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ADVANTAGES OF CIVIC CENTER STRESSED BY NOTED PLANNER

Leonard S. Smith, Consulting Engineer in City Planning Projects, Gives Opinion On Selected Library Site

Advantages of the formation of a civic center, to a city of any size, particularly to one in the early stages of growth, are pointed out by Leonard S. Smith, prominent city planner, residing in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance. Mr. Smith has devoted his time and superior talents for a number of years to the solving of problems in city planning, and has to his credit effective work in many places, notably such an easily accessible community as National City, a suburb of San Diego.

His views on the subject are particularly timely, since Torrance now has under consideration the erection of a public library building. The committee in charge of details has recommended the use of the city-owned lot at the corner of Cravens and El Prado. He fully coincides with their judgment in selecting this site.

Mr. Smith in a letter to the Herald says: Hollywood Riviera, April 10, 1935. Mr. Grover C. Whyte, Editor Torrance Herald.

I present the following in response to your request for my opinion of the best location of the proposed Torrance public library. I believe the best location for the library would be on the public plaza near the present city hall. Some of the reasons why I favor this location are the following:

The grouping of public buildings instead of scattering them among the wards makes for economy and efficiency in the conduct of the people's business. In fact, the municipal corporation is often the only large corporation in the city that does not so correlate its various buildings in a way to systematize its business operations. This failure is often the result of poor politics.

Many California cities, large and small, have thus created civic centers and many more are planning future centers; as examples of these nearby cities may be mentioned: Oceanside, Orange, Pomona, National City and Riverside. Fortunately for Torrance the city already possesses a lovely and suitable plaza—thanks to the eminent city planning engineer who gave you your city plan. The plaza does not need to be purchased, it only needs to be used by placing the library near the city hall and fire department. Some day in the future the city will need a larger city hall, perhaps including an auditorium. In such a case the new building should also be on the plaza.

The grouping together on a plaza such public buildings allows of a unified architecture and insures a proper and convenient setting for public buildings. Such a civic center properly designed expresses the ideals of the community, challenges the sense and just pride of its citizens and impresses the visitors with the dignity and artistic placement of its citizens.

Respectfully yours,
LEONARD S. SMITH,
Member American Society
Civil Engineers.

Scout Hall May Be Removed To Park

Request of the district commissioner of Boy Scouts, that the Scout hall be removed from its present site in the grove west of the county health center to the municipal park, brought on a discussion of ways and means to accomplish the move, and the matter was finally turned over to a committee with power to act. The committee includes Park Commissioner William H. Tolson, City Engineer Frank Leonard, and Street Superintendent William Cascoyne, appointed by Mayor Scott R. Ludlow at council meeting Tuesday night.

The removal of the hall is desired immediately so that the Scouts may have the use of it as an office during the big jam-boree on May 10-11 which will be held in the park. It is proposed to locate it on the east side of the park, fronting on Cabrillo avenue. Objections to its remaining on its present site were voiced by the health center people on the grounds that it constitutes a fire hazard.

The job of moving the building will present no small problem, since the house is surrounded by trees, and the only feasible way of moving it will be to take it out across land now deemed to be county. Permission to do this will have to be obtained. Discussion of the matter brought up the question whether the council desired to move the old building, which has been in use for a number of years, never was more than an unpainted shack and is now in considerable disrepair. Its location on park grounds, it was stated, would probably not be in keeping with the surroundings, and some suggestions were made to abandon the old building and put up a new structure which would be more presentable. A tent for the use of the Scouts during their big meeting can be placed which would afterwards be removed and a new building erected.

No action will be taken until the committee appointed to see about moving the old building reports its findings.

ACQUITTED
John Dawson, arrested February 15 on a burglary charge, who was held to answer February 25 to the superior court, was acquitted when the case came to trial Monday morning. Dawson was released.

NEW LIBRARY BUILDING



Pictured above is a drawing of the proposed new library building in Torrance, as submitted by Walker & Eisen, prominent Los Angeles firm of architects, whose plan was recommended by the citizens' library committee and subsequently adopted by the Torrance city council Tuesday evening. The city council also authorized the architects to proceed immediately in drawing up detail plans and specifications preparatory to applying to the S. E. R. A. for funds. Officials of the S. E. R. A. have already verbally agreed to furnish all the labor and pay for 40 percent of the cost of materials. It is expected that

the money for such work will be paid out of the four billion dollar unemployment relief appropriation which was recently authorized by Congress and signed by President Roosevelt this week. Total cost of the library building will be approximately \$21,000, and the city's portion is estimated by the architects to be slightly less than \$9,000.

While the citizens' library committee recommended that the building be erected facing El Prado at the corner of Cravens avenue adjacent to the city hall, no action concerning the site was taken by the city council. The site recommended by the committee is owned by the city.

Details Of Library Bldg. Outlined

The new Torrance library building will be of steel frame construction with gunite walls, "considered by experts to be the best type of construction to resist earthquakes. The main portion of the building will have a frontage of 77 feet, three inches, and a depth of 82 feet, eight inches. Storage facilities for 25,114 books are provided. The interior floor plan was adopted after an exhaustive survey of many modern library buildings in Southern California. Briefly, it consists of a vestibule, opening into a concourse (18 ft. by 28 ft.) in which can be found a centrally located charging desk; two reading rooms (each 29 ft. by 23 ft.) and each accommodating four tables and chairs; two reference rooms (each eight ft. six in. by 12 ft.) located at the sides of the entrance; a children's room (16 ft. by 22 ft.) with four tables; a stack room (22 ft. by 38 ft.) equipped with steel shelves; librarian's office (eight ft. six in. by 10 ft. six in.) adjoining the stack room; a work room (16 ft. by 16 ft. four in.); and toilet rooms. A drinking fountain is provided in the concourse. An outside stairway leads to the basement which includes only a corner of the main building and is to be used for a boiler room and storage of magazine files and data which are not called for frequently. Steam heat furnished by a low pressure boiler is recommended by the architects.

Floors of the building will be of concrete covered with heavy linoleum recommended because it eliminates unnecessary noise. Venetian blinds are provided for the windows. Attractive landscaping is planned for the lawn surrounding the building.

Award Pipeline Contract Today

Award of the contract for furnishing approximately 12 miles of 81-inch water pipe to the city of Los Angeles for construction of its new half-million-dollar West-avenue pipeline that will bring aqueduct water from Mono basin to the harbor district, was expected to be made this afternoon. The water and power commission at its meeting Tuesday afternoon did not get around to make the award, and it was continued until Thursday's calendar.

Award of the contract will clear the way for an immediate start of the work, according to engineers.

Know Your Own Library

An Often Neglected Agency For Civic Progress

Contributed by
Miss Eleanor Stephens
Assistant County Librarian

EDITOR'S NOTE: In line with the Herald's established policy of presenting all sides of public problems, the editor requested Miss Helen E. Vogleson, county librarian, last week to express her views concerning the advantages of retaining the county library services after the new Torrance library building is completed. In response to this request, the following interesting article by Miss Eleanor Stephens, assistant county librarian, is submitted. While we do not concur with some of the opinions expressed by Miss Stephens, in justice to her, we are publishing the article exactly as written.

Standards for judging library service may vary, but the most reliable guide is the measuring stick set up by the American Library Association. Applying the questions put by this Association to the conditions and service at Torrance, one would discover that the library situation might be analyzed in the following terms:

Government: The Torrance library is a branch of the Los Angeles county public library, which operates under the California county library law. This library system is recognized as outstanding not only in California, but in the United States as may be evidenced from the fact that Miss Vogleson, the county librarian, is at present the chairman of the county libraries section of the National Library Association. Visitors from abroad have been advised to inspect the Los Angeles county library organization because it is acknowledged that it has a most progressive administration, giving the best possible service on the limited funds available. Last year it ranked twentieth in use of books among the 44 largest public libraries in the United States.

Income and Expenditures: The present income is based on a rate of six cents on the hundred dollars (\$100.00). This rate is lower than is generally considered essential for adequate administration and it is far lower than the amount necessary for any single municipal library which hopes to operate effectively as an independent unit. Although funds are pooled collectively, the sum of \$4,189.62 which was applied locally in the year 1933-34 on salaries, rent, light, water, heat, equipment and books represents only a part of the total expenditures for Torrance. Last year, in addition to purchasing 16,686 books for the

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National School Week

Program sponsored by the Fraternal and Civic Societies of Torrance
Friday Evening, April 12, at 8 O'clock
High School Gymnasium
Torrance Elementary School Orchestra
Combined Torrance Elementary School and Fern Avenue School Program
"Old Faithful" and "La Cucaracha"—High School "Hillbilly Band."
Address—Dr. David K. Bjork, Associate Professor of History, University of California at Los Angeles.
"How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee?" and "Violin In the Street"—High School "Madrigals."

Berries Block Progress On Street

The luscious strawberry, now coming into its full flavor and excellence in this vicinity, proved to be a stumbling block in the way of securing deeds for right of way for the improvement of Eshelman avenue through the Kettler ranch. City Engineer Frank R. Leonard reported to the city council Tuesday night.

Mr. Leonard stated that he had contacted the attorney for the Kettler estate, who stated that while it is probable that the Kettler heirs would have no objection to donating the strip of land 80 feet wide and about 1,000 feet long for street purposes, at the present time the land in question is occupied by a strawberry patch. The Japanese gardener, who is marketing his product from that strip, would have to be paid for the loss of the plants, and the current market price is now five cents each. Quite a number of strawberry plants can be planted in 80,000 square feet of ground, so that the expense of securing the deed at this time would run into a fairly large sum.

In addition to this objection, the attorney further stipulated that the deed would not be forthcoming until it was shown that it was actually about to begin construction of the grading and paving.

This situation at present constitutes somewhat of a deadlock for the extension of Cabrillo avenue, since the city is not ready to buy strawberry plants, and until this feature of the proceedings can be cleared up the city can make no move to proceed with the project under the S.E.R.A. In order to secure the money, labor and other advantages offered by the S.E.R.A. the city must have the right of way. Until it has the money, etc., the Kettler heirs will make no move to deed the land.

Hawthorne Man Dies In Automobile

Mrs. Laura Danel, 126 North Menlo, and Ivan C. McLenna, 706 East New Jersey street, both of Hawthorne, were profoundly shocked when their companion, Fred Spain, 643 Menlo, gasped and slumped down in the seat of the car in which they were riding last Thursday. The unconscious man was taken to the Hawthorne hospital where attendants pronounced him dead. He had been ill with flu for several days but had apparently recovered.

Dr. G. P. Shidler Chosen President Of Rotary Club

Charles Jones Named Vice President, and Dave Roberts, Secretary

Dr. George P. Shidler was chosen president of the Torrance Rotary Club for the coming year. This is Dr. Shidler's second term as president of the local club, and his consent to serve in this capacity again was given with great reluctance upon the urgent appeal of all other directors, who felt that Dr. Shidler's experience and leadership were necessary to bring new life into the club. His selection was announced today by Arthur G. Waldelich and was received with much enthusiasm by the club members.

Churches Will Observe Holy Week

Beginning next Monday night, April 15, the churches of Torrance will observe Holy Week with a series of special religious services. The services will be evangelistic in nature. A large chorus choir will be used each evening to lead the congregational singing. Gospel solos, quartets, duets and chorus groups for the evangelistic messages and the invitation of the Christ will be extended in all the services.

The special meetings will be held in the First M. E. church, Torrance, and the following pastors will speak: Monday, Rev. Kemp J. Winkler; Tuesday, Rev. F. A. Zeller, of Burbank, will supply for covering from an illness; Wednesday, Rev. George G. Elder; Thursday, Rev. John B. Speed; and Friday, Rev. Theodore Kemp, of Los Angeles.

With the return of the Easter season the Divine is again at our door and the Easter program of evangelism is getting into full swing, according to Rev. Elder. The ministerial association of Torrance, Rev. Winkler, president, extends a cordial invitation to all people of all faiths to attend the meetings of Holy Week.

Evening High Invites Visitors

The Torrance evening school invites the public to visit the school and see the classes at work to-night, April 11, from 7 to 9 o'clock. Classes which will be in session are commercial, typists, bookkeeping and shorthand; wood and machine shops; clothing; beauty culture; English; commercial law; arts and crafts; and women's gymnasium.

Free Cooking School

Planned for April 30, May 1 and 2, at Torrance Theatre

Ladies! Here IS NEWS! Keep these dates open—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 30, May 1 and 2. On these three days between 1 p. m. and 3 p. m. at the Torrance Theatre, the housewives of Torrance, Lomita and other near-by communities will be given an opportunity of hearing one of America's foremost home economic experts—Nina G. Abbey, of the Union Ice Company—conduct a most interesting and instructive cooking school which is free to the public.

Nina G. Abbey brings to the women of this district a wealth of experience and technical training. Many new and unusual dishes will be prepared—countless suggestions for the health and happiness of your home will be offered by this well-known authority—on less refrigeration and home economics. Not only does Mrs. Abbey lecture on the newest and most attractive methods of preparing foods for the home, but she also offers suggestions for entertaining, for balanced diets and for cutting home budgets. Mrs. Abbey does not believe in long sessions for a cooking school, and for this reason the lectures and demonstrations will begin at 1 p. m. each day and conclude promptly at 3 p. m. The course is carefully planned so that every minute of the two-hour daily sessions will be interesting and full of action. Many samples will be distributed during the three-day school and those attending will be privileged to participate in the awarding of an attractive list of grand prizes the closing day. Watch next week's issue for more information on this exciting event. But keep these dates in mind—April 30, May 1 and 2—and don't let anything keep you from attending. The three-day cooking school is jointly sponsored by the Torrance (Continued on Page 2-A)

RESIDENT FOR 21 YEARS IS FOUND DEAD

Mrs. Anna Urban, Well Known Business Woman, Passes Away Monday

When Henry Urban, proprietor of the vegetable stand at the Cra-Post Market, returned home shortly after 8 o'clock Monday afternoon, he found his wife, Mrs. Anna Urban, age 71, lying dead on the couch. Mrs. Urban had passed away in sleep about four hours earlier.

Mrs. Urban, who assisted her husband in his work at the market, had gone to her home, 2108 Andrea avenue, about 2 o'clock to do some washing. When she entered the house, it appeared that she lay down on the couch to rest for a few minutes before beginning the task. A neighbor, who had made an engagement to take Mrs. Urban out during the afternoon, called about 3 o'clock and was unable to gain admittance. She drove to the market to inquire as to Mrs. Urban's whereabouts, and was told that she had gone home, and that probably she was busy at the back of the house. She returned a second time and was still unable to rouse anyone, so went away, thinking that Mrs. Urban had gone out.

When Mrs. Urban went home at 6 o'clock he found the screen doors fastened on the inside, and was forced to enter by a window. He found his wife lifeless, lying in a natural posture with hands folded across her breast as if in sleep. It is believed that death, attributed to a heart attack, occurred within a few minutes after she had returned home.

Mrs. Urban was born in Jugoslavia, April 6, 1864. On Monday while at the store, she had been cheerful and gay, recounting to those about her the wonderful time she had had on Sunday as the guest of friends who had entertained her in honor of her birthday. She was apparently in the best of health.

Mrs. Urban was one of the oldest members of this community in residence, as she had lived here for 21 years. She had been in the United States 28 years, 22 of which were spent in California.

Rosary was said for the departed at 7 o'clock last evening, and funeral services were held from the Church of the Nativity this morning at 9 o'clock. Interment was made at Calvary cemetery in Los Angeles.

Mass Meeting At Lawndale

A mass meeting of the members of all the Townsend clubs of the south bay district will be held at the Leuzinger high school auditorium in Lawndale on Thursday evening, April 18, at 8 o'clock, and all members of Torrance Club No. 1 are requested to attend. A good program is assured for their entertainment.