

# Boys' Club Thoroughly Explored at First of 'Town Hall' Meetings

Out of the discussion Tuesday night of the proposed Boys' Club project for Torrance at the first of a series of "Town Hall" meetings, sponsored jointly by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber and Coordinating Council, these facts stood out:

That juvenile delinquency which increased here 100 percent in 1939, is even greater this year;

That "church, home and community are failing to meet their responsibility to the young people of the city—leaving youth on its own to plot and plan for adventure, usually leading into trouble," according to the principal speaker, City Judge Robert Lessing;

That a solution to the problem, according to the Boys' Work committee, headed by Rev. Thomas R. Marshall, of the Coordinating Council, is a club "to furnish activity and adventure with sports, hobbies and handicraft; a reading room where youth is not nagged at by adults"; games room, gymnasium and other facilities;

Open to Girls Also

That the cost of such a project, even when reduced by the use of N.Y.A. labor and supervision and Federal discounts on purchases of materials, will be "approximately \$10,000";

That no estimate has been prepared as to the cost of maintenance of such a project; and

That the club building would be open to all boys and girls (the latter being mentioned in connection with the project for the first time) "whenever schools and churches are closed."

Opposition to the Boy's Club in the form of a counter proposal for reviving the Boy Scout movement in Torrance at a fraction of the cost of the club project was outlined by Robert Lewellen, who served Scouting here for some 16 years. His suggestion was that Scouting, now at the lowest level it has been in years here, could be improved and made available to "at least 500 boys" from Cub Scout years (9 to 12), Scout age (12 to 16) and on up to Senior and Sea Scouting (16 to 21).

**Graphs Illustrate Talk**

Lewellen included Girl Scouts in his suggestion as a means to better youth facilities in Torrance and declared that with a modest grant from the city council, "far less a sum than is needed to build and maintain a Boys' Club," the juvenile problem could be solved. He pointed out that the Scout program, an all-embracing movement followed by more than a million boys in the United States, offers the same inducements to good citizenship as are proposed under the club project.

The "Town Hall" session, which attracted only about 100 persons, was opened by President R. R. Smith of the Chamber of Commerce, who explained the purpose of the series of public meetings as a means to arouse civic interest in matters for the good of the city. He said that the meetings would be open for free discussion of any community issue but no vote or decision would be taken at the sessions.

Smith introduced John Elder, president of the Junior Chamber and presented Robert McCallum as the moderator of the first meeting.

McCallum introduced Rev. Thomas R. Marshall, who briefly outlined the history of the Boys' Club project, now about two years old, and then presented Judge Lessing. The city magistrate illustrated his talk with a series of graphic charts showing the cost of crime in the U. S. ("\$160 per family or 12 billion dollars a year"), factors in the juvenile delinquency from figures of the Los Angeles and Torrance police departments, and revealed results of a local survey which showed the trend.

(Continued on Page 7-A)

## Gauchos Get Tips On How To Cure Colds

If you believe you can avoid colds by keeping your bedroom windows wide open at night—forget it. At Narbonne high school students are instructed to "nhave warm air—don't leave windows open in your bedroom at night."

Other more conventional Narbonne tips on how not to come up with the sniffles: rest in bed when a cold first shows symptoms; drink lots of fruit juices and soups; don't cough or sneeze without covering the face to protect others from catching your cold; build up body resistance by eating three well-balanced meals a day.

## Local Student In St. Louis Wants to Boost City

Back in St. Louis, Missouri there is an ardent Torrance booster who has been doing considerable promotion work for this city and who wants to do more. He is Tony Moine, winner of the 1939 scholarship in factory training offered by a carburetor company.

Tony is studying and working in the company's service department in St. Louis, specializing in motor tuneup. This week he wrote to Secretary L. J. Gilmeister, asking for literature and pamphlets about Torrance.

A graduate of Torrance high school with the Summer class of 1938, Tony attended Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles for two years.

"I am very proud of my home town and want to prove to my fellow-workers here that I'm from a town that is really on the map and is a very fine and progressive industrial city. I would like to have some of the literature and pamphlets that you put out so I could base my facts and stories on them. . . . I am also attending a public speaking class here at one of the high schools and I would like to use this information for my speeches," Tony wrote.

Secretary Gilmeister dispatched all of the literature available about Torrance to Promoter Moine at once.

## Many Reservations Made for Rotarians' Dinner-Dance Tonight

With reservations exceeding the 100 mark, the Torrance Rotary Club's dinner-dance to be held this evening at the Army & Navy Club, Long Beach, is slated to be a success, according to Charles V. Jones, chairman of the committee.

In addition to the local Rotarians and their wives a large number of guests will be present. Following dinner an eight-piece orchestra will provide music for dancing.

## STEEL METALLURGIST MARRIES IN YUMA

Louis Ballard, metallurgist at the Columbia Steel plant here, and Miss Floy Coates of Holtville were married last Saturday in Yuma, Ariz. Mrs. Ballard studied at a Los Angeles business college.

## Three Injured in Car Collisions Here Saturday

Three persons were injured here in automobile collisions Saturday afternoon and night. A soldier stationed at Ft. MacArthur, Glenn C. Lawrence, 46, was the first victim. He was injured when his car turned over as he swerved the machine sharply at Hawthorne and Highway 101 in an effort to avoid a collision. He was treated at Torrance Memorial hospital for fractured ribs and then removed to the fort hospital.

Mrs. Iola Young of 1610 Cota avenue and Paul Zollner Sedam of Culver City were injured shortly before midnight when Mrs. Young's car, driven by Sedam, struck the rear of a machine driven by Mrs. Dovie Akridge of Redondo Beach on Torrance boulevard a block east of Hawthorne avenue.

Mrs. Akridge told police she was driving east on the boulevard and was only going about 20 miles an hour on the inside lane of the traffic because of the heavy fog. When her car was struck it was knocked about 100 feet east on the street, coming to rest in a field by the side of the road.

The Redondo woman told investigating officers she was knocked over into the rear seat of her sedan by the impact and was dazed. She was accompanied by her husband, Andy Akridge. Mrs. Young was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital. Her injuries consisted of a long gash on one leg that required more than 40 stitches to close, cuts and bruises about the head and face.

Her escort, Sedam, suffered cuts and bruises.

## M.W.D. Water Filtration Plant Near Completion

Assurance that there will be available early next year a plentiful supply of soft and filtered water for the people of Torrance and 12 other cities comprising the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was given late last week when official progress reports revealed that the large, modern softening and filtering plant on the distribution main line of the Colorado River Aqueduct rapidly is nearing completion.

Particularly welcome will this new soft and filtered water be to those areas in the Metropolitan Water District where the domestic water supplies are hard and therefore not perfectly adapted for many domestic uses, it was pointed out. Colorado River Aqueduct water supplied its 13 member cities by the District will be soft as well as filtered, and will therefore be ideal for all household uses, particularly for the kitchen, the laundry and the bath, District engineers stated.

Located on the upper feeder of the aqueduct's distribution system at a point near La Verne, the Water District's softening and filtration plant is of the most modern and efficient design and is one of the largest in the country, according to F. E. Weymouth, general manager and chief engineer of the District.

**Ready Early in 1941**

Beverly Hills is the only one of the District cities which now enjoys filtered water. The other 12 cities which will have abundant quantities of sparkling, crystal clear soft water made available to them by reason of their being in the Metropolitan Water District are Los Angeles, Anaheim, Burbank, Compton, Fullerton, Glendale, Long Beach, Pasadena, San Marino, Santa Ana, Santa Monica, and Torrance.

The new Water District plant, along with other features of the aqueduct's distribution system, is scheduled to be completed and ready to place in operation early in 1941. All major construction work on the 242-mile main line of the aqueduct, which extends from its intake back of Parker Dam to Lake Mathews

(Continued on Page 4-A)

## City Workers' Assistance With Yule Decorations Praised by Sponsors

With the splendid cooperation of the city and Recreation department, the Torrance Business Men's Association was able to decorate the business district more extensively this holiday season than any previous Yuletide. Following a "White Christmas" motif, the display embraces a larger area and is more elaborate in its use of last year's set pieces.

Robert McCallum, president of the Business Men's Association, yesterday expressed the group's sincere appreciation of help received in planning and erecting the decorations when he said: "Confronted with a late start following re-organization of the old Torrance Merchants' Association, we appealed to the city and Recreation department for assistance. The splendid decorations on our streets is ample evidence that this help was immediately given."

"In addition to providing an appropriation of \$50 and agreeing to pay the power bill for the colored lights, the city council gave us the services of the street, city electrical and recreation departments. Their heads, William Gascoigne, Oscar Butterfield and Dale Riley, together with their staffs, devoted much time to the preparation of materials for the displays."

**More Lights Are Used**

"We are also indebted to Mrs. Cora Bohrer of the Recreation department for her invaluable aid in designing the attractive mountings of the bells and candlesticks on the ornamental light standards, embellishing these with the silvered palms and designing the stars and 'Merry Christmas' greetings that hang over five intersections," McCallum stated.

Additional colored lights were purchased by the city to make every string lining the business streets complete. Mrs. Bohrer and other Recreation department workers constructed the miniature church in the triangular

(Continued on Page 7-A)

## Kiwanians Elect City Attorney 1941 President



Torrance Kiwanians elected City Attorney John E. McCall to be their 1941 president Monday night. Before and after he arrived at the triangular park in front of the Torrance theatre, Dale Riley, city recreation director, and Tom Hatfield entertained the crowd with broadcasts of Christmas music.

Early this week the last remaining portion of the Christmas decoration scheme—an attractive miniature church, complete with snow-covered roof and replicas of stained glass windows—was installed in the little park. Beginning Friday, Dec. 20, programs of Yuletide music will be broadcast from the little church.

On the same plot is located Santa's own mailbox where hundreds of youngsters have already posted their letters to St. Nick. The letters are being collected daily for dispatch to the North Pole. After Santa reads them and notes their contents in his "big book" they are being sent back to The Herald for publication.

**No. 1 Draftee From This Area Is Now at Ft. Ord, Monterey**

Among the first contingent of Los Angeles County draftees to arrive Tuesday at Fort Ord, near Monterey, to begin their Army training was Alan A. Arlin of Gardena, No. 1 volunteer who was leader of the four young men who left here for their training as the first group to go from Selective Service Draft Board No. 280. Arlin was among 24 who were issued equipment and assigned to companies in a recruit battalion for three months' preliminary training. They were assigned to the 53rd Infantry of the Seventh division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph L. Stilwell.

**Building Total Here Is \$332,192**

With only one more month to go, new construction in Torrance during 1940 appears certain to fall far behind the building total for 1939. The last 11 months of this year saw \$332,192 worth of construction recorded at the city building department. The same period of 1939 added \$576,993 in new buildings here.

During November building permits amounting to \$24,328 were taken out here. The construction total for November 1939 was \$23,850. The past month saw eight new residences, valued at \$21,000, started, five garages, \$1,200, and four alterations and repair jobs, \$2,125.

Building permits were issued during the past week to Edward G. Neess for a five-room house and a single garage at 1632 Madrid avenue, \$5,000; W. J. Hayman, three-room apartment over a garage at 2304 Torrance boulevard, \$2,500, and Torrance Laundry, corrugated iron extension to an existing shed at 1842 Carson street, \$500.

## \$1,241 Raised for Charity Chest

A total of \$1,241.25 has been pledged toward the \$2,200 quota for the 1941 Torrance Charity Chest, it was announced today by Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce. The campaign for funds has been conducted for the past two months by the Torrance Community Service Association.

The drive, according to custom, will continue until the quota is reached. Postmaster Earl Conner, chairman of the campaign, declared. Funds collected will be used for continued sponsorship of the WPA sewing project, the Mothers' Educational Center conducted at the Woman's club-house, distribution of food, milk and clothing to needy local families—all without one cent of overhead expense.

## Santa Launches Shopping Season by Visit Here

Hailed by thousands who lined business and residential streets, pouring out of homes and stores and converging at Marcelina and Sartori avenue, Santa Claus in person was given a great welcome when he appeared last Friday night to open the Christmas shopping season in Torrance. As usual, he rode the city's biggest fire truck, all decorated in colored balloons and illuminated by a huge flood light.

After returning the greetings of the throng and inviting everyone to shop in Torrance, Santa collected his mail, talked briefly with some of his more ardent admirers who climbed aboard the fire truck and then was driven back to a nearby airport where he planned for the return trip to the North Pole in a fast Stratoliner.

Several hundred balloons were distributed to the youngsters as a pre-Christmas gift from the Torrance Business Men's Association who linked Santa's arrival with the first showing of the new street decorations and lighting system. The Torrance Municipal band, led by Freddy Drum Majorette Marjorie Anderson, escorted Santa down Sartori avenue.

**Letters being Collected**

By special arrangement, the honored visitor from the North Pole was taken past the Torrance Elementary school so he could see and be seen by the throng attending the P.T.A. Carnival. Before and after he arrived at the triangular park in front of the Torrance theatre, Dale Riley, city recreation director, and Tom Hatfield entertained the crowd with broadcasts of Christmas music.

Other cities are preparing offers to purchase tax-deeded lands for parks and other city or public purposes, and the supervisors have asked that all offers be submitted by Dec. 15. The supervisors also have asked city officials that if such property obtained from the county under recent laws is resold to the public that adequate legal notice be given in their local newspapers.

**Red Cross Drive Ending Here Far Short of Goal**

Still far short of the goal of 1,000 memberships, the annual Red Cross Roll Call drive will be closed here this week, according to Robert Deinelinger, general chairman. To date only 198 persons and firms have subscribed to the humanitarian organization in Torrance.

Chairman Deinelinger announced the following additions to the Roll Call list this week:

Henry Ulbright, Dr. Alden W. Smith, Chas Mitschrich, J. Lepkin, Wm. Kempen, John Weller, F. D. Lipp, Frances Burton, Pauline Ray, Dr. O. E. Fossum, Lola Hoover, Velma Templeton, Sam Levy, Baker Smith, Henry Grubb, Dr. H. G. Mitts, Dr. M. A. Bauman, H. R. Lee, J. C. Penney Co., and E. E. Murchison.

L. C. Lippe, El Prado Furniture, Geo. Moore, B. C. Buxton Pioneer Lumber Co., Allen H. Paul, Daniels Cafe, Laura May Hyde, Beu Mar Beauty Shop, El Prado Yarn Shop, Mrs. Anna Bay, Goodyear Service, Mrs. Beeman & Easley, Orda Peltzke, Carson Barber & Beauty Shop, Ruth Borlaw, R. B. Drug, Ideal Ranch Market and W. O. Peince.

Louis Schultz, Eleanor Peterson, Marge Mickle, Wes Graham, Fred A. Harder, Mrs. A. P. Stevenson, Dr. A. P. Stevenson, Mrs. Ellis, Chas. A. Curtis, W. C. Bradford, Donald Findley, Hattie Glidden, Poppy Flower Shop, Mrs. N. E. Jamieson, W. I. Laughon, M. F. W. J. Harrison, M. D. Margaret Wright, G. S. Evans, E. Travoli and Geo. Dolton.

W. J. Neelands, Mrs. H. Masie, Mrs. Rous, Mrs. Robert Walde, Mrs. A. Burmaster, E. Morang, Mrs. Honrath, Mrs. Doris Coulson, Mrs. Carstensen.

(Continued on Page 7-A)

## German Censor Lacks Knowledge of Slang Phrase

The following bit of fun was received by a Harbor City woman from a relative in England who clipped it from his local paper:

A Chelsea man had a letter the other day from his son, a prisoner in Germany. The letter dwelt enthusiastically on conditions in Nazi Germany. "We get the best food I have ever eaten" it said. "The camp guards are all extremely decent and intelligent"—and so on.

Puzzled the father read on. The letter ended: "Tell all my friends how well I am being treated. Tell my pals in the Army. Tell them in the Navy. Above all, tell it to the Marines."

The plodding German censor had passed it.

## County Rejects City's \$1 a Lot Property Offer

Rejecting the offer of the city of Torrance to buy nine parcels of tax-deeded property for a public park and playground at \$1 a lot, the county board of supervisors has extended the city an offer to accept \$15 a lot.

The sum offered does not conform closely enough to the actual value of the land, and the amount of unpaid taxes which the county has lost, it was explained by the delinquent tax lands committee. A total of \$135 would be a fairer price, it was agreed.

The nine lots, part of an old subdivision, are near the Ferris Avenue elementary school, and adjacent to a densely populated area where children are in urgent need of playground facilities. They now must play in the streets, Torrance city officials told the supervisors.

Other cities are preparing offers to purchase tax-deeded lands for parks and other city or public purposes, and the supervisors have asked that all offers be submitted by Dec. 15. The supervisors also have asked city officials that if such property obtained from the county under recent laws is resold to the public that adequate legal notice be given in their local newspapers.

## Red Cross Drive Ending Here Far Short of Goal

Still far short of the goal of 1,000 memberships, the annual Red Cross Roll Call drive will be closed here this week, according to Robert Deinelinger, general chairman. To date only 198 persons and firms have subscribed to the humanitarian organization in Torrance.

Chairman Deinelinger announced the following additions to the Roll Call list this week:

Henry Ulbright, Dr. Alden W. Smith, Chas Mitschrich, J. Lepkin, Wm. Kempen, John Weller, F. D. Lipp, Frances Burton, Pauline Ray, Dr. O. E. Fossum, Lola Hoover, Velma Templeton, Sam Levy, Baker Smith, Henry Grubb, Dr. H. G. Mitts, Dr. M. A. Bauman, H. R. Lee, J. C. Penney Co., and E. E. Murchison.

L. C. Lippe, El Prado Furniture, Geo. Moore, B. C. Buxton Pioneer Lumber Co., Allen H. Paul, Daniels Cafe, Laura May Hyde, Beu Mar Beauty Shop, El Prado Yarn Shop, Mrs. Anna Bay, Goodyear Service, Mrs. Beeman & Easley, Orda Peltzke, Carson Barber & Beauty Shop, Ruth Borlaw, R. B. Drug, Ideal Ranch Market and W. O. Peince.

Louis Schultz, Eleanor Peterson, Marge Mickle, Wes Graham, Fred A. Harder, Mrs. A. P. Stevenson, Dr. A. P. Stevenson, Mrs. Ellis, Chas. A. Curtis, W. C. Bradford, Donald Findley, Hattie Glidden, Poppy Flower Shop, Mrs. N. E. Jamieson, W. I. Laughon, M. F. W. J. Harrison, M. D. Margaret Wright, G. S. Evans, E. Travoli and Geo. Dolton.

W. J. Neelands, Mrs. H. Masie, Mrs. Rous, Mrs. Robert Walde, Mrs. A. Burmaster, E. Morang, Mrs. Honrath, Mrs. Doris Coulson, Mrs. Carstensen.

(Continued on Page 7-A)

## FLU DROPS ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLS

With 395 pupils absent—mostly on account of the current influenza epidemic—out of a 2,295 enrollment in Torrance schools and 338 youngsters confined to their homes out of 1,870 attending schools in Lomita, principals in the two communities were anxiously watching their attendance figures and awaiting word from Los Angeles school authorities on whether or not the seven institutions would close.

The epidemic, especially virulent in Southern California, was growing in Torrance and Lomita, it was indicated from reports received by this newspaper from the school principals. There were 871 absent yesterday in all schools in this area, including Torrance, Lomita, Welteria, Harbor City and Perry. On Tuesday the absentees numbered 746. The total school attendance is 4,464.

According to information received by Principal Leonard Dykes of Torrance Elementary school from Los Angeles city school headquarters yesterday, the school health department is recommending that the institutions be kept open and operating. The health authorities contend that children are better off in school than "running loose about the streets."

**School Figures Given**

The percentage of absentees in the Torrance and Lomita area—19 percent—is about the same as in Los Angeles. There the percentage was reported yesterday as 16 percent.

All substitute teachers in the Los Angeles city school system were called into duty yesterday when 703 of the 12,000 regular instructors had to be replaced. Locally, there are only nine teachers reported confined to their homes on account of influenza.

The disease is said to be especially virulent at Santa Barbara, where school closed early this week after an absence rate as high as 53 percent. At Bakerfield, one third of Kern county's 33,000 children were ill.

**Torrance School Figures**

Torrance school principals reported these attendance figures yesterday:

**TORRANCE HIGH:** 226 absent and two teachers reported ill; enrollment 899. Tuesday there were 185 absent.

**TORRANCE ELEMENTARY:** 179 absent, no teachers off duty; enrollment 849. Tuesday there were 150 absent.

**FERRIS AVENUE:** 50 absent, two teachers off duty; enrollment 305. Tuesday there were 40 absent.

**WALTERIA:** 11 absent (the same on Tuesday), no teachers off duty; enrollment 168.

**PERRY SCHOOL:** Nine absent (the same as on Tuesday), no teachers off duty and enrollment 143.

Lomita school principals reported the following attendance figures late yesterday afternoon:

**NARBONNE HIGH:** 215 absent and five teachers ill out of an enrollment of 1,100. Tuesday there were 180 students absent.

**LOMITA ELEMENTARY:** 67 absent, no teachers off duty; enrollment 1,000. Tuesday there were 55 absent.

**ORANGE STREET:** 56 absent, no teachers off duty; enrollment 358. Tuesday there were the same number absent.

**HARBOR CITY:** 63 absent, no teachers off duty; enrollment 299. Tuesday there were about 60 absent.

**Difficult to Diagnose**

"With many cases throughout the county undoubtedly not reported, the disease is unusually

(Continued on Page 7-A)

## MARCH OF RIMES

KNOCK, KNOCK—By H. F. NOAKE

Some people are born with a hammer and use it with consummate skill, the time nor the place matters little, they're always on hand for a kill. No special technique seems essential, just swing, and enjoy the fun; they operate not unlike ball teams that score with the old hit and run. There's Mrs. DeGrumble, for instance, her knockers make a sizable list, whoever disputes her opinions she brands them (we quote) "Communists." The butcher is one of her targets, whose meats are indubitably tough; he never removes bone or gristle thus adding more weight to the stuff. To radio stars she's allergic and often we've heard her declare that nit-wits like Miss Gracie Allen, should not be allowed on the air. This gives you a general idea, one knocker we've shown, in the raw; and add this trite protestation, Gol dang 'em! There should be a law.

NOAKE

