

Conner Was Community Leader Many Years



ARRANGES HELICOPTER AIR MAIL FLIGHTS TO TORRANCE—Postmaster C. Earl Conner is shown (sixth from left, next to mail sack) with a group of civic and industrial leaders and governmental officials who participated in the first helicopter air mail service to the Torrance post office. The fast pick-up mail delivery and dispatch between Los Angeles Municipal Airport and the Los Angeles Post Office Terminal was initiated January, 1948. Dorothy Ford, movie star, took part in the ceremony. Helicopters land regularly at the Columbia Steel mill site near Western avenue, which is only a short haul from the Torrance post office.



BACK IN THE LATE THIRTIES—the now wide boulevard on Cabrillo avenue south of Carson looked like this. For years Earl Conner had led a stubborn fight to get the P.E. tracks removed and the coming business street paved, but nothing happened. With his familiar dry wit sparkling in his eyes, the Herald photographer found Conner "puzzled" to find a strange cow browsing on the lush pasture that was the railway right-of-way on Cabrillo avenue. The "gag" worked and early in 1940 the City Council began condemnation proceedings that led to the improvement of the avenue from Border avenue to Plaza del Amo.



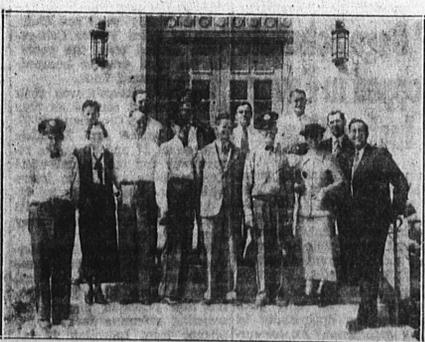
CONNER PRESIDES AT MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES—As he had on so many similar occasions which called for honoring the fallen sons of his beloved country, Postmaster Conner is shown above officiating at an impressive Memorial Day service on May 31, 1945, in El Prado Park.



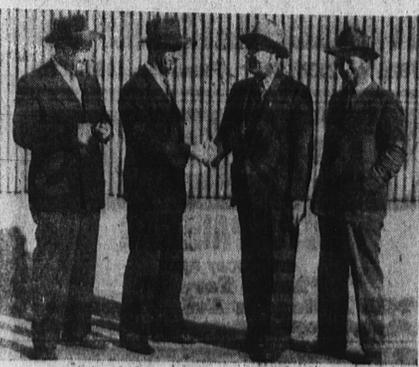
AID RED CROSS DRIVE—Postmaster Conner is shown selling the first United States Postal Note for \$10 issued by the Torrance post office to then Mayor W. H. Tolson, in February, 1945. The postal note was made payable to the Torrance Branch, American Red Cross, as the first contribution to the 1945 fund drive. During his entire 25 years in Torrance, the late Postmaster Conner either headed or took an active part in every campaign for the aid and relief of those less fortunate. He was particularly active in aiding disabled veterans.



INSTALLED IN DOUBLE CEREMONY—C. Earl Conner was installed as commander of Torrance Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in April, 1945, and Mrs. Clara Conner, his wife, as president of the post's auxiliary, at a double installation held at the Civic Auditorium. Shown above are the officers who participated, left to right: Alvin Kime, Fourth district commander; Hazle Garety, Fourth district auxiliary president; Lester E. Stanley, past commander of the local post who was the installing officer; Commander Conner; Rolla McFall, Department of California commander; and Mrs. Conner.



POST OFFICE STAFF IN 1937—Three years after Postmaster Conner received his first commission from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Torrance Post Office Staff gathered for this picture. They are: bottom row, l. to r.: Clair F. Urquhart, carrier; Mrs. Minnie M. Teague, clerk; Dale Dean, clerk; Ted L. Wertz, carrier; Postmaster C. Earl Conner, Mrs. Margaret M. Hutchins, clerk; and Louis H. Deininger, assistant postmaster. Top row, l. to r.: William Mason, special delivery carrier; Glen Robinson, substitute carrier; George Koehler, rural carrier; Herbert Stullenburger, clerk; Harold Buck, substitute carrier; and William Everett, fireman.



CHAIRMAN'S MARCH OF DIMES CAMPAIGNS—At right, above, is the late Postmaster Conner, who was chairman year after year of the local fund campaign for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. He is shown here in 1945, receiving a sizable contribution from Steelworkers Local No. 1414, Columbia Steel. Others, left to right, are: Carl D. Steele, Alex McJannett, and H. P. Dotson.

Local Office Announced for Hospital

A branch office for the campaign to raise \$300,000 to build a \$300,000 polio clinic has been established at 1083 West Gardena Blvd., Gardena, by the Sister Kenny Foundation. Sister Kenny treatments have been given polio victims at Harbor General Hospital since the first cases were reported here last summer. Site of the proposed hospital has not been disclosed.

CITY COUNCIL HONORS CONNER

The Torrance City Council at its meeting Tuesday night directed City Clerk A. H. Bartlett to prepare a resolution of condolence to be sent to the widow and brothers and sisters, on motion of Councilman Bob Haggard.



V.F.W. MEMBERSHIP INCREASED—during the leadership of Commander C. Earl Conner. He is pictured with Richard H. Newhall, California Department Commander. V.F.W., left, who participated in the initiation of a group of 38 veterans into Post 3251, in the Civic Auditorium, Sept. 17, 1945. Charles P. Ash, senior vice-commander, is pictured at right.

CONNER

(Continued from Page One)

1933-34, from which position he resigned in March, 1934 to accept the appointment as acting postmaster succeeding the late Alfred Gourdiar.

In May, 1934, Conner received his commission signed by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was again appointed postmaster in 1938, 1942 and 1946.

The tremendous growth of the Torrance post office under Postmaster Conner's leadership is reflected in postal receipts. When Conner was appointed in 1934, annual receipts for that year were \$25,613.94. Receipts for the first quarter of 1948 were \$29,367.95, or more than the entire year of 1934. Total receipts for 1948 were \$133,628.27.

Prior to accepting the postmastership, Conner was engaged in the restaurant business first in what was humorously called the "Shoe-String Coffee Shop," not only because it was housed in a long narrow slit of a room with a single counter, but because it was his first business venture here and was started "on a shoestring," he said. Later Mr. and Mrs. Conner built and operated the Earl's Cafe at 1625 Cabrillo avenue, now known as Daniels Cafe. Mr. and Mrs. Conner also operated the Plaza Hotel until a few years ago, and they also own the building now occupied by the California State Employment office at Cravens and Gramercy avenues, as well as other property here.

A native of Horton, Kansas, where he was born Aug. 5, 1889, C. Earl Conner enlisted in the 137th Infantry April 10, 1917 and served 13 months, most of the time overseas, in the A.E.F. He was discharged May 1, 1919 as a sergeant and on June 26 married in St. Joseph, Mo., Clara Kerber who survives him as his widow. The couple came to California and Torrance Oct. 5, 1923.

Throughout his life in Torrance, Postmaster Conner took an active interest in Boy Scout activities and other youth work. Active ball bearers at the services Monday afternoon were: Dean L. Sears, George Hannan, Louis H. Deininger, John H. Stroh, J. W. Post and George Probert.

Honorary pall bearers were: Sam Levy, John E. McCall, R. J. Deininger, Robert L. Haggard, Grover C. Whyte, A. H. Bartlett and State Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

Scores of messages of condolence and sympathy were received by the late postmaster's widow, Mrs. Clara Conner, including a telegram from Congressman Cecil H. King expressing his regret for not being able to leave his post at Washington to attend the funeral services.

Survivors, besides his widow, are: three sisters, Mrs. Nellie Wylie, Wilmington; Mrs. Mabel Troth and Miss Maude Conner, both of Horton, Kansas; and three brothers, Roy of Boonville,

Ark., Arthur, Atchison, Kan., and Leo, Horton, Kan.

Flags throughout the city were at half staff this week in honor of the late postmaster, and members of the Torrance Kiwanis Club paid tribute to their former president at Monday evening's meeting. The Torrance post office was closed during the services Monday afternoon.

Funeral arrangements were in charge of Stone and Myers.

Louis H. Deininger, assistant postmaster, is assuming the duties of postmaster pending appointment of a temporary postmaster by Washington postal authorities.

I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching. —Shakespeare

CONSTIPATED?

MODERN COLON THERAPY HAS HELPED MANY. COME IN FOR FREE CONSULTATION.

Call Tor. 2122-J
For Information or Appointment

DR. R. A. LARSON
Chiropractor
1659 Gramercy—Torrance

Personality Portraits
by **AUSTIN**

Special Offer
Beautiful Bronze **95c** Each
PORTRAITS
6 x 8 inch size
One or as many as desired
Proofs to select from

GRADUATES! We furnish cap and gown without charge.

Here's a studio where you receive the highest quality of materials—finest artists—and best of service, regardless of the amount you spend.

Communism Photographs A SPECIALTY

AUSTIN STUDIOS
SAN PEDRO
448 W. Sixth Street Phone Terminal 2-4302
OPEN 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Daily
Friday 'til 8 p.m.
Sundays by Appointment

SOUTHWEST LOS ANGELES
8624 S. Vermont Phone Pleasant 1-1263
OPEN 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily
Friday and Saturday 'til 8 p.m.
Sundays by Appointment

ONE DOLLAR WORKS LIKE TWO