

# TORRANCE HERALD

January 15, 1948

Torrance, California

Section B

## Pay-Less Drug Store Founder Dies In Home

Nathan Sontag, drug chain store founder, who came from retirement last fall to start another chain, the Pay-Less stores in Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington, was found dead Sunday at his Los Angeles home, apparently victim of a heart attack.

He was discovered in bed by a nephew, Samuel Sontag, who broke into the apartment when there was no response to his ring. A fire department rescue squad and his physician, Dr. Gerald Blankfort, were called, but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Mr. Sontag, 54, and his brother, Morris, in 1923 established a cigar store in Los Angeles and by 1943 their business had been built up to the 48-store Sontag chain.

The chain was sold in 1944 to the United Drug Co., and incorporated into the Owl-Rexall chain. Mr. Sontag retired at the time, but recently reopened the Pay-Less store here and in San Pedro and Wilmington.

The stores were closed Tuesday out of respect for Mr. Sontag, but services were strictly private with no time or place announced.

## 'Freedom Train' Due In L.A. On Feb. 22

Feb. 2, a legal holiday, has been set for the time of arrival of the "Freedom Train" in Los Angeles for a three day stay.

The "Freedom Train" is bearing cherished documents of liberty, such as the Constitution, the 13th century Magna Carta, a manuscript copy of the Declaration of Independence attested by Benjamin Franklin and other historic documents.

Prior to the arrival of the train there will be a week devoted throughout the county to the rededication of American principles. Special church services, school programs sponsored by civic, military, fraternal and social groups, will all start on Lincoln's birthday anniversary, Feb. 12. Rededication week commences Feb. 19, and will be climaxed by the arrival of the train.

## Joseph Saul Home Entered

Thieves early Monday broke into the home of Joseph P. Saul, at 21004 Shearer avenue, and stole a radio and flashlight, value of which was approximately \$25.

According to Sheriff's officers the burglars entered the house by breaking a rear window.

## ATTENTION HARBOR CITY! VITAL L.A. AIRING SET

The pattern of Los Angeles for years to come will be presented to the people by the City Planning Commission at a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 29.

Covering master plans of highways, transportation terminals, rapid transit, recreation, land use, public utilities and sewer facilities, the comprehensive studies have been several years in the making and have involved the most detailed examination ever attempted of the city's 452 square miles.

Involved in the "pattern" are the Shoestring Strip just east of Torrance and Harbor City, and it is expected that many residents of the two communities will be in attendance at the hearing.

The master plan is being presented to permit Los Angeles to make use of the State Urban Redevelopment act. Designed to assist communities in redeveloping blighted areas, the act requires approval of a master plan before cities may make use of it.

Charles B. Bennett, director of city planning, said members of the Planning Commission will make their decision on the plan based on information presented at the public hearing. If approved, it will be presented to the City Council by the Mayor. The Redevelopment act requires the Council to state by resolution that a need exists for the elimination of blighted districts. Following this action, the mayor is authorized to appoint an Urban Redevelopment agency to proceed with the clearance of sub-standard districts.

Bennett said the land use plan to be presented includes the location and extent of uses of land for housing, business, industry, recreation, education and public buildings and grounds. Maps will also be displayed showing population density permitted under the plan and proposed distribution of future population.

The hearing will begin at 1:30 p.m., in Room 150, City Hall.

## L. A. Schools Plan Enrollment In Kindergarten

On a basis of "first come first served" new enrollments in kindergarten classes in the Los Angeles City Schools of Lomita, Harbor City and nearby areas for the second semester will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Feb. 2, 1948. According to state law, a child must be five years of age on or before August 1, 1948, in order to be eligible for kindergarten enrollment. To be eligible for the first grade, a child must be six years of age on or before August 1, 1948.

When the maximum kindergarten enrollment has been reached in a given school, eligible children will be registered on waiting lists. As soon as vacancies occur, thereafter, children will be enrolled in classes in the order in which their names appear on the waiting lists.

It is necessary for parents enrolling children in kindergarten or first grade for the first time, to present a birth certificate or certain other documents of proof of age, which must contain the day, month and year of the child's birth.

## Local Man On Patrol

Otto Suter, Jr., of 23063 Doris Way, Seaside Ranchos, Torrance, is one of 12 Los Angeles area sportsmen who have completed a 10-week part time training course to serve as Reserve Marine Patrol of the Division of Fish and Game.

Members of the Southern California Council of Conservation clubs have given two and one-half hours of instruction each Monday night in subjects relating to Fish and Game laws, public relations, rules of evidence, first aid, and other phases of enforcement work.

The volunteers will assist the regular patrol in various fish and game law enforcements.

## A.I.M.E. CHAPTER HONORS PRESIDENT

The Pacific Petroleum Chapter of the Southern California Section of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, honored Clyde Williams, president of A.I.M.E., at a president's dinner held at the University Club at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 14.

After the dinner, Williams, who is president of the Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio, gave a talk on "Industrial Research."



THE REV. ROBERT LESSING Accepts Call to Oregon Church

## Lessing Takes New Parish In Coquille, Ore.

Accepting a call from the Episcopal church at Coquille, Ore., the Rev. Robert Lessing, vicar at St. Mark's Episcopal church, Downey, announced his resignation at the annual business meeting of the church.

The Rev. Mr. Lessing, well-known in this area as a leader in civic and religious movements, has served the Downey church for the past year. He is also a member of the Downey Rotary club and has appeared as speaker on many of their programs.

The Rev. Mr. Lessing and family will depart for their new home on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The Rev. Mr. Lessing is former City Judge of Torrance, and took up the ministry a few years ago. He was ordained recently in St. Mark's church in Downey.

## WINTER PICNIC OF SOUTH DAKOTANS TO BE JAN. 25

The annual winter picnic for all former South Dakotans residing in Southern California, and all persons from South Dakota now visiting in Southern California, will be held in Sycamore Grove, Los Angeles, California, on Sunday, Jan. 25, 1948.

On the last Sundays in January and August of each year thousands of South Dakotans bring their picnic lunches and have a real get-together meeting at Sycamore Grove in Los Angeles.

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