

Torrance Herald



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Torrance Man Loses Life On Rig

5 NEW OIL WELLS IN 1000 BBL. CLASS

Standard and Doheny Get Two Apiece in Southwest U. S. R. NO. 20 IN New Producer in East Lomita Makes 23 Gravity

Five wells, averaging better than 1000 barrels a day, this week added still more zest to the renewed boom of the oil field. Four of the wells were in the southwestern extension, two going to the credit of the Standard Oil company and two being chalked up by the Petroleum Securities (Doheny) outfit. The fifth was in East Lomita, brought in by the U. S. Royalties.

The best well of the four in the old Redondo road (west) district was Petroleum Securities Torrance 27, located just south of Torrance 25, which is on production, and offsetting Standard's Marble Fee No. 2. Torrance 27 made 1120 barrels Thursday. The well was drilled to 3736 feet. The oil tested 27 degrees. The tubing gauge registered 310 pounds of gas pressure. Standard's Fee No. 2 has not been cleaned out yet, but field representatives of the company declare that it will be better than a 1000-barrel well. Pressure on the tubing is 300 pounds. It was completed at 3696 feet, 40 feet shallower than its neighbor, Petroleum Securities No. 27.

Standard's Marble Fee No. 3 is flowing 1073 barrels of 27 gravity oil, with 250 pounds of gas pressure on the tubing. This well was completed at 3734 feet. Production is through a half-inch nipple. Petroleum Securities brought in a 900-barrel well when Torrance 20 was placed on production, having been completed at 3725 feet.

U. S. Royalties No. 20 on East Pine and Walnut streets is making 1000 barrels. It was completed at 3835 feet. Gravity of the oil is 23 degrees. The well is on the Bell lease.

Evangelical Guild Enjoy Silver Tea

Mrs. W. J. Neelands and Mrs. P. G. Briney were co-hostesses at a silver tea given Monday afternoon for the benefit of the Central Evangelical Guild. The affair was held in the cottage at Manhattan Beach and was enjoyed by Mrs. J. S. Lancaster, Mrs. Oliver Bath, Mrs. A. W. Miller, Mrs. H. A. Komba, Mrs. Dallas Avery, Mrs. H. F. Gadeky, Mrs. Bolce, Mrs. Janet Woodburn, Mrs. Louise Miller, Mrs. F. A. Huber, Mrs. Hines, Mrs. W. A. Renn, Mrs. R. R. Smith, Mrs. Fred Hansen, Mrs. C. B. Bell, Mrs. Charles Rippey, Mrs. I. H. Barnett, Mrs. Charles Stock, Mrs. William Laven, Mrs. Zada Hastie, Mrs. Anna Burmaster, Mrs. J. M. Fitzgugh, and Mrs. George Beckham.

THREE OPERATORS TODAY TRY FOR PRODUCTION FROM 3900-FOOT LEVEL ON EAST SIDE

All operators in the field today are watching three important wells in the eastern extension of the field, where the Shell Oil company, E. J. Miley and the Superior Oil company are trying today for production from the deepest levels in the whole field from Redondo to Harbor boulevard.

To Miley goes the credit of trying for production from the deepest level in the history of the field. His Torrance No. 2 has been drilled to 3909 feet and was cored every foot of the way from 3840 feet down, revealing rich oil sands free from water. The well is being bailed now for production.

On the same side of the road, offsetting the Miley lease, Superior will

Oil Field Flames Keep Firemen Busy

Firemen from Torrance answered two calls in Lomita this week. A caterpillar ditch digging machine operating on Pennsylvania avenue Wednesday morning ripped up a gas pipe. The gas became ignited by a spark and the flames, dangerously near two sumpholes filled with oil, roared upward to a height of 40 feet. The firemen were unable to quench the blaze and no chart of the pipes in the vicinity was available. Field men finally identified the pipe as belonging to an absorption plant, where the gas was shut off and the fire put out. The blaze indicated the necessity of a complete chart of the many pipes in the field.

On Wednesday night the Smith restaurant on Narbonne avenue caught fire and burned to the ground. The Torrance department answered the call and went into action, but were unable to put out the fire on the small building.

STANDARD TO DEEPEN WELL IN E. LOMITA

Big Company Prospects Ahead With Kettler No. 1

The Standard Oil company is prospecting ahead with its Kettler No. 1 in east Lomita. This is the most southerly well on the east side of the Lomita field, with the exception of Julian's Splitstoeser No. 1, further east. The company was never able to secure more than about 75 barrels a day out of Kettler No. 1 on the pump. This fact was somewhat puzzling to operators on account of the excellent production secured only a few hundred feet away. Standard recently made application to drill the Kettler well deeper. On Thursday morning the bottom of the hole was at 3849 feet. The well is being cored every foot of the way.

SCOUT NEWS

By THE OLD SCOUT

A meeting was held at the Torrance elementary school yesterday afternoon looking toward the organization of a lodge of Boy Rangers. This organization is for boys between the ages of 8 and 12, and is based on Indian lore. Forty-nine boys were present, and the next meeting will be held at the school next Thursday afternoon. Ellis P. Moore Jr., who is the guide of the largest lodge in California, located at San Pedro, will be the guide of the Torrance lodge, personally conducting the weekly meetings and the monthly outings.

Torrance Troop No. 2, Boy Scouts of America, L. V. Babcock scoutmaster, meets this evening in the American legion hall. The troop's basketball team has won every game it has played in the District league of nine troops.

Torrance Troop No. 3, Boy Scouts of America, James H. Scott scoutmaster, held an interesting meeting at the First Methodist church last evening. This troop is open to 12- and 13-year-old boys only. Star Scout George Watson is the senior patrol leader.

R. H. Knowles of the Hendrie tire factory is starting the erection of a six-room home at Clifton. The contract was let to G. H. and J. L. Sapp.

Observations

Vote Yes for City Hall Bonds—Anton Lang Becomes a Skeptic—A Cat Mother and a Free Offer

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

ON Monday, April 14, citizens of Torrance will vote on a proposal to bond the city for \$100,000 for the purpose of building a new city hall. The structure would be erected at the corner of Carson and El Prado street, on property already owned by the city.

There is no question in the mind of anyone about the absolute need of a new city hall for Torrance. The municipality has outgrown its present quarters. A new building is a necessity if the machinery of the municipality is to function properly.

Ahead of Torrance lies unprecedented development and growth. It is good business to shape present plans to meet future requirements. Therefore the city should erect a city hall not only large enough to fit present needs but to provide room for the certain expansion to come.

It should be understood that it may not be necessary to issue all of the bonds in case an adequate structure can be erected for less than \$100,000, which seems altogether probable. But it is wise to propose an issue larger than is needed rather than to run short of funds before the building is completed.

The question resolves itself into this: The city needs a new city hall. Public buildings should be built with an eye to the future. They should be artistically designed. If Torrance bonds itself for \$100,000 a splendid city hall can be erected, possibly for less than the amount stipulated. But even if the whole amount is required, it will be well spent. Better to build an adequate building than one which must be enlarged soon.

Passage of the bond issue requires a two-thirds vote. Not one of the candidates for the new board of trustees has gone on record as opposed to the bond issue. This is important because of the fact that the building will be planned and built under the incoming administration. Vote "Yes" for the city hall bonds.

ANTON LANG, the Christus of the Passion Play of Oberammergau, has forbidden his son to take the part of Christ in the performance of 1920. In announcing his decision Lang said: "The war has worked havoc with my spiritual conception of the part. I have become almost a skeptic, not in dogma, but in the world's acceptance of Christ's supreme doctrine of love."

That is too bad. The writer witnessed a performance of the Passionspiel in Oberammergau in 1922. As impressive as the noble performance itself was the spiritual beauty that shined in the faces of those peasants of that beautiful mountain village.

In the fourteenth century a great plague swept Bavaria. The peasants of Oberammergau prayed to God for deliverance from the pest. They swore to commemorate the life of Jesus every ten years with a great Passion play in which every person in the village would take part. The plague missed the village, and since that day the little community has kept its pledge—has literally given itself over entirely to fulfillment of the promise of its ancestors.

And so there has passed down to those peasants a spirituality kept alive and nourished by each succeeding generation. Centuries of devotion to one ideal have written something on their faces that seems to set them apart from the rest of the world.

And now Anton Lang, whose ancestors played in the first Passionspiel several centuries ago, has become "almost a skeptic."

Lang's announcement proves his sincerity if it does nothing else. It is Oberammergau tradition that parts be assigned in the Passion play to men and women whose characters, beliefs and deportment correspond most closely to the parts they are to interpret.

Lang the believer was superb as Christus. Lang the skeptic could not do justice to the interpretation. Nor could the younger Lang. These thousands of persons who have witnessed the Passionspiel—and they include men and women of every Christian denomination as well as Jews, Buddhists, Mohammedans and followers of Confucius—will hope that the skepticism of Lang is not shared by his fellow townsman. Else a village that is now a world shrine to human faith might become a living memorial to the faltering fealty of flesh-weak man.

DUSTY CRUSTY is a cat. She drew her rather unusual cognomen from the lips of a 3-year-old boy for no apparent reason outside of the fact that the words are a bit euphonious.

The other night Dusty Crusty came to an important event in her feline life. The box which had been prepared for her in a closet was moved to the screen porch, whereat Dusty Crusty took her troubles to a woman. Mewing softly, she took the woman's hand in her mouth. In some manner not understood by a mere man, she conveyed to the woman the fact that she wanted the box taken back to the closet.

When the woman lifted the box from the floor, Dusty Crusty led the way to the closet triumphantly, mewing with pleasure.

The next morning Dusty Crusty proudly announced to the woman the fact that the important event had taken place, in proof of which she purred ecstatically over her three white kittens.

The first point of this narrative is that Dusty Crusty, who had previously displayed more affection for the man of the house than for the woman, did on the evening before and the morning after the important event, take her case to the woman, while completely ignoring the man. Which proves that Nature has created a great sisterhood of maternity to which no male can gain admission.

And one more thing. This for the little children. Those three lovely little kittens are now residing at 2029 Gramercy avenue, Torrance, California. And just as soon as they are old enough, which will be in a few weeks, the first three little boys and girls who make application may have one of those kittens apiece, absolutely free of charge. Just come right up to the house any time, Boys and Girls, and put in your names. This offer is made without reservations of any kind and the writer personally guarantees that the kittens will be delivered without obligation, free, F. O. B. his house.

And boys and girls! Don't say a word to your mamas and papas. Just let's keep this a secret between ourselves.

DID you notice that Ramsay MacDonald, British labor premier, has announced that England's \$55,000,000 naval base plans for Singapore have been abandoned? Good news. British diplomats hoodwinked Charles Evans Hughes when they got the United States at the Washington disarmament conference to agree to a geographical line inside of which the powers contracted to build no more fortifications. But Singapore, commanding the Orient, was OUTSIDE the line. Britain immediately made plans to make Singapore an almost impregnable fortress. A pretty scheme, indeed. The world owes a vote of thanks to Ramsay MacDonald for throwing the plans into the wastebasket.

STUDENTS of national politics agree that President Coolidge is the strongest candidate in the country today. "If the election were held tomorrow he would win hands down," says a prominent eastern Democrat.

So far the oil mess has not touched the President. True he has refused to discredit cabinet members who appear to be implicated in several questionable transactions. But after all, isn't the President right in following the great American policy that "a man is innocent until he is PROVEN guilty"?

President Coolidge is a calm man, not easily excited and not impulsive in reaching a conclusion.

Perhaps these qualities which constitute his chief attributes are just what we need in the White House. At any rate it is apparent that many of his countrymen think so. Witness the returns from the early primaries. The President led the field two to one in the North Dakota primary. And North Dakota is down on the political map as a radical state.

Cancel Examination For Postmaster Here

Postmaster Alfred Gourdier has been instructed by the United States civil service commission to announce that the scheduled examination for postmaster at Torrance, Cal., has been cancelled. The proposed examination was previously scheduled to be held May 10. The letter from the commission states that "the postoffice department has withdrawn its request for certification."

Mr. Gourdier announces that examination for the position of clerk or carrier will be held on April 19. This position carries an initial salary of \$1400 a year, increasing during four years of satisfactory service to \$1800. Further information regarding this examination may be obtained from Miss Texanna B. Truitt, local secretary of the United States civil service commission, at the Torrance postoffice.

5000-BARREL GUSHER NEAR HARBOR BLVD.

Union Makes Big Strike on South Slope of Hill

Located on the south slope of Dominguez Hill, a mile east of Harbor boulevard, the Union Oil company's Carson No. 1 was brought in Wednesday for a yield of 5000 barrels of 32 gravity oil a day, according to field representatives of the company. If the reported flow of the new gusher is correct, the strike constitutes the most important California oil discovery since the Union brought in Bell No. 1 from the Meyer sands at Santa Fe Springs. The new gusher was completed at 4231 feet.

Fire Chief Issues Fire Hazard Warning; Enforce Ordinance

Fire Chief Ben Hannebrink has just completed an inspection of the entire city and reports that many fire hazards exist in alleys and back yards. He calls attention to the ordinance governing the burning of rubbish and issues a warning to citizens to obey the ordinance. Mr. Hannebrink's statement follows: "After making an inspection of the city of Torrance on March 19, 1924, I find a large number of back yards littered with old boxes and rubbish which constitute serious fire hazards. I would like to see these places cleaned up and have the public help the fire department in the prevention of fires, not only in Fire Prevention week but for 365 days of the year. We have an ordinance governing the burning of trash and rubbish. The hours are from 6 a. m. to 10 a. m. and from 4 p. m. to 6 p. m. All violators will be subject to a fine. This ordinance is going to be enforced hereafter, as all firemen will report violations to the police."

"IN THE GREASE" Notes Gleaned While the Oil Editor Bumps Around Proven Territory

It was reported yesterday that Black's Keystone Syndicate well, east of Harbor boulevard, blew out, having penetrated 14 feet of oil sand. Attempts will be made soon to bring the well in. The crew, it is reported, is getting ready to run casing.

Standard is almost ready to bring in its second well on the Dominguez lease, Dominguez No. 3 received a water shutoff O. K. Wednesday. A production test will be made.

The Chancellor-Canfield Midway Oil company is swabbing Kettler 5 and 6 for production. The gas pressure seems to be low and the wells may have to be brought in on the pump.

The Fortuna Oil company is bailing Clarke No. 2, East Elgin and Eshelman streets, for a water test.

Standard will have Interstate No. 2 on production soon. The hole is now 3725 feet deep.

The Parnell Oil company has received an O. K. on the shutoff in its well at East Pine and Walnut streets.

The Shell company has drilled out Kettler No. 5 for a water test. Kettler No. 2 is ready for completion, having been drilled to 3830 feet. The mining bureau Thursday was testing No. 4.

TWO HURT AS DRUM ON RIG BURSTS

Drum on Petroleum Midway Stock Well Blows Up

C. M. MURRAY DIES E. F. Houser and Earl Cotter, of Crew, Are Injured

C. M. Murray of the Torrance hotel was instantly killed and two other Petroleum Midway employees were injured at 7 o'clock this morning when a rotary drum on Stock Community No. 3, south of Carson street near Ivy, exploded, hurling fragments of steel a foot in diameter 200 feet from the rig.

A flying fragment of steel struck Murray in the head. He dropped dead to the floor of the derrick.

E. F. Houser, who was working cathead on the derrick, was struck on the left leg by a large piece of steel, which almost cut his limb in two. Both leg bones were fractured near the knee. He may lose the limb.

Earl Cotter of Artesia was struck a glancing blow on the head and knocked insensible. He recovered consciousness in a few minutes and is out of danger.

The crew was running six-inch drill pipe when the large flange on the cable windlass exploded. As only 21 stands of drill pipe had been run into the hole it is apparent that the drum was not overheated. Members of the drill crew declare that the driller was not running the drill pipe with unusual speed. It is thought that the drum was defective.

Murray was lead tong man on the crew, and was standing in the center of the derrick floor when the big drum exploded.

The flange broke into about ten pieces. The force of the explosion sent a large fragment of steel flying out of the derrick and landed it near the Orange Blossom cafe, almost 200 feet east of the rig.

The injured men were treated at the emergency hospital on Carson street. Murray was unmarried.

Standard's Interstate No. 2 produced 725 barrels Thursday. The gravity increased to 21.7 degrees. Tubing pressure was 250 pounds.

The Shell company has changed the name of Watson No. 1 to Dolores No. 1. This well is the far-eastern outpost east of Harbor boulevard, on a line with Oakley No. 1, the outpost producer.

Sentinel has cemented Joughlin No. 3 at 3611 feet. Joughlin 1 and 2 are holding up well with steady production around 900 barrels a day.

E. J. Miley's Torrance No. 1 went off production last week, built up a head of gas, blew out a large quantity of sand, and is now producing more oil than ever before. Wednesday's flow was 820 barrels.

Hackworth and Bruin are running oil string in their well at Narbonne and Acacia streets. The drill went down 3800 feet.

The Bear Oil company has cemented off Johnson No. 1 on East Pine street at 3600 feet.

The mining bureau has okayed the cement job in the Standard Oil company's Marble Lease No. 3. This well

(Continued on Last Page)