

Covers the Torrance District Like a Blanket.

# Torrance Herald

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# FIX CITY TAX RATE AT 98 CENTS BEST FACTORY LAND ON COAST HERE

## VALUATION OF LAND LOWER

Municipal Assessments Are Lower for People by Virtue of Cut CITY INCOME THE SAME Land Reduction Is Offset by Value of New Improvements

Torrance municipal taxes will be lower during the ensuing year than they were during the fiscal year of 1924-1925. This was assured Monday night when the Board of Trustees fixed the tax rate for the year at 98 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation—96 cents for general taxes and 2 cents for interest on and the retirement of bonds.

The reduction to taxpayers was brought about by almost a million-dollar decrease in the assessed valuations on land in the city—a reduction made possible by the activity of the Chamber of Commerce. The valuation of real estate in Torrance last year was \$4,213,350. For 1925-1926 it is \$3,241,840—a decrease of \$971,510, or about 23 percent. Reductions of valuations throughout the city vary from 15 to 30 percent.

Lower for People While the 98-cent Torrance municipal tax rate will lower the local taxes paid by individual property owners, the total amount collected here in municipal taxes will be about the same as last year, owing to increases in local property, due to new building, not assessed last year. The value of improvements in Torrance last year was \$1,314,340. This year it is \$2,260,035. The increase is \$945,695, or about 72 percent. This increase is due entirely to new improvements and not to increases in valuation of improvements which were assessed last year.

Valuation of secured personal property in Torrance last year was \$2,264,695, as against \$2,652,525—a decrease of \$387,830, or about 19 percent. This decrease is accounted for by the removal from the city of considerable oil well machinery and normal depreciation of other personal property.

\$18,000 Collected The value of unsecured personal property last year was \$1,551,190. Figures on unsecured personal property are unavailable on this year owing to a change in the method of collecting taxes on property of this kind. This year the county collects these taxes and remits to the municipality without reporting the total valuation of the taxable unsecured property. The county already has collected about \$18,000 in these taxes which will be turned over to the city of Torrance.

The total assessed valuation of Torrance last year was \$10,549,995. This year, minus the total of the unsecured personal property, it is \$5,151,695. Assuming that the valuation of unsecured personal property is about the same as it was last year the assessed valuation of Torrance this year is approximately \$10,000,000. It may be a little more or a little less.

## Standard Oil Co. Starts Work on \$3,000,000 Giant Oil Storage Project on the Marble Ranch

### New Fords Feature All-Steel, Lower Bodies, Colored Closed Cars, and Other Refinements

The new Ford models will be on display at the Schultz, Peckham and Schultz showrooms on Sept. 1, the company announced today. The local Ford dealers have remodeled and redecorated their showrooms. Body changes and chassis refinements more pronounced than any made since the adoption of the Model T chassis were announced today by the Ford Motor Company. There will be no advance in prices. It also was stated.

Outstanding features of the improvements in both open and closed bodies are a lower all-steel chassis, complete new design in most body types, a change from black to color in closed cars, larger, lower fenders, newly designed seats, and larger, more powerful brakes. Longer lines, effected through higher radiator and redesigned cowl and bodies, are apparent in all the improved Ford cars, but are especially pronounced in the open types. Wide crown fenders contribute to the wheels contribute to the general effect of lowness and smartness.

Colors Attractive While runabout and touring car remain in black, the closed bodies are finished in harmonious color schemes enhanced by nickel radiators. The coupe and Tudor bodies are finished in deep channel green, while the Fordor is rich Windsor maroon. Greater comfort is provided for passengers in both open and closed cars by larger compartments, more deeply cushioned seats, and greater leg room.

### 300 Attend Ceremony When Order of Amaranth Is Installed Here

More than 300 people were present when the Lomita Court of the Order of the Amaranth was instituted last Thursday night at Masonic Temple by Mrs. Julia Woodruff, grand royal matron, and her suite. Following the institution, the initiatory degree was conferred by the Fullerton Court.

Beautiful bouquets were presented to the visiting officers, among whom were Mrs. Fidelia Beck, past supreme royal matron; David E. Livingston, associate grand patron; Ardelia Hall, grand marshal; and George Arwind, grand wasser. Courts of Los Angeles, Fullerton, Long Beach, Huntington Beach, Eagle Rock, Anaheim and other cities were represented among the visitors.

### Hemmi Quits Bar Association When Proceedings Arise

The name of J. U. Hemmi, former Torrance attorney, was withdrawn from the records when he resigned in the face of disbarment proceedings brought before Division No. 1 of the Second District Court of Appeals, it became known here this week. The charge against Mr. Hemmi was that he had been convicted of a felony.

## MUNICIPAL SURPLUS SHOWN

Audit Reveals Torrance Excess Over Expenses Last Year EXPENSES WERE \$93,988

Public Report Shows How Taxpayers' Money Was Spent

Figures revealed by the recently completed audit of the city treasurer's books show that the city of Torrance did business last year at a profit, ending the twelve-month fiscal period on June 30 with a surplus of about \$34,000.

The income of the city last year aggregated \$149,123.14. This amount was received from the following sources: General property tax, \$119,202.54; business licenses, \$7,569.59; recorder's fines, \$11,569.30; building permits, \$1,429.85; interest on deposits in banks, \$897.93; oil tax, \$4,500; sewer permits, \$835; franchise earnings, \$1,376.76.

The city last year expended an aggregate of \$93,988.16, not including money paid for the retirement of bonds. The excess of income over expenditures was \$55,134.98, which should not be mistaken as surplus, owing to the fact that numerous payments were due at the time the books were closed.

Here Are Expenses A general listing of expenditures follows (the figures after decimals are purposely omitted): Salaries and expense in clerk's office, \$4,611; same in treasurer's office, \$741; same in attorney's office, \$1,976; Martin, \$1,150; office rent, \$1,150; interest on bonds, \$3,275; printing and publishing ordinances, \$464; city engineer's salaries and expenses, \$2,805; general promotion expenses (Chamber of Commerce appropriation, etc.), \$3,467; total for general government, \$26,438.

Protection of Life and Property Fire department salaries, \$3,921; fire department expense, \$2,708; police salaries, \$17,753; police expense, \$4,746; compensation insurance, \$1,043; street lighting expense, \$2,571; hydrant rentals, \$1,780; cleaning vacant lots, \$116; total, \$34,114.

Health and Sanitation Health officers' salaries and expenses, \$861; garbage and refuse disposal, \$5,600; sewer expense, \$2,567; total, \$7,028.

Stable Upkeep and Feed, salaries and expenses, street maintenance, garage work, repair and upkeep, \$22,942.

Education and Recreation Parks and playgrounds upkeep and repair, \$2,125. The audit shows that the assets of the city are \$525,584.26. Its liabilities, including bonds for special assessments, are \$248,126.34. The excess of assets over liabilities amounts to \$277,457.92.

## WILL TAKE YEAR TO BUILD

Hundreds of Employees Are to Live in Camp for Months TO STORE 15,000,000 BBLs.

Company Buys Part of Weston Ranch in Big Program

Work on the first of five 3,000,000-barrel oil reservoirs to be located on the southern part of the Marble ranch and the north-eastern part of the Weston ranch has been started by the Standard Oil Company in a program that contemplates the employment of hundreds of men and the expenditure of several million dollars here.

Buy Big Tract The operations on the first reservoir started last week, and already about 200 men are employed. The huge reservoir will be several hundred feet in diameter, 15 feet under ground and 15 feet above the surface. It will be of concrete.

The company owns the section of the Marble ranch on which the reservoir is located and has purchased a large part of the Weston ranch in West Lomita for storage purposes.

It is estimated that it will require three months to complete each reservoir. The total cost of the five reservoirs, with an aggregate storage capacity of more than 15,000,000 barrels, will be between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

The reservoirs will be utilized for the storage of fuel oil, which will be pumped from the company's refinery at El Segundo and has purchased a large part of the Weston ranch in West Lomita for storage purposes.

Helps Business Local merchants report that they have already been favored by considerable patronage from the workmen employed on the job.

That business will be stimulated for some time by the location of the big project here is indicated by the fact that the company is erecting a large camp on the Marble ranch, where men employed on the job will live.

## Search Resort Area For Lost Torrance Boy

Frank Spoon Missing Since Sunday; Coat Found in Car

Relatives and friends have been searching the mountains and Arrowhead Lake district since Sunday, for Frank Spoon, 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Spoon of 2275 Redondo boulevard, who has been missing from the Pacific Electric camp at the resort since Sunday.

Monday morning the youth's automobile, with his coat on the seat, was found. It was understood that young Spoon had started on a fishing trip. Inquiries on all sides failed to reveal his whereabouts. It is feared that he may have drowned.

Mrs. Russell Clark of Chicago is a guest of her daughter, Mrs. Emerson Stewart, of Manuel avenue.

## Observations

Rudolph Franta, Deceased Bandit—Who Killed the L. A. Policeman?—Was It the Men Who Set Franta Free?—John Smith, the Gang, and the Law

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

CONSIDER the career of Mr. Rudolph Franta, deceased. He was a bandit, and a bold one. He died in action, shot dead in a street duel in Los Angeles with himself and three of his partners in outlawry pitted against the police.

Prior to his death in the Los Angeles street battle, Franta had been twice imprisoned in Illinois. He had been acquitted once of a murder charge and three times on charges of robbery.

In 1906 he was acquitted of murder. The next year he won his freedom before a Chicago court twice in succession, each time beating a charge of bank robbery.

In 1909 he was at last convicted of robbing a bank and was sentenced to the reformatory at Pontiac, Ill. THEN HE WAS PAROLED.

He gained another robbery acquittal in 1915. He pleaded guilty to bank robbery in 1918 as a result of a raid in which his gang took \$47,000 in loot. He was sentenced to serve from one to fourteen years.

IN 1923 HE WAS PAROLED. Recently he was arrested in Chicago for implication in a small bank robbery. He got off with a small fine.

ISN'T that a pretty story? Here was a criminal of the most daring and dangerous type, a bank robber, a gunman. Time after time he was caught in the police net. Time after time he was acquitted. And after he was sentenced he was set free.

He lived to take part in a gun fight in which a policeman, doing his duty to protect life and property, was shot down and killed.

The persons who were responsible for paroling such a dangerous man are responsible for the death of the Los Angeles policeman.

It makes the blood of every decent citizen boil with rage to know that our government agencies are so lax that a man is allowed his liberty after such a record as Franta's.

FOR a long period in my younger and perhaps more sentimental days I was a violent opponent of capital punishment. I wrote heated editorials against the law which allowed the state to take human life.

I have flopped. I am for the death penalty for murderers, sane or insane. Our legal machinery is too slow. It is bound up in technicalities. It is too complex, too indirect, too greatly influenced by 'mawkish sentiment.'

When a man or woman is charged with murder, all lesser cases on the court calendars should be set aside at once and the trial should proceed immediately. The period in which an appeal may be taken should be reduced to a few days. When conviction is finally assured, the murderer should be executed the next morning.

IT will be interesting to note just how long it will take to try, convict and execute "John Smith," the bandit who was wounded in the Los Angeles gun battle last week. As one of the bandits who shot a policeman, before the eyes of hundreds of persons, Smith is charged with murder. There is no reason to delay the trial—every reason to speed it.

There is altogether too much talk about the rights of the accused. There should be more regard for the rights of the victims of criminals.

There is too much tomfoolery about environment and early influences making criminals of youths. If criminals are made by bad environment, the state should take measures to see that these criminals are either imprisoned or executed so that they may not propagate their kind and bring more weak-charactered potential criminals into being to shoot down the next generation.

## BENEFITS HERE ARE LAUDED

Eberle and Riggelman Complete Exhaustive Survey for C. of C.

WIDE STUDY FOR FACTS Figures and Data Reveal Industrial Assets of Torrance Area

"We find that Torrance is in a particularly desirable position to accommodate the heavy metal working industries. Operating conditions and characteristics in the city of Torrance are on a par with or superior to those in any other Southern California community."

Thus do Eberle and Riggelman, consulting economists, engineers and statisticians, sum up their findings after conducting an exhaustive industrial and civic survey for the Chamber of Commerce.

The reports were delivered Monday. They consist of two voluminous books, replete with facts, figures, statistics, conclusions, criticisms, and recommendations arrived at by a four-months study of the Torrance district and every other industrial community in Southern California.

Use in Campaign The reports contain many tables, maps and graphic illustrations. The data included in the reports will be utilized by the Chamber of Commerce in the campaign for new industries. They are designed to answer every question—even technical questions—brought up by any industry studying Torrance as a location for a new factory.

Space prohibits the publication in detail here of the exhaustive findings of the experts. Directors of the Chamber who have studied the reports agree that they provide the organization with data and facts not possessed by any other community in the Southland.

The conclusions, coming from a firm of experts of such wide repute as Eberle and Riggelman, will carry more weight with industrial executives than any statements which the Chamber of Commerce executives could make.

All of the conclusions, succinctly set forth, are based on details contained in the body of the report.

Average Price Low One of these conclusions follows: "After having made an investigation of the land supply and land costs in Southern California, we are of the opinion that Torrance offers greater service and more desirable attributes of a permanent nature with its land than any other community in Southern California. Furthermore, the price of land in Torrance, in consideration of the services received with it, is far below the price of any other land on the Pacific Coast."

A manufacturer expecting to locate an industry will find many points of superiority in Torrance acreage which are not closely approached by any other Southern California community.

The contents of the Industrial Report are grouped under the following captions, which will indicate the scope of the investigation and report: Operating Conditions and Characteristics; Land Supply and Costs; Building Construction; Machinery, Industrial Environment, Transportation, Warehousing and Storage, Raw Materials, Labor, Electric Rates, Water, Sewers, Gas Rates, Telephone Rates, Taxes and Bonded Indebtedness, Finance, Markets.

Compare Communities Each one of these subjects is treated extensively, not only from the standpoint of Torrance, but by comparisons and contrasts between Torrance and every other actual or potential industrial community in the Southland.

The following tables and schedules are included in the report: Industrial location and service map of Los Angeles County; industrial land prices; Los Angeles and vicinity.

(Continued on Last Page)