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# Torrance Herald

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TWENTY-FIRST YEAR—No. 46

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1935

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## U. S. STEEL'S PRESIDENT IS LOCAL VISITOR

### Heads List of Corporation's Chief Executives In In- spection of Local Plant

William Adolph Irvin, president of the United States Steel Corporation, parent company of the Columbia Steel Company, headed a prominent list of officials who inspected the Columbia plant at Torrance Tuesday. Others in the group included Robert Gregg, vice president in charge of sales of the United States Steel Corporation; Charles H. Rhodes, vice president in charge of purchases; A. N. Diehl, president of Columbia Steel Company; William A. Ross, Columbia vice president in charge of sales; and W. R. Hibbs, Columbia's general manager of operations.

"Business improvement in America seems to be definite," stated the 61-year-old president of the United States Steel Corporation in an interview Tuesday.

"Your California outlook seems particularly encouraging," President Irvin observed. "We fully realize that this metropolitan of the West is constantly growing in industrial importance. Naturally we enjoy meeting men who are doing the things that keep the wheels of industry in motion."

Most of President Irvin's time in the Southland has been occupied with viewing local steel manufacturing concerns. He has also visited his acquaintances in the oil industry, taking advantage of the convention of the American Petroleum Institute now in session in Los Angeles.

B. F. Harris, director of the A. P. I. and president of the Oil Well Supply Company and the National Tube Company, is also a member of the Irvin party.

## First Season Concert Presented Next Tuesday

The first of the series of six concerts given by the Torrance Symphonic orchestra, sponsored by Torrance city council, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Torrance business people and other public-spirited citizens, will offer a varied program which will satisfy every taste. Classics as well as numbers by modern composers will be included at the affair next Tuesday evening at the Woman's clubhouse.

The orchestra will further prove its ability by playing accompaniments for the soloist of the evening.

The playing of Jolly Robbers Overture requires considerable technique and lightness of bow in the violin section for proper execution.

In the suite by German, the intricate weaving of counterpoints and fugue movements will be of special interest.

Mr. Mershon, conductor of the orchestra, will give the original Verdi interpretation of the several melodies included in the La Traviata Fantasia. In the Tchaikowsky waltz, an especially colorful Russian interpretation will be offered. These interpretations are possible only to our conductor, Mr. Mershon, through his experience in Russia as a member of a very fine opera orchestra which featured these particular operas.

An accident in Florida has brought good luck to Torrance—the opportunity to hear Neena Gifford, famous for her radio work in Florida and for her appearance in Dunbar's "Robin Hood."

In the Andante from the "Surprise Symphony," the audience will be especially interested in watching the development of the melody as it moves from one group of instruments to another.

## Financial Set-Up Studied

### Report On Torrance School Costs and Revenues By Auditor Expected Soon

C. J. Rambo, certified public accountant and city auditor, who had been authorized by the council to prepare a report on the financial set-up involving the public schools in this city, and who had been expected to lay the figures before the council Tuesday evening, asked further time to complete the report, which extension was granted, and an additional sum of not to exceed \$200 was allowed the accountant for this work.

Mr. Rambo stated that in preparing the figures he found that the Torrance high school is serving not only the city of Torrance proper but that it draws attendance from outlying districts as far east as Main street, and the Torrance elementary school from as far as Vermont avenue.

For this reason he felt that the additional revenue from taxation in that district should be included as well as the additional cost of furnishing facilities to these pupils.

In forming a school district, said Mr. Rambo, no account is taken of city boundaries, but the school district may take in territory located in two or more municipalities, as well as county territory, and school taxes are levied on the district formed, the revenue being turned into the treasury of the district.

While he stated that his report was incomplete, he was able to give an instance of the widely variant administrative costs, based on average daily attendance, in some schools. Administrative costs for the Prairie avenue school in the McDonald tract were as low as 37 cents per pupil he stated, while in other elementary schools it ran as high as \$3.40 per pupil.

He also cited widely different conditions in the Prairie avenue and the Waveria schools, serving about the same number of pupils, indicating an unequal distribution of required duties and remuneration of principals and teachers.

Mr. Rambo's report in full will probably be ready to be presented to the council at their next meeting tomorrow as he said he would make every effort to have it completed by that time.

## Member Of Byrd Crew Speaker

The Kiwanis Club of Torrance has secured for a speaking engagement, Mr. Richard B. Black, surveyor and scientist of the second Byrd Antarctic expedition, who has just returned from the base at Little America. Mr. Black presents his personal experiences of adventure with dog teams, tractor parties and cold weather with the greatest of informal interest. The unusual opportunity to hear a man who was actually connected with this, the greatest of all exploration trips, is extended to persons outside the Kiwanis Club, provided that reservations are made on or before Saturday noon, November 16, with the club secretary, Mr. Howard Locke, whose telephone number is 135-M. The program is to begin at 6:30 p. m., at the American Legion clubhouse, Monday evening, November 18.

Mr. Black will have with him pictures taken in the Antarctic, equipment used and other interesting souvenirs of the expedition.

## Around the Council Table

A communication from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the beautification of the parking on Torrance boulevard was referred to Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, chairman of the street department committee.

A request from Miss Dorothy Smith, principal of the Walteria school, for the sum of \$32 to be used in defraying expenses of the annual school Christmas party, was granted.

A communication from Chief A. D. Stevenson, requesting an increase in the monthly pay of three members of the fire department, and a remuneration for his use of his personal automobile on official inspection trips about the city, was placed on file on motion of Councilman W. H. Stanger, head of the police and fire committee.

An invitation from the Air Reduction Sales Company to attend their welding and cutting show at Long Beach was read and referred to the street department.

A resolution accepting the first well completed by the Roscoe Moss Company, and authorizing payment of their bill for \$5,283.33 was adopted. The price paid is considerably under the estimated price of \$7,100, a saving of more than \$1,800.

Payment of \$1,800 to the Chicago Bridge & Iron Works was authorized. This sum represents 90 percent of the contract price for erecting the foundation of the lower-level reservoir at the water plant.

Contract with the county board of supervisors covering operation of the Torrance public library for the year ending June 30, 1936, was approved.

City Clerk Bartlett was requested to communicate with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in reference to the repair of neon highway signs advertising the City of Torrance. Mayor Ludlow stated that several of these signs have missing letters and asked that the Chamber of Commerce either take the signs down or have them repaired.

Councilman Wm. Tolson stated that plans had been completed for setting out a cypress hedge on both sides of the railroad right of way through the municipal park.

H. W. Slover addressed the council pointing out the fire hazard which exists by allowing tall weeds to remain on the vacant property between Cedar and Date streets and Torrance boulevard and Eldorado avenue. Councilman Stanger, chairman of the fire committee, stated that city crews would remove the weeds immediately.

## Council to Pass On Licenses

At the meeting of the city council Tuesday night, that body authorized the forwarding of a request to the state board of equalization, asking that in future no more licenses be issued for the sale of liquors in Torrance, unless first recommended by the council. The city dads believe that there are now as many such places in business here as are desirable for a place of this size.

## COMMITTEE RE-STATES STAND ESTABLISHING CIVIC CENTER

### Mayor Ludlow Voices Opposition Because of Increased Land Cost; Corner At Post Avenue Is Being Considered For Library

After an hour and a half's study of all proposed sites for the new municipal auditorium and public library, the Committee of Forty last Friday evening by unanimous vote reaffirmed its former recommendation for the establishment of a civic center adjacent to the city hall site at junction of Cravens avenue and El Prado.

A thorough discussion was held relative to the costs of the various building sites offered. While it was pointed out that some financial savings could be realized by scattering the new buildings, it was the opinion of committee members that the lower cost of sites elsewhere did not justify the abandonment of the civic center idea.

The large piece of property located at the northwest corner of El Prado and Cravens, measuring 180 feet by 155 feet, was recommended for the auditorium. It has been offered for \$8,000. The site recommended for the library lies directly across the park from the city hall site and measures 160 feet on El Prado and 125 feet on Cravens. It has been submitted for \$15,000, but this quotation may be reduced to \$12,500 or possibly lower, it was reported.

When the communication from the Committee of Forty was read at the city council meeting Tuesday evening, Mayor Ludlow pointed out that the purchase of any one of the sites recommended would preclude the purchase of the other, as only \$10,500 had been set up for acquisition of land. It is reported that Mayor Ludlow favors locating the library at the northwest corner of Post and Cravens avenues, which may be bought for \$4,000. However, at the council meeting, Mayor Ludlow did not mention any other specific sites he had in mind; but it was clearly indicated that he did not favor the civic center idea because of the increased cost in

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### TIRES SLASHED

Some unknown party slashed all four tires on Dewey Quigley's car, parked at 233rd and Pennsylvania avenue Saturday night.

Contract with the county board of supervisors covering operation of the Torrance public library for the year ending June 30, 1936, was approved.

## IN MEMORY OF WILL ROGERS



Contributions to the Will Rogers Memorial Fund are being received at the Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America, in this city, also at the office of the Torrance Herald. Any amount, large or small, will be welcomed.

## Mayors Swarm Here

### Supervisors Also Guests of City Prior to Inspection of Outfall Sewer

Mayors and other city officials from a score of nearby cities, together with Supervisors John R. Quinn and H. C. Legg, and A. K. Warren, chief engineer of the county sanitation district, were in Torrance Tuesday to attend the regular meeting of directors of the Metropolitan sewer district. Mayor Scott R. Ludlow was assisted in entertaining the visiting officials by other members of the Torrance city council.

## Voices Protest On Employment On Sewer Job

### Inglewood Mayor Claims Too Many Torrance, Lomita, Long Beach Men On Job

Sharp criticism of his methods in conducting the Long Beach office of the National Re-employment Service was directed at Vern Rawley, manager, by Mayor Darby of Inglewood and Mayor Dave Garner of Maywood at the meeting of directors of the county sanitation districts held in Torrance Tuesday noon.

It was pointed out that residents in that portion of Long Beach which is not a part of the sanitation district were receiving employment on the outfall sewer project. It was also stated by Mayor Darby that out of a total employment from the fifth district of 183 men, 52 of them were from Torrance and 52 from Lomita, whereas his own city of Inglewood had only nine of its residents at work on the outfall sewer.

Mayor Scott Ludlow of Torrance, however, states that many of the men from Torrance are "key" men in the organization and were not taken from relief rolls, and that he doubted if Torrance was getting any more than its just portion of employment from relief rolls.

A. K. Warren, chief engineer of the sanitation districts, stated that he believed that contractors were willing to co-operate by employing men from within the district, and to distribute employment proportionately among the several cities within the district. Warren pointed out, however, that under the present ruling of the PWA, the contractors were required to requisition their men from the National Re-employment Service and that the fault lies in the Long Beach office of the federal agency.

On motion of Mayor Darby of Inglewood, the directors passed a resolution addressed to the National Re-employment Service protesting the amount of labor being taken from outside the district and asking that outside men be withdrawn wherever possible and men from within the district be employed.

## Boy Killed Riding Bicycle Monday

Alexander Robert Sloan, age 14, residing at 2337 South Figueroa street, Keystone, was killed Monday night when he was struck by a car on Sepulveda boulevard east of Wilmington avenue. The boy was riding a bicycle, allegedly without lights. The driver of the car involved, W. H. Damon, 1211 Island avenue, Wilmington, was not held by police.

Sloan was taken to Wilmington where a police surgeon treated him for a basal skull fracture and compound fractures of the left leg and ankle, but he died less than an hour after being taken to the Wilmington emergency hospital. The body was unidentified until the following day.

### APARTMENT ENTERED

V. F. Glidden, manager of the Cravens Apartments, reported to city police last Thursday that an unknown party had broken a window in Apartment No. 102, occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Sibley Aptwich. A \$5 bill and a purse containing \$3 were taken.

## DEFER ACTION UNTIL FRIDAY ON BOND BIDS

### Word From Washington Ex- pected Shortly, According to Beebe, Bond Expert

Although a number of representatives of bond houses were in the audience at the council chamber Tuesday evening to await the opening of bids on the sale of bonds for public buildings, the Torrance city council returned the bids unopened.

The action was taken on advice of James L. Beebe, bond expert retained by the city, because as yet final approval of the federal grant of \$52,500 has not been given by PWA officials at Washington. However, Mr. Beebe, who went to Washington recently in behalf of the city's application, in form of a favorable word from PWA officials was expected shortly and requested the council to adjourn until Friday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, at which time if the anticipated approval is given, the bond bids may be opened. Representatives of bond houses were requested by Mayor Ludlow to re-submit their bids Friday afternoon.

According to Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, the necessary approval of the Torrance grant has been given by all officials through whose hands the matter must pass, except one, and it is upon the decision of this final authority that the council is waiting.

## SECOND WELL shows good gravel TO 601 FEET

According to City Engineer Frank Leonard, the second test well now being drilled on the property west of Cedar avenue, has reached a depth of 601 feet. Good water-bearing gravel was encountered at a depth of 85 feet, continuing to 500 feet. Below that point the same quicksand formation was found as was shown by the first test well.

On recommendation of Arthur L. Taylor, consulting engineer, the well will be shut off at 500 feet and perforated casing set to that point. This will give the city about 400 feet of water bearing gravel, and should develop approximately the same capacity as the first well. The new well is located 720 feet from the first test.

### MEETING TONIGHT

The Harbor District Chambers of Commerce are meeting tonight at the American Legion clubhouse in Harbor City. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Following a program with Walter Willis, harbor manager, as speaker.

## Woodman,- "Spare That Tree!"

### Tranquility of El Prado Residents Disturbed By Removal of Eucalyptus Trees On Parkway

"Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree."

So runs the tuneful rhythm of the well-known ballad, but not so smoothly did the discussion flow at the city council meeting Tuesday evening ament the removal of eucalyptus trees on El Prado in front of the residences of City Attorney C. T. Rippy and J. B. Scotton. And still less harmonious were the vigorous protests voiced by indignant tree lovers residing elsewhere on the parkway in expressing their opposition to members of the city council and city officials for the ruthless chopping of nature's proud beauties.

Mayor Ludlow insisted that he only agreed to the removal of one tree, whereas four in a row had been taken out. And to quiet all fears, Councilman Hitchcock stated positively that there would be no more trees removed until a plan had been agreed upon.

In defense of the action, City Attorney Rippy stated the roots of the trees were cracking the sidewalks and pavement. He suggested that some sort of ornamental or flowering trees be substituted which do not shed their bark as do the eucalyptus. Rippy said that both he and Mr. Scotton would be glad to put in any kind of tree the council desired.

It was finally decided, however, that City Clerk Bartlett call a meeting of all residents on El Prado to decide upon the number of eucalyptus trees which should be removed and what type of trees should be substituted. In order to give residents ample time to study the matter, the meeting will be held in about 30 days.