

# TORRANCE HERALD

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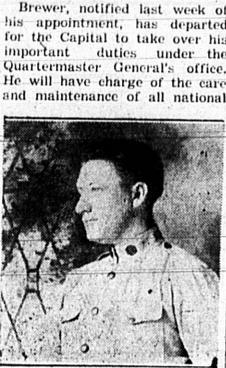
2100 YEAR—No. 10.

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## JOHN BREWER WINS HIGH POST AS SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Out of 570 commissioned and non-commissioned officers, John Brewer, retired U. S. Army officer and resident of Torrance, emerged as Number 1 with a score of 98.47 in the recent Civil Service examination given by the War Department for Superintendent of National Cemeteries with offices in Washington, D. C.



JOHN BREWER to guard Unknown Soldier

With more than six months' intense work and study, many years experience in the Army, Brewer feels well equipped to handle his new work.

His wife and daughter will remain in Torrance until the completion of the school year. Then they will join him in Washington, leaving behind them many friends, and their lovely home at 1600 Beech street where they have lived for several years.

Brewer worked out of Torrance in a Army governmental survey which kept him away from his home much of the time. In his new position, Brewer will have full charge of the nation's resting place for its honored war dead.

Among the cemeteries governed by the War Department is Arlington in Virginia where the graves of more than 18,000 Civil War veterans are located and the Unknown Soldier rests eternally.

It is reported that Brewer gave up a position that paid better than \$4,200 a year to accept the governmental post. The family has many friends here who are wishing Brewer great success in his new post.

## "Doc" Hill Enters Race

Ondus ("Doc") Hill, formerly of Alabama, a World War veteran and a resident of Torrance since he entered the employment of the Columbia Steel company in April, 1927, is still another city council candidate for election next month. As a taxpayer and home-owner, Hill states that Torrance needs more home owners to interest themselves in city affairs and to fight for the things that will benefit the majority of its citizens and not just a certain class.

Hill has never held public office before but declared he has been greatly interested in and is familiar with the politics and government of this city during the 10 years he has been a voter here. Being a

## Harbor City School Principal Succeeds Alex Verhusen Here

A new principal took over the direction of the Torrance Elementary school Monday morning as a result of Alex Verhusen's advancement to the principalship of the 118th Street (at Main) school. He is Merle R. Helbach who was promoted here from the Harbor City school. Helbach, a native Californian, is no stranger to Torrance, having been principal of the Walteria school from 1929 to 1934.

He said he was delighted to assume charge of the Torrance school and eager to enter the community life of the city although he will continue to reside in Los Angeles with his wife and three daughters, 15, 10 and eight years of age. Verhusen's promotion removed one of the most popular principals in Torrance to the regret of all elementary teachers and P. T. A. members who held him in high esteem.

"Mr. Helbach's promotion to the Torrance school is in recognition of his proven ability as an administrator," Warren

## Water Remains Pure Thru Flood Here: Stanger

Torrance city water came thru last week's flood uncontaminated and as pure as ever, declared William J. Stanger, superintendent of the municipal system, this week. He received several calls for information about the condition of the water from the Los Angeles school authorities who were advising all teachers to instruct students to urge parents to boil all water.

"At no time was our water supply endangered by the flood," Stanger said. "We ran frequent tests and knew our water was pure. Our inspections were confirmed by the Los Angeles county health office this week. The instructions given teachers here were unnecessary."

## Crash Injuries Fatal; Lomita Mailman Dies

Lomita paid heavy-hearted tribute to the late Otis W. Pedersen, 34, veteran mail carrier, Tuesday afternoon as the last rites for the indirect victim of 1938's big flood were held at the A. M. Gilbert Mortuary. The chapel was filled to capacity and many were forced to wait outside during the funeral rites. The Lomita Kiwanis club was in charge of the service. Interment followed at Roosevelt Memorial park.

Mr. Pedersen succumbed early Friday morning at Torrance Memorial Hospital as a result of injuries received when his car, in which he and Jay L. Gasser, former substitute mail carrier, were riding, crashed into a truck at Esplanade and Lomita boulevard at the height of last Wednesday's storm.

He never fully regained consciousness. A coroner's inquest, held at the Gandy Mortuary Monday afternoon developed conflicting testimony as to whether or not Mr. Pedersen made the boulevard stop on entering Lomita boulevard. Gasser, who is recovering from head and knee injuries, contended he did while Lester Baldwin, driver of the truck, and Mary Ridenour, 15, a witness, asserted the Pedersen car sped into the path of the truck without stopping at the intersection.

**Crash Held Accidental**  
The jury, which heard versions of the fatal crash from Deputy Sheriff Al Wolff, Baldwin, Gasser and Miss Ridenour, absolved the truck driver of blame for the accident. Mr. Pedersen is survived by his wife, Edith, and three daughters, Joan, Mary and Katherine, all of 25607 Lucille Lomita and by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pedersen of 2309 West 241st street, and two brothers, Kaye of 241st street, and Henry of Dallas, Texas.

During his residence in Lomita for the past 10 years, he

## Raymond is Candidate

A native of Pennsylvania, where he served an appointed term as mercantile appraiser (similar to business-license fee collector) in Venango county, Howard P. Raymond of 2216 Andree avenue joined the list of city council campaigners this week. Raymond came to California in 1923 on account of his wife's health and nine years ago began his residence in Torrance.

He was educated in the grade schools and State Normal in his native state. At the present time Raymond is a Democratic State committeeman from the 68th Assembly District and president of the Torrance Democratic club.

He worked most of his life as a refinery man and is considered a top-notch mechanical construction engineer. For the past two years he has been employed in the National Supply company plant's maintenance department. He owns his own home here and has two children, Harry E., 16, and Gale Grace, eight. Two years ago he sought a council post here and received support of a large number of voters.

**No C. of C. Subsidy**  
"I have always been a progressive," he said yesterday. "I believe city and state governments should cooperate with the national administration in the new progressive ideas now working for a new era in our country."

"I believe our Chamber of Commerce should cooperate with the national administration in the new progressive ideas now working for a new era in our country."

## Nine In Race for City Councilman; Initiative for City Filing 'Deadline' Is Saturday Noon

### Gilbert Bids for Council



WALLACE H. GILBERT

A member of the first city council, elected in Torrance, Wallace H. Gilbert, mayor here in 1923, today began his campaign for return to public office as a member of the council to be elected April 12. He said that the first municipal board, elected following the city's incorporation in April, 1921, set a high standard for work accomplished and that he desired to be known as a "candidate whose past record is his best qualification to hold office."

Gilbert came to Torrance in 1920 after the Pacific Electric moved its shops from Redondo to this city. He was employed as a timekeeper for the transit line. At the time the P. E. put in operation its plan for building homes for its employees here, he was instrumental in getting about 60 workers to take advantage of this plan by purchasing lots and building homes in Torrance.

**Matched City's Growth**  
He was elected in 1921 as one of the first five men to serve as city councilmen here and in his third year on the board was elected mayor. Gilbert has taken a keen interest in civic affairs during all his years here and has a host of friends who regard him as a citizen of integrity and ability to make a good board representative.

"I have been very much interested in the growth of Torrance," Gilbert said this week, "and have taken keen pleasure in each new city development that meant a larger city and a

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### THREE INCUMBENTS SEEK RE-ELECTION APRIL 12

Bringing the total number of candidates for the two available long-term (four years) city council offices to nine, six men, including incumbent Councilman James E. Hitchcock, filed their nominating petitions this week. At the same time City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced he would seek re-election and the incumbent, Scott Ludlow, for the city treasurer.

Those who entered the April 12 municipal election campaign for councilmen this week were: Frank H. Egerer, Wallace H. Gilbert, Councilman Hitchcock, William T. Klusman, Howard P. Raymond and Frank Schmidt. Last week Lindsay E. Kelsey, Carl E. Marsteller and John V. Murray filed for election.

Deadline for filing nomination petitions for councilman, city clerk and city treasurer is

### Clerk Seeks Fourth Term

"If one good term deserves another," what do three terms imply? Friends of City Clerk Albert H. Bartlett assert they point to a record of fine civic service that should be continued for a fourth term. And that is what led Bartlett, this city's senior public servant, to announce his candidacy this week for re-election at the April 12 municipal ballot event.

Bartlett was first elected city clerk in 1922 and he has been the only one to fill that office ever since. He said today that he was seeking re-election "solely on my past record of service to the community."

Bartlett's public service extends far beyond the confines of his office in the city hall. He came here in 1922 and shortly afterward was instrumental in forming the Chamber of Commerce. He was secretary for the civic body for several years and recalls that "I have been secretary for nearly every civic organization formed here."

He helped organize the city's volunteer fire department and the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce. During the war, Bartlett acted as Secretary of Liberty Loans and other emergency campaigns. As city clerk he holds an enviable record for efficient, trustworthy and courteous attention to his many duties.

"I have given the best part of my life to my office," he

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### Hitchcock in Race Again

James E. Hitchcock, veteran city councilman, officially became a candidate for re-election to the Torrance city council this week as friends completed the circulation of his petition and filed it with the city clerk.

In point of continuous service, Councilman Hitchcock is the "oldest" member of the present council, having served since July, 1932, when he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of the late G. A. R. Steiner. Hitchcock's popularity as a councilman was reflected two years later when he was elected for a four-year term in April, 1934, by a big majority.

During most of his six years on the city council, Hitchcock has been chairman of the important Public Works department, commonly referred to as the "Street department," although its activities cover a

### Schmidt in Vote Event

The youngest entrant in the April 12 city council race announced his candidacy this week. He is Frank Schmidt, 27, of 736 Border avenue who is now building a new home here. A native of Colorado, Schmidt came here in 1930 and has been a property owner for several years. He is a turn foreman at the Columbia Steel plant where he has been employed for eight years.

He has taken a keen interest in many civic affairs here in the past. His platform statement follows:

"My main object in running for city council is because I believe 'young blood' would do the city a lot of good. A young man sees many things which would make for the betterment of the city if they were properly analyzed and then carried out. I am directing my own campaign without financial assistance from anyone because I do not want to be obligated to anyone or any group after the election.

"My own responsibilities would be the people I hope to represent and the city I desire to serve. I admire our city's progressive spirit and I want to help keep Torrance in the lead of all Southern California communities. I have direct contact with a large number of working men—men who own their own homes here and are deeply interested in city government. I want to be their 'voice' in that government and bring to Torrance a well-rounded city administration."

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### Egerer Out For Council

Asserting that "Torrance is a young city and thus should offer young men and women an opportunity for public service," Frank Egerer, toolroom foreman of the National Supply company here for the past three years, announced this week he was a candidate for city council. Egerer, a native of Colorado, came to California in 1920. Seven years ago last Saturday he moved to Torrance and now lives at 807 Beech street.

He entered the employment of the National Supply company here as a tool maker and is now serving as tool-room foreman, a position which he has held for the past three years. Married, Egerer has two sons, Edwin, 12, and Gene, 10. His father was a justice of the peace, police magistrate and city treasurer in Colorado but Egerer has never sought public office before.

**Cites Improvement**  
"I believe the people of Torrance want someone in the city council who is on his toes and wide-awake to the continued advancement of the city," Egerer declared. "I want to offer that kind of service to my home city. We must continue good, clean government and I know my reputation proves that I will serve Torrance and its people honestly and fairly."

"I would like to see our civic building program continued to include a recreation building for the enjoyment and use of old and young alike. We need such facilities here. This and other improvements will be my objectives on the city council."

**HEADS FUTURE FARMERS**  
Bob Biller has been chosen president of the Narbonne Future Farmers of America.

### DISARIO EXPECTS BIG CROWD AT WESTERN METAL PARLEY

Hundreds of metal workers from this vicinity will attend the Western Metal Congress, to be held March 21 to 25 in Pan-Pacific auditorium, according to John Disario, 1448 Engracia. He is general chairman of the congress. Disario is metallurgist for Columbia Steel company.

The meetings, he said, will be educational throughout, and will be given by the American Society for Metals and approximately 18 co-operating national technical societies. Meetings of the American Welding Society will be held at the same time, while the Pacific Coast Gas Association and American Society of Mechanical Engineers will meet certain days of the same week.

More than 3,000 are expected to attend the technical sessions, Disario continued, and 50,000 are expected to visit the technical exhibits, testing laboratories and heat treating plants, which will be set up in the auditorium at the same time.

Among the speakers, he said, will be 100 leading metal technicians and scientists of this country. Many are coming from New York, Chicago and Pittsburgh, as well as the south and northwest. Sessions will be devoted to aeronautics, mining, petroleum, foundry, machine



JOHN DISARIO 18 societies cooperating

### TAKES OFFICE

Failure to publish a statement of their intentions cost proponents of a proposed initiative measure asking Torrance voters to decide whether or not the Torrance Symphony orchestra shall have city subsidy raised from a tax of three-quarters of one cent per \$100 assessed valuation

the right to place this question on the April 12 municipal ballot.

In his first opinion since being appointed, new City Attorney John E. McCall informed the city council Tuesday night that such a notice, followed by a sworn affidavit of its publication must be filed with the city clerk at the time any petition seeking such initiative space on the ballot is filed. The state political code, McCall's written statement pointed out, is emphatic on this point.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett reported to the council that a petition sponsoring the proposed symphony subsidy initiative contained 797 valid signatures. This was more than the number required by statute law (15 percent of the total registered voters), he said.

Urges Council to Act

When McCall ruled that the publication requirement was not followed, Scott Ludlow, staunch supporter of the Symphony Orchestra association, declared he believed the council could, of its own volition, place the proposition on the ballot. He urged this be done in view of the large number of endorsements the subsidy plan had received.

However, Councilman George V. Powell denied the council had this right and the council voted to file the petition without taking action on its contents.

George N. Merzhon, conductor of the symphony, in a statement to The Herald yesterday, said that "there are no hard feelings on the part of the Torrance Musicians' association" for the council's action. His statement follows:

**Pleased at Response**  
"The Citizens' pro-Symphony petition was made invalid on account of unforeseen technicalities. After hearing the points brought out at last night's council meeting I do not see how the council could have acted otherwise. The welfare of our city would be jeopardized if the issue were pressed further at present. This would be contrary to all American ideals.

"We are very greatly pleased at the response of Torrance citizens to the cause of symphony music in Torrance. Their sincere interest shows that although Torrance citizens may be working men they are very highly developed individuals. We hope the city council will take this into consideration in the future. I am sure there are no hard feelings on the part of any members of the Torrance Musicians' Association, Inc. and we will cooperate in every way possible with Torrance city in the future. We wish to thank Torrance citizens for their support."

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### Residents Here 23 Years Wed Half-Century

Surrounded by their children, five grandchildren and with 15-month-old Bobbie Rae Volz, great-grandchild, slumbering thru most of the festivities, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Webb, residents here for 23 years, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last night at a family dinner party in their home, 1922 Plaza del Amo.

In addition to the family, there were a number of invited guests to make up a group of 25 who warmly congratulated the Webbs and wished them many more years of happiness together. Little Bobbie Rae came in for her share of attention as she is believed the only baby in California who has four great-grandparents and four grand-children to watch over her welfare.

Webb, who followed the trade of glass worker all his active life, is 70 years of age while Mrs. Webb is three years his junior. They were married in Dover, Delaware, March 9, 1888, and then went to live in New Jersey. Webb was born in Baltimore, Md., while his wife, who was Vasti Richmond, was a native of New Jersey.

**Have Four Children**  
The family moved west to Indiana and remained in the Hoosier state for 22 years. Twenty-four years ago they came to California and lived in

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JOHN H. McCALL offers first opinion

### South Torrance Oilmen Watch Progress on "Proving" Wells

Altho 11 pumps are bringing up high gravity oil from the deeper sands below the South Torrance field and activity around nearly 40 other wells continues at top speed, the general consensus among operators in that area is that the field still needs proving. Only a few sites have been closed up since the deepening rush started and oilmen are still confident that the South Torrance scene is rich with possibilities.

But the fact remains, according to conservative operators, that greater exploration is necessary before the area's potential value is uncovered. Some of the wells now in process of drilling are being looked upon as "proving" projects for the entire field.

Among these testing wells are Charles C. Camp's No. 1 and No. 2 on the Pegor lease; Jack Doyle's Meacham, Camp's No. 1, was being prepared yesterday to go on production. Its total depth is 5,025 with perforating set for 120 feet. The Pegor No. 2 is being rigged at the present time.

Doyle is coring on his Bond

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### Grubbs Rigging Again

The producing deep-sand wells in the field are C.C.M.O.'s Nos. 33 and 34; Everett Grubbs' Nos. 2 and 3; Patton Oil's No. 1 Four-Way, M. and M. Petroleum, Albertson Oil company, Neil H. Anderson's Nos. 2 and 4 and Fisher and Johnson's Watkins No. 1.

Other developments this week in the South Torrance field were: Superior Oil is preparing to cement casing on its No. 5 and C.C.M.O. is rigging its No. 23 to deepen. Everett Grubbs is rigging up his No. 1 for further deepening and Texas Company is coring below 5,000 feet on its Wilson Company No. 5 lease.

**M. and M. on Pump**  
Gypsum Oil and Petroleum is rigging at 229th and Pennsylvania as is Burns McDonald on his No. 3 which is going to

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