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TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 5.

SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1937.

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Steel Workers Turn Play Into Flood Benefit

FHA Officials Cite Need for Low-Cost Units

Modernization Loan Period Expires April 1 But Title 2 Continues

Two Federal Housing Administration officials called at the Better Housing program office in the Chamber of Commerce Monday to confer on local home building and modernization work with the Better Housing representatives stationed here: They were H. V. Davidson, field representative in charge of the better house officials throughout Los Angeles county, and H. T. Nielson of the savings and loan division of the FHA at Washington, D. C.

They were well pleased with the work of the local office in transmitting FHA prospective home builders and modernizers in this community and voiced high praise of The Herald's demonstration home project to show, in concrete form, just what can be done with a FHA loan and with Torrance builders and supply firms.

Nielson pointed out that opportunity to secure federal insured mortgage loans for home modernization and repairs under Title 1 will expire April 1 unless it is extended. Federal insured mortgage loans for home building (Title 2) will continue to be made indefinitely.

The two visitors called attention to the following statement by a well known Los Angeles banking institution that has many branches in surrounding cities: "The combination of liberal and protective features in the FHA set-up make it the most complete and advantageous plan, from the standpoint of the borrower ever offered in the field of home financing."

Both Nielson and Davidson agree that Torrance needs some effort by reputable builders in constructing low-cost, housing and expressed the hope that ways and means can be found here of interesting subdividers in erecting a block of homes that would sell for \$2,500 or \$3,000 under the FHA plan.

Underground Map Survey Starts; Is WPA Project

Under the direction of City Engineer Frank R. Leonard, a WPA-city project that will map the underground facilities of Torrance and establish center lines for all streets started yesterday with nine WPA workers on the job. The project will take about 10 months to complete and will cost \$8,370, of which the federal government is contributing \$6,945 and the city is putting up the \$1,425 balance.

Two draftsmen will be stationed in Leonard's office to draw the survey maps from material developed by a field party. The information will provide the city with a detailed map of all water, gas, sewer and oil pipe lines which traverse the city. Information on the latter underground equipment is to be obtained from oil company records, maps and files on the various pipe lines which serve oil wells and refineries.

City Engineer Leonard said that he did not expect there would be much excavation necessary in order to obtain the data on existence of the routes of the facility lines as the WPA workers will endeavor to obtain most of their data from utility company records. When complete, the maps will provide the city with a complete outline of all underground networks for use in future development.

MAYOR IMPROVES
Mayor W. H. Stanger is reported confined at his home as a result of a relapse following recovery from a mild attack of influenza. He is said to be making a steady recovery now.

Hospital Ball Next On Social Calendar

Arrangements are being made by the Woman's Club for an intensive ticket-selling drive for the third annual Hospital Ball, to be held Monday evening, Feb. 22, at Hermosa's Surf and Sand clubhouse. The campaign will enlist the aid of women's organizations in the four adjoining communities—Lomita, Redondo, Hermosa and Gardena—who are served by Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. The Ball, sponsored by the physician-members of the staff, has been of great assistance to the hospital in keeping it one of the outstanding institutions in Los Angeles county. All net proceeds will be used, as were the two previous contributions, toward meeting obligations incurred to improve the hospital's facilities.

"We are going to award two cash door prizes, the first of \$50 and the second of \$25, this year instead of offering gifts of free hospital treatment as we did at the last Ball," Dr. J. S. Lanester said this week. "We have interested the Woman's club in undertaking the exclusive distribution of the tickets."

Buy Additional Equipment
"The hospital needs additional funds. During the past few months we have incurred a considerable expense for repairs and painting and have installed new beds and mattresses. One of the latest and most modern oxygen tents has been added to the facilities, equipment costing about \$500. This addition now gives our hospital better opportunities to combat pneumonia and it has proved its worth many times already," the well-known physician pointed out.

"Another new piece of equipment is a new-type operating lamp that is so wonderfully constructed that no shadows fall anywhere within its radius. For this the hospital has undertaken an obligation of more than \$400. All of these additions merely mean that the hospital—yours and mine whenever the need arises—is better equipped to render the service only a first-class hospital can give."

In Attractive Setting
Since its inception in 1935, the Hospital Ball has become one of the outstanding social functions of the community. The first Ball resulted in about \$1,200 being turned over to the hospital while the second event netted approximately \$700. From all indications, improved economic conditions and a more general understanding of the hospital's functions, facilities and meritorious service, the 1937 Ball should be a record-breaking feat.

The Surf and Sand clubhouse at Hermosa makes an attractive setting for such a social function and the attraction of the two cash prizes, in the opinion of the hospital staff, should make the Woman's club ticket-selling project a most successful one.

Store to Give 10 Percent of Sales to Flood Fund

An announcement that was welcomed by local Red Cross workers as a splendid example of humanitarian generosity was made today by the RB Cut Rate Drug Company's store at 1316 Sartori avenue. Ten percent of the gross sales there Saturday will be turned over to the Red Cross flood relief fund.

Dean Sears, manager of the Bank of America here, will audit this firm's sales for the day and receive the store's check for the donation. The sum will be immediately transmitted to the Red Cross for aiding victims of the great mid-west disaster.

RAIN NEARLY DOUBLE
The last rain of 34 of an inch on Monday raised the total rainfall figure here to 8.63 inches for the season to date. Last year at this time the total was 4.62 inches.

Donations Triple Flood Fund Quota for Red Cross

Citizens, Clubs Open Purses as Well as Hearts to Relieve Sufferers

By over-subscribing this city's Red Cross flood relief fund quota of \$100 more than three times already, local residents and organizations gave ample evidence this week that accounts of the great mid-west disaster touched responsive chords in their respective and collective hearts. Mrs. Flora McDonald, local Red Cross chairman, has dispatched \$328.40 to the National Red Cross relief headquarters—the total amount collected here up to Wednesday noon.

Several other large donations, including the proceeds from the Columbia Steel employees' play, will increase this city's contribution next week. Every cent raised here, Mrs. McDonald points out, is being sent direct to the Red Cross working in the flood zone, no part of the fund being retained in this district.

Contributors leaving their donations at both local banks or with Mrs. McDonald this week were:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Kiwanis Club | \$100.00 |
| Rotary Club | 75.00 |
| National Bus. and Prof. Women's Club | 32.50 |
| Torrance Branch, Red Cross | 25.00 |
| P. E. Club of L. A. | 15.00 |
| F. A. Fischer | 10.00 |
| Torrance Woman's Club | 5.00 |
| Earl Worden | 5.00 |
| A. B. Wolfe | 5.00 |
| J. C. Smith | 5.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Bischoff | 5.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Roberts | 5.00 |
| Stephen A. Phillips | 5.00 |
| Woman's Relief Corps | 3.00 |
| Howard Locke | 3.00 |
| Albert W. Handel | 3.00 |
| John Holdren | 2.50 |
| L. D. Fraser | 2.50 |
| H. S. | 2.00 |
| C. E. Carsten | 2.00 |
| L. Miller | 2.00 |
| W. E. Chandler | 2.00 |
| Elizabeth Brod | 2.00 |
| Miss Abel Beach | 2.00 |
| Ivy Hartley | 2.00 |
| E. W. Morgan & family | 1.00 |
| W. H. Gilbert | 1.00 |
| Alcorn Drug Co. | 1.00 |
| John & Margaret Byrne | 1.00 |
| Madge Burman | 1.00 |
| Unknown | 1.00 |
| Mrs. Beedelson | 1.00 |
| Unknown | 1.00 |
| Mrs. J. E. McGlumphy | 1.00 |
| Fanny Brees | 1.00 |
| Edna E. Fletcher | 1.00 |
| H. L. Bates | 1.00 |
| Mrs. C. A. Fulton | 1.00 |
| TOTAL | \$328.40 |

Derrick Plant Fire Causes \$5,000 Loss

A fire which broke out at 7 o'clock Tuesday morning in the fabricating shop at the International Derrick and Equipment company plant at 2410 Carson street caused damages estimated at approximately \$5,000. Cause of the blaze could not be determined by company officials and firemen.

The fabricating department is located in the middle of three buildings at the large industrial plant. Firemen strung 400 feet of hose and battled the blaze for about 25 minutes before bringing it under control.

Included in the damage list was a destroyed foreman's office, oil and compressor rooms, compressor belt, office equipment, blueprints, electrical and fabricating tools, burning equipment, oil and considerable miscellaneous equipment.

The fire was the most costly blaze in this city in several months. It is understood insurance was carried on the building.

"Harum Scarum" Leads Them a Merry Chase



THIS IS THE troupe that will produce the grins, sighs, hisses and prolonged guffaws at the civic auditorium tomorrow night when "The Harum Scarum" starts its four-show run for the benefit of the mid-west flood sufferers. They are, left to right, standing: -

William Moore ("Cyrus Bidwell, town gossip"), William J. Gallaret ("Frank Miller, the villain"), John Irwin ("Billy B. Gosh, mail carrier"), Richard Benton ("Harum Scarum" himself, and, in a second role, "John Miller, a regular feller"), Harry Showalter ("David Miller, the father and author-director of the comedy), Walter Wallace ("Hiram Smith, another gossip").

Seated, left to right: Miss Mary Silverthorn ("Clara Birdsal, the New York siren"), Mrs. J. Armstrong ("Ola Barley, a regular gal"), and Mrs. O. H. Olson ("Mrs. Miller, the loving mother").

STREET WORK COMPLETED

Two Jobs By City Crews Finished Yesterday

City street department crews completed the widening and resurfacing of Cabrillo avenue from the P. E. station down the east roadway to Western avenue yesterday.

At the same time, a crew finished eliminating the "death curve" at 190th and Western avenue. Both improvements cost approximately \$4,415. City engineer Frank R. Leonard said.

The 190th and Western intersection has been widened about 30 feet and Western is now practically straight instead of joggling off at 190th. Some poles of a power line were set back out of the danger zone to afford additional protection to motorists at that point.

Both improvements, needed for a long time, are most welcome. Besides making the roads safer, they also greatly enhance the entrance to the city.

Rotarians to Hear Retired Chaplain

Principal speaker tonight at the Rotary Club dinner meeting at the Legion clubhouse will be Lt. Col. Thomas E. Swan, retired, who was chaplain with the U. S. army in the Philippines for many years. He comes highly recommended as an interesting and authoritative speaker.

In common with nearly all army chaplains, Col. Swan's outlook has been broadened by his contacts and experiences in the service. He has no sermon to preach but has a message about the Philippines, a country now undergoing an interesting transition as it attempts to prepare for self-rule.

Date Set for Lomita Kiwanis Charter Fete

The date for Lomita Kiwanis club's charter party, which will be a dinner-dance at the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse, has been changed to Friday night, Feb. 19, instead of the 16th. Conflicting dates made the change desirable.

SCHOOL WEEK PROCLAIMED

18th Annual Observance Is Called By Masons

Public Schools Week this year will be observed during the week beginning Monday, April 26, according to a proclamation issued this week by Rollie W. Miller, grand master of Masons of California, and addressed to the 130,000 members of the order in the state.

The celebration this year marks the 18th annual observance of the event, which was originally established to call attention to, and aid in correcting a critical condition in the public schools due to a shortage of teaching personnel because of war conditions.

"Public School Week," said Miller in his statement, "annually affords the people of California an opportunity of learning for themselves how well the school people, the servants of the public, are administering their stewardship."

Miller urged cooperation from Parent Teacher groups, the American Legion, chambers of commerce and other service and civic groups.

Nigger Slough 'Polluted' So Damage Sought

Asserting that "the waters of Nigger Slough had been polluted" with resultant damage to its business, the Nigger Slough Mud Company this week filed a damage suit against three major oil companies and the flood control district, asking a total of \$25,000.

The complaint asserted that the property of the company, which excavates mud for rotary drilling purposes, has been inundated by sludge, acids, emulsion and other foreign substances flowing into the slough from various oil well sumps and polluting the slough.

Wants Immediate Action
The mud company has owned the parcel of land upon which its glorified mud pie plant stands for the last five years, the location being just east of Figueroa street, and 1475 feet south of 190th street. The Nigger Slough drainage canal is 100 feet wide and adjacent to the property.

Oil companies named as defendants are the Union, Richardson (thru its receiver) and Shell.

"WE HOPE WE'LL NEVER HAVE ANOTHER FLOOD LIKE THIS!"

Letter From Louisville, Ky., Graphically Describes Great Disaster

Torrance Resident Fears for Safety of Relative

To Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Fenwick of this city the great Mississippi and Ohio river flood is a personal calamity for they are former residents of Louisville, Ky., and have many friends and relatives in that stricken city. Fenwick, owner of a shoe shop here, has a brother and sister in the flood zone there and repeated telegrams inquiring for their safety during the past week have brought no response. The Torrance cobbler's brother is also a shoe repairman and the Kentucky's shop is flooded up to the second story, according to word received here.

"This means that the great 1846 flood was nothing but a trickle compared to the present devastation," Fenwick said this week. "The earlier record inundation climbed to the curbing in front of my brother's shop." This week, Mrs. Adeline V.

Fenwick received a letter from a friend in Louisville, mailed Jan. 27, which graphically reports the flood as seen by one who fortunately lives in a part of the city—the Highlands—not so seriously affected as the rest of Louisville. Fenwick allowed The Herald to publish parts of the letter which are of general public interest. They follow:

Families Separated
"It's hard to tell what other cities are printing in their newspapers about our town, Louisville. Perhaps they are making it worse and perhaps not as bad as it really is. The sympathy of the Highlands is with Jeffersonville and the west end of Louisville.

"I guess you know that it has rained here for seven or 10 days, also raining up above (the upper Mississippi and Ohio valleys) and the water coming on down here. Louisville has experienced the worst flood in its history. The entire west end is ruined. Entire Jeffersonville is covered also. Water

"... DON'T WORRY, SAY A PRAYER"

INDIANA RESIDENT WRITES MOTHER ABOUT FLOOD

"Just don't worry and say a prayer of thanks that we are all safe and sound altho not comfortable—but at that we are far more comfortable than many thousands around us," wrote the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Brod from New Albany, Ind., last Thursday to her mother here in Torrance. Mrs. Brod, who lives at 1001 Sartori avenue, lived in New Albany, which is just across the Ohio river from Louisville, Kentucky, until about 18 months ago when she came to this city to visit her sister and brother, Miss Hermine and William F. Oetken.

The letter, which begins "I hardly know how to begin to tell you about this horrible flood—it just isn't possible to describe it," reports in detailed fashion the appearance of the little Indiana town and the plight of many of Mrs. Brod's old friends, relatives and neighbors. All residents, the lengthy communication says, have taken typhoid serum shots and are taking every precaution against the inroads of disease. Water,

First of Four Performances Friday Evening

All Net Proceeds Switched From Employes' Fund to Disaster Relief

EXTRA MATINEE MONDAY

Final Comedy Presentation to Be Monday Night in Civic Auditorium

Because many of the men know from personal experience the scenes of peril and desolation which accompany floods or because they have friends and relatives in the worst of the inundated Ohio and Mississippi valley region, it did not take the Columbia Steel Company employes very long late last week to change the whole purpose of their benefit production of "The Harum Scarum," a comedy drama.

Instead of using the proceeds derived from the entertainment, which includes free dancing following the stage attraction, for their own welfare fund, the steel workers decided on short notice to turn all their profit over to the national flood relief fund. And the steelmen now announce two additional shows at the Civic Auditorium. The play, written, directed and produced by Harry F. Showalter, will be given tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday nights, at a matinee Monday afternoon, Feb. 8, and for the final time, Monday evening. The evening curtain will be at 8:20 o'clock, while the matinee will begin at 2:20. The free dancing will follow the stage attraction tomorrow and Saturday nights.

For Relief of Suffering
Columbia Steel workers have been deeply interested in the press accounts of the great flood disaster. Many have already contributed generously to the Red Cross relief fund and others have been in contact with friends and relatives. Some have yet to hear from their friends and relatives who have not answered telegraph or letter inquiries as to their safety and these latter residents are fearing that the brown flood waters may have taken dread toll.

The committee employees in charge of "The Harum Scarum" theatrical venture is determined that every cent over and above the necessary expenses of the show will go where it will do the most good among the men, women and children made homeless and destitute by the greatest calamity ever to strike at the heart of this nation.

Cast Is Excellent
Those who have worked in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys—and there are a number here who came from that region—have intimate knowledge of flood havoc and danger. They understand the disease, every day to attack when man's vitality is lowest, can stalk in the wake of such a disaster. And are all fully cognizant of the hazards to little children, innocent sufferers in calamity.

But if the purpose of the employes' show is to relieve suffering and dire distress, the show itself, an amusing four-act comedy drama, will be hilarious in the extreme. Director Showalter, incidental final rehearsal this week, declared that his cast has entered into the spirit of the play with a sense of comedy that is rare among amateur actors. The sparkling lines of the dialogue are flowing with a merry pace that reveals full appreciation of the many laugh-provoking situations in the piece.

There will be two orchestras employed. One will be "in the pit" at the Auditorium to play the overture, incidental music and between-acts numbers, while the second band will be composed of tuneful swing musicians who will provide latest melodies for the dances tomorrow and Saturday night. There will be no charge for admission to these festivities after the show.