

Torrance Herald

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 36.

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1935

PER COPY 5c

TOTAL TAX RATES FOR CITY ARE SET AT \$3.73 TO \$3.78

Increase of 12 Cents Due Entirely To Metropolitan Water District and L. A. School District Increased Rates

Total tax levy for taxpayers in Torrance this year will vary from \$3.73 to \$3.78 per \$100 of assessed valuation, according to the sum total of the various levies formally fixed this week by the board of supervisors.

This is an increase over the total rates ranging from \$3.60 to \$3.66 last year, as shown by comparison of figures obtained from the office of County Auditor H. A. Payne and is due to the higher rate this year for the Metropolitan Water District. The lower levy is for taxation District No. 2 comprising the annexed territory, and the higher levy for District No. 1, comprising the "old town."

Around the Council Table

Normal notification from the PERA that the city of Torrance is authorized to go ahead with all its projects for completion of the water system, was received and read at the meeting of the council Tuesday afternoon. The communication was placed on file.

A resolution authorizing the acceptance of a map covering property in the McDonald tract was adopted. The property was at one time laid out in lots as a subdivision, Tract No. 10896, but because there was no sale for the lots the owners are turning it back into acreage.

A resolution to accept deeds for property along Hawthorne boulevard, required for the proposed widening of this highway was adopted.

By action of the council the city of Redondo Beach was granted jurisdiction to sponsor the development of Elena avenue in that city and Catalina avenue in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance as a WPA project. The neighboring community wishes to connect the two streets to make a continuous highway along the coast to the Palms Verdes Estates and joining the scenic highway through that section along the coast to San Pedro. The project of improving Catalina avenue was undertaken by Torrance about three years ago but met with no response from the state officials, because of an erroneous impression that it was merely a real estate development proposition. By granting jurisdiction to Redondo Beach, it is believed that that city will have a good chance to secure federal funds under the WPA act.

Catalina avenue was widened and graded as an SFR project but no further improvement has been made.

Assistant City Engineer Herbert Summers was authorized by the council to act in the absence of City Engineer Frank R. Leonard who is away on a month's vacation.

Community Celebration Is Postponed

Plans for Pageant of Progress Have Been Abandoned

The Pageant of Progress, plans for which have been under way for several weeks, which was set for next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 6-7-8, has been indefinitely postponed. At a consultation between Joe Breen, Hollywood promoter engaged to furnish entertainment, and the general committee heads, held last week, the decision was reached to call the affair off for the present at least.

Lack of spontaneous public interest, financial troubles, and the fact that community celebrations are so numerous in this section that competition for attendance is a problem, are the principal reasons for abandoning further attempts to stage the affair.

Night School Opens Next Wednesday

Principal Guy L. Mowry announces the opening of the evening high school for the fall semester next Wednesday evening, September 11. Subjects offered will be the same as last year, and the public is invited to enroll at once.

Driver Of Racing Car Killed

Keith Irland, 514 Garnet street, Redondo Beach, was killed Sunday afternoon when his made-over racing car turned over during a race at a dirt track on Vermont avenue near Gardena. Archie Robinson, 8903 Hubbard street, Culver City, was also injured in a similar mishap at the same track. Both boys were brought to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital where it was found that Irland's neck had been broken and he had suffered internal injuries. Robinson was able to go to his home after being given first aid.

For several weeks the dirt track in a natural bowl just west of the highway crossing Nigger Slough south of Gardena has been used for midget auto races. The competitors have been amateur drivers, most of them very young men, who have taken to the track in makeshift vehicles. It is said the track was formerly used for motorcycle races, but has been closed until recently.

C. Darrell Hilton, promoter of the auto racing, was immediately arrested following the accident in which Irland lost his life, charged with operating a racetrack without a permit while charging admission to the grounds. He was arraigned in the Inglewood township justice court at Inglewood and is held under \$1000 bond pending his trial.

HARVEL'S BUY LARGE CORNER ON MARCELINA

Purchase of the important business property at the northwest corner of Marcelina and Cravena avenue was announced this week by Harvel Guttenfelder, proprietor of Harvel's tire and battery shop. The property, which has a frontage on Marcelina avenue of 130 feet embracing the entire strip between the new postoffice building and Cravena avenue with 45 feet frontage on Cravena, was purchased from the Mortgage Guaranty Company.

Harvel's business which is now located at 1618 Cravena avenue will be moved to the newly acquired corner in the near future, Mr. Guttenfelder states.

Horrorth Speaker At C. of C. Meeting

Charles A. Horrorth, who addressed the Rotary club here recently, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, at Compton, next Thursday, September 12. Dinner will be served at the Pathfinder clubhouse, 446 East Compton boulevard, at 6:30 p. m.

Motorcycle Rider Dies Here Monday

Earl Alfred McClelland, age 39, died at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital, Monday following a crash at 29th and Vermont avenue, when his motorcycle swerved out of control on to the railroad track. Miss Helen Miller, a passenger on McClelland's machine, is at the Los Angeles General hospital in a critical condition from a skull fracture. A tendon in her right elbow was severed and she sustained other injuries.

Court Sessions Held Here On Thursday

Beginning next Thursday, September 12, sessions of the Inglewood township justice court, which have been held at the local office on Cravena avenue, on Tuesday morning, will be held Thursday afternoon starting at 2 o'clock. Judge Frank Carrell will make his weekly visit to this section at that time, and all who have business with the justice court are requested to note the change. Sessions will be held at Redondo Beach on Thursday morning.

HOLIDAY MONDAY

Due to Monday, September 9, being a bank holiday, Admission Day, the Columbia Steel Company will pay its employees Saturday morning. Banks and offices will be closed. Most of the stores will remain open.

MAYOR ANALYZES COST OF BONDS

A Close Chat From One Scotchman to Another On Money Matters

An Editorial

If you're a careful spender,—and who doesn't have to watch his pennies these days,—perhaps you would like to know just what the proposed bond issue for a new library building, city hall and jail, and auditorium will cost you.

Being of Scottish ancestry and having no little trouble during the past five years in keeping the outgo within the income, we wanted to know too. So we asked Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, this week for the figures. And here they are:

According to Mayor Ludlow the city's share of the \$137,500 program covering the cost of the three buildings with equipment and land will be less than \$75,000, the balance being an outright gift from the federal government. This \$75,000 is to be paid off in fifteen years, or at the rate of \$5,900 per year. The first year's interest at 3½ percent will be \$2,625, making a total first year payment of \$7,625. After the first year, the payments will be \$175 less each year because of the reduction in interest. But let's take it at its worst, or the first year.

From this \$7,625 payment should be charged the rentals for the water department (\$50 per month) and the library (\$50 per month) both of which are now in privately rented quarters which would not be needed after the new library and city hall are completed. This gives us a credit of \$1,200 a year, leaving \$6,425 to be raised from taxes.

Torrance has an assessed valuation of over \$18,000,000, so that a four cent per \$100 assessed valuation tax rate would more than raise \$6,425. What does four cents on the tax rate mean to the average home owner? Well, as Mayor Ludlow explains:

To the owner of a modest home assessed at \$1,000, a 4c rate amounts to 40c a year, or \$1-3c per month. If your home is assessed at \$2,000, it would cost you less than 7c per month; and if your home is one of the larger ones assessed at \$3,000, the cost of enjoying a fine new library building, city hall, and auditorium would be 10c per month.

But you ask, who pays all the rest of the \$6,425? Well, it's the industries and large land owners who own about 85 percent of the assessable property in Torrance. Surely if they are willing to pay so great a proportion of the cost, any home owner shouldn't object, particularly when it is realized that it will be the local residents who will most enjoy the benefits from the enlarged library facilities, the public auditorium and city hall. In fact, some of the localities might also have the "privilege" of visiting the new jail.

But there is something else to consider. You know Uncle Sam is contributing some four billion dollars for public works. Of course, we'll all have to help pay that off, whether we get anything out of it or not. You'll pay your share whether you own any property or not, or regardless of how the local bond issue goes.

The federal government has said to us,—if you pay 55 percent of the cost of your new buildings, Uncle Sam will contribute the other 45 percent. And so if we want to get any benefit from the money we are bound to contribute to the federal treasury, it is up to us to get our affairs in shape to "cash in" on the federal grants. You know this rich Uncle of ours is going to quit spending some of these days and then if we want a new library, city hall or auditorium, we'll have to pay all the cost ourselves.

So let's vote our bonds. We'll never miss 3c or 10c a month and we'll be doing our share and getting our share in the New Deal.

Mothers of Boys In C. C. C. Camps Invited to Party

All mothers of Torrance boys who are enrolled in C. C. C. camps are invited to be guests of the Torrance Rotary Club, September 26, when an illustrated lecture of C. C. C. camp life and training will be given by Capt. Leon Whittier, head of the splendid camp at Santa Barbara. It was announced today by President George P. Shidder of the local Rotary Club. The meeting of September 26 is also the regular monthly "Kum-Double" night when club members bring their wives as guests.

In order that we may know how many to prepare dinners for, all mothers of local C. C. C. boys are urged to telephone or leave their names as soon as possible at the office of Mrs. Lancaster and Shidder, Torrance National Bank building. President Shidder stated: "We want you all to come and see this highly interesting picture of camp life, and to hear Capt. Whittier tell of the splendid training your sons are receiving," he said. There will be no charge to visiting mothers. Telephone your reservations at once.

Tenth Anniversary of Ministry

Rev. F. Murray Clayton, vicar of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, will celebrate the tenth anniversary of his ordination to the sacred priesthood, next Sunday, September 8, being the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be special services, both at 7:30 and 11 o'clock a. m. on that day.

Father Clayton came to California from the diocese of New York in 1921, and in the following year was asked by the Bishop of Los Angeles to take charge of the mission in Torrance. During his ministry the church has made a steady growth and the church property has been beautified both within and without. A large cross has been erected in the churchyard by the men of the church during the past year to remind the passerby of the words of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

The young women's guild has just placed in the church as a gift a new communion rail of oak and wrought iron which adds much to the appearance of the sanctuary.

The church Sunday school under the leadership of George P. Shidder is growing, and all children without Sunday school connections are welcome to join the classes at 8:30 Sunday morning.

The vicar will preach at 11 a. m. Sunday on the topic, "The Pastor and His People." The choir under the direction of Madeline Teal Billini will render special music.

PAVING OF CEDAR AVE. REASSURED

Letter From County Officials Says Project Is No. 1 On County's WPA List

Anxiety frequently expressed by city officials regarding the county's agreement to pave Cedar avenue through the General Petroleum property, was dispelled yesterday upon receipt of a letter by Mayor Scott R. Ludlow in answer to a communication dated August 30 addressed to Supervisor John R. Quinn. Through his field secretary, Supervisor Quinn reassured Mayor Ludlow that the county would go through with its promise to pave the highway which will provide Torrance another thoroughway to the north. The letter received yesterday by Mayor Ludlow follows:

"Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 3, 1935.
"Supervisor Quinn has delegated to me the duty of assuring the information you desire in your letter of August 30. You will recall that the county had agreed to take care of it in the fiscal year of 1935-36 which began this last July. I find on conferring with the county road department that it is now set up as a WPA job and is No. 1 on that list. Mr. Cooley informs me that they will receive approval in the next couple of weeks. Let me assure you that here in our office we have kept Cedar avenue in mind and it has been in every budget that we have made up when we were contemplating the distribution of our district gasoline tax finances."
"Best regards,
"HUGH B. LAWRENCE,
"Field Secretary,
"John R. Quinn."

Parked Car Is Looted Sunday

Two purses, one of them containing 20 cents in cash, were stolen from a car parked in front of Howard's Jewelry store Sunday evening. A Graham, 1935 Lomita boulevard, told police that when he returned after an hour's absence the door handle had been broken off the car and the door forced open.

Mrs. Ruby Temple, House 9, Western avenue Court, reported that during her absence overnight on September 1, the door of her house had been broken and the place ransacked. Several articles of a nominal value were missing.

Workman Burned By Boiling Tar

Melvin Irving, of Wilmington, employed by the Waterproof Roofing Company of San Pedro, was painfully burned about the hands and face last Thursday. A bucket of hot tar overturned as Irving was climbing a ladder and the fluid splashed over him. He was treated at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital and was taken to his home on Friday. The accident occurred on Amapola avenue.

Register For Jobs At Judge's Office

Registrations for work on the Metropolitan sewer project, which was stated last week would be taken at the office of the city clerk, has been transferred to the office of Police Judge Robert F. Lessing. All Torrance men who wish to register for jobs on the outfall sewer construction may call at Police Judge's office over the police station where their applications will be received.

BUILDING PERMITS

Building permits issued from the city engineer's office last week included the addition to Wright's Greenhouse, on 19th street, of a 24x30 extension, and a two room addition to the home of Mrs. Melvina Beckwith, 1223 Engracia.

Wm. M. Bell Is Transferred to Figueroa St.

Principal At Torrance Elementary School Gets Los Angeles Post

Announcement is made this week of the transfer of William M. Bell, Jr., principal of the Torrance elementary school, to the Figueroa street school, 1115 South Figueroa, Los Angeles. Contrary to reports that the change would be made after the Christmas holidays, an official bulletin states that the transfer will be effective at the beginning of the school year, on September 10.

Mr. Bell, who has been in charge of the local grade school for a number of years, will be succeeded here by Alex Verhusen, who has been principal of the Tweedy school in South Gate.

With the beginning of school, it is expected that some other changes in school personnel will be made, as is usually the case. No announcements as to new teachers, or the transfers of others now employed here, has been made.

Guy Holliday, formerly principal at the Fern avenue school, who was transferred as principal to Riggin avenue school, in Los Angeles, last year, is exchanging places with Jessica A. Kennedy, principal of the Kern avenue school.

What a Way to Get a Vacation

Routine at the Torrance Herald was suddenly upset Tuesday evening, when Foreman Robert L. Wellen of the mechanical department and writer of the popular Sport Shots column, was stricken with appendicitis, and was taken to the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital for an immediate operation. Bob went home from work Tuesday afternoon apparently well, but shortly after dinner was taken ill. He was removed to the hospital about midnight. He is getting along nicely today, but will take a much needed vacation for possibly the next three weeks. In the meantime the Herald is rocking along on three cylinders, doing the best it can without the services of its valued employee.

Unusual Grist of Offenders Keeps Police Court Busy Tuesday

Torrance police put in a busy week-end handling auto wrecks, drunks and other offenders who were so numerous that Judge Robert F. Lessing was occupied all morning and part of the afternoon on Tuesday meting out sentences.

C. B. Finney, residing at the Mama Lou hotel, was arrested August 30, for being drunk and paid a \$5 fine.

Ray Shook, 3126 29th street, was given a sentence of six months at the county road camp for drunkenness and assault.

Roy Higgins, arrested August 31, was fined \$15 or seven and one-half days, suspended for two years on condition that he stay out of Torrance.

Courtney Caldwell, 1006 Sartori, was fined \$25 suspended for two years for assaulting a bartender.

Olin Steward and M. Morris, plead guilty to being drunk and disturbing the peace at the Western avenue court, and were fined \$100 or 50 days of which \$90 was suspended.

Albert Tyner, arrested at the same time and place and charged with being a habitual drunkard, plead not guilty and was given a trial Tuesday afternoon.

James Tuoy, 1656 West Seventh street, Los Angeles, and Harold Pike, also of Los Angeles, were charged with being drunk in an automobile, and were released on bail of \$50 each to appear for trial September 7.

Socorra Cabrera, 716-D Amapola, a 17-year-old girl, plead guilty to being drunk. She was fined \$25 or 12½ days, suspended for two years. Judge Lessing read the girl a lecture on the folly of her ways and promised her a more serious penalty if she should be re-arrested.

CITY ENGAGES ENGINEER FOR WATER SYSTEM

Will Save \$30 a Day As Soon As Water Development Program Is Finished

With the two-fold objective of rushing completion of the municipal water development program and of relieving the pressure on the overtaxed staff at the city engineer's office, the Torrance city council by unanimous vote Tuesday afternoon engaged the services of Arthur Taylor, member of the engineering firm of Taylor & Taylor. For a stipulated fee of \$1700, Mr. Taylor agreed to complete the plans and specifications for the large ground storage plant, alterations and extension of the distributing lines, installation of pumps, purification plant and all other details connected with the entire project. He will also prepare the advertisement for bids and supervise the construction of all units necessary to complete the entire system.

By the terms of the agreement, the city is to pay Mr. Taylor 70 percent of his fee when plans and specifications are completed, 25 percent when contracts are let, and the balance when the project is completed.

When asked by members of the council how long he expected it would be before the water system would be completed, Mr. Taylor stated that it was everything "clicking" the work ought to be finished in four months, but that it would probably require five months.

Mr. Taylor stated that he would take all the detail work to his Los Angeles office because of the accessibility to WPA offices and greater convenience in contacting officials of firms doing the work.

Assistant City Engineer Herb Summers recommended the appointment of Mr. Taylor, pointing out that the quicker the city finishes its water development system and starts pumping water from its own wells, the sooner it can discontinue buying water from the Dominguez Water Company.

Summers stated that the average bill with the water company is \$30 per day, which, of course, will be eliminated as soon as the city system is completed.

On Saturday morning at 5 a. m., police were called to the intersection of Madrid and Torrance boulevard, where James Alexander, 290 North Catalina, Redondo Beach, had crashed against a wigway signal post maintained by the Santa Fe railway. The post and Alexander's car were wrecked. Alexander was taken to the hospital at Redondo Beach.

At 11 a. m. Pate Schipper, Redondo Beach, and K. Kanagawa, 2801 El Segundo boulevard, were involved in a collision on Prairie avenue between 123d and 190th streets. T. Uneda, a passenger with Kanagawa, was taken to the Hawthorne hospital for first aid. He was out about the face.

At 2:30 Saturday afternoon, cars driven by Wilma Whitney, 1695 Gramercy, and Louis Murray, 1905 Cabrillo, collided at Sonoma and Madrid. Both cars were damaged.