

CIVIC IMPROVEMENT BOND ISSUE ELECTION WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL FEBRUARY

Civic Improvement bond issue proposals calling for expenditure of \$1,400,000 in the next few years on buildings, recreation and street improvements will not be ready for submission to the voters until February, according to Mayor W. H. Tolson.

The mayor said that James Beebe, of the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, and A. R. Walker, architect retained by the city, had conferred on the proposals and that several conferences with interested parties will be scheduled in the near future.

O'Melveny & Myers, also retained by the city to prepare the bond issue for the ballot, recommended that the various proposals be considered as a "city plan" by the Planning Commission.

A number of proposals involving recreation are being given particular study by Councilman C. M. Gilbert, members of the Recreation Commission, and Dale Daley, superintendent of recreation.

They include the new recreation building for Torrance which may include a swimming pool; the recreation building for the Walteria district, the arts and crafts building for Torrance ball park and the new grand stand at the ball park.

The present plans do not call for the swimming pool in the downtown recreation building, but popular demand among residents of the city undoubtedly will cause the City Council to reconsider and submit the matter of the pool to the voters. The building is being designed to accommodate one, in the basement.

Some discussion as to the advisability of submitting the new stadium to the voters has been heard, but it is believed that the stadium will pay for itself, as the swimming pool will, if voted upon favorably.

Neither the stadium nor the swimming pool would be a "burden" on the taxpayers in view of the money-making possibilities of each, it was said.

Other buildings provided are a new fire station, reconversion of the present fire station into a police station and courtroom; improvements to the library and civic auditorium.

The bond issue proposal also calls for considerable street and alley work in Torrance.

County Wants To Buy Local Army Airport

Torrance faces competition with the County of Los Angeles in its efforts to acquire the Army airport on 101 highway.

The Board of Supervisors has ordered the chief administrative officer to negotiate with Federal authorities for the purchase of surplus airports in this county.

Board action was taken upon a resolution by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby who told the board that when he was in Washington recently he conferred with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and learned that the Army, Navy and Marines were about to declare certain airports as surplus.

On this basis, these properties would be offered to the state, county or to the city in which they are located. If these governmental subdivisions are not interested in the purchase of such properties, then some other city would be eligible to acquire them, Darby added.

He said that if the various governmental bodies are not interested in purchasing these airports, they would be offered to private persons. Under the conditions of sale, the supervisor explained, the Army authorities would require the use of all airports during one month of each year for maneuvers.

Military authorities have already proclaimed the Lancaster Air Base surplus, Darby concluded.

Burglars Get \$225 From Home Of Local Woman

Mrs. Mary Middle, 819 Border ave., reported to Torrance police that \$105 in cash and \$60 in checks were stolen from her apartment last Saturday night during her absence.

She said that she had only been away for a short while when the theft occurred. The house had been thoroughly ransacked by the thieves who were believed to have entered through the back door.

DRAFT BOARD
Selective Service board No. 280 is located at 2300 Carson st., in the Torrance Health Center building.

Christmas Decorations Mystery Solved

Torrance merchants and shoppers were shocked the other day to see Christmas decorations adorning the lamp posts of the commercial district.

"Who bought those?" was the frequently asked question.

The Chamber of Commerce denied knowledge of the decorations; the retail merchants knew nothing about them; no "angel" had come forth with the ornaments, but still they were there much to the credit to the community.

The Torrance Herald decided the question should be answered and set about seeking the solution.

Questioned first was City Building Custodian James Brodie. He said he understood the city had bought them. "No action has gone across the council table," this reporter remarked, and he takes in every word.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett then interrogated, came through with the answer.

He revealed that the council, in an informal session, authorized the decorations and agreed to pay the bill at the next regular meeting.

"Who asked for them?" Bartlett was asked. "No one," he replied, "how do the people like them?"

"Fine" was the answer, "but next year let's ask for them and get more and better ornaments."

Local Requests For Action May Keep King Busy

With the return of Rep. Cecil R. King from a long tour of Europe, local interests are renewing demands for his assistance in a number of local projects, it was revealed.

They include: Protection of the interests of the City of Torrance in the Army flight strip at 101 highway and Hawthorne Blvd.

Assistance in solution of the housing and materials problem in this area both for veterans and others.

Following through on Torrance's request for consideration of Hollywood Riviera section as a site for a West Coast military or navy academy.

Efforts to maintain the Army hospital as a permanent facility, operated either by the Veterans Administration or by the county.

Securing of an early decision on the location of the Marine hospital proposed for the county, with Rolling Hills as a favored site.

New Group Forms For Hollywood Riviera Residents

During a meeting Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albin K. Peterson, the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association was founded, according to Mrs. William Edwards, publicity chairman for the group.

William Edwards was elected president with Mrs. Albin Peterson serving as secretary-treasurer.

Committee chairmen elected to investigate into the problems of the group, are: Willard Key, restrictions and deeds; Philip E. Rice, water; Raymond Whitney, to check the Torrance City Council meetings and Mrs. Sidney Welch, parliamentary.

Further meetings, it was reported, will be held the first Monday of each month at which time the committees will give their reports.

The first meeting in January has been scheduled in the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Easley.

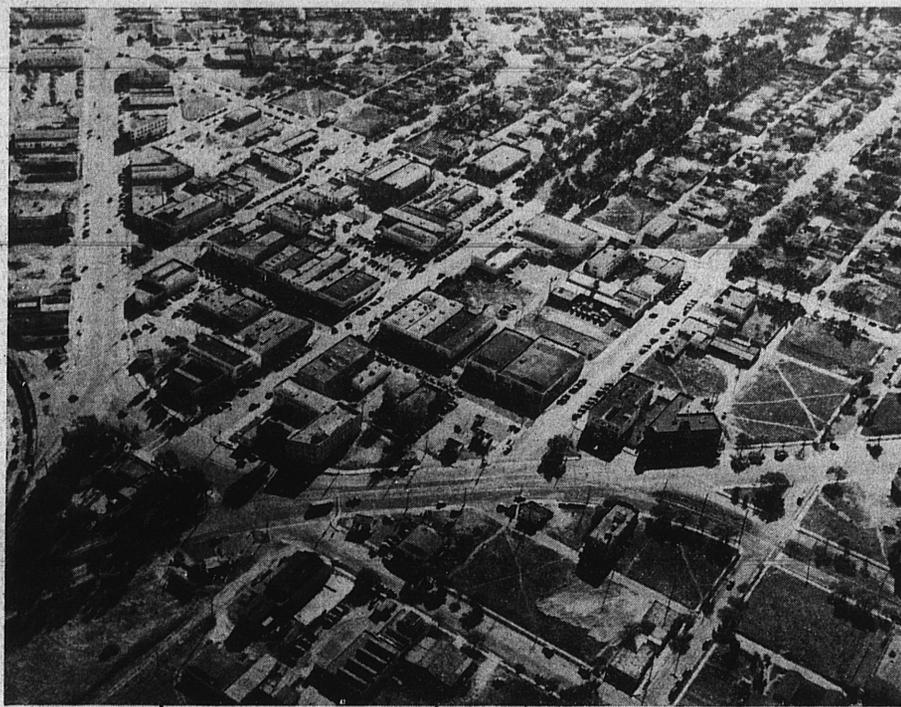
BACK ON JOB
Frank Daniels, local realtor, is back on the job after spending several weeks in the hospital where he underwent an operation on his arm.

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . FOUR SECTIONS — 30 PAGES

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1945

PER COPY 5c



RETAIL DISTRICT OF TORRANCE . . . Never before photographed from the air is the retail district of Torrance, shown above. The picture was taken from a U. S. Navy blimp from Squadron 31, Santa Ana Naval Air Station, soaring in the vicinity of Columbia Steel Co. Various central district buildings are clearly visible. Some 75 photos of all sections of Torrance were taken. The expedition was sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and financed by the City of Torrance.



TORRANCE FROM THE AIR . . . Above is the first picture ever published of Torrance from the air, taken in a City of Torrance Chamber of Commerce sponsored mission last week from a U. S. Navy blimp from Squadron 31, Santa Ana Naval Air Station. The picture shows the central section of Torrance taken toward the northeast from a point approximately above Crenshaw Blvd. and Jefferson st. In the lower part of the picture is International Derrick & Equipment Co., Torrance works.

PARKIN SUGGESTED TO HEAD CITY AVIATION COMMISSION; OFFICIALS ATTEND PARLEY

Mayor W. H. Tolson will suggest to the City Council that Reed H. Parkin, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, be named chairman of the City Aviation Commission, and that Parkin be allowed to pick the other members of the commission, he said as he prepared to depart Monday for the Western

Aviation Conference which was held Tuesday and yesterday in Sacramento.

Alley Setback Conference On Monday

Torrance City Council and the City Planning Commission will meet Monday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m. in the Council chambers of the City Hall to discuss the request of business men of the community for removal of the alley setback requirements of 10 and 15 feet in the commercial districts of the city.

Torrance Chamber of Commerce has been fostering the demand for removal of the setback, asserting that the requirement of the zoning ordinance is holding back development of the business district of Torrance and further alleging that the 20-foot alleys of Torrance are sufficient to allow loading and unloading at the rear of stores and still allow ample space for passage of traffic.

Some members both of the planning commission and the council already have agreed that the setback removal is desirable, pointing out that in areas where a 15-foot setback is required the zoning ordinance provision develops an alley 50 feet wide, wider than many streets.

Also, it is admitted, as many stores already are built to the alley line, many of them on corners of alleys and streets, the requirement creates a joggling condition which not only is unsightly, but is a menace to health and safety due to the gathering of garbage, refuse, papers and other inflammable matter in the setback areas.

Many construction jobs in the retail district are being held up by the matter.

OWNERS OF LARGE TORRANCE TRACTS ASKED TO RELEASE ACREAGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Torrance Realty Board will survey the large land owners of Torrance to determine the possibility of releasing acreage for subdivision purposes, according to B. C. Buxton, president, and W. E. Bowen, secretary, of the board.

Recently reorganized, the Realty Board recognized as one of its first problems the lack of

area for home development. "We'll have to lift our eyes and forget central Torrance in solving this problem," Bowen declared.

Land owners who are being asked as to availability of acreage for home development are C. N. Ellinwood interests who hold some 900 acres; Del Amo Estates, with several hundred acres of suitable subdividing land, and the Weston ranch interests, who are said to have some land available.

Both the Ellinwood and Weston lands will be served by the proposed Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 upon which the voters will pass on Jan. 15.

It is recognized that water is the first step in converting bare land into home sites. Sewers also are being considered for the whole area, and a street program would follow in event land is made available for development.

It is the intention of the redactors to interest home development companies in the land if the owners of the vast holdings can be interested in releasing the acreage necessary.

Bus service of the City of Torrance throughout that area embraced by the three big interests already has been promised by the City Council.

Overseas Mail Shipment Is Destroyed, Report
Bulk of overseas Christmas mail destined for APO 729 in the Aleutian area was lost recently in a violent storm, according to a War department announcement.

Most of this mail originated in the Christmas mailing period, Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, when no request was necessary.

Potmaster C. Earl Conner said that the one parcel may be mailed to any personnel through APO 729 without a request if the package is mailed not later than Dec. 20.

HEY, KIDS! LOOK WHO'S ON MOOSE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Torrance's big Christmas Party planned by the Loyal Order of Moose is gaining in momentum as the gap shortens between now and Dec. 23, when the big affair will be presented in the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

James Barker, chairman of the Christmas Party committee, has announced the signing of several big time vaudeville acts, among which include: Joe and Eddie Dayton, foremost exponents of knockdown and dragout comedy routine. This insane comedy act will share the spotlight with other top-notch artists.

Al Herman, a very talented backstage comedy star, will act as master of ceremonies of the show that promises to be the last word in comedy riots.

There will be thrills and spills furnished by Passolee and Lee, novelty skaters; Barnum and Bailey clown, Joe Brooks and Gus Lind, Arthur Bros. circus clown, Colbert, the Great Magician, will astound all with his impossible feats of magic.

Other acts scheduled to appear on the program will be announced in the Torrance Herald next week.

Among the donations that have been received and pledged for this gigantic party for all children of the district along with their parents, are as follows: Torrance City Council, \$1500; contributions from the Moose

members during their last meeting, \$108.67; H. Raymond, \$10; E. M. Scanlon, \$10; W. Arnbach, \$10; J. W. Barker, \$50; A. H. Bartlett, \$10; G. A. Hannan, \$10.

Tax Delinquency Only 1.43 Percent

Torrance paid its 1944-1945 tax bill well, according to figures released by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

The delinquency rate for that year is only 1.43 percent, or \$4,589.21 owed on a total tax levy for municipal purposes of \$320,897.75.

The delinquency rate is the lowest that it has been in years.

Being a sixth class city, Torrance taxes are collected by the county through an agreement with the county tax collector's office.

New Torrance Hi-Y Officers Are Named

The Torrance Hi-Y officers handed their gavels to new executives last week and accepted seven new members into the organization.

New officers are: President, Bill Stanley; vice President, Leroy Schwenk; secretary, Bill Jackson and treasurer, Merwin Jarrett.

Those replaced are Gerald Godard as president; Jim Standifer, vice president; Kenneth Owens, secretary; and Frank Dominguez, treasurer.

Plans for a dance and a party are under way.

The new members are Darrel Comstock, Bob Everts, Merwin Jarrett, Corky Northway, Dick Malin, Robert O'Caun and Jay R. Stroh.

MOOSE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUND

Please find attached hereto, donation in the sum of \$..... to help defray the expense of the Christmas Party and Entertainment.

Signature.....

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Just what is a skeptic?
Answer: A skeptic is one who reads all the fine print on a government bond.

