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SEVENTEENTH YEAR—No. 35

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1931

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CITY BUDGET AND TAX RATE TO BE FIXED TONIGHT; LEVY MAY BE 68 AND 65 CENTS

The city budget for 1931-32 and resultant municipal tax rate came in for protracted discussion before and during city council meeting Tuesday night but the subject was held over until a special meeting tonight at 7 o'clock for final action. If the budget is adopted tonight and the tax rate arrived at, the council will hold an adjourned meeting next Monday afternoon at 5 p. m. to complete the adoption of the tax ordinance.

Although no definite figure was arrived at, it appears that the 1931-32 tax rate will be around 68 cents in the original city tax district and 65 cents in the annexed areas. This is an increase of 12 and nine cents over last year's rate of 56 and 53 cents. It was pointed out that the "extras" such as the Metropolitan Water District entry and the litigation over the water bond issue, which were voted by the people, are responsible for a major share in the increase.

"Extras" Cause Raise
The annexation of Torrance to the Metropolitan Water District cost the city around \$17,000—the required entry fee. This has to be paid this year. The water bond issue, which was voted September 25 for the purchase of construction of a publicly-owned water system, has cost the city about \$2000 so far in attorney's fees because of the litigation brought on by the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company. It was estimated that \$5000 more will have to be spent next year in attorney's fees before the case is finally settled in court. These two items total approximately \$22,000 and the council declares they are responsible for the enforced increase in municipal taxes, the cost being about nine cents of the tax rate, according to Councilman Ed Nelson.

To Pare Down Budget
Councilman G. A. R. Steiner's statement that there were 20 miles of local streets which should be re-surfaced during the coming 12 months or they will have to be re-paved in 1932, was subjected to heated discussion last night. Steiner declared that provision for this work must be included in the new budget. Mayor John Dennis, in taking the opposite stand in the interest of air-tight economy, said that "there is a high authority that the council and that is the people. They are in no mood for street expense this year."

These cuts are necessary if the council desires to begin the year, as of July 1, 1931, with a clean slate. Councilman Nelson declared that "of all years this is the year when we must keep the tax levy right down to the bottom—but we must not get in a hole in so doing."

Citizens Ask Reduction
Sam Levy, who was in the audience last night, made a strong plea to the council to reduce or

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Official Council Proceedings Are To Be Published
Because of the interest expressed by local residents, Torrance manufacturing concerns and petitioners who requested the council to resume publication of the official city council proceedings several weeks ago, the council unanimously voted Tuesday night to have the minutes printed in the Torrance Herald.

As a matter of convenience, the proceedings will be published in this newspaper the same week that they occur in council meetings. This will enable local residents and out-of-town property owners to keep in touch with the activities of the council as they occur. This week's council proceedings may be found on page 2 of today's Herald.

PROBLEM OF NEARBY PARK UNDER PROBE
Chamber Approves Plan To End Alondra Park Controversy
By endorsing the plan of the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce to study the vexing problem connected with Alondra Park and its troublesome assessment controversy, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors also enlisted the aid of the city council on the solution of the question: What's to be done with Alondra Park?

The Los Angeles Junior Chamber asked the local civic organization what sort of improvements, in their opinion, would be most desirable and suggested baseball diamonds, a golf course, tennis courts, picnic facilities and other conveniences. The Junior Chamber indicated that it would be willing to study the problem of the park, its improvements and cost if it could find out what kind of improvements and distribution of the cost the property owners in the assessment district would like.

Huge Bond Issue Given Approval

Met. Aqueduct Bond Vote On Sept. 29 Endorsed

A resolution endorsing the Metropolitan Water District bond issue of \$22,000,000 was unanimously passed by Chamber of Commerce directors Monday afternoon. The city of Torrance, as a member-city in the District, will vote on the bond issue September 29.

All members of the chamber board agreed that the construction of the Metropolitan Aqueduct, which is to bring Colorado River water to the coastal plane, should be started as soon as possible and that the issue was of paramount importance to the future of Southern California.

W. P. Whittsett, chairman of the Metropolitan Board of directors, had, in a letter addressed to the chamber, requested that such a resolution of endorsement be passed.

School Prepares For 1931-2 Term; Being Remodeled

Instructions To Parents In Regard To Enrolling Children Given

No changes in the Torrance Elementary school faculty have been made as yet by the Board of Education for the coming term. It was reported this week by Principal William M. Bell, Jr. It had been expected, Bell said, that the school would lose one teacher because of the program of rigid economy adopted by the Board, but at the present time, no such curtailment of the teaching staff has been ordered. Neither has a teacher been named to succeed Miss Anna Bliss, who resigned at the close of the spring term.

Miss Bliss was married during the summer and resides in Mexico with her husband who is a mining engineer.

The 1931-1932 school term will open at 9 o'clock on the morning of August 31. All former pupils of the school are to report at their new rooms which were assigned to them at the close of school this spring. All new boys and girls are to report at the auditorium for registration and assignment.

New Construction
Principal Bell announced today that all boys and girls who will have reached the age of four and one-half within three months of the opening of school the last of this month are eligible to attend kindergarten. This means if the children will have attained that age by December 1, if a child is eligible to enter the first grade. Parents are requested to remember this and enroll their children accordingly.

New construction and remodeling work, which will total approximately \$390, was started at the elementary school this week. This work includes construction of a cupboard under the window in Room 33 installation of new doors, overcoat racks and low cupboards in the kindergarten, main building; and remodeling of the present cupboard for dishes and installation of ironing boards in Room 31.

Fortin's Continued Probation Hearing To End Tomorrow

Further inquiry was made this week into the mental condition of Lloyd S. Fortin, 29, 329 Portola avenue, who is convicted of manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid after an automobile accident. Judge O'Donnell, of the Superior Court, ordered the inquiry last Thursday afternoon when Fortin appeared before him for a probation hearing.

The judge continued the date of Fortin's probation and sentence to tomorrow, Friday. The court also instructed probation officers to inquire into the circumstances of the family of Kendall Mucklow, 14-year-old Lomita boy who was run down and killed by Fortin's automobile on the night of May 9.

It is reported that Fortin's parents and friends are endeavoring to have any sentence that may be passed on him refer to confinement on a county road gang rather than to prison at San Quentin.

TIRES STOLEN
Hugh E. Sapp reported the theft of two tires from his car while it was parked in front of 1913 22nd street Friday night, according to police.

TORRANCE MUST HAVE OWN SCHOOL DISTRICT IF IT HAS CITY CHARTER; MATTOON

An opinion given by County Counsel Mattoon to the Board of Education yesterday, puts a new and unforeseen angle on the operation of local schools under the proposed city charter, now in the process of being drafted by a board of 15 freeholders.

Briefly, the county counsel's decision states that if Torrance becomes a charter city, it will have to establish its own school district and will have to take over all outstanding, unpaid bonded indebtedness of the local schools which is now the obligation of the Los Angeles city school system.

New School Held Up
For this reason Frank A. Bouelle, superintendent of schools, has issued a "stop" order to the school business manager's office to hold all proceedings for the construction of the new \$84,000 Fern Avenue school here, the Herald learned Monday.

Members of the Chamber of Commerce Educational committee and Carl Hoke, executive secretary of the chamber, are to meet with the Board of Education Monday evening to learn more complete details of the county attorney's decision and matters affecting the future welfare of local schools.

Only Sixth Class Cities Eligible
Any city that goes out of the sixth class division of municipalities, is not eligible to participate in the Los Angeles City school system, County Counsel Mattoon's opinion recites. This is according to Section 2110 of the state code. Such a city shall constitute a separate entity and must create and govern its own school district.

The intention of the city of Torrance to become a charter city is expressly quoted by Mattoon in his statement to the Board, a copy of which will be received by the Chamber of Commerce here tomorrow, the Herald learned late today.

Bugle Corps Will Appear In New Uniforms Sat.

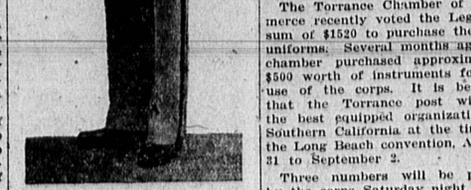
Attired in their new dress uniforms and accoutrements, the 38 members of the Bert S. Crossland Drum and Bugle corps will give a pre-view concert here Saturday night at 8 o'clock in the Pacific Electric station square at El Prado and Cabrillo. Besides giving local residents an eye-full of their fine suits and equipment, the corps will use the opportunity to dress-rehearse in preparation for their entry in the drum and bugle corps contest to be staged at the Long Beach state Legion convention.

The local corps will assemble at the Legion clubhouse on Carson street and march to the Pacific Electric station where they will present a concert and series of intricate drills under command of Fred Snoch, drum major, and Frank Schumacher, who has been appointed captain for the occasion.

A cordial invitation has been extended by the Legion post to all residents of the city and vicinity to witness the exhibition. The Torrance Chamber of Commerce recently voted the Legion a sum of \$1520 to purchase the new uniforms. Several months ago the chamber purchased approximately \$100 worth of instruments for the use of the corps. It is believed that the Torrance post will be the best equipped organization in Southern California at the time of the Long Beach convention, August 31 to September 2.

Three numbers will be played by the corps Saturday night, "The Legion Drummer," "Here They Come!" and a concert piece arranged by Snoch and Harry Corbin, former drum major of the organization. The corps is composed of 12 tenor drummers, eight bass drummers, 12 snare drummers, two cymbalists and two bass drummers. Robert J. Deinger, brother of "Lou" Deinger, commander-elect of the post, is manager of the local corps.

Compete at Long Beach
Next week the Herald will publish a detailed report on the corps' (Continued on Page 4-A)



HERE IS THE LOCAL LEGION'S "HEADMAN" HIMSELF—Louis H. Deinger—all together in his new uniform as a member of the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps. Every one of the 38 members of the corps will be uniformed exactly like "Lou" when the big tootle and rumble organization makes its first public appearance in the new suits here Saturday night. Besides pounding away on a bass drum, the corps, Deinger is commander-elect of the local post.

Clothes Wanted For Local Needy

Relief Society In Request For Donations

Clothes for the needy. "Now that school is coming on," says Mrs. Nettie Steinbiller, of the Torrance Relief Society, "this organization is in need of material from which suitable garments may be made to provide comfortable clothing for those in Torrance who are badly in want of it. Every housewife must have in her closets used clothing that the family has outgrown or discarded which is still good enough to be made over into children's clothes. Our supply at the headquarters, 1803 Cabrillo, is running low. Any donations will be gratefully received."

Those who have gifts for the Relief Society, may leave them at the headquarters on Friday, or a phone call to any member will bring someone to pick up the articles.

Swing Makes Acquaintance Tour of City

Addresses Large Gathering At Luncheon Today; Visits Plants

For the expressed purpose of acquainting himself with Torrance industries and their present and potential value in making California people conscious of California products, Congressman Paul Swing was inspecting local manufacturing plants this afternoon. His "acquaintance tour," as he called his visit today, was begun after he had addressed a large group of citizens at the joint Rotary-Kiwanis luncheon at noon. The honored guest spoke of "Better Times For California" and paid particular attention to the emphasis needed to make residents of this state believe in California-made articles and products.

Sessue Hayakawa, noted motion picture actor who has recently returned to the screen from a long sojourn in his native country, was another honored guest at today's luncheon meeting. Congressman Swing's secretary, Ed Marshall, accompanied the city visitor here. All members of the city council and a majority of Chamber of Commerce directors were present to hear the congressman's talk. (Continued on Page 7-A)

VETS DEFEAT ACORNS, 5-1

Red Jackets Gallop Through Redondo Stars, 21-0

Legion Vets, 5; Long Beach Acorns, 1.
Red Jackets, 21; Redondo All-Stars, 11.
Those are the results of last night's (Wednesday) games here at Redondo. "Spud" Murphy's Vets upset existing dope when they toppled the powerful Acorns on the home lot. Lionel Brown, demon Vet, hurled a rising rose into the spotlight by striking out 21 Acorns and allowing the Beachmen but two hits. H. Basinger, Acorn twirler, retired ten Vets but presented the locals with nine hits.

No game has been scheduled by Murphy's outfit for next Wednesday night's game and today it appeared unlikely that the Vets will be seen in action on the Torrance field next week.

Taney's Red Jackets run rings around the Redondo All-Stars on the Redondo diamond. "It was just another track meet," according to Ed, who said today there was nothing outstanding about the 21 to 11 encounter.

Findley Names 8 On Met. Bond Campaign

Eight representative local citizens who will act with Don Findley as a committee to direct the Torrance campaign for the Metropolitan Water District bond election, September 29, were named by Findley, who was appointed chairman by Mayor John Dennis, today. The committee is composed of Wallace Post, Bert Lanz, Sam Rappaport, Herbert S. Wood, Earl Conner, R. E. Smith and W. H. Gilbert. A meeting of the committee, to draw up plans for the educational drive to acquaint Torrance voters with the Metropolitan Aqueduct and what it means to this city, will be held early next week.

DISGRUNTLED EX-EMPLOYEE IS BELIEVED ARSONIST WHO SET FIRE TO LOCAL PLANT

Convinced that the fire which totally destroyed the building and equipment of the Torrance Manufacturing Company on South Arlington at Lincoln avenue last Saturday night was of incendiary origin, the sheriff's arson squad and local police are investigating the blaze and have directed their efforts toward locating a former disgruntled employee who is suspected of setting the building on fire.

All efforts to save the building were fruitless Saturday night; although the city fire department received the call within a few minutes after the fire was seen by a local police patrol. The loss was estimated at \$1500 for the building, and between \$4000 and \$5000 in equipment.

Suspicion of both the police and fire departments that the blaze was an arson case were strengthened early this week when A. E. Petromont, one of the company's owners, reported a local young man had told him (Petromont) that he had seen a man near the corner of the building that first caught fire about 12:15 a. m., Saturday. The young man, whose story was later heard by deputy sheriffs, said, according to Petromont, that the man was carrying what looked like a gasoline can and was hunched over to escape detection. A few seconds later he saw a "big blaze" behind him—he was driving toward Lomita at the time.

Police officers patrolling on Plaza del Amo noticed the sudden flare of the fire and turned in the alarm. Fire Chief Ben Hannebrink is convinced that the blaze was an outside job as no trace of any fire was found inside the building after the last spark had been extinguished.

Police Chief G. M. Calder declared yesterday that he was investigating the fire and had written authorities at Shreveport, La., for some information. He refused to state what information was desired but declared that he suspected a former employee of the company. He would not amplify this statement or comment on why the worker was under suspicion.

Owner Settles Rumors
Petromont, in a statement to the Herald yesterday, declared very emphatically that the firm was not going out of business and that it is now located in the building at 3012 Carson street where it is sharing quarters with the Blackwell & Sunde oil tool shop.

"There have been a lot of rumors going about that we started the fire ourselves. This is nonsense," Petromont declared. "I lost all of my personal belongings in the fire; the company lost between \$4000 and \$5000 worth of equipment and this included about \$2000 worth of patterns and cuts which will be difficult to replace. I have given the sheriff's office all information I could concerning my suspicions. Besides saying that I believe it was an incendiary job, I don't want to say anything that will hinder the authorities in their investigation."

The building was occupied by the company, which makes tractor equipment and irrigation machinery. (Continued on Page 8-A)

ACADEMY TO OPEN SEPT. 5 IN TORRANCE

Military School Is Nearing Completion; Expect 100 To Enroll
Anticipating an enrollment of at least 100 and possibly 125 boys, Lt. Col. Robert L. Ingersoll, founder and superintendent of the Torrance Military Academy at Artesano and 22nd street, is awaiting all construction and installation work to complete so that the fall term of the school will open on September 5.

The academy buildings are nearly all completed and equipment installed. The complete institution represents an investment of about \$17,000. Col. Ingersoll said yesterday. Local labor and supplies were used exclusively in the renovation of the buildings, which were formerly occupied by the Torrance Carbon Company.

Can Accommodate 200
Work on the grounds has not been completed because of the necessity in finishing the interior, but the landscaping will be done this fall. The academy can accommodate 200 boys. Col. Ingersoll said that he is contemplating establishing a day school for boys whose parents cannot afford the regular tuition or want their sons at home after school. This is not entirely settled yet.

With the opening of the term (Continued from Page 2-A)

Wild-Flower Planting Is Stressed

Vacant Lots, Boulevards To Be Blaze of Color Here For Olympic Games If Property Owners Assist In Plan
With the assistance of property owners here, the Chamber of Commerce and the city park department are going to make the vacant lots and main boulevards a riot of color next summer. Carlston B. Bell, councilman and member of the chamber's parks and recreation committee, submitted a report on the wild-flower planting demonstration campaign last winter which provided the chamber directors Monday afternoon with an incentive to make Torrance an outstanding example of municipal planting.

Bell reported as follows: "\$20 worth of mixed wild-flower seeds were planted last winter on five vacant lots about the city which were used as demonstration sites for the planting. These seeds did well and I hope will inspire many of our citizens themselves to plant their vacant lots here this fall.

For Sale at Cost
When the flowering season was over the city park department harvested a very large quantity of seeds which I intend to have planted along such highways as Western avenue and Torrance boulevard for quite a distance. I believe it would be wise to make a further investment of about \$50 to be divided equally between mixed seeds and California poppy seeds. These to be divided into small packets about right to plant the front half of a lot and then offered to our people at cost. I believe it would be possible for the city to disk up vacant lots which persons wished to thus plant. I will be glad to carry on in this matter if the chamber believes it would be worth while. I certainly believe in it."