an "open-house" program to be held on the Trojan campus, Saturday, January 26, it was announced by President R. B. von Kleinsmid.



A "poker face" means little to this apparatus used in the psychology laboratories of the University of Southern California. Dr. Milton Metfessel, head of the department, is shown testing Virginia Smith, U. S. C. coed, on the machine which is similar to the famous "lie-detector" which measures emotional reactions to a slight electrical stimulus. This is one of the many scientific instruments to be demonstrated on January 26 at the 23 schools and colleges of U. S. C. held open-house for high school and junior college seniors and the public on High School Day.

Democratic Club to Meet Saturday In New Quarters

Democratic Club of Torrance announces the removal of its club-rooms from 1331 El Prado to Social Hall, Portola and Torrance boulevards, where meetings will be held on the first and third Saturday of each month at 7:30 p. m. The first meeting in the new headquarters will be held this Saturday, January 19, and the general public is invited to attend.

The Epic faction of the original organization has split with the Democratic club, it is reported, and will hold separate meetings at Social Hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Delegation Goes to Invite Chiefs' Convention Here

Armed with all the necessary information, credentials and so on, to make a favorable impression, Councilmen J. E. Hitchcock, W. H. Stanger, Fire Chief A. D. Stevenson and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, will leave tonight for Banning, where they will present the city's invitation to the Association of Fire Chiefs of California, Arizona and Nevada to hold its next convention in Torrance. This invitation was authorized recently at a meeting of the council, and will be presented with all the fervor at command of the Torrance representatives, in order to secure the city's first convention. The meeting will be held in June and will attract about 250 delegates besides many other visitors.

Clyde Bodley Hurt In Supply Co. Shop

Clyde Bodley, 2229 Cabrillo avenue, was painfully injured Friday while at work in the maintenance department at the National Supply Company, and is now at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital, where he is getting along well, according to latest reports.

Bodley's leg was caught between a small loaded car and a box of scrap iron. The step of the car tore the flesh below the knee and his knee joint was wrenched and bruised. His condition is not serious, although the wounds are very painful and Bodley will be confined to the hospital for several days.

Subsistence Instruction May Be Had At Torrance High School

Torrance and the immediate environs will profit by a program sponsored by the Torrance high school and paid for by the federal government under the Emergency Educational Project. Two very competent instructors are being selected to carry valuable information and assistance to many residents of this neighborhood who are living on small tracts from which they derive part of their subsistence. This means that farm products, such as poultry, rabbits, general small animal farming, as well as gardening, fruit raising, berry growing and other items of subsistence will be carefully studied by experts, if the home owner so desires.

Another type of assistance is the construction work necessary to housing and caring for these small farm animals and fruits and vegetables. This includes such matters as chicken coop building, chicken house construction, brooder construction, repairs of all types and the proper use of concrete, framing problems and many other construction problems of a minor nature.

The instruction will be brought to the residence and efficiency and economy will be the keynote in all work promoted. This is an adult education program and correlates with other government activities which are aimed to make property owners more readily self-sustaining. These instructors will correlate the work with the other federal government activities so that they may be able to answer questions relating to home loans and better housing programs.

Any resident of Torrance or its environs who is interested in having the assistance of these people should immediately get in contact with the office of the high school and ask for this help. A post card or telephone call making this request will bring a representative to the specified address. It should be noted that the objective of this program is to offer help to the individuals of our neighborhood as well as to help the neighborhood as a whole. There is no charge for this very valuable service and this service is available for those who care to ask for it.

New Building At Hughes-Mitchell

Permit for another one-story steel and corrugated iron building to be erected for the Hughes-Mitchell Process Company's plant on South Normandie avenue near Torrance was issued this week by the Los Angeles city building department.

Cost of the new building, one of more than a score of separate units, is given as \$4500. It will be 30 by 80 feet, with cement floor, steel roof trusses, corrugated steel roof, steel sash and metal sliding doors.

Kingsley Accepts Positions As Public Relations Director

W. Harold Kingsley, former co-publisher of the Torrance Herald, this week accepted a position as director of public relations for the California Teachers' Association, Southern California division. Mr. Kingsley has established offices in the Continental building, Los Angeles.

Hospital Contract With County Renewed

Use of the Torrance hospital for the treatment and confinement of patients under the jurisdiction of the county general hospital was authorized this week by the board of supervisors, at the request of Norman R. Martin, superintendent of the hospital. This is a renewal of the contract this hospital has had with the county for such service during the past two years.

Carpenters Meet Tonight At Redondo

C. O. Johnson, business representative of the Los Angeles District Council of Carpenters, has called a mass meeting of carpenters in this section, to meet tonight at 8 o'clock at 211 South Catalina avenue, Redondo Beach. All members of the craft are invited to attend.

Subway Sketch Is Laid Before County Board

Preliminary sketches showing the location at which a proposed pedestrian subway would be constructed under Wilmington at Redondo boulevard at Eshelman avenue were laid before County Road Commissioner George Jones this week by the drafting division. It was learned in a check-up.

Engineers recommended that it be constructed along the east line of Eshelman avenue, and it would serve the Orange street school.

A co-operative arrangement will be sought between the county and the Los Angeles city school district, which serves the Lomita area. It is the usual procedure for the county to furnish the plans and the school district to provide the funds.

Approval of the state highway commission will be necessary, it was pointed out, since Wilmington-Redondo is a state highway. This, judging by past experience, requires weeks, since the plans must be turned over to the Los Angeles office, and then are forwarded to Sacramento offices for the official "okay." One set of plans has been in the hands of the state for six months, it was stated.

Postmasters of Torrance-Lomita Attend Convention

Postmasters Earl Conner of Torrance and Birta Padlock of Lomita were among those in attendance at the postmasters' convention at the Hotel Rosslyn, Los Angeles, last Friday. It was the first meeting at which Mrs. Maude Dawson Shea, postmaster at Redondo Beach, presided as president. Marvin S. Wicks, postmaster at Hermosa Beach, acted as secretary-treasurer.

Harold E. Bromcroy, mayor of South Gate, addressed the gathering and explained the alphabetical organizations of the New Deal and the part they were playing in national recovery.

California is signally honored this year by the selection of Postmaster Henry B. Briggs of Los Angeles as editor of the Gazette, national publication of postal employees. This is the first time the state has been published on the Pacific coast.

Business Conditions In Edison Territory Show Big Improvement

Business conditions in the territory served by the Southern California Edison Company during 1934 showed a decided improvement over the previous year and company officials feel that present prospects indicate continuous additional improvement during 1935, according to C. C. Bartlett, district manager for the company, who recently attended the annual meeting of Edison officers, division and district managers and department heads in Los Angeles. The company's plans for the new year, announced at the annual meeting, provide for the continuation here, as throughout all other parts of the Edison system, of the aggressive business-building program that was carried on in 1934.

"The extent of use of electric energy is generally accepted as a reliable index of business activity—the finger on the pulse of commercial, industrial and agricultural development," Mr. Bartlett said, "and records of the Edison company for the past year indicate encouraging improvement in virtually all lines of business when viewed in comparison with previous years.

"The new year finds the Southern California Edison Company amply prepared to serve this territory more capably and economically than ever before. Our company, as a part of its new planning, is preparing now for

Boulder Dam Power. Our Development Has Always Been Along Well Organized, Orderly Lines, and the Sources of Electrical Energy for our Consumers, the Lines to Carry It Wherever Needed, and the Organization to assure unfailing delivery at lowest cost are all geared to meet the demands of this faster-moving era.

"The 1935 program for our company in this territory virtually will be a continuation of the energetic program of business development that was carried on throughout 1934 with encouraging results. During the past year thousands of labor-saving and comfort-giving electrical appliances were placed in the homes of Edison consumers as a direct result of this continuing sales program. The definite upward trend of electrical appliance sales curves, indicating the growing public appreciation of the economy and convenience of the electric service in the home, points to the wide-spread benefits which may come from the continuation of our present line of effort."

BROTHER SURPRISES HENRY GRUBB WITH VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grubb, 1605 Asacia, were pleasantly surprised Tuesday evening when Mr. Grubb's brother, Ed, and Mrs. Grubb, of Minneapolis, dropped in unexpectedly for a visit.

CONTINUANCE GRANTED

Continuance until January 22 was granted in the case against James J. O'Toole and Robert Williams, which had been set for trial in the Torrance branch of the Inglewood justice court last Tuesday.

TURN TO STORY ONE
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