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TWO SECTIONS  
14 PAGES  
THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 40 SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1937 PER COPY 5c

## \$80,000 H. S. Auditorium Ordered for 1938

### Annual Insurance Row Re-enacted

An objection by Councilman Tom McGuire to a motion by Councilman Robert Deinger that the Travelers' insurance company be awarded insurance of the city's fleet of motor vehicles for the next 12 months resulted in considerable discussion and open examination of all insurance "estimates" and two sealed bids last night at city council meeting.

Altho McGuire voted an emphatic "no" to Councilman Hitchcock's motion that Howard G. Locke, who offered the Travelers' estimate of \$1,190.11 for the total premium as well as four other insurance quotations, one of which was lowest for \$858.32 from a non-conference company, the council granted the policies to a conference company at the highest rate to the city.

When McGuire objected to handing over the insurance business without examination of some other offers and asked City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to produce all of the bids, the clerk said that some of these are not bids in the true sense of the word because they are merely estimates.

**All Companies Responsible**  
The offers, as read by Bartlett were: from Howard G. Locke, Travelers' Insurance, \$1,190.11; American Auto Insurance, \$1,134.55; Ohio Casualty, \$932.62 and Pacific Indemnity, \$858.32; from W. H. Gilbert representing the Fidelity and Casualty, \$1,150.00; from B. C. Buxton, representing Wallace, Tripps General agency, a sealed bid from the Western Insurance of \$948.26 and the Loyalty group another sealed bid of the Metropolitan and Firemen's Insurance of \$901.75.

"Why the difference in bids from the four companies you have offered?" McGuire wanted to know of Locke. The insurance agent replied that "you can buy insurance for almost any price, the difference is in conference" and non-conference companies." Locke said he preferred conference companies because "in the long run adjustment and payment of claims is easier with them" altho he declared that every insurance company he represents in a responsible concern.

"There's a 30 per cent difference in the top insurance price and the lowest one we have before us. I'd like to know why we should take the Travelers' high bid," McGuire insisted. B. C. Buxton informed the council that the Pacific Indemnity, the lowest premium concern of those read at the meeting, "carries the state and the county of Los Angeles."

**Bid Study Urged**  
"That ought to be worth something—it's about \$300 to us," McGuire said. Buxton continued by stating that last year he submitted a bid "which would have saved the city \$400" and introduced a Mr. Hitchcock, special agent for the Loyalty Group which insured the city's fleet for several years. Hitchcock pointed to the scope of the Loyalty Group's municipal business in this county and called the council's attention to the fact that "our bid is the second

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### Line-Strippers Busy Two Residents Lose Apparel to Clothes-Line Thieves

"It looks like a return engagement of our old clothes-line thieves," Captain John Stroth commented Saturday night when he received two reports of clothing losses suffered by local residents.

Mrs. Helen Berry, teacher in the Elementary school, reported that a silk dress was removed from her clothes-line in the rear of 1750 Marlina avenue and a few minutes later Joe Sandland informed police that \$10 worth of his clothing was stripped from her clothes-line at 927 Arlington avenue.

"It would be well if people saw to it that clothes were removed from drying lines before dark," Stroth said. Three years ago a wave of such thefts here was followed by the arrest and conviction of a woman. She received a six-months sentence in the county jail. Her husband, who was also charged with thefts of a number of articles, was released. Mrs. Berry left a sample of cloth with police to serve as identification of the dress she missed from her clothes line. Sandland said he lost six pairs of athletic socks, a white woolen sweater and a pair of pants.

### City Will Dedicate New Building Oct. 20

#### STRUCTURE ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL

Completing a civic building program that included the erection of four municipal structures, the public library and the postoffice within a space of less than two years, the city council passed a resolution last night to formally accept the latest addition to this community's public edifices—the attractive Administration building adjoining the Civic Auditorium on El Prado.

This action, which followed receipt of a report passing the Administration building by W. D. Saunders, resident inspector for the Public Works Administration, cleared the way for the gala dedication dinner-program which will signalize the end of the most extensive civic construction program in all Los Angeles county.

The dedication fete will be held next Wednesday evening, Oct. 20, in the Auditorium. At that time, the kitchen and dining service facilities of the Administration building will be used for the first time. More than 250 are expected to attend the function.

**Make Reservations Now**  
The program has been planned by Mayor William H. Tolson, President E. M. Barber of the Chamber of Commerce, and L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber.

All residents of Torrance and vicinity are cordially invited by the council and chamber to participate in the dedication event and attend the dinner-program. In order to insure ample seating arrangements, using the new circular tables, reservations must be made or tickets purchased at \$1 per person for the affair by next Tuesday noon, Secretary Gilmeister stressed today.

A free dance with a prominent orchestra supplying the music will be held immediately after the program. Before and after the dedication ceremonies the Administration building will be open for public inspection.

**Music and Talks**  
Tickets for the affair are now on sale at the present headquarters of the chamber, at

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#### Probation Given Daigh for Sex Offense Here

Ralph Daigh, one-armed ex-WPA school crossing guard here, charged with a morals offense against a minor in Torrance last July 2, was, on two years' probation this week by order of the superior court.

Daigh was recently found sane, in the opinion of a committee of three doctors that examined him after the court expressed doubt as to his sanity. Previous to that he pleaded guilty to a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a lesser charge than that originally placed against him.

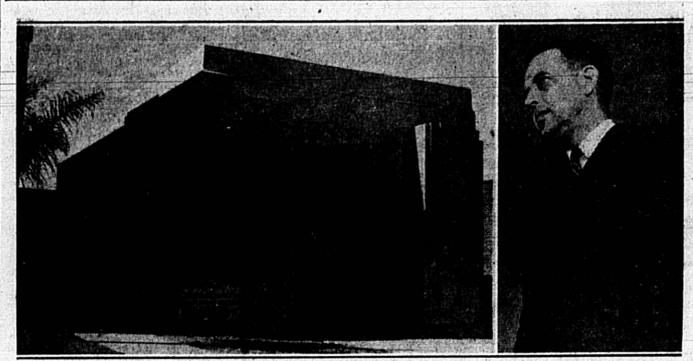
He pleaded not guilty to the original charge and was prepared to go to trial when the district attorney's office filed an amended complaint against him.

#### Teachers Return From Honolulu

Swimming, surf board riding, and visits to Pearl Harbor and to Schofield barracks were enjoyed by Mrs. Gail McKeown and Mrs. Myrtle Schwartz during their six weeks' vacation in Hawaii. They returned to their duties at Narbonne the beginning of this week.

While in Honolulu, Mrs. McKeown saw a boat of Chinese refugees arrive in Hawaii for rest before they continued their travels. She also saw the liner President Hoover that was bombed in China arrive at port.

### Chamber Now Moving Into New Home



—Photos by Haig & Haig  
PRESIDENT E. M. BARBER (right) of the Chamber of Commerce inspected the new Administration building this week as he, Secretary L. J. Gilmeister and Mayor William H. Tolson completed plans for the dedication of the structure, shown above, next Wednesday night, Oct. 20. The civic organization is now moving into its new home from its long-time location at Marcelina and Cabrillo avenues.

#### City Pays Claim for Car Damage

Never let it be said that the city's official heart is cold and that mistakes of its officers go unrecognized.

Willard G. Rugraff of 1615 Cedar street wrote the city council last night that his car was damaged to the extent of \$5.50 when he struck a pedestrian sign early last Friday morning that had "negligently" been left out in the street at Martina and Carson. He asked the city to reimburse him to that extent.

After Motor Officer Ernest Ashton had reported that "he" let the sign alright because Officer C. C. Tolson had forgotten to take it in to the curb," Rugraff's claim was approved and the city clerk was instructed to obtain a full release from him.

#### Special Student Dance Friday

As a part of its program to promote suitable entertainment for young people in Torrance and vicinity, the Co-ordinating Council sponsors a dance to be given tomorrow night, Oct. 16, at the Civic Auditorium. Ray Dietrich and his orchestra will play.

While this is primarily an entertainment for young people of high school age, adults will be welcome to attend, but the price of admission to them will be 25 cents while the high school youths and girls will be admitted for only a dime each.

According to Vernon Coli, president of the Co-ordinating Council, high school principals of Torrance, Narbonne and Gardena are co-operating with the council and students from the three schools are expected to attend. Dancing will start at 8:30 and close at 12 midnight.

In reply to letters from the Rotary club, American Legion post and Auxiliary, who endorsed the student dances and asked the city to donate the use of the Auditorium, the city council last night granted the requests.

#### Bell Host to Dist. Chambers

The Bell Chamber of Commerce will be host to the Harbor District Chambers tonight at the Masonic temple in North Long Beach. Several Torrance residents are planning to attend. The principal speaker will be C. J. S. Williamson, manager of the civic development and real estate department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and "Mirandy" of radio fame, assisted by the "Harmony Boys" will provide the entertainment.

### Bus-Rail Parley with P.E. in Redondo Tonite

When Pacific Electric officials appear at the Redondo Beach city council room tonight to amplify their suggestion of reducing rail traffic and substituting busses on the route between Los Angeles, Gardena, Torrance and the beach city, Mayor William H. Tolson and DeKalb Spurlin and L. J. Gilmeister of this city will be present to participate in the discussion.

#### Cabrillo Group Postpones Dinner-Meet

Ed Thompson, chairman of the recently-organized Torrance Improvement association seeking Cabrillo avenue's center-strip paving, announced early this week that the scheduled dinner-meeting of the association tonight (Thursday) was postponed until Oct. 21. He said that neither Mayor William H. Tolson nor L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who were to confer with the association could be present tonight.

Next Thursday evening they will be present to report on the details of the proposed rail-bus plan offered by the Pacific Electric to serve between Redondo Beach, Torrance, Gardena and Los Angeles. The Cabrillo avenue group is vitally interested in this project and plans to take an active part in any move that develops here on the transit matter.

#### Hawthorne Girl Hospitalized After Crash

Betty Trust, 13, of Hawthorne was treated for shock at Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital Sunday morning following an almost head-on automobile collision between her father's car and a machine driven by Arthur Nolan of 916-D Portola avenue, at the intersection of Maricopa and Amalapa avenues.

She was found to be unhurt except for a few bruises and cuts and after a short rest in the hospital was allowed to be taken to her home. Officer Tolson, who investigated the accident, reported that Nolan "had been drinking but was not drunk." He said Nolan was at fault because he made no effort to stop until hitting William F. Trust's car.

**CITY BUYS SCRAPER**  
A new road scraper was purchased for the city street department at a cost of \$495 by the city council last night.

**DENY TREE REMOVALS**  
Two tree removal requests were refused by the city council last night.

#### HEARING SET FOR WATER DISTRICT

With the filing by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard of a complete report on the proposed creation of Municipal Water District No. 2 to serve residents along Arlington avenue between 182nd and 160th street and a statement of the assessed debt encumbering that district, the way was cleared last night for the city council to fix a date for the final decision on the long-considered water service for the North Torrance area.

A protest hearing has been set for Nov. 30 in the city council room at 8 o'clock when all residents in the proposed improvement district may voice their approval or rejection of the bonding of that sector for the \$8,244.88 water system. Leonard's report was specific in statements that the city in general is not to contribute anything to the bonded indebtedness for this improvement.

**To Notify Owners**  
Exhaustive investigation by the engineer has shown that the Arlington avenue district is well within the state debt limit act because existing and the proposed water facilities debt is but 29 percent of the actual land value. The debt limit act allows up to 50 per cent.

Each of the 32 property owners whose land is within the proposed improvement district will receive written notice of the protest hearing and a copy of Leonard's final report. If a majority indicate Nov. 30 that the improvement should go in and be paid for by an issue of 10-year bonds the city will proceed to form the district, sell the securities and install the water mains. However, if there is a majority against the improvement the matter, which has been agitated for nearly a year, will come to an end.

### Comrada Retires As Gaucho Coach

Because of the pressure of his duties as vice-principal, Ben Comrada, veteran head coach at Narbonne high school in Lomita, this week announced that he had turned over full supervision of Gaucho athletics to Assistant Coach Phil Lieb. Comrada, who has developed "five" or six championship teams" (he doesn't remember the exact number) in football at the Lomita institution will continue to take an active interest in sports.

But Lieb, assisted by Wayne Sloss, will be "head-man" in athletics at Narbonne henceforth. He has coached several championship teams at Oxnard and is a brother of Tom Lieb, grid coach at Loyola University.

#### 3 Numbers for Chamber

"Our phone number is 8... yes, 8... yes, just 8... just the single figure, 8-e-i-g-h-t!"

Three of having to repeat this identifying formula over the phone to people on the other end of the line who can't seem to understand a single phone number, Secretary L. J. Gilmeister appealed to the telephone company recently for "number relief."

He got it Monday. Henceforth, the Chamber of Commerce phone number is 881. The new telephone directories, bound in blue-green instead of the old one's blue-gray, were distributed to patrons in this city and elsewhere thruout the Harbor district this week. They contained the new Chamber of Commerce number and also the recently-changed numbers of the city hall offices.

### Work May Start on January 1

Construction of a new \$80,000 auditorium building on the Torrance high school campus is to start immediately after the first day of 1938.

Allocation of this sum for the building was announced this week by the Los Angeles board of education which will use its own funds for the addition without applying for a Public Works Administration supplementary project.

The new building, which will not be erected on the site of the old auditorium which was demolished last year, will provide seats for about 800 students and will be used exclusively for an assembly hall for entertainments, social functions and programs.

**Old Plans Discarded**  
"Because the plans for the structure are still in a preliminary stage, the exact location of the auditorium is uncertain. It may be constructed to adjoin the main high school building on Carson street or be located east of the depression which was the foundation for the earthquake cracked old building which was erected in 1925 and torn down in 1936."

Architect Wesley Eager, who conceived the plans for the new Torrance high boys' gymnasium, had a set of plans ready for the auditorium project here several months ago, he told the Herald this week. However, some extensive changes were made in these drafts by board of education building supervisors and now is at work on a complete new set.

If the contract is awarded by January 1, the construction of the building will take about 120 days to complete, it was reported from the publicity office of the board.

**Students Cheer News**  
High school students have been holding assemblies and small entertainments in the old gymnasium building where a make-shift stage was constructed. The major functions, such as class plays, Junior Prom and graduation ceremonies have been held in the Civic Auditorium thru the courtesy of the city.

Architect Eager told the Herald that he expects complete plans for the new structure "in 10 days or two weeks." Then it will be up to the board of education to pass judgment on the sketches and advertise for bids on the construction.

The announcement that the school was to receive this welcome addition to its campus was warmly greeted by the students last Friday when they heard of the \$80,000 allocation over the public address system during the noon hour.

#### TO DISCUSS ZONING

City councilmen will join directors of the Chamber of Commerce next Monday afternoon at 4:30 to continue discussion of zoning plans for residential property in the area west of Cedar avenue.

### New Phone Directories Issued; Abramson Leads Two Sections

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Harry M. Abramson of the National Home Appliance Company continues to be No. 1 in both the Torrance and Lomita sections of the phone manual and Anthony Zamperini of 2028 Gramery is again the last name in the 88-page booklet.

A table of rates for overseas telephone service shows that it would cost \$42.75 to talk with a Siamese friend in Bangkok for three minutes; \$51.75 to converse with an Australian; \$27.75 to ring up an Englishman in London.