

KIWANIS HOLD DIVISION MEET AT RIVIERA TONIGHT



ROGER MARSHALL HARRY LANE DEAN SEARS
... of Santa Monica ... of San Gabriel ... of Torrance

Several hundred Kiwanians from 12 clubs in Division One of the California-Nevada district of Kiwanis International will gather tonight at the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse for the first Division dinner-meeting of the year.

Torrance club, headed by President Dean Sears, will be host to the meeting.

Roger S. Marshall of Santa Monica, lieutenant-governor, will preside during the business session and the principal speaker will be Harry Lane of San Gabriel, district governor.

Marshall and Lane will be making official visits at the local meeting.

During the dinner, a program of entertainment will be given. This has been arranged by President Sears and will consist of ocarina numbers by a Kiwanis quartet from the Southwest Los Angeles club and solos by Joe Waugh, member of the Santa Monica club and district song leader.

Final arrangements for the Division gathering were made by the Torrance club's president at dinner meeting at Marshall's home last Thursday night. All past presidents of the local club will serve as a host committee to welcome the visiting Kiwanians.

Clubs included in Division One who are expected to have representative delegations at the meeting tonight are: Angeles Mesa, Beverly Hills, East Los Angeles, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Southwest Los Angeles, Westwood Village, Wilshire-Los Angeles and Torrance.

Marijuana-Doped Cigarette Blamed for Youth's Agony

Today, a week after a frightful ordeal that finally placed him in custody of attendants at the Psychopathic ward of the Los Angeles general hospital—a raving, superhumanly strong man obviously maniacal—Earl W. Bretton, 19, of this city is still unable to recall what caused his temporary mental derangement last week-end.

He is confined at his home with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Babcock at 2008 Gramercy avenue, a badly shaken but recovering victim of what police believe to have been marijuana poisoning, unintentionally administered when he accepted a cigarette from a stranger at a cafe in Wilmington.

Young Bretton, adopted son of T. L. Bretton, father of Mrs. Babcock, suffered intense agony for more than 12 hours while the poison raced thru his system, robbing him of his faculties. His experience proved a dreadful shock to friends here who rallied to his assistance when summoned by Wilmington police.

Stopped by Walter Detrick of 724 Border and Oris Henry of 720 Border, the youth started out last Thursday evening for what was to have been a ride to Wilmington and San Pedro. It ended with a frantic effort on the part of Babcock, Sam Levy and Police Chief John Stroth to get the youngster out of the car.

At the Wilmington police interviews with Detrick and Henry, they only sipped their drinks and Bretton did not touch his. However, the boy recalls accepting a cigarette from a man he did not know at the cafe and smoking it.

The trio then got into their car and started on toward San Pedro. But Bretton began to act very strangely. He shouted and struggled to get out of the machine. At N and Blyn streets he became violent and subject to muscular convulsions. When Wilmington police arrived he was in a bad way. He managed to get out of the car, walked, fell and then ran. The officers had a hard time catching him and holding him for an ambulance.

The Wilmington hospital police learned his identity and summoned Babcock and Sam Levy, who had employed the boy for odd jobs. The improvement was such that the boy was taken to Georgia Street receiving hospital in Los Angeles. But his condition was so violent there that attendants refused to admit him.

From Georgia Street, the youth was taken to Lincoln Heights jail infirmary but by that time

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South Africa's Crime Bles CAPE TOWN (U.P.)—South Africa's crime rate has almost tripled in three years.

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., ... tonnage losses shrinkage

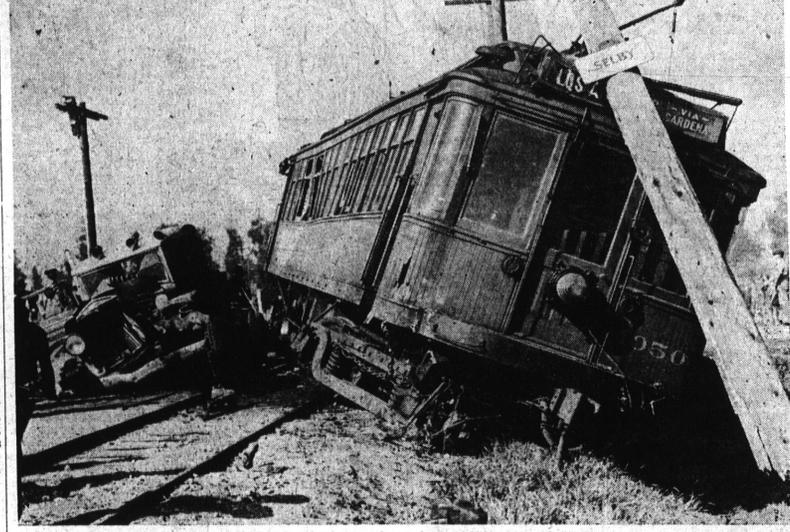
Big Steel Sees Business Improvement

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Alondrans Plan Long-Term Tax Strike

Fog Blamed for Red Car-Truck Crash Here



Above is shown the wreckage that resulted when a Pacific Electric car, bound for Los Angeles, crashed into a heavily laden lumber truck and trailer at the P. E. crossing on Hawthorne boulevard near El Nido early Monday morning.

Association Meets in Auditorium Tonight to Map Bond Fight

(For a revealing statement of Alondra Park's financial history and decoration by a prominent Los Angeles research engineer that Alondra Parkers are "paying a ransom for something that is dead as a doornail," turn to Page 2 of today's Herald.—EDITOR.)

Determined to obtain release from crushing assessments that have burdened their property for years, Alondra Park property owners are ready to declare a five-year tax strike embracing every one of the 8,000 acres within the district. Unless the county board of supervisors does the unexpected and comes to the aid of the district with a substantial contribution toward the assessments, every effort will be made at a meeting here tonight to clamp down on all payments for the Matton Act bonds in the district.

North Torrance Taxpayers Seek Assessment Lift

Another group of taxpayers, the North Torrance Improvement association, indicated to the city council Tuesday night they were determined to stage a strike similar to the one threatened by Alondra Park. A. and I. District 70 taxpayers to obtain relief from assessments.

A letter to the council, signed by Mrs. Lela Gonner, secretary of the North Torrance association, requested the city to undertake measures to lift the indebtedness for the improvement of 182nd street and Prairie avenue. Mrs. Gonner's letter pointed out that the council has been notified "in simple time to work out a plan for relief with the board of supervisors" because the property owners are not going to pay any more assessments for those streets.

City Attorney John E. McCall reported that there is a balance due of \$9,500 on one street \$2,000 on the other and that the delinquencies are 50 to 70 percent. Mayor Tolson assured Mrs. Gonner, who with John Salm, speaker from the audience at the assessment meeting, that the council would see what could be done. The problem was referred to the city attorney for a report at the next council meeting.

Both bondholders' committee, composed of Mayor and City Attorney John E. McCall of this city; Judge Frank Carroll of Gardena, Mayor Colton Bell and Councilman Daley of Redondo Beach, Percy W. Giddings of North Torrance and Bert L. Cook of Lawndale, conferred with the supervisors Tuesday. They will report the result of the meeting tonight.

A. and I. 70 District Seeks Matton Relief

All property owners in Acquisition and Improvement District No. 70 located in the Shoestring strip on either side of Normandie street between 158th and 160th streets, urged to attend an important meeting to be held next Thursday night, March 23, in the Steelworkers' hall at 158th street, opposite the central fire station.

At that time, the special committee formed last Thursday night to seek relief from the crushing Matton Act bonds of the district, will make a report on its conference with the county's Special Assessment Relief committee. This conference will be held Wednesday, March 22. Members of the committees are Mrs. S. A. Green of 2242 South Normandie, chairman; E. R. Osborne, Ralph R. Perry, E. Poggi and Charles R. Curtis.

About 50 vitally concerned property owners attended the meeting here last week. They heard informative talks by Leo L. Verlan, special representative of the Home Owners Loan Corporation; J. P. Driscoll, from the real estate division of the Security First National bank, and

Deputy Assessor Here Thursdays to Aid Taxpayers

A deputy county assessor will be located at the Chamber of Commerce every Thursday afternoon from today until May 25 to assist local property owners in filing their tax statements. The temporary office will be open here from 3 to 5 o'clock each Thursday afternoon.

Those financial returns at their homes that the deputy assessor has called but found no one home should appear at the Chamber of Commerce on those afternoons from 2:30 to 5 o'clock as required by law.

Rain Total Here Is 11.73 Inches

City firemen who have been gauging rainfall here during the past three months added up the total Tuesday and reported the season's rainfall to date here is 11.73 inches. The first rain was on Dec. 19. Monthly totals were: December, 6.06 inches; January, 2.87; February, 2.79 and March, .61 inches.

Excavation of Colorado Water Will Be Costly, Citizens Told

"I think we should continue efforts to dig up those poor Indians or whatever is under that mound, if it takes all winter!" declared Councilman James Hitchcock Tuesday night when the municipal board received notice from the Works Progress Administration in Washington, D. C., that the project for excavation of the pre-historic Indian mound in Hollywood Riviera was denied.

Two reasons were given for the denial of the proposed work which was to have been done under the direction of the archaeological department of U.S.C. with the city receiving all relics unearthed. The WPA Project Control division recommended disapproval because the mound is located on private property and because the famed Smithsonian Institute disapproved the idea.

Smithsonian's objections were based on the fact that no details were given of the facilities at the Torrance public library for museum exhibition of the relics and artifacts believed in the mound and no trained "curators" are available here to take proper care of the findings. WPA should be guaranteed publication of reports.

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Big Steel Sees Business Improvement

Net Loss of Seven Million in 1938 Less Than Expected

NEW YORK, March 16—In contrast to the unprofitable record of 1938 when the corporation lost more than seven million dollars, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, told stockholders this week in his annual report that 1939 prospects for the industry are improving. He said:

"At the time this report is written it is gratifying to observe that conditions in the iron and steel industry indicate an improving tendency. During the first two months of 1939 orders for steel products, as well as a production and shipments, have shown some improvement over the December average, and were substantially better than during the corresponding period in 1938."

Big Steel's net loss for 1938 was \$7,717,454 after deducting all general charges, including depreciation, taxes and interest on

debt. This loss compares with a profit for 1937 of \$94,944,358. The tonnage of steel produced for sale by the subsidiary companies, of which Columbia Steel

Trimming--Not Death for El Prado Trees

Experts from the California Tree Service of Hollywood will begin trimming the tall eucalyptus trees bordering El Prado park Monday morning. It was announced today by Councilman Tom McGuire, chairman of the City Planning Commission, to which body the troublesome tree problem was referred by the city council.

First trees to be topped and trimmed will be the row on the north side of El Prado between Arlington and Manuel avenues, according to McGuire.

California Tree Service, whose slogan is "Tree Surgery With a Conscience" are specialists in the treatment of eucalyptus trees. McGuire states. Prominent among their clients are Cedric Gibbons, William Randolph Hearst, Wm. Wrigley, Jr., and a score of famous motion picture stars. The company recently trimmed and topped the giant eucalypti at Universal Studios, which are familiar landmarks.

Cost to the city will be approximately \$3 per tree, McGuire stated.

SONS TO MEET

A number of local Sons of Legion will attend the district meeting in Compton tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock.

Employee Relations Maintained on Satisfactory Basis

Company here is one, in 1938 was only slightly more than half of the previous year's volume, averaging 33.2 percent of rated capacity compared with 71.2 percent in 1937. (Present operations at the Torrance plant are at about 60 percent capacity.)

PRODUCTION OFF

Except for the three depression years 1929, 1933 and 1934, 1938 production for the entire corporation was lower than in any year since 1908. The report explained:

"The full significance of this sharply reduced level of industrial activity becomes more apparent by a comparison with the corporation's average annual production in the five-year period from 1928 to 1930 inclusive, which shows that the 1938 production dropped approximately 7,000,000 tons below the five-year average." (Continued on Page 2A)

Motorman Hurt As P. E. Car Hits Lumber Truck

Altho an expensive Diesel truck was badly damaged and it took more than five hours to put the Pacific Electric car that the truck hit early Monday morning back on the tracks at Hawthorne avenue near El Nido, the truck driver escaped almost unscathed. The motorman of the electric car was not so fortunate. William D. Yarder of Redondo Beach, suffered severe cuts from flying glass as result of the impact.

The truck, carrying a load of lumber and a loaded trailer, smashed into the P. E. car at 5:05 a. m., during a dense fog. The car was thrown off the rails and the truck's engine was badly crushed.

Joseph F. Marcomb, 43, of San Pedro was driving the Diesel and he escaped with hardly a bruise after the load of lumber was thrown forward and down over his cab.

Both Motorman Yarder and Driver Marcomb told investigating officers they were going at a slow rate of speed on account of the fog but neither observed the other until just before the impact. The P. E. car was in charge of Conductor C. T. Blalock of Redondo Beach and was carrying only two passengers at the time. It was enroute from Redondo to Los Angeles.

Coordinators to Send Youth to Boys' State

Thirty members and interested spectators attended the meeting of the Torrance Coordinating Council Monday night at the city courtroom. The Council voted to send a letter to the county clerk, asking for information regarding the possibility of holding the second annual Factory Frolic here this fall. This letter, and its receipt by the county clerk, is published elsewhere in this edition.

A local boy will be sent to the Boys' State at Sacramento this summer, at the Coordinating Council's expense, to participate in a week-long Americanization outing sponsored by the American Legion.

It was decided to allow slacks to be worn by schoolgirls attending the regular Friday night dances, sponsored by the Council, in the regular Friday night dances, sponsored by the Council in the Civic Auditorium but that unusual acrobatics would be banned during the "jitterbug" contests. President John Miller presided at the session.