

A Challenge to Fathers

Why is the Boy Scout movement so woefully lagging in Torrance?

Why have other communities, comparable in population and type of residents, five and six times as many Boy Scout troops as Torrance has?

Is this lack of interest in Scouting responsible for the fact that Torrance is now considered the "black spot" in juvenile delinquency?

These were some of the facts discussed by a group of civic leaders who met Monday at the invitation of Wallace Post. Also present at the conference was O. B. Mathews, assistant executive of Boy Scouts of America in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. These pertinent facts were emphasized:

In a community of 19,000 population, the normal Boy Scout enrollment is ten Scout troops (ages 12 to 15), five Cub packs (ages 9 to 12), three Senior Scout troops which includes Sea Scout ships and Explorer troops. This makes 18 troops. Torrance has only three with an enrollment of 70 boys. There are approximately 800 boys of Boy Scout age living in Torrance.

Officials in charge of juvenile delinquency tell us that one out of every eight youths of Boy Scout age in Torrance has been up before them for wrong doing. Surely this is a challenge that no father can ignore.

Don't misunderstand us. Scouting is not a corrective institution. It believes in keeping normal boys normal. By keeping them occupied with constructive character building activities, there is less tendency to go wrong.

It was the consensus of those at this week's conference that the principal fault lies—not among the boys, but with the lack of interest among adult leaders. Only three organizations are now sponsoring Boy Scout troops in Torrance: the Christian church, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. What's the matter with the other churches and organizations?

In order to give the Boy Scout movement in Torrance the proper background of adult leadership and finance, it is proposed to organize a board of eight or more men who will act as a governing body, to adopt policies, preside as a board of review at periodic Courts of Honor and in all ways act as the chief executive group.

Working with salaried officers in the national organization, it is hoped that this board will enlist the services of competent troop leaders and bring Torrance's Boy Scout enrollment up to the level of other communities of this size.

Another meeting is to be held next Monday. Don't want to be asked. Why not volunteer your help? Contact Wallace Post at the Torrance National Bank who has been appointed district chairman.

More and Bigger Paychecks

Biggest news of the week is the announcement of Columbia Steel Company's \$5,000,000 expansion program, printed elsewhere on this page. While the statement by company officials in San Francisco does not state how much of this new construction will take place in Torrance, this city is sure to get its full share of added payrolls. Because so many national defense contracts—in ship building, aircraft, etc.—have been let to Southern California manufacturers, it is logical to expect that the Torrance plant's facilities for making the steel will be used.

Meanwhile, payrolls in other local industrial plants are being constantly expanded. Of interest to merchants and others doing business with local industrial employees is the certainty that individual paychecks are due to be greatly enlarged, as well as additional employees put on payrolls. Because of the shortage of skilled mechanics, it is going to be necessary to work overtime, perhaps as much as 60 to 70 hours a week, with time and a half pay for all work over 40 hours a week.

Steel Workers Hospital Plans Starts March 1

With more than 200 Columbia Steel employees already signed up, actual operation of the workers' own hospitalization plan is scheduled to start March 1, according to J. H. Hanks, chairman of the 17-man board which will direct the enterprise. The response of steel workers to the plan, believed to be the first "all-employee" hospital insurance arrangement in the nation's steel industry, has far exceeded the expectations of its sponsors.

However, 400 members are needed by June 1 to make the plan effective, Hanks said. At the present time the members and their families total approximately 650 who will participate equally in the benefits. The hospital insurance will start March 1 but no member will be eligible for benefits until June 1—members must be accredited with the plan for three months in order to secure the privileges.

Hanks announced this week that a majority of local physicians and surgeons are co-operating and have agreed to perform any and all operations which may be necessary for members.

Retain Relief Unit
 The cost to subscribers, who must be Columbia Steel employees, is \$1.40 per month for a single man, \$1.90 for a man and wife \$2.20 for a man, wife and one child, \$2.70 for a man, wife and two or three children and \$3.20 per month for any family up to 10.

The 17 directors in control of the plan were selected from all departments of the company. When a reserve fund for the plan is built up, the board intends to enlarge its scope, to take in home sickness. The plan, according to Hanks, will operate with no overhead expense other than the cost of a part-time accountant.

Columbia workers have had the benefits of an employees' relief association for the past four years. This pays benefits of \$15 per week for work time lost members due to sickness or accident. The cost of membership in this association has been 50 cents per month. At the present time the association is said to have a reserve operating fund of \$13,000.

DIMES DRIVE NETS \$334

With only one or two other members of the Torrance March of Dimes committee yet to make a report, Postmaster Earl Conner, head of the Fight Infantile Paralysis campaigns here for the past several years, reported today that the total raised here from the sale of label buttons is \$334.69. A contribution of \$50 from the Coordinating Council, received by the committee late last week, is included in this amount.

Chairman Conner said he was "pretty disappointed" that the 1941 drive did not approach the 1940 figure of \$522.64 but that he expressed his sincere appreciation to all workers and all contributors for their efforts and donations.

Lomita's "March of Dimes" drive resulted in the receiving of funds totaling \$147.46, according to latest figures given out by Mrs. R. L. Lewis.

"Lung" Drive Now Under Way

Also delayed until yesterday morning in starting the drive for contributions to purchase a \$540 portable aluminum lung for general public use, American Legion post officials today announced that more than \$100 was raised yesterday for the fund thru the sale of "Save a Life Seals."

The campaign is being conducted from the Legion clubhouse and will continue until the necessary amount has been raised to buy the "lung" which will be kept at either the Torrance Memorial hospital or the fire station for immediate use without cost by persons who may be stricken by infantile paralysis, heart attacks or victims of electrocutions or other mishaps.

City Pays \$175 for 9 Lots for Park Purposes

When a Torrance city warrant for \$175.50 is received by H. L. Byram, county tax collector, he will immediately issue tax deeds to the municipality for the nine tax-delinquent parcels of land in the Vista Highlands tract which the city is purchasing for a neighborhood park.

Byram notified the city council Tuesday night that this last legal procedure would conclude the city's efforts to secure the property, located between Sonoma and El Dorado and between Hickory and Greenwood streets. Mayor Tom McGuire was authorized last October to enter into negotiations with the county for the property.

The lots became delinquent in 1932 and were sold to the state in 1937. At the present time the block is encumbered with an old-fashioned oil pump.

Profits Build Up Surplus In Water Department Fund

The municipal water department made a net profit of \$4,819.03 for the six months' period ending Dec. 31, 1940, according to an audit of the water department books filed this week with the city council by Logan R. Cotton, city auditor. The net profit from operations for the period totaled \$11,892.91 from which was deducted interest on the funded debt, amortization of pre-organization expense and investment, making a net profit of \$4,819.03.

The report showed \$118,984.92 in current assets and \$298,507.46 in fixed assets, or total assets of \$417,492.38. Largest items among the current assets listed by the city auditor were: General fund, \$44,438.75; bond interest & redemption fund, \$14,990, and bond fund, \$1,867.41. Listed among receivables is a \$50,000 loan to the city's general fund and \$5,045.91 in consumers' accounts receivable. Materials and supplies in hand totaled \$2,511.85.

Liabilities Listed
 Fixed assets are listed as: production system, \$87,903 less \$20,067 reserve for depreciation, or \$67,836; distribution system, \$225,428 less \$42,410 depreciation, or \$183,018; general equipment, \$14,610 less \$4,813 for depreciation, or \$9,797; pre-organization expense, \$1,052, and unclassified investment in water system, \$23,802.

Current liabilities were listed as: consumers' deposits refundable, \$2,150; accrued interest on bonds, \$8,490; reserve for bond redemption, \$6,500; total current liabilities, \$17,140.

Fixed liabilities included: water works bonds outstanding, \$323,000 less reserve for bonds payable July 2, 1941, or \$316,500. Total liabilities were \$333,640.

Auditor Cuts Surplus
 Most interesting item is the surplus, which was shown as \$138,813 as of July 1, 1940, but after adjustments made by the auditor was reduced to \$78,996.36. In commenting upon this (Continued on Page 5-A)

Civic Leaders Seek Airport Here for Aircraft Industry

With civic leaders in Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Lomita keenly interested in the project, a movement was started this week to secure an airport in South Torrance that would accommodate an aircraft factory now located in Hermosa Beach. The Doka Aircraft Company, Inc., of that city must move to secure larger quarters and also to obtain adjoining airport facilities to test its planes.

Neither Hermosa nor Redondo Beach can accommodate the corporation, it was learned here, and so representatives of those communities believe that Torrance offers the best location to keep the aircraft firm in the South Bay district. The company makes wooden planes and is anticipating a national defense order.

At the present time the Doka company must transport its planes to the Los Angeles Municipal Airport to be tested. This has proved costly and takes too much time, so a location adjoining an airport is sought in this area where climatic conditions are said to be most desirable for fabrication of wooden planes.

To Make Further Studies
 In their surveys to obtain a site, South Bay and Torrance leaders were attracted to the Weston Ranch location, south of the Hydril plant, west of Pennsylvania avenue and north of

New City Park Presents Fine Appearance

Have you seen the city's newest triangular park?

Located at the intersection of Plaza del Amo and Carson street adjoining the County Health Center, this property which was recently re-acquired from the county by the city now presents a most attractive appearance.

When spring comes it should be even prettier with its grass, shrubbery, flowers and trees. The city park department has cleaned it up and leveled off the land under the trees and around the Girl Scout cabin. Tuesday night the city council authorized expenditure of \$200 for the installation of a cement walk in front of the park.

Planning Expert Cites Advantages of City's Design

Don't let your out-of-town friends razz you about the crooked streets in Torrance—because they are our "saving grace."

And don't worry when out-of-towners tell you they avoid Torrance because they can "never find their way out of the town." Just tell them "we planned it that way!"

Such were the opinions expressed Monday night by no less an authority than Werner Rucht, chief planning engineer of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission, who is also landscape architect for the commission. Rucht addressed members and guests of the Kiwanis club on the topic "Torrance and Its Relation to the Metropolitan Los Angeles Region."

Cites City's Advantages
 Torrance had the good fortune to be carefully planned, after a pattern prepared by the eminent authority on city planning, Frederick Lud Olmsted. The customary gridiron type of city streets was avoided to eliminate thru streets and discourage thru traffic, thus giving seclusion to the Torrance area. Rucht explained, "Your thru boulevards skirt the city, which is the plan now being followed on state highways," the speaker added.

Proclaiming that "Torrance has everything to make it a great city," the chief county planning engineer pointed out many of this city's advantages.

Torrance is on the edge of two important land use areas, Rucht stated. It is close to the harbor and its industries, yet is not far from the metropolitan centers of Los Angeles and Long Beach. In contrast to Vernon, it is extremely close to

(Continued on Page 5-A)

Third Draft Call Delayed to Feb. 26 for 41 Young Men

Instead of summoning the third draft call-out on Feb. 17, Selective Service Board No. 280, which covers this district, has until Feb. 26 to complete its certification of 41 young men for Army training, it was learned this week from Secretary Carl Marsteller.

He said that he expects from 12 to 15 of the quota will be volunteers. No list of the entire contingent will be available until next week.

Three Japanese—the first to volunteer from the Torrance-Lomita draft district—are among the volunteers the board expects to furnish for the third call-out. Draft Clerk Carl Marsteller said, "The volunteers' names have not been announced as yet."

Four attorneys have been authorized by the Bar association to assist draftees in making arrangements for payment of any contracts they may be paying on. It was learned this week. The lawyers are John E. McCall, chairman of the legal advice group, and C. T. Rippey of Torrance; Frederick H. Blinn and Judge Elmo Morris of Gardena.

More than 200 men have been examined by three physicians cooperating with Selective Service Board No. 280. Dr. Norman A. Leake of Torrance has examined half of that number while Drs. Floyd H. Racer, Lomita, and Roy E. Flesher, Gardena, have attended to the remainder.

Columbia Steel Will Enlarge Coast Plants

SAN FRANCISCO—Columbia Steel company, subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation, announced this week the approval of a program for the enlargement of its Pacific Coast facilities so as to embrace additional steel making and finishing mills.

Work on this program which involves an expected expenditure of upward to \$5,000,000 will commence in the near future.

The decision to build further facilities on the Pacific Coast is a recognition of the growing steel demands of that region coming from manufacturers engaged in supplying directly and indirectly the needs of the National Defense program as well as from other users of steel products.

The Columbia Steel Company, which was acquired by the United States Steel Corporation in 1930 is a fully integrated company owning and operating steel works at Pittsburg and Torrance, ore and coal mines and a blast furnace in Utah; open hearth furnaces, rolling, wire, nail, sheet and tin mills, foundries and wire rope and fence plant.

Survey Made of Local Plants for Defense Purpose

A survey recently completed here by the U. S. Army and National Association of Manufacturers is said to reveal the increasingly important role Torrance industries will take in the national defense program.

More than 25 plants in this city either are engaged in or could be turned into national defense production centers, the survey disclosed. Other information obtained during the check-up by the Army and state affiliate of the national association was not made public.

Oil and steel—staples of modern war—are the predominant Torrance industries.

In addition to the Columbia Steel, National Supply, Soule Steel, International Derrick and Equipment and the D & M Machine Shop—all working on defense orders—there are seven other oil well machinery plants and a total of 10 oil producing companies and gasoline refineries here.

Many diversified industries Little known but highly important to industry gearing for defense production is the Felkor Dimet Saw Company, turning out diamond saws for use in making precision tools.

Diversified nature of industry here is shown by other plants surveyed, which included:

Three chemical plants, two making rubber products; two welding shops, two brick yards, two producing insulating materials, mineral wool and acoustical materials; one making abalone novelties, a brass foundry, a non-ferrous metal products plant and one producing blasting sand.

Torrance is also the home of the United Concrete Pipe Corporation and the Basch Brothers Construction Company, which has large contracts for state highway construction projects.

Gross-Not-Net Income Determines Fed. Tax Liability

The Revenue Act of 1940 has made important changes with respect to the liability of individuals for the filling of income tax returns. Individuals under the following circumstances are required to file returns covering the calendar year 1940:

Single individuals, or married individuals not living with husband or wife, having a gross income of \$800 or more. Married individuals living together having a combined gross income of \$2,000 or more.

'People You Should Know' Starts Next Week in This Newspaper

An interesting new feature starts in next Thursday's Torrance Herald and The Lomita News entitled "People You Should Know." It is one of the copyrighted Claude Moss features, known from the East to the West Coast and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf. Its specific value lies in promoting good will, closer associations and making the folk in the community know and appreciate each other.

The column will be under the supervision of Betty Dolan who has covered the column all over the United States and knows how to stress interesting information and side lights about citizens, industries and activities which many have known and forgotten, all of which newcomers will be glad to learn. A special attraction of the "People You Should Know" feature, will be a contest in which prizes will be given each issue, and a grand prize at the close of the series. Every reader is eligible for these awards.

Further information will appear later. Start reading the stories and you'll become interested in one of the most fascinating features of home folk, home facilities and opportunities it has ever been our pleasure to enjoy.

BIOFF TRIAL SET

LOS ANGELES—William Bi-off, Hollywood labor leader, must face trial June 24 on a federal charge of evading \$85,000 in income payments in 1936-1937.

MARCH OF RIMES

—AN OLD PIANO—By H. F. NOAKE

There it stands, in yonder corner, relic of a by-gone day, just a tired old grand piano left to wither and decay. Years ago its keys responded to the touch of famous hands, Paderewski, Hoffman, Grainger, others too, from distant lands. Many medals were awarded for its lovely style and tone, once the pride of great musicians, now, deserted and alone. If you happen to be passing, possibly a voice you'll hear, telling of its fame and glory, this time—by an auctioneer.

NOAKE

Life on Midway Island Not Dull But It's Mostly Full of Hard Work, Elmer Riley Writes Home Folks

Life is not dull on Midway Island but it has little variety. Mostly it is composed of hard work for the men who are engaged in building a Naval base on that minuscule speck in the North Pacific some 1,200 miles northwest of the Hawaiian Islands.

Four months ago Elmer Riley left Torrance for that barren coral shoal with a contingent of other men contracted for the construction of the Navy holdings. Last Friday afternoon his wife and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Riley, received a long letter from him which described some of his experiences on Midway.

And tucked into a paragraph was a splendid tribute to other men of Torrance who are working with Riley on the island. He wrote:

"Written in installments. There are about 10 other former Torrance residents here and all of them are sticklers. So far as I can learn only one

of our fellow citizens from the old home-town has returned to the mainland before expiration of his contract."

Riley particularly mentioned Francis Buckman, Dale Merritt and Fred Ralston as "doing good and are well-liked by fellows on the job."

Written in installments over a period of a week or more, Riley's letter was finished on Feb. 4 and mailed via the Pacific Clipper.

Reveals No Work Details
 He revealed that he had won a promotion from his labors' status to that of a truck driver "following a shake-up in the truck department." This work was new to him (Riley's previous work before going to Midway was that of a barber) but by some extra study he quickly grasped the art of gear-jamming.

Wind and rain storms have lashed Midway for several weeks and the end of the monsoon

season is still some months off. "There's not much to do on Midway except work and sleep," Riley reported, but he has found the life so interesting that he suggested to his wife that he consider going to Sa-moa together where he would join another Navy construction project.

In accordance with Navy regulations, Riley did not report any details of what he and his fellow workers are doing on Midway, which has been described as one of the farthest outposts of the nation's defense system.

Another ship was due there on Feb. 9, he said, with replacements of new men. Ships are few and far between and the Clipper planes are the sole contact the Midways have with Hawaii and the States. Altho Riley insists he has never been homesick, he certainly appreciates letters from home.

Council to Act on Bus Bids Today; Services of Gilmeister Asked

Three bids offering prices on two transit type buses of 25 to 27-passenger size were opened by the city council Tuesday night and then referred to the council as a whole for study and action at an adjourned meeting which is scheduled for 5 o'clock this afternoon.

At the recommendation of Councilman George V. Powell, the council voted to write the Chamber of Commerce requesting a joint meeting with the directors of that organization relative to asking L. J. Gilmeister, chamber secretary, to "take over the managing, promotion and advertising of the city's bus project."

Council May Buy Two Lots Today at 5 p. m. Session

In addition to acting on the bids received Tuesday night on the purchase of two buses for the proposed municipal bus system to Los Angeles, members of the city council will decide this afternoon at an adjourned meeting whether or not they will take up an option on two lots adjoining the city hall on El Prado. The lots have been offered to the city for \$1,800. The adjourned meeting is scheduled to begin at 5 o'clock.

Ideco Building Towers for Naval Radio Station Located at Eureka

A contract with the United States government for construction of steel radio towers for the Naval Radio Station at Eureka (Lola) is being executed by the International Derrick and Equipment Company of this city. According to announcement by the Office of Government Reports in collaboration with the National Defense Advisory Commission, Ideco's contract totals \$16,969.

BUY FIRE NOZZLES

Purchase of two fire nozzles for \$90 plus sales tax was authorized by the city council Tuesday night.