

# CABRILLO PROJECT PUSHED

County Machinery Set for Proceedings South of Plaza Del Amo

NEW ROUTE TO HARBOR

Shelman Highway Petitions Will Be Ready Soon; Prospects Bright

Prospects of making Cabrillo avenue in Torrance and Eschelman avenue in Lomita part of an improved major north and south highway from Los Angeles to the sea look on a bright hue this week.

Acting upon advice from county officials, a joint committee from Lomita and Torrance Tuesday filed with the county a request for a petition which would initiate proceedings for the following: opening of Cabrillo avenue in Torrance from Plaza del Amo to Camino Real, 100 feet wide; opening of Cabrillo, 80 feet wide, from Camino Real to junction with Eschelman; widening of Eschelman to 50 feet to Abian way in the foothills; paving of route with 60 foot highway.

The committee which acted comprised John Holm of Lomita and Mayor Dennis and Carl L. Hyde of Torrance. The committee was recently assured by Supervisor McCallan that the new highway would receive county aid as part of the regional plan for major traffic arteries.

Chief Engineer William Fox of the regional planning commission told the committee that the project had already been listed as a major traffic improvement.

Action to make this highway part of a new route from the city to the sea began last May when the committee was appointed by Mayor Dennis as follows: Sam Rappaport, Charles Vonderab, Charles Schultz and City Engineer Frank Leonard. As negotiations proceeded it was found advisable to separate the county work from that necessary to be accomplished in Torrance, due to certain delay on account of the Cabrillo avenue right of way controversy with the Pacific Electric. Negotiations are now nearing completion for a number of street crossings over the P. E. tracks on Cabrillo. After these negotiations are completed action to get the right of way paved will be instituted.

The Cabrillo-Eschelman plan contemplates the opening of a new route from Western avenue east of the Pacific Electric station and directly to the sea.

It is under way the county proceedings for improvement south of Plaza del Amo will be pushed vigorously.

## I. H. Hawkins Is Recovering from Operation Here

I. H. Hawkins of the Sample Store in convalescing at his home in Redondo Beach after an operation for appendicitis at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. Mr. Hawkins will be busy with his many duties in a few weeks.

## Change Dates for M. E. Church Feasts

Announcement is made that the date of holding the regular monthly dinners given by the M. E. church Brotherhood, has been changed to the first Monday in the month. The next dinner will be held February 8 instead of on the 14th as originally planned.

## Postmasters of S. Calif. Meet in Legion Building

The Los Angeles Association of Postmasters held an interesting meeting Friday, Jan. 13, in the Legion clubhouse, with Postmaster Heiser of Glendale, president, in the chair.

Following the business session, piano and vocal solos were rendered by Miss Virginia Watson and Lloyd Brennan.

The 48 members present enjoyed the trip through the Columbia Steel plant, in the evening, which had been arranged by the host of the day, Postmaster Alfred Gourdeur of Torrance.

Postmaster Merriam of Alhambra is secretary of the organization, which will meet at San Fernando Feb. 10.

A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.

**BILL BARBER SAYS**

Lux against us, said the Gold Dust Twins



# Torrance Herald

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 1928

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FOURTEENTH YEAR—No. 4

## Columbia Breaks Ground for \$500,000 Plant Addition

# SANTA FE IN BIG CAMPAIGN

## WILL HIRE 100 MORE WORKERS

Becker Says Big Furnace Will Be Finished in 10 Weeks

DOUBLE SHOP IN YEAR

Steel Company Increases Its Capacity at Pittsburg As Well

The Columbia Steel Corporation Friday broke ground for additions to its Torrance plant which will cost more than \$500,000. The additions include a new open hearth furnace of 50 tons capacity to cost \$195,000 and a blooming mill to cost \$310,000. N. A. Becker, recently appointed efficiency consulting engineer of the corporation, was here when the new construction work was started.

Irving Skewich, who was in charge of construction when the new sheet mill was erected in record time was also in charge of the construction job now under way.

Columbia officials said that the big open hearth would be completed in ten weeks and that work of installation in the new blooming mill would begin shortly.

The construction work will require the employment of about 150 additional men for a period of three months and when the open hearth and the blooming mill are completed about 100 men will be added to the payroll, according to W. L. Booth, general manager here.

Future Is Bright

The new sheet mill was started last May. By May 1928 the capacity of the Torrance plant will have been doubled. It plans now being considered are eventually applied. In the future the plant as it stands in May 1928 will again be doubled in 1928 and 1929. The production of ingots at the Torrance plant according to present plans will be materially changed.

At present ingots nine by nine, square and tapered are being turned out. In the future ingots will be cylindrical. The present ingot weighs 1250 pounds, the round one will weigh 3500 pounds. The Torrance plant will be the first steel mill in the country to turn out these round ingots.

N. A. Becker is the patentee of the process by which they are produced. The advantages of the round ingot over the tapered type are manifold. The round ingot will cool equally whereas the tapered ingot cools in the corners first. The round ingot may be rolled through a furnace while the square tapered type must be pushed through.

Producing the round type ingot molds will last three times as long.

Enlarge in North

Simultaneously with the breaking of ground for Torrance additions Columbia started a big program of expansion in its Pittsburg, California plant. The Pittsburg Dispatch records news of the northern expansion as follows:

Expansions in the Columbia Steel Corporation's Pittsburg plant which will aggregate an expenditure of more than \$250,000 were started yesterday with the arrival of a crew of erectors, according to a statement by N. A. Becker, consulting efficiency engineer.

The first addition to the local plant will be the erection of a building and the installation of another 75-ton furnace in the open hearth department. This work will require about ninety days for completion, according to Mr. Becker, and will cost approximately \$175,000, furnishing employment for 55 additional men.

Wednesday of next week ground will be broken here for the erection of buildings to house the Columbia's new wire netting and wire specialties department, Mr. Becker said. This addition will cost \$85,000, and will furnish employment for eighty additional men. It was stated. The new department will begin operations sometime in April.

Mr. Becker stated that while he had nothing definite to give out at this time, his corporation is contemplating other additions and expansions of their Pittsburg plant this year. He believes 1928 will be a busy year for his concern.

## Glance At This Record

Torrance Permits, 20th in State, Top List in Per Capita Summary

Official summaries of building permits issued in California cities during 1927, just compiled, reveal that Torrance stood twentieth among all the municipalities of the state, led all California in percentage of increase and stood at the top of the list in value of permits per capita.

The appended summary includes all cities in which permits aggregated more than \$1,000,000. A host of cities much larger than Torrance issued permits valued at less than \$1,000,000.

Cities larger in population whose permits were less than half of those issued in Torrance include the following: Compton, Anaheim, Culver City, Redondo Beach (permits \$229,025 or about one-tenth those of Torrance).

Following is the summary of cities which passed the million dollar mark in permits:

Los Angeles	\$123,027,139
San Francisco	46,032,848
Oakland	20,794,669
San Diego	14,251,966
Long Beach	12,707,145
Pasadena	9,019,866
Beverly Hills	8,510,738
Sacramento	8,240,250
Glendale	7,212,766
Southgate	6,687,233
Berkeley	4,863,671
Santa Monica	3,579,650
San Jose	3,456,556
San Bernardino	3,148,473
San Marino	3,123,370
Riverside	3,003,098
Santa Barbara	2,824,193
Fresno	2,818,093
Alhambra	2,422,862
TORRANCE	2,319,923
Palo Alto	2,317,895
Burbank	2,014,393
Bakersfield	1,894,491
Vernon	1,971,966
Southgate	1,905,951
Ventura	1,791,552
Huntington Park	1,584,131
Alameda	1,537,424
Santa Ana	1,448,717
Burlingame	1,448,045
Richmond	1,431,015
Inglewood	1,369,366
San Mateo	1,330,220
Salinas	1,281,944
San Mateo	1,140,040
Albany	1,105,661

## Hospital Assoc. to Elect on Feb. 8th

The annual meeting of the Torrance Memorial Hospital Association will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Episcopal Guild Hall at 7:30. Three directors must be elected. Those whose terms expire are R. H. Smith, Dr. A. P. Stevenson, and Mrs. Isabel Henderson. According to the by-laws two men, one of whom is a doctor, and one woman must be elected. The directors will be elected for three years.

## New Manager of Torrance Theatre Sets New Policy

M. C. Brandt, new manager of the Torrance Theatre announces a new policy in the conduct of the theatre here today. In the future "come-on" programs like "gift nights" will be done away with and the money expended in such events put into high class programs. The comforts of the theatre have been enhanced and an objectionable draft eliminated. Mr. and Mrs. Brandt and their son will move to Torrance.

## To Keep Torrance Mailing List Up

That a constantly accurate mailing list of the residents of Torrance may be available for business houses at all times, directors of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night appropriated \$108.00 for the purchase of a machine to make plates for an addressograph. Hereafter the expense of having new plates made in order to keep the list up to date has been too great. By the purchase of the machine changes in addresses and new names may be added at nominal expense.

## Torrance Woman, Grieving Over Death of Her Little Son, Hangs Herself from Rafter in Garage

W. R. Atwood, Torrance barber drove his automobile into his garage at his home at 842 Cota avenue yesterday afternoon and was greeted by the sight of his 35-year-old wife Edith, hanging dead from a rafter.

Two months ago Mrs. Atwood lifted her infant son from his little crib—dead. Since then she has been grieving constantly.

In the pocket of her dress was found a note, which read, "Bury me in Sunnyside close to Junior. Give Mrs. Louden and Hazel each \$100 of my money. Have a well driven for my mother and father and pay for it out of my money."

Yesterday morning Mr. Atwood went fishing. He returned home yesterday shortly after 5 o'clock. Opening the garage door the gruesome sight met his eyes. He called the police. Chief Calder and two other officers went to the Atwood home. The chief believes that Mrs. Atwood had been dead for several hours. She had attached a fabric belt to her neck, mounted a ladder and jumped.

Mr. Atwood is employed as an extra and substitute barber at the Postoffice Barber Shop.

## Observations

A National Divorce Law by Constitutional Amendment? No—Hickman Case Shames State—The Example Set by Michigan—Traffic in New York

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

SUPERIOR JUDGE SABATH of Chicago who has heard more divorce cases than any person in the world, has been appointed lobbyist at Washington by the General Federation of Women's Clubs to promote an amendment to the constitution giving congress authority to enact national marriage and divorce laws. Thus, once more, an organization is wasting valuable energies and money on a fool reform.

On repeated occasions we have aired our views about this divorce business and still adhere to the belief that if the real meaning of life is built on the pursuit of happiness, marriage should be difficult and divorce easy. But even if we believe that divorces should be made more difficult to obtain, we would be the last to favor national legislation in the matter.

The divorce matter should not come within the scope of the federal government. The popular pastime of the last decade has been to seek amendments to the federal constitution on almost every conceivable subject. Blind reformers seem to think that almost any of the American growing pains can be magically eliminated by constitutional amendment. Gluttons for punishment, they fail to perceive that their proposed remedies fail to work.

THE United States is too large to be subjected to uniform laws governing the conduct of millions of citizens living in almost every conceivable sort of climate. More than that the government which leaves the widest range of personal volition as to conduct by individuals is the most successful and satisfactory type of government one could possibly imagine. If our constitution is to become a document filled with inhibitions and prohibitions as to personal conduct, it will cease to be a fundamental of American government. The more reforms which are written into it in the way of amendments the less effective it will become. The constitution should be general and not specific.

SPEAKING of new laws one cannot refrain from entering one more protest against the passage of new statutes and amendments which would choke still more the already badly clogged channels of justice. All of which brings us once more to consideration of the Hickman case.

California should take a lesson from Michigan. The middle-aged man who confessed in Flint to the murder of a five year old child, was incarcerated in Marquette prison under a sentence of life at hard labor and solitary confinement three days after his arrest. In Southern California Hickman has just come to trial. Our courts, in the light of this contrast are the laughing stock of the country and the scorn of every serious-minded citizen. A travesty has been made of justice in the Hickman case which almost leads one to the conviction that a rebirth of the Vigilantes would not be amiss.

We have the utmost contempt for an attorney who will actually take the Hickman case and endeavor to prove the murderer innocent. Our contempt for the alienist who will lend himself to such a cause is likewise unbounded. In the days of the Vigilantes, the Hickman case would have been over long ago—and if it were delayed no notoriety-loving alienist or fame-seeking attorney would dare defend him. That sounds revoltingly glib. However, there are cases in which offenders surrender their right to the constitutional guarantee of a fair trial. The Hickman case is one of these. The law has failed miserably in Southern California. When legal machinery fails to work it is time for the people to act. Their action in this case cannot take direct form, but it behooves every citizen to express his views in certain terms through civic organizations and with a ballot. If it is possible—as it seems to be—the most dangerous criminal in the history of the state to find protection in the very courts which the people erected to protect society, then by all means it is time for the people to clean house with the courts.

SAID a reader to me the other day: "Do you think the Los Angeles newspapers are endeavoring to create sympathy for Hickman?" I replied in the negative. Had he asked whether I thought the Los Angeles papers were creating sympathy for Hickman, my reply would have been yes. We believe that there is no intention on the part of the press to build up sympathy for the murderer. The public wrath has cooled and the newspapers by publishing daily comments on Hickman's every thought and movement unconsciously are contributing to public sympathy for the fiend. On account of public interest, Hickman news has high value. We cannot charge the delay to the newspapers but to the courts.

WITHOUT question the Hickman case had something to do with the newly enunciated policy of the Associated Press. On Jan. 23 the Associated Press sent out to its editors and correspondents (Continued on Last Page)

## Apartment Scarcity Here

## NEED FOR RENTALS URGENT

Real estate men and apartment owners in Torrance reported this week an alarming shortage of vacant apartments in this city. The percentage of vacancies of dwelling houses for rent is reported to be lower than any other city in Southern California. With 1928 looking up as a year in which tremendous expansion will take place, the need for dwelling units for rent is expected to be acute. With this in mind, directors of the Chamber of Commerce Monday night, appropriated \$250.00 to be used in metropolitan newspaper advertising during the ensuing year, so that investors may be attracted to this city. The expenditure of \$1800.00 in Los Angeles papers last year was directly responsible for \$240,000 of dwelling unit construction here in 1927.

## City Plan Under New Law Finds Champions Here

The special committee appointed by Mayor Dennis to investigate the new planning law of the state of California, voted unanimously last Friday afternoon to recommend that the city council pass an ordinance forming a planning commission under the provisions of the new statute. The statute would enable the council to adopt a comprehensive plan for the future growth of the city, and would give the city power to enforce conformance with this plan by future subdividers. The desire that the territory annexed to Torrance be developed as an integral part of Torrance prompted the council to appoint the committee.

## Plan New Drive on Pac. Electric for Interchange

The industrial committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has determined to organize one more concerted effort to induce the Pacific Electric Railway company to consent to an interchange of freight with the Santa Fe in Torrance. Although the interchange is regarded as of first importance in the industrial future of Torrance, and although all local industries have joined in a request that the Pacific Electric approve the plan, negotiations have continued since 1924 without result. D. W. Pontius, general manager of the Pacific Electric, it is reported, has decided to make a personal inspection of the Torrance district shortly and a decision from his company may be expected soon. The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce has been co-operating with the Torrance Chamber in an effort to secure the interchange.

## Retail Merchants to Hear Results of Buying Survey

Retail merchants of Torrance will be invited to a special meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on Friday night, Feb. 2, to hear in detail the results of a shopping survey made here during the Christmas rush by Thurston H. Ross, economist and engineer with the firm of Eberle & Riggleman.

Mr. Ross made a preliminary report at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. His detailed findings according to the retail bureau of the Chamber of Commerce are of intense interest to local merchants.

## POTLUCK DINNER

Mrs. James Cooper of Spurlin Court was hostess at a potluck dinner to the following members of the Torrance Thimble club: Mrs. R. C. Stanley, Mrs. Frank Smith, Mrs. Jessie Cowan, Mrs. J. H. Vaughn, Mrs. Lloyd Thrapp, Mrs. R. Trim, Mrs. H. Kent, and Mrs. L. V. Marsh. Mrs. E. Kent was a visitor.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. F. Miller of Arlington avenue tomorrow, when a chicken dinner will be served.

## West Torrance, Near Sea, Scene of Huge Subdivision Activity

One of the most attractive subdivisions in Southern California will soon be put on the market in Torrance by the Clifford F. Reid Co. of Los Angeles who have purchased a large tract from the Huntington-Redondo Company in the newly annexed part of Torrance between the Palms Verdes Estates and Redondo Beach.

Preliminary maps of the subdivision were scrutinized by city officials last week and tentatively approved. The plans provide for an 80-foot highway leading directly to the city.

The Reid company is building a \$24,000 administration building under conditions unique in Southern California. The building is half in Redondo Beach and half in Torrance. In order to play fairly with both municipalities the company took out two building permits and let contracts for much of the work to firms in both cities. The plumbing on the Torrance side was done by Fay L. Parks of the Torrance Plumbing Company while that on the Redondo side was let to J. W. Wimberley of Redondo. Hardware was purchased equally in the two cities. Building inspectors of Redondo and Torrance have had to inspect the work.

The first section of the subdivision to be put on the market early next month comprises 100 acres, a portion of which lies in Redondo. Subsequent tracts all are in Torrance.

In the first subdivision the company has laid out a park comprising about 5 1/2 acres which will be dedicated to the city of Torrance. The park is almost a natural amphitheatre.

Development of the huge tract over an extended period will necessitate the expenditure of millions of dollars.

## VOTERS MUST REGISTER

All voters must register this year and official registrars are now making a canvass in this district. The Torrance City election comes on April 9. In order to vote at the municipal election at the primary in August, and the general election in November, all voters must be newly registered before March 10.

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## SHOP AREA WILL BE BOOMED

Road Paved, Track In at Big System's Industrial Tract Here

PLAN NATION-WIDE DRIVE

Company Ready to Launch Big Program to Locate Factories

With streets paved, tracks laid and utilities installed, the Santa Fe Railroad Company's modern industrial district in Torrance will soon be brought to the attention of factory executives all over the United States in a nationwide campaign by the big railroad system to attract industries to Torrance.

Already a number of industrial prospects have inspected the manufacturing subdivision here and have expressed astonishment at the merits of the location. The tract is so laid out that an industry may secure a location abutting on railroad trackage and boulevard and may have materials for factory construction laid down on the property directly by truck or railroad.

Executives of the Santa Fe are formulating plans for an extensive campaign to advertise the Torrance industrial district. In promoting the development of the property by factories they are anticipating close co-operation with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. They believe that the merits of the subdivision as shop locations will almost sell themselves but expect the Chamber to bring home to prospects the civic advantages of Torrance as a whole.

With the Santa Fe conducting an active campaign over the country for industries to locate in Torrance, and with the Chamber advertising the advantages and needs of the city in Los Angeles papers, executives of the railroad company anticipate marked development to take place here this year.

The opening of the subdivision here will be attended by important railroad improvement at the harbor. Last week a \$59,000,000 contract for the unification of railroad facilities at the port was announced in Los Angeles. The contract has been agreed upon by public officials and the various railroads serving the port area. The contract calls for an independent harbor railroad to be used by all the carriers. The agreement is hailed throughout Southern California as the greatest move for harbor development since the construction of the San Pedro breakwater.

It is regarded here as of the utmost importance to the Torrance industrial district, in that it greatly improves the position of the Santa Fe as one of the carriers with a terminus at tidewater.

## Masonic Tradition Subject of Speech

"Masonic Traditions" was the subject of Rev. Thomas Grice's discourse at the installation ceremonies of Lomita Masonic lodge last Thursday night.

About three hundred members and friends witnessed the impressive ceremony with which John Glenn Wilson and his suite of officers were seated.

The retiring worshipful master, John Roy Winters, was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel.

## ESCAPES INJURY

Crump Actison escaped injury last week when his Ford roadster skidded on the highway near San Diego and overturned. Crump was on his way to the home of his brother, Ray Actison. He managed to drive in to the city although his car was badly damaged.