

Building Permits

For week...\$ 14,200
For month... 67,850
For year..... 442,605

Torrance Herald

NINTH YEAR

Price 5 Cents

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APRIL 20, 1923

Price 5 Cents

NO. 16

\$400,000 Schools for Torrance

Hub Oil Co. Well Smith No. 1 Comes In Wednesday

Offset Well Across Street Due to Come in at Any Moment at Depth of 3614 Feet

Giving every indication of being a 1200 or 1500-barrel well, the Hub Oil Company's Smith No. 1, six hundred feet east of the Standard's Community No. 3, put on production last week at 1100 barrels, was brought in Wednesday night under a strong gas pressure. Yesterday, while it was still cleaning out, the Hub well made around 600 and 700 barrels. It was believed, however, that it would take about 36 hours to get all the mud out of the pipe and by the end of that time it was expected to reach its maximum production.

The Hub's new well looks much better than Torrance Community No. 3 did at the start and is behaving in much the same fashion that the Standard well did. Both wells are the same depth, being brought in at 3605 feet. The gravity of the Standard well is now about 26 and is expected to increase to about 27. When the mud is cleaned out of the Hub well, the gravity will also run about 27.

If Smith No. 1 reaches the 1200-barrel mark it will be the best well of the field and is now the farthest east of the producing wells. The Hub drillers and officials are confident that this well will be all that is expected of it. The depth of oil sand is approximately 550 feet. Just south of Carson street, and offsetting Smith No. 1, the Chanslor-Cantfield drillers are about to bring in Torrance No. 5 at 3614 feet. The oil sand was first struck in this well at 3070 feet. It gives every indication of being a big producer. Six hundred feet to the west the crew is drilling through the cement in Torrance No. 4, which offsets the Standard's Community No. 3. This well is expected in within the next week.

Another well that is near production is Dominguez No. 1, a half mile north of the Standard's 30-acre lease. This well was spudded in about 18 months ago but encountered considerable water troubles. It was not until this week that a water shut-off was obtained. The Chanslor-Cantfield Midway officials are confident of getting a fair producer in this area, and are backing this confidence by preparing to run down Dominguez No. 2, 400 feet to the east.

The Dominguez well will extend the field much farther to the north than it was expected to go and will prove up several hundred acres to the north of the city. This is regarded by oil men to be one of the most important developments in the Torrance field during recent months. Rig for two important wells are being completed this week on the old Redondo-Long Beach road just east of Cedar street. One of the wells is located on Lot 5, Block 303 in Tract 1922 on the Chanslor-Cantfield Midway lease, and the other is on the Midway Northern Oil Company's first well in this district. Great confidence is placed in this area and many go as far as to predict that some of the best wells in the field will be drilled in the vicinity in which these wells are being put down. They will prove up the south part of the Torrance district and the north extension of Lomita.

W. M. Keck closed another lease in the Torrance field this week, completing a deal for five lots in Block 55, north of Carson street and near the four-tenths of an acre leased to two Santa Fe Springs operators about ten days ago. It is reported that a bonus of \$2600 was paid on these lots which comprise about nine-tenths of an acre. This is believed to be a record bonus and points to higher bonuses in the near future.

Mr. Keck is one of the shrewdest independent operators in this part of the country, and the leases he has closed in the Torrance field recently show that he is checkboarding the entire district. Judging from these tactics and the bonuses Keck is paying he is expecting the Torrance field to produce some big wells and extend over a considerable area.

Well East of Union Toot Has Fishing Job at 2400 Feet

A bad fishing job is still holding up the drilling in the Peterson-Barker, Syndicate's No. 1 well at Western avenue and 213th street, which was down 2400 feet when a portion of the drill stem was twisted off. The drill crew has been at work for eight days in an attempt to land the

stem but as yet has not been successful. The stem appears to be wedged solidly in the hard sand and the drillers are now reaming around the outside of it in order to loosen it up. This well is attracting more attention than any other well in the Torrance field and is being watched by oil men throughout the Southern California fields. R. W. Edens, who leased the 106 acres on which the well is being drilled, is reported to be as confident today as the day he closed the lease on the property that the well will hit the pay sand. It is claimed that the logs of the well are checking up closely with the logs of the best producers on the west side of Torrance.

HOW WE GROW
The following figures show the receipts of the Torrance post office for the first quarter of 1922 and 1923, with the gain and per cent of gain for the same period:

Table with columns for year (1922, 1923), gain, and percentage. Includes sections for POSTAL, MONEY ORDERS, INSURED MAIL, and REGISTERS.

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City Hall News

All trustees were present Tuesday night at the regular meeting when the usual matters of routine business was transacted. President Fitzhugh reminded the board that he had been chairman of the same for a year and that it was now time to elect another chairman. Trustee Stone moved that Trustee Gilbert act as chairman of the board for the ensuing year. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The obstruction of sidewalks during building operations was mentioned. President Gilbert asking the chief of police to see that same were kept clear so as not to be dangerous to passersby. A petition signed by seventeen property owners, read as follows: 'Gentlemen: We, the undersigned property owners in the district bounded on the north by the southern line of Carson street, on the south by the northern line of 22nd street, on the east by the center line of Cabrillo street and on the west by the eastern line of Arlington street, respectfully petition you to begin street improvements proceedings for the improvement of the roadways in said district by surfacing the same with rock, asphalt and rock screenings.' Trustee Proctor moved that proceedings be initiated looking toward the fulfillment of the above request.

Fourth District Meeting

Torrance welcomed the Fourth District Chamber of Commerce with characteristic and hearty hospitality on Thursday night, April 12th, in American Legion Hall with the state music of a brass band and the enthusiasm always manifest in the hustling, vigorous, wide-awake, thriving magic city known from sea to sea. On account of the absence of Hon. Frank Merriam, president of the Fourth District organization, and who is occupying the chair of speaker in the Assembly of the state legislature, it devolved upon F. C. Finkle of the Southwest Chamber of Commerce, to preside, a position which he occupied in an impartial manner, with Thomas Blair as secretary.

proper. At this point W. B. McQueen, former president of the Fourth District organization, presented a gavel to the chairman, stating that during his administration he knew everyone by their first names and he congratulated the members upon the growth by the federation which is able to place recommendations. Trustee Fitzhugh suggested that the matter be referred to the proper department. (Continued on Last Page)

W. H. Gilbert Chosen Mayor by Council

At the conclusion of the reading and adoption of previous minutes last Tuesday night at the city council, President Fitzhugh of the board of trustees made the following statement: 'I wish at this time to make an announcement. One year ago tonight I was chosen mayor of Torrance by this board for a period of one year. Within a few minutes now, that time will have expired. At this time I am ready to hear nominations for my successor as president of this board.' The name of Trustee W. H. Gilbert was presented by J. F. Stone and seconded by Geo. A. Proctor. The vote was unanimous for Mr. Gilbert and he immediately was escorted to the mayor's chair.

work had been a pleasure to perform. Briefly Mr. Gilbert addressed the board as he assumed the duties as president of the council. He said: 'All I ask is the same devotion of purpose, the same unison of action of the board of trustees that has been enjoyed by the two previous mayors of this city.' The retiring mayor then presented Mayor Gilbert with a gavel, stating that it had a long handle and a hard head, with which to wield the powers of his office. After this procedure the council settled down in routine form and much business was disposed of during the following hours, Trustee Fitzhugh occupying the chair vacated by Mr. Gilbert. A Hard Time Dance will be given at the Catholic Hall, Torrance, this evening, April 20, at 8:30 p. m. Excellent music. Admission 50 cents each.—Advertisement.

One of the Finest Elementary-High Schools in State

Structure to Be of Spanish Architecture with Large Auditorium to Be Used as Civic Center

One of the finest school plants in California is to be built in Torrance. The Torrance Chamber of Commerce, through Secretary Gadeky, is co-operating with the superintendent of schools and the board of education to hasten the work of drafting plans and advertising for bids. Bonds have been voted to provide \$280,000 for the high school and \$110,000 for the elementary, not including equipment.

The buildings are to be of the Spanish type. The high school will occupy the present building, to which wings and a new shop are to be added. A new structure for the elementary school will be located at the corner of Martina street, facing the center of 220th street. A space of 1200 feet separates these two buildings and here the new auditorium, for the use of both schools, will be erected.

The auditorium, with its balcony, will have a seating capacity of one thousand. It will be used for school plays, lectures, assemblies, etc. It will be available for all public gatherings and will bring Torrance people closer together.

The stage will be 56 feet wide and 33 feet deep; the proscenium arch 30 feet wide. The latest designs in border and footlights will be installed. There will be a \$1600 asbestos curtain and the Clark system of stage curtains. Stairways from each side of the stage will lead to the dressing rooms below. Another stairway will connect the music storeroom with the orchestra circle.

Physical Training is necessary for mental development. The state requires physical training in schools and a doctor's certificate is necessary for exemption. The classes are to have individual dressing rooms and showers, located in the basement of the auditorium. No gymnasium has been provided as yet, and all work will be given in the open.

Shop The new shop courses, joining cabinet-making, woodturning, machine shop, auto repairing, and oil electricity, are planned to add those already working in the Torrance shops to do further work and become more efficient in their chosen trades.

Domestic Science and Household Arts These departments are already overcrowded. With greater space in the new building these subjects will be open to more people. The adults' millinery classes have been such a success that they will be continued, and any other home makers' courses will be added if there is a demand.

Cafeteria Cafeterias have been a success in other schools in California and there is a great need for one here. Tasks show that hot lunches can be served at school more cheaply than parents can supply cold ones from home, and pupils who eat hot lunches, do better work in the afternoon.

High School Grounds The buildings are to be placed on the front of a 26,005-acre tract and behind them the athletic field will be laid out. The grounds around the building will be beautified by lawns, ornamental plants and gravelled walks. Plans for the grounds are being made by the landscape expert stenographers has increased and the of the school department.

Science a Required Study According to state law, one year of a laboratory science is essential in a high school course. The work, as it will be given here, will be a complete introduction to science. Botany, physiology and biology will be added to the curriculum. These, followed by scientific work in college, will lead to a degree in science or engineering.

Commercial Department The commercial department of Torrance High has been making a record for itself in the past four years. At present many former students are employed in Torrance factories and offices. This demand for stenographers has increased and the of the school department.

60-MILLION REFINERY EAST OF HERE

Construction by three big oil companies of huge oil refineries at a cost of \$60,000,000, and the establishment of the greatest oil refining center of Southern California at the town of Watson, east of Torrance and Keystone, is now under way, it was reported today. Along with the new laboratories are prepared. Up-to-date equipment, including the newest experiment tables with disappearing hoods, will be supplied. The physics laboratory will have all the necessary apparatus for experiments, including a radio.

Each company will spend approximately \$20,000,000 on its new refining plant. When completed the new refineries will employ thousands of men. The employees themselves and their families will build up a sizeable city.

When completed the refineries will finance oil from the entire field including Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill and other districts. Many tanks for storing oil and its products will be installed as part of the project.

The first unit of the Shell company will be completed within six months, it was announced.