

Consolidated
Edition
Torrance Herald
and Lomita News

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THREE VITAL MATTERS TO BE SETTLED

Council to Discuss Water Problem at Special Meeting Monday

Next Monday night the City Council will meet for a special session in order to complete three city matters which have been hanging fire for some time. The meeting will not be an official council session but merely for the purpose of arriving at a solution to the vital community matters.

The program includes: (1) the drafting of an ordinance for the re-organization of the fire department; (2) the formation of a plan for procedure to settle the proposed publicly-owned water system; and (3) to see if an ordinance, defining the difference between a wholesaler and a retailer in regard to city licensing, can be drafted.

Of the three matters coming up Monday evening, the subject of the water system is considered the most important. It developed at Tuesday night's council meeting that although City Attorney Perry G. Briney is ready to file a petition of mandamus in the Appellate Court to settle the legal phases of the proposed improvement, certain activities have delayed this legal move.

Negotiations Attempted.
Briney reported to the council that the filing of the petition has been held up because he understood that there have been more or less indirect attempts to arrive at a settlement out of court with the city. It was indicated from the comments of the councilmen present that the bond holders of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company are willing to make a deal for sale to the city.

Mayor John Dennis declared (Continued on Page 8-A)

Kitchen Knife Causes Arrest

Mexican Jailed on Weapons Charge But Released

A razor-edged 12-inch kitchen knife caused the arrest and detention in jail over night of a Mexican, Canal 46, of 709 Border avenue, Monday, but he was released Tuesday morning on his own statement that he had merely found the instrument and was on his way home with it when stopped by police officers.

A screwdriver was also found on him, according to the arresting officers, and he was held on charges of suspicion of carrying concealed weapons. Canal got the screwdriver back Tuesday—but the knife was added to the police department's collection of weapons.

LIFE IS LONG AND TEDIOUS FOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

County Surveyor Plots Existence of Road Jobs Under the Mattoon Act Costing More Than \$50,000

How long do you think it takes the county to complete an improvement job, costing more than \$50,000, under the Mattoon Act? Make a guess at the length of time it takes to put through an ordinary opening, widening and improvement proceeding by the county—

According to a chart, received by City Engineer Frank R. Leonard this week from J. E. Rockhold, county surveyor, it takes five years!

Rockhold took 60 proceedings under the acquisition and improvement (Mattoon) act of 1925 and plotted them out. Each job cost at least \$50,000. His chart shows that from the preparation of the petitions for the work until the bonds were delivered to the contractor at the conclusion of the actual construction work, a period of 60 months had elapsed.

How Time Flies!
But it took only 7.2 months to actually do the construction work—or but 12 per cent of the time. It is not known whether or not Rockhold has prepared the chart for the purpose of clarifying the Mattoon Act and make it a little less cumbersome or merely that he created the drawing to illustrate the amount of work necessary to complete an improvement by the county.

At any rate, it shows that public improvements by the county via the Mattoon Act route are subjected to long and exhaustive preparations before construction is actually under way.

Beginning with the preparation of the petition, the proposed improvement starts its five-year existence with a nine-month period

Air Rifles to Be Tabooed in City

All proud young owners of air rifles will have to put their weapons away in the attic or only use them when outside the city limits if a new ordinance, introduced Tuesday night by Councilman Carleton B. Bell, is adopted by the city.

The new law prohibits the use of any kind of fire arms, air or spring rifles within the city limits and carries drastic penalties for its non-observance. The council has received numerous complaints from residents during the past few months from residents who asserted they suffered property damage from the indiscriminate use of the well known B. B. guns.

1880 PUPILS AT SCHOOLS IN TORRANCE

Increase of 49 is Noted in Latest Attendance Reports

According to the latest enrollment figures compiled from reports received this week from the elementary schools and the high school, there are 1880 children attending schools in Torrance at the present time. This is 49 more than a year ago at this date.

The high school has a total student body of 605, of which 346 are girls and 259 are boys. In February, 1930, there were 573 students enrolled at the high school. There is just one less pupil at this year than there was in February a year ago. Principal William A. Bell Jr. reports a total attendance of 1095 children. The Fern Avenue school has 141 pupils enrolled, an increase of 10 over the corresponding period last year. There are 121 children attending the Walteria school, which last year had 124 students in February.

Two Oil Stations Ransacked Monday

Two local service stations were burglarized sometime Monday night and tubes, candy, oil and cigarettes valued at \$52 were stolen. In both places the marauders gained entry to the stations by smashing a pane of glass near the door and unlocking it from the inside.

The Forbush Service Station at El Prado and Carson street, suffered a \$7 loss in cigarettes and candy, and the station at 2624 Carson street was looted of oil, cigarettes and candy valued at \$45. Police believe the same party broke into both places.

MEETING CALLED OFF LOMITA—The first meeting of the new Lomita Chamber of Com- merce directorate was called off Tuesday night on account of rain. A later date will be selected.

Alondra Park Improvement Meets Delay

26 Per Cent of Assessment District Located in Torrance

Word has been received by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce that the county has appropriated \$10,000 to improve Alondra Park and that the site will be the scene of much activity just as soon as a legal quirk, involving the payment for the crop of barley now growing on the park site, has been settled.

It was revealed at the directors' meeting Monday afternoon here that 26 per cent of the Alondra Park assessment district lies within the city of Torrance. On the basis of equitable representation for this community's unemployed, \$2800 should go to Torrance workers engaged on the project.

No action was taken by the Chamber directorate on the matter as further information from the county is said to the date the work will start and how the work is to be distributed is expected in the near future.

McKinley Boy Is Cleared in Robbery Case

Dismissal of Charge Is Not Opposed at Hearing Saturday

At the conclusion of the lengthy preliminary hearing in the justice court of Gardena township at Moneta Saturday morning, the charge of robbery against Forrest McKinley, 19-year-old Torrance boy, was dismissed by Judge Frank Carrell on motion by Perry G. Briney, attorney for the boy.

McKinley took the stand in his own defense and testified that he had only known Sterling Collins, Lennox, and Victor Sewell, Redondo, co-defendants in the robbery of the Southern California Edison office at Gardena on January 8, but a short time and that he did not know what the men were going to do when he drove them to Gardena from Redondo on the day of the robbery.

Motion Not Opposed.
He stated that he did not get a share of the \$24 loot and that he did not intentionally assist Collins and Sewell in their get-away after the robbery. Both of the other two men were held to answer in the Superior Court and their bonds were set at \$7500 each. Deputy District Attorney Kenneth J. Thomas did not oppose Briney's motion for dismissal of the charges against young McKinley.

Judge Carrell in granting the dismissal declared that he was convinced the Torrance boy was a victim of bad companions and that his confinement in the county jail for the past three weeks would undoubtedly prove a good incentive for better acquaintances in the future. McKinley's statement, as given to police and entered in the court proceedings, clearly showed that he had no part in the robbery and that he was ignorant of it until after he was arrested.

Benefit Shows Raise \$127 Fund

Frank Higgins, of Torrance Theater, Donates \$20

The Torrance Relief Society was presented with \$127.40 by the American Legion and cooperating civic organizations who sponsored benefit shows at the Torrance theater January 23 and 24, according to Earl Connor, commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, this week.

Manager Frank Higgins donated \$20 to the proceeds of the entertainment in addition to turning over all of the money taken at the box office after the overhead expenses had been paid. Higgins received many expressions of appreciation for his voluntary contribution to the fund besides his donation of the theater for the benefit.

The Torrance Relief Society acknowledged the presentation of the proceeds of the shows yesterday and declared that it desired to thank the different organizations whose efforts contributed so largely to the success of the undertaking.

ALL TRADES IN CITY SURVEY

Nearly 100 Vocations Are Represented in Registration of Unemployed in Torrance; Many Without Funds

There are exactly 99 different kinds of occupation represented in the registered names of unemployed in Torrance, according to a report by Carroll Ashley, who has been in charge of this survey.

"Ninety-nine occupations and 191 men and women were marked on their cards that they will tackle anything in addition to their vocation—most of them in this city," Ashley said.

"Then add 139 more who have revealed that they are without funds; that's the serious part of the whole survey. We want to get assistance from the county, but we know we cannot take care of them."

Report on Jobless Wins Appreciation

Hiram J. Wansbold, director of the Employment Stabilization Bureau for the county, paid the Chamber of Commerce and Carroll Ashley high tribute this week for the exceptionally detailed report on the unemployment situation in this city which was compiled by the Chamber and Ashley.

He said that the Torrance survey was the best of any community in the county because of its scope and graphic picture of conditions here. Wansbold indicated that the Chamber and Ashley would be in a better position to act on any possible allocations for Torrance workers now that the report is on file.

Ashley, who has been in charge of the registration of unemployed here, reported yesterday that he has the names and data of 248 men and women in Torrance and the Shoestring Strip adjoining the city who are out of work.

of all those who want and need work with county aid. The people of Torrance must help. I hope that everyone looks over the list of occupations and becomes informed as to what our own people are up against."

Only Seven Aliens List of More Than 250 Who are Out of Work

Only seven aliens of the entire list of more than 250 who are out of work are aliens, Ashley stated. There are 18 naturalized citizens represented in the register. Read the following list carefully—it will show you the wide range of unemployment here and are available for a few hours a day or a week in order to make enough to live on.

Here are the occupations and the number who are out of work in each: Truck drivers, 28; laborers, 26; machinists and oil field workers, 22; carpenters, 14; house workers, 11; hotel and restaurant workers, 10; painters, electricians, pipe fitters and general office workers, 8; clerks, filing, billing, store and grocery, 7; stationary engineers, welders and linemen, 6; auto mechanics, chauffeurs, tractor

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Can It Be That Hillsboro's Former Mayor is Now a Calif. Poo-Bah? —Headline in an Oregon Paper HOW ABOUT IT, JUDGE?

Down here in Torrance and Lomita we don't hold with any "poo-bahs"—but if our Mayor Judge John Dennis' former associates up in Oregon want to call him that—it's alright by us!

The following article in a recent issue of the Hillsboro (Ore.) Independent comments on our John's multifarious duties. Dennis is a former resident of the Oregon city. The Independent's story is self-explanatory, but we might add that Mayor Justice Dennis is performing all his civic and township tasks very efficiently and justly.

Here's what the Independent says of our John:

Under a scare head on the front page of the issue of the Torrance (Cal.) Herald of January 5 is set forth at length the assuming of his duties as justice of the peace of Lomita township by Judge John Dennis, who is no other than the John Dennis Hillsboro claimed for many years as its own, for it was here that he served the apprenticeship as mayor which has resulted in people of the California city repeatedly during recent years very much as a matter of course—at least it looks that way from this distance.

Pink Tea Aspects.
The newspaper editor does not say whether or not John has laid down mayoralty duties to assume the honors of the bench, but as it speaks of him as Mayor Dennis the guess is reasonable that the former Hillsboro executive is embarking on a career as Poo-Bah, who, light opera fans will recall, was the chap who handled many different positions successfully at the same time.

According to the newspaper story, taking of the bench by the

Would Bring Port Nearly To Torrance

Arnold Tells the Supervisors of Plan to Extend Bixby Slough

Survey of the Bixby Slough district northwest of the harbor to determine the feasibility of extending the present west basin of the harbor area to within three miles of Torrance has been requested of Major W. H. Langan, United States district engineer.

This survey was asked of the government engineer by A. G. Arnold, general manager of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, according to a communication received from him by the Board of Supervisors Monday.

Arnold advised the supervisors that Major Langan has been urged to request authority from Patrick Hurley, secretary of navy, to conduct the proposed survey. The extension of the harbor into the Bixby Slough area would bring it within three miles of Torrance, where many of the largest industries in Southern California are located. Arnold's letter stated:

The supervisors were asked to give consideration to the proposed federal survey in connection with any county studies in the district. It was reported.

Urge Selection Of Jobless At County Parley

Instead of handing out work indiscriminately, the county should cooperate with the cities which have conducted surveys of their own unemployment situation and allot work to men and women whose need is the greatest.

The county would assist cities in resurfacing streets by hand labor and abolish, for the time being, other labor-saving machinery.

These proposals were made by the Torrance representatives at a conference between the Board of Supervisors and 11 municipalities yesterday. This city was represented by City Engineer Leonard, Earl Connor, R. R. Smith and Carl Hyde. The meeting concluded with the board's pledge to furnish more vacancy of a special \$5,000,000 bond issue for permanent improvements.

Felon Convicted Of Robbery Here

Long Police Case Ends As Folsom Gets Burglar

The end of more than three years' work on the part of the police department to apprehend and convict Charles R. Sligh, of Inglewood, for the burglary of Mrs. C. C. Cartles' home on Post avenue of jewelry valued at approximately \$2000, was written into the records today.

Sligh was convicted and sentenced to a long term at Folsom and was on his way to that institution for old offenses today. His sentence in the Superior Court yesterday included six to 14 years on each of two prior counts and five to 10 years for the local burglary job.

McDonald Residents Petition for Officer

A petition from a number of residents in the McDonald Tract for a police officer was read at council meeting Tuesday night. M. O. Sullivan, old time resident of that territory, was suggested as a candidate for the position.

It was pointed out at the meeting that Sullivan has a phone connected with the Gardena exchange and that only a few of the McDonald residents have Gardena numbers. The matter was referred to the Police Commission on Councilman R. R. Smith's suggestion. A report from that body is expected at the next council meeting.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED
The City Council adopted a new ordinance regulating plasterers and lathers operating in this community at the meeting Tuesday night. Extra copies of the measure will be printed and will be given to each person who takes out a building permit in the future.

Judge Calm At First Wedding

Reports that Judge Dennis was more nervous than the bridegroom while he was performing his first wedding ceremony Saturday afternoon were declared unfounded, according to witnesses to the event.

Dennis officiated at the marriage of Miss Edith Ione Erskine of Wilmington, and Thomas J. Long, of Los Angeles. The ceremony took place at his home and with Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Harvel Guttenfelder as witnesses.

BROWN, MOE HEARING SET FOR FRIDAY

Two Charged With Murder of Carlisle Lord Get Hearings Tomorrow

Ray H. Brown, charged jointly with "Smiley" Moe with the murder of Carlisle Lord of Malibu, was arraigned before Judge Dennis Monday afternoon and had his preliminary hearing set for Friday, February 6, at 10 a. m. in the Lomita court. Moe will have his hearing at the same time.

Brown was pale but able to walk into court unassisted. He had been in the prison ward at the General Hospital since the night of January 20, when he was arrested in Long Beach after being treated for gunshot wounds, inflicted, police believe, by Lord in defending himself and his home.

The body of Joe Ward, alleged hi-jacker who was shot and instantly killed by Lord in the gun battle at the Walteria man's home, was claimed late last Thursday by M. V. Ward, of Omaha, Neb., a brother. These remains were shipped by Stone and Myers to Stroud, Okla., where funeral services and interment were held this week.

Rainfall Totals 6.01 Inches Here

Drenching rains have produced a total of 6.01 inches of rainfall to date this season, according to the high school weather report at noon today. This is just 1-100th of an inch less than the total of last year. From Wednesday morning until 7 o'clock this morning the rainfall amounted to 1.06 inches. The storm Tuesday and Wednesday gave Torrance a total moisture of 2.34 inches, the report stated. No serious damage was reported to the police.

TO BUILD OIL STATION

As there were no protests against the re-zoning of a lot located at the corner of Post and Sartori avenues to permit the erection of an oil station by the General Petroleum Company, the council voted Tuesday to change the zone in that one instance.

PROCEDURE OUTLINED FOR OPENING OF PRAIRIE AVE.

Road Now Posted By Land Owner as Not a Public Highway is Part of Major Highway Plan of County

Prairie avenue in the McDonald Tract can be repaired and maintained by the city now and could be permanently improved if the property owners in the vicinity will assist the city in obtaining a court decree giving the city title to the roadway which has never been closed for the past 30 or 40 years.

This was the opinion given the council and several McDonald Tract residents Tuesday night by City Attorney Perry G. Briney. At the present time, it is understood that the General Petroleum Company, owners of land on which the road is located, has posted signs along the thoroughfare that it is not a public highway.

Part of Major Plan
The opening of Prairie avenue from 190th street through to where it will connect with Macedonia avenue has long been sought here. It is paved from 190th street north to Inglewood and is considered a vital part of the major plan of the County Regional Highway Planning Commission for this territory. When completed, Prairie avenue would serve as an important feeder into Torrance from the north.

The council instructed Briney to proceed with an attempt to effect an agreement with the General Petroleum Company whereby a deed giving title to the street would be presented to the city and the artery improved. If this fails, and it is believed that there is little likelihood that the company will grant the deed, the matter may be taken to court at once.

Can Be Maintained
Testimony would be expected from property owners in the McDonald Tract that in years past Prairie avenue has been used with no restrictions. It will also be brought out that former owners of the land on which the road is located had never posted the thoroughfare as a private roadway or curtailed its use in any manner whatever.

Meanwhile, according to Briney's statement, the city may proceed to repair and maintain the road without legally having title to it.

Needs Summary Action
The opening of Prairie avenue has been a project that has been endorsed a number of times in the past by the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce, but nothing ever came of anything constructive in the way of actually effecting that opening.

The fact that the General Petroleum Company has posted the road as private indicates that summary action must be taken at once to prevent the closing of it entirely, a situation that would deprive Torrance of a major entrance to the city.

SEPULVEDA FIELD WORK. IS ORDERED

City to Take Advantage of County's Offer to Pay 40% of Cost

City Engineer Frank R. Leonard was instructed to proceed with the field work for the improvement of Sepulveda boulevard by the City Council this week.

In ordering Leonard to undertake the preliminary work on this job, the council took advantage of Supervisor John Quinn's statement that the county would appropriate funds for 40 per cent of the cost. Quinn, at a recent round-table meeting with the city officials and directors of the Chamber of Commerce here, declared that he was willing to pay 40 per cent of the cost of a 30-foot strip on any major highway that the city of Torrance was ready to go ahead with improving.

Can Sell Bonds for Street
The city engineer will undertake the field work and profiles for the improvement of Sepulveda boulevard (not to be confused with South Sepulveda) from Western avenue to Redondo boulevard. He indicated Tuesday night that he would also work on the widening of Hawthorne boulevard from Camino Real (or Sepulveda boulevard) down to Western street as part of the proceedings.

Leonard cautioned the people of Torrance, however, that they must not get the idea that the boulevard will be ordered improved right away. While he has already done some field work on it, the project will require probably a year or 18 months to prepare. Leonard said that improvement of Sepulveda boulevard can be accomplished, in the opinion of Mayor Dennis, with good county support and with little delay because there are no bonds outstanding against that thoroughfare that would impede the sale of the securities for its pavement cost now.

Mowry Principal Of Evening High

Guy L. Mowry, chemistry instructor at the Torrance high school, has been appointed principal of the Torrance Evening high school to succeed George W. Clark. Mowry began his new duties this week. Clark was appointed vice principal of the Van Nuys high school.

The new Evening high principal has taught science courses at the local school ever since it was started, according to Herbert S. Wood, principal of the regular high school. In addition he conducted mathematics classes but for the last two years has devoted his time principally to chemistry. He is a member of the Torrance Kiwanis club and is sponsor of the high school's Key club.