

Torrance Herald

NINTH YEAR

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BUILDING AND LOAN SECURE FINE OFFICE

Quarters In Rear of Bank to Open Soon for Business

With the opening within the next week of offices in the rear room of the First National Bank the real activities of the new Mutual Building and Loan Association of Torrance will begin.

From the inception of the plan to organize such an association in this city, Mr. C. E. Berry, of the Los Angeles Mutual Building & Loan Association has met with remarkable success and is elated with the readiness with which residents of this city are becoming members and investing their money in this local enterprise.

In speaking of his successful efforts in organizing and establishing the association on a working basis, Mr. Berry said:

"It was necessary in this movement to have the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars subscribed for the Guaranteed Capital Stock, and the city should be very proud indeed of the way this issue was responded to by the men who were mentioned in the previous issue of the Herald, as the Capital Guaranteed Stockholders.

"The stockholders, at the first meeting in electing Mr. James W. Post as president of the association, Mr. Wilfred Teal as vice-president; and Mr. James L. King as secretary-treasurer, coupled with the board of directors, consisting of Wilfred Teal, James W. Post, James L. King, W. E. B. Partridge, W. T. Klusmas, George W. Towne, Carl L. Hyde, H. A. Kembel, and Benj. Harwood, have secured men who have the best interest of Torrance at heart.

"All evidence that I can gather thus far bespeaks of the wonderful success of this venture, yet it must be understood that a movement of this kind needs and deserves the assistance of every individual of the community who is interested in "Thrifty."

"The association will have two departments, a Savings department and a Loan department, and it is from those who subscribe to a Savings account in this association, where they will be paid the highest rate of interest consistent with safety, that a Loan department is made possible. Savings accounts are solicited for five or ten dollars a month or more. Each five dollars per month saved having a maturity value of one thousand dollars (\$1000) one hundred thirty-four (134) months hence then enabling the saver to realize seven per cent on his savings or for six hundred seventy dollars (\$670) saved interest is earned in the sum of three hundred thirty dollars (\$330) the money secured in the Savings department, being released for home building only on the first mortgage plan."

Mr. Berry will be in Torrance for at least sixty days, or until everything is running smoothly and his advice is no longer needed. During his sojourn here he will be found in the association's new quarters or in the bank and will be pleased to explain the workings of the new organization or discuss any phase of the plan that those interested fail to thoroughly understand.

Torrance Mothers To Hear Talks

One of the important matters that will be considered by the members of the Torrance Women's club at its meeting Monday at the home of Mrs. Frank Sammons will be a discussion of the advisability of establishing a branch of the Mothers' Educational Center in Torrance.

This important civic institution was established in Los Angeles six years ago and now functions under the auspices of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Its aim is the dissemination of information relative to the care of children from birth until the latter reach school age and its lectures that are entirely free, are given by the ablest physicians of the Southwest.

There are now twenty-six centers in five counties in Southern California that profit by the child-knowledge imparted by the president, Dr. Maud Wilde and other equally well-known medical specialists.

It is said that nearly 100 mothers of Torrance attend the weekly lectures given in the chamber of commerce rooms in Los Angeles and Secretary Pottinger of the Torrance chamber has been asked by several of these to arrange if possible a similar organization here. "This he has done and finds that Dr. Wilde will gladly co-operate with the mothers of this city if the latter will signify their desire for the lectures in sufficiently large numbers to justify the project, that would be absolutely free to local women.

Have You Registered?

All citizens who have not registered during 1922 must do so before October, in order to vote at the coming election. Registration books are at the City Hall where City Clerk A. H. Bartlett will be pleased to register you. Don't be like a Chinaman—register, and go to the polls and exercise your right as an American citizen.

Herald Opens a New Department

Beginning with next week's issue the Torrance Herald will have an "Oil News" department. The entire field surrounding Torrance will be given special attention and the progress of the various wells told every week. So many inquiries are coming in, both locally and from other states in the middle west that this feature of the local paper will be greatly appreciated. This will be one of the most interesting sections and will help to give the Herald a metropolitan appearance. Lately a Woman's Page, a Real Estate Page, and a double header Auto Page have been added.

Stand by Your Pledge Pay Up Your Dues

Ever since the meeting of the chamber of commerce held September 14, when Dr. Lancaster "spoke right out in 'meetin,'" the principal subject around town has been "What is to be done with the chamber of commerce?"

In all the interviews that representatives of the Herald have had with directors and members of the chamber of commerce, not one word of criticism have we heard against Secretary Pottinger or his assistant, Mrs. Pottinger. But many are determined and firm in the belief that something must be done to win back the chamber of commerce and put it on a solid foundation, and cut down expenses, even if the services of the secretary must be dispensed with.

Responsibility for mismanagement on the part of its business affairs, if there are such, should be accepted and borne by the board of directors just as much as the secretary.

The real difficulty lies in the lack of interest of the rank and file of the members; non-payment of dues and all too willing to criticize. You men who pledged yourselves to pay dues and a bonus, must keep those pledges. The greatest duty of all is to pay up on those promissory notes, (membership cards) you signed. Keep your pledge—and then see that the money is spent as you want it. You can make all these recommendations at the Forum meetings. Make your wants known—but keep the chamber of commerce alive.

At this very moment several other towns larger than Torrance are in the throes of reorganizing, and are experiencing the same difficulties we find ourselves in here at home.

Long Beach is considering ways and means to safeguard the revenues of its chamber of commerce and are enforcing collections of outstanding subscriptions as well as recommending necessary economies in their office. It was necessary for them to recently go to their bank and secure another loan of \$6000 to meet outstanding obligations.

Secretary Pottinger has made arrangements with Chas. Bayer, manager of the organization department of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce to come to Torrance and assist in collecting dues and membership pledges, and as there are several new business houses in Torrance today that were not here when the chamber was organized last December, it ought to be easy to put the organization back on a paying basis and preserve the good work that has already been accomplished.

MACCABEE NOTES

The picnic held at Redondo Beach, Saturday, Sept. 23, was one of the most enjoyable events the Review has held for a long time.

The plunge and the merry-go-round appealed to the children, and some of the grown-ups. Lots of good things for lunch were enjoyed by all at the close of the afternoon.

Mrs. Lyons invited the picnic party to her home for ice cream and cake, in honor of Betty's birthday. The Review will hold a bazaar about the first week in December. Fancy work candy, etc. will be on sale.

The Marathon social will be held at Park Terrace early in October. Further notice will be published next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bohlen, Mrs. Sally Doss, Mr. and Mrs. Romain Shaw and Elnore will be week-end guests at the McKinley Inn.

DISCONTENT IS CAUSE FOR LACK OF SUPPORT OF CHAMBER

Chas. Bayer, Chief of the Reorganization Department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Coming to Help Secy. Pottinger Collect In Money

The smouldering fire of discontent regarding the affairs of the Torrance chamber of commerce that for several weeks has been manifested by lack of both enthusiasm and financial backing by business men and other residents of this city burst into flame Monday when at a special executive meeting of the board of directors, November 1.

Leading up to the drastic action taken at this meeting was the heated discussion of the chamber's affairs at the regular meeting of the board on September 21, when Directors Lancaster, Bartlett and Post called the attention of their fellow directors to the startling condition of the organization's finances, and Mr. Post suggested as one method of curtailing expenses the elimination of the secretary and his assistant.

The spokesman at the regular meeting was Dr. J. S. Lancaster, who exploded a bombshell by declaring that the organization was facing a crisis and that immediate steps must be taken to meet the outstanding obligations to avoid financial ruin.

Calling upon Pottinger to discover why the directors had not been informed of the state of the organization's finances and why bills amounting to several hundred dollars had been incurred without the sanction of the directors, he was informed by the secretary that the latter had been too busy with important matters to pay much attention to the finances.

This seemed to add fuel to the flame and Treasurer James W. Post threw his hat into the ring by announcing that it was impossible to collect dues from a dissatisfied public, who were bitterly complaining that there was "too much talk and too little accomplished by the secretary and the chamber."

An informal report of the financial condition of the organization made by Mrs. Pottinger developed the fact that while the books showed a balance in red ink, the outstanding but unpaid pledges more than offset the chamber's obligations.

Even this optimistic view of the situation failed to sidetrack the main issue as to what the chamber and its secretary had accomplished, and Director Bartlett's statement to the effect that Secretary Pottinger had remarked to a business man that "it was beneath his (Pottinger's) dignity to collect dues" only added to the hub-bub that was finally subdued by the secretary's explanation that he considered it poor business policy to employ a high priced man to act as a "bill collector."

Oil was finally poured on the troubled waters by President Gourdir who came to the rescue not alone of the good name of the chamber, but of the activity of that body and its secretary.

Recapitulating the history of the organization President Gourdir pointed out the fact that many things of vital importance to Torrance and its vicinity had been accomplished by the directors and the secretary, citing among other instances the building of the new high school, the entry into this territory of the Santa Fe railroad, in the teeth of the "most violent opposition; and the paving of Western avenue.

The speaker closed his remarks with the admonition to his fellow directors that to abandon at this time the work that had been done as well as that then in a formative state, or to change the personnel of the chamber's officials would be a calamity and would place the city in the position it occupied when the chamber was organized last March.

At the conclusion of the president's remarks Director Lancaster moved that the rental of the American Legion hall for Forum purposes be discontinued and on the motion being carried it was decided to hold future Forum meetings in the chamber's quarters.

At Monday's meeting a thorough discussion regarding the financial situation of the chamber, lasting several hours, took place and at its conclusion it was decided that in view of the fact that the directors believed only a portion of the outstanding pledges could be collected, retrenchment was absolutely necessary and that the first step along this line was the abolition of the secretary's position.

Half Hour Service Sunday on Stages

Beginning next Sunday at 8 a. m. a half hour service will be maintained throughout the day, by the

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Flood and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Paxton traded homes. The Floods were living in the Paxton home on Arlington street and the Paxtons were in Spurlin Court.

In view of the fact that Secretary Pottinger is employed by the month it was decided to request his resignation to take effect on November 1. After this was done it was suggested that an attempt be made to reorganize the chamber by securing the services of an expert in that line who will work in conjunction with Pottinger during the interim.

The expert selected was Charles Bayer, head of the reorganization department of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce, whose services will cost the local chamber nothing and whose knowledge of just such conditions as face the local directors will be of inestimable value in rejuvenating the Torrance chamber.

"We all have the greatest respect for both Mr. and Mrs. Pottinger," said President Gourdir, following the meeting, "and we know how hard it is to solve within a short time the many problems that have confronted them. Our action Monday was in no sense a reflection on the ability of either the secretary or his assistant, but our financial condition is such that prompt if unpleasant action had to be taken."

"The secretary's resignation was asked with the proviso that if between now and November first, he is able with the assistance of the directors and Mr. Bayer to get us out of the hole and put the chamber on its financial feet, we will be delighted to rescind our action and continue to employ the secretary."

"The books of the institution show that since the re-organization of the chamber and up to July first its receipts were \$4656.45 and the expenses for this period \$4392.21, leaving a balance of \$417.43. The chamber's receipts since that date have been \$1363.70 and expenses \$2012.56, leaving a balance to the good of \$58.37. The amount due the chamber in pledges between now and January first, amounts to \$3365.

"Opposite this apparent credit amounting to hundreds of dollars, are many bills contracted by the chamber that must be met and we are meeting the situation as business men should—by retrenchment. If those, or even a majority of those, who pledged their support to the organization when they signed the membership cards, will fulfill these pledges and give us the support they promised, we can continue along the line that we planned and one that will eventually be of the greatest good to Torrance and every one of its residents. If on the other hand those who obligated themselves to pay their dues, fail to do so, after solicitation on the part of Mr. Bayer and our secretary, we must abandon much of the civic work we had planned to do to the great detriment of this city."

"In justice to the board of directors and the secretary, I would like to call attention to the fact that \$2863.48 has been expended during the past few months, that while necessary for the organization and equipment of the chamber need never be expended again. This sum includes the fee paid James O. Stevenson for re-organizing the chamber, amounting to \$1793.10; furniture and fixtures, \$467.03, and making of industrial film, \$605.35."

In referring to the possible receipts per annum of the organization President Gourdir said that approximately \$5,000 had been pledged by large manufacturers and business men and the normal overhead of the chamber should not exceed approximately \$4700 under the present conditions.

"The whole trouble lies in the lack of interest in the organization by the members," said Director Dr. J. S. Lancaster, "and their failure to meet their pledged word."

"If this who signed what really amounts to a promissory note for their annual dues, will meet these obligations, we would have no difficulty in continuing the work of the chamber under present conditions, but the directors are forced to look at the matter in a purely business light and had no other alternative in their decision to dispense with the services of the secretary."

"I am optimistic," continued Dr. Lancaster, "as to the future of Torrance and of the work that can be accomplished by a chamber of commerce but from present indications I doubt very much if a large enough per cent of the pledges to continue the work, can be collected."

Harry Gipe, of Kokomo, Ind., arrived last week, and is visiting his brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gipe, of South Andreo. He has a position at the Llewellyn Iron Works.

Miss Helen Neill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Neill, left Tuesday for Los Angeles, where she entered the Westlake School for Girls. Miss Neill was a member of last year's graduating class of the Torrance High school.

Don't Miss

This Week's Installment of "BOY'S ADVENTURES IN JUNGLE"

The attention of new subscribers and our readers who failed to see the story of the Torrance resident, who when a boy spent several months in the wilds of the Florida Everglades, is called to the exciting episodes in this week's paper, the opening chapters of which were published last week.

As was the case last week the story will appear on the Editorial page. Copies of last week's paper are available at the Herald office.

NOTICE

The real estate firm of Babcock & Jones is now located in the Auditorium Building, Phone 133-J, this being their new home. Those desiring to sell Torrance property, or to look over choice home sites, residence property or oil acreage, insurance of every description, can do well by getting in touch with members of this firm.

TO CONFER ON BEST ROUTE TO L. A. HARBOR

Torrance Affected By Decision of Santa Fe Engineers

According to information received within the past twenty-four hours the entry of the Santa Fe Railroad into the harbor district will depend largely on the outcome of a conference to be held soon between officials of the road, property owners of the Bixby Slough district, members of the City Council and the Harbor Commission. That was indicated following an informal conference at Los Angeles Harbor Monday between Harbor Commissioner O. B. Kibele, Dr. F. S. Langdon, head of the harbor committee of the council, and Councilman Sparks, Sanborn and Conaway.

Mr. Kibele explained to the committee that the deadlock over the granting of the Santa Fe franchise is caused entirely by misunderstanding. No feasible plan for the road's entry can be worked out, he said, until all parties interested in the matter are interviewed.

"We must plan now for a transportation system in this harbor," said Mr. Kibele, "that will serve the port as it will have developed 100 years from now."

"The systems we have now must be entirely revamped," he continued. "And that in a very few years. We are already feeling the pinch of inadequate rail facilities."

"The Carbor Commission is in favor of admitting all rail lines that we may be able to best handle our exports and imports."

"The Santa Fe should enter the west basin at a point where it will connect with the municipal belt line at the most feasible point. We have already plans under way for the extension of the belt line to the head of that basin."

"The interests which own the Bixby Slough district should be considered in the matter," he said, "because the success of their project depends largely on the development of an industrial district that will give an impetus to the growth of the city."

According to Secretary Pottinger of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, who is keeping in constant touch with the Santa Fe situation, no definite date has been set for the contemplated conference, though Mr. Kibele advised that the interested parties meet as soon as the railway engineers' plans are presented.

The American Legion Auxiliary held its regular semi-monthly meeting on Monday evening Sept. 25th at Legion Hall. There was nearly 100 per cent attendance and three visitors, among them Mrs. Collins of Long Beach, whose husband, Past Commander of Arthur L. Peterson Post, was the principal speaker of the evening. Two new members were welcomed into the unit, Miss Dot Coker and Miss Texanna Truitt. Mrs. Collins, having attended the State Convention at San Jose, gave a very interesting account of the affair.

The greatest part of the evening was spent in making plans for the Halloween Mask Ball, to be given by the Auxiliary on Halloween night, Monday, October 30th.

After the business meeting of the Unit they joined the Post in the Auditorium of the Building and enjoyed the speakers: Professor Barnett, who spoke on Americanization and Conrade Collins.

Delicious refreshments of pie-a-la-mode and hot chocolate, also doughnuts which were made by a demonstrator from Johnson, Carvell and Murphy, of Los Angeles, were greatly enjoyed by all during the social hour which followed the meetings.

OIL EXPERT IS CONFIDENT WE HAVE IT HERE

Sec'y Huntington Beach Co. Here to Get Drill Sites

There is an unlimited field of oil in the vicinity of Torrance is the declaration of Edwin A. Logsdon, secretary of the Huntington Beach Sunset Petroleum Company, who was in Torrance today looking over the oil situation with a view to securing a drill site of from one to ten acres.

"While I am of course unwilling to state just where oil, in my estimation and that of our experts, is to be found in your Torrance field," said Mr. Logsdon, "I will say that in the estimation of our company you have a district that will in a very short time be classed with that of Huntington Beach and Signal Hill."

"Just how long it will be before this comes about is largely due to the attitude of the owners of property in this vicinity. Owing to the immense fortunes made in oil in this section of the state it is perhaps natural that a large bonus is the first thought of property owners when producers approach them for leases. This is the wrong attitude. When men and companies are willing to put into drilling equipment from \$50,000 to \$100,000 on a pure gamble, it seems to me that the property owners should be willing to take a much smaller chance of loss and not demand a large bonus as is now generally the case.

"The sooner the latter realize this the sooner will the men of means come into the district and develop it. Torrance, in my estimation has a great oil future and this opinion is shared by the officials of our company who are willing to back their judgement with their money."

Mr. Logsdon is advertising in the Herald and other nearby papers for drill sites of from one to ten acres and will in the course of the next few days interview several owners of property in this vicinity with a view to securing a lease or outright sale of desirable property.

While there have been no startling developments in the Torrance field during the past week, all operators are "on their toes" with expectation and it is predicted that any day may see one or more big producers brought in.

Pueblo Land Co. Spends \$10,000

At a recent meeting of the city council the members of that body were asked by J. Isenstein, the local grocer for the appointment of a peace officer to the Mexican village known as Torrance Pueblo, owing to the fact that rumors had reached his ears that bootlegging was being practiced in that settlement.

In commenting on the progress of that part of town Mr. Isenstein said that the Pueblo Land company, owning the five acres on which the settlement is built, was spending in the neighborhood of \$10,000 in needed improvements.

These include three-fourths of a mile of streets from the end of the paving on Arlington avenue to the Pueblo property line; the grading of a street 794 feet in length through the tract; the building of 5000 feet of cement sidewalk; and 1500 feet of cement curbing.

Other improvements include the erection of a twenty-room apartment house and the completion of several new houses and an assembly hall for the use of the community consisting of about 500 Mexicans. The sanitary arrangement include a drain that will care for the overflow of the entire tract.

Forum Meets In C. of C. Monday

The first meeting of the chamber of commerce Forum to be held in the former's rooms next to the State Exchange bank, will be held next Monday evening. The committee in charge of the affair have a tentative program arranged that promises to be of interest and it is hoped that among the speakers will be Charles Bayer, prominent organizer of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce.

Reeling our romance day after day in the columns of a great city newspaper, there came the great day when the editor, tiring of her style, sent her out to get an angle on real romance. And she found it—with a vengeance! See how in "The Heart Specialist" at the Torrance Theatre Saturday, October 7, Mary Miles Minter is the romance-reeler who finds real romance.