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Sections
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This Issue

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Torrance Herald
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The Torrance Herald

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1932

SECTION A

5c PER COPY

SCHOOL BOARD, LIKE SPHINX, MAINTAINS DISCREET SILENCE

Satisfactory Explanation of Delay On Constructing Schools
Promised Torrance Not
Forthcoming

When the \$12,000,000 bond issue was put before the people of the Los Angeles city school district in March, 1931, for their adoption, the people of Torrance were given assurances that in return for their support this city should share in the fund to the extent of the cost of acquiring a site and erecting a new school in the Fern Avenue district.

That the board of education was sincere in its assurances at the time was borne out by the fact that the site was acquired and plans for the new building were drawn up.

However, as soon as the board became cognizant of the fact that the city of Torrance was contemplating the adoption of a city charter, the activity ceased and no further steps were taken to carry out the assurances of the board that a new school would be built, in spite of the fact that this improvement is vital to the interests of the children in this district.

Efforts on the part of Torrance citizens to learn WHY this activity ceased at this particular time, have met with evasive answers, or with no answers at all from the board of education.

The last letter, written by Charles T. Rippey, chairman of the board of freeholders, under date of December 31, 1931, has to date been unanswered.

This letter contains five questions, which if answered in a definite manner by the board of education, would clarify the situation here.

The answer to Question No. 1 would fix the financial responsibility for the construction of the new buildings.

The answer to Question No. 2 would determine the interest of the Los Angeles board in the cost.

The answer to Question No. 3 would determine the extent of the financial responsibility of the proposed Torrance school district for all school lands, buildings and equipment.

The answer to Question No. 4 would determine the extent of the financial interest of the Los Angeles district in the above property.

The answer to Question No. 5 would reveal the reason why the Los Angeles district is now delaying the construction of the Fern Avenue school. It is the answer chiefly desired.

Answers can be approximated without recourse to the board, but ONLY the board of education of the Los Angeles city school district can give a definite, satisfactory answer to Question No. 5.

If eventually, under the adoption of the proposed city charter, the Torrance school district will have to assume the financial burden of paying for the Fern Avenue school, WHY does the Los Angeles city school board HESITATE to construct a needed improvement, out of funds voted by the district for use in the district, the price of which improvement will in due time have to be paid by this portion of the district?

The people of Torrance are waiting for an answer. The board of education maintains a discreet sphinxlike silence.

Besides halting work on the Fern Avenue school the board has also delayed work on a Moneta school, part of the territory served by it being within the boundaries of Torrance.

Under date of December 29, in reply to a letter written by Judge Rippey three weeks before on December 8, the board, over the signature of Wm. A. Sheldon, secretary, by H. E. Griffin, assistant secretary, stated that the "primary question is the desire of the board of education to be certain that all likelihood of the incorporation of Torrance as a chartered city has been eliminated and that Torrance will continue, as heretofore, to be a part of the Los Angeles city school district. The board believes it to be of doubtful propriety to issue bond funds, voted by Los Angeles city school district as a whole, to construct buildings now in a portion of that district that is seriously considering withdrawing in the near future from the Los Angeles city school system."

This communication failed to convey the desired information. The fact that the board considered the use of bond funds to be of "doubtful propriety" was not considered to be a truly definite answer, and a second letter under date of December 31, 1931, was addressed to the board which up to this date remains unanswered. The letter is reprinted herewith:

December 31, 1931.

Board of Education
Chamber of Commerce Building
Los Angeles, California.

Gentlemen:
Your letter of December 29 relative to the construction of Fern Avenue and Moneta schools in Torrance received, and we note what you say in regard to the propriety of using bond funds for that purpose in Torrance at this time.

My interest in this matter does not arise solely from the fact that I was chairman of the Board of Freeholders that drafted the proposed charter for the City of Torrance. If it was necessary to construct these schools before it was proposed to adopt a charter for Torrance, it should be at least as necessary that they be constructed now. There is a decided need for these buildings at the present time, and if they can be constructed without undue prejudice to the remainder of the district, they should be constructed. The board should be as interested in the welfare of Torrance at the present time as it was before it was proposed to adopt a charter.

It is true that the assessed valuation of Torrance in proportion to the assessed valuation of the Los Angeles School District is small, but every taxpayer in Torrance is vitally interested in the schools and the proposed charter, and the reasons why these schools are not being constructed at this time should be clear and definite.

In order to make this time a direct and categorical answer to the following questions, assuming that the charter is adopted:

(1) Will the Torrance School District assume the payment of the cost of constructing these buildings?

(2) Will the Los Angeles School District assume any part of the cost of said buildings? If so, how much?

(3) Will the Torrance School District assume the unpaid balance of all sums due on all school lands, buildings, and equipment in the Torrance School District?

(4) Will the Los Angeles School District be compelled to pay any part of said last mentioned balance on school lands, buildings, and equipment in the Torrance district? If so, how much?

(5) What prejudice, if any, would the Los Angeles School District suffer by the immediate construction of said buildings?

I hope you will appreciate the position which I am taking in this matter, as it is not our desire to impose upon the Los Angeles School District any burden which it should not assume. Upon the other hand, District any burden which it should not assume. Upon the other hand, District any burden which it should not assume. Upon the other hand, District any burden which it should not assume.

Yours very truly,
CHAS. T. RIPPY.

CTR:MR

BOY SLIGHTLY INJURED
David Hutton, 1303 Cota Avenue, was struck by a car driven by J. W. McMullan, 1527 Post Avenue, about 8:30 Wednesday evening, as the boy was crossing Cota Avenue between El Dorado and Torrance boulevards. He was only slightly injured, his arm striking the fender as the driver swerved out to avoid hitting him.

SMELTER COMPANY
ENLARGES PLANT
The Pacific Smelting Company, operated by F. P. Lannon and O. G. Lannon, has completed a new furnace unit for the smelting of zinc, which is now in operation. The plant is located at 25th and Western Avenue, and has been in operation for about two years.

FAMOUS "FLAPPER CHORUS" AND PRINCIPALS IN RECENT PLAY



Photo by courtesy Long Beach Press-Telegram.

Prominent business men of Torrance disguised as celebrities of the screen, history, and feminine types of daily life. Henry Grubb, as Marie Dressler at right. Sam Levy, Jim Wilkes, Harry Roberts, L. B. Kelsey, W. R. Page, Dewey Fix, Charles Schultz, Carl L. Hyde, Ellis Harder, Fay L. Parks, Louis Deininger, L. C. Doan, James Scott, Al Gourder, L. G. Barkdull, Douglas Collins, Charles Myers and Sid Smith.

MEN CALLED TO WORK AT STEEL MILL

Open Hearth Dept. Resumes
Operations After Two-
Month Shut-Down

Work will be resumed February 29 in the open hearth department of the Columbia Steel Company's Torrance plant after a two-month shut-down, it was authoritatively learned by the Torrance Herald this week.

Crews to man two furnaces have been recalled to report for duty Monday. Payrolls in other departments of the plant have been materially increased during the past two weeks, and it is believed the reopening of the open hearth department is the forerunner of more regular employment at the big United States Steel Corporation's plant here.

School Students Hear Talk On Sign Language

William Tomkins, who spoke before the Rotary club recently on "Indian Sign Language," repeated the talk before the high school pupils yesterday and gave an interesting discussion of this fascinating subject.

Mr. Tomkins was left an orphan at an early age and was brought up in an Indian tribe as one of its members although he is not of Indian parentage. He has made a deep study of Indian customs and their means of communication by signs. He has written several books on the subject and is considered by the Smithsonian Institute to be one of the foremost American authorities on sign language and pictographs.

His talks on Indian life are looked upon by educational authorities as so important that he has been invited to appear before high school students more times than any other speaker.

Plant Executive Recovering From Recent Injury

K. R. Semenetz, who is at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital recovering from an injury which resulted in the amputation of the fingers of his left hand, is reported to be up and will leave the hospital soon. Mr. Semenetz is plant engineer for the Columbia Steel Corporation here.

NEXT ISSUE OF HERALD ON TUESDAY

There will be two issues of the Torrance Herald next week, which will be delivered Tuesday and Thursday. The additional issue on Tuesday will contain complete information regarding the Torrance Herald-Safeway Stores Cooking School which opens March 2 in the Torrance Woman's Clubhouse. Advertising and news intended for the Tuesday issue should be in the Herald office not later than Monday at 6 p. m.

TORRANCE, . . . AT THE CROSSROADS!

By GROVER C. WHYTE

Torrance can take a lesson from Washington where the two great political parties of America are setting aside partisan politics and moving forward as a unit in order to put federal rehabilitation plans into action. Matters of lesser importance should be laid aside for the time being, while citizens get behind local plans for constructive action to start the wheels of business and industry, to put idle men to work, and keep this city well advertised so that it will attract new residents and new industry when the big upward swing gets under way.

What a mistake it would be, for example, to permit the Chamber of Commerce to deteriorate, just at a time when it is most needed. Here is an organization that has carried on from the very beginning of Torrance and which has had no small part in its progress. If it should be allowed to falter now because of lack of adequate financial support, many important developments that are slated to come to this community will not materialize.

Unsettled business conditions have affected the Chamber of Commerce just as every other line or agency has been affected. Yet what work is more closely related to the public good than that which maps and guides and encourages balanced growth of a city so strategically located as this, and so well buttressed with resources and potentialities? The Chamber of Commerce should be keyed to the highest efficiency at all times, but now when the whole nation is looking forward with confidence to the early revival of normal conditions, its work becomes all the more important.

We should not be too quick to criticize the accomplishments of our Chamber of Commerce. It took the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce seven years to land the Chrysler automobile factory. If the Los Angeles chamber had accomplished no other good thing during its seven years, its existence and financial cost during that time would be justified in this one great achievement. Throughout life, all phases of life, the really big things cost a great deal of time, money and energy, and sometimes all of these expenditures are required. It is especially true of accomplishments of civic organizations. The thing to do is to have faith and keep plugging.

Now that Chrysler and Ford are on the Pacific Coast, we know it will not be long before General Motors must join them. Already General Motors scouts are investigating Torrance as a possible location for a Pacific Coast plant. Do you want to take the chance of losing a General Motors plant for 90 cents a year, which is the average cost of the Chamber of Commerce to the average home owner in Torrance?

Torrance's future will be very closely identified with the outcome of the election April 11 regarding the five-cent promotion tax. The threat of short-sighted reactionary elements among our citizenry to repeal the promotion tax, is a threat to the future development of this city. It is a challenge to progress! Do you want Torrance to grow, or do you want it to retrograde? It's up to you. Vote "Yes" on the five-cent promotion tax proposition, which automatically repeals the ten-cent tax.

Make Survey Along Carson

Men from the county surveyor's department have been working in and about Torrance during the past few days running a survey along Carson street. The work is being done at the request of the regional planning commission as a preparation for the extension at some future time of Carson street as a major highway east to Orange county. The surveyors at the present time are running the lines as far east as the Los Angeles river.

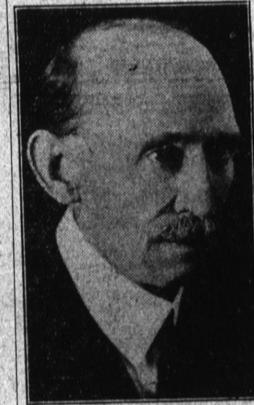
Dr. Proctor To Speak Over Radio

Dr. Minnie S. Proctor will be heard over KMPC on Thursday morning, March 3, between 11:30 and 12 o'clock, speaking under the auspices of the Woman's Club, on the topic, "A Phase of Civic Welfare." Dr. Proctor has been on the air on several occasions, but at this time her message will be of more than usual importance. Many Torrance friends will take the opportunity offered to hear her.

Opening of New Court Room Is A Civic Event

Judge Dennis and Court Aides
Welcome Large Crowd at
Justice Quarters

Lomita township turned out in numbers to honor Judge John Dennis and his staff of associates in the Lomita justice court on



JUDGE JOHN DENNIS

the occasion of the formal opening of the new court room at 1526 Cravens Avenue Wednesday evening. The offices and court rooms were filled with flowers sent by civic organizations, industries and friends of the mayor.

Announce New Prices at the Torrance Theatre

Beginning Sunday night new low prices will prevail at the Torrance theater. In line with the policy of the new management, Frank Higgins and Harold Miller, to give the public the best in the line of entertainment at the most attractive prices, the admission has been set at 25 cents for adults, any seat on the lower floor, 20 cents for balcony seats and for children under 12, the same low price of 10 cents.

The same standard of entertainment will be maintained for which this theater has always been recognized. New feature pictures will be seen here soon after release, and only the best type of picture will be presented.

Smith Honored By President of L. A. Chamber

R. R. Smith was honored yesterday by President A. J. Scheidter of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce when the latter appointed the Torrance councilman on the manufacturers and industries committee of the Los Angeles chamber. This group is composed of 80 of the foremost industrialists in Southern California and is one of the most important committees of Commerce. Mr. Smith is also chairman of the Industrial committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

LEGIONNAIRES FIFTY STRONG WORKING FOR FIVE CENT TAX

Both Wright Repeal and Legion Amendment Proposals Will
Have to Be Submitted On
April 11 Ballot

Fifty Legionnaires responded to the call of Fred Tiffany, chairman of the American Legion emergency committee, and met with Chamber of Commerce officials Monday evening to launch a drive to counteract the movement started by J. M. Wright to repeal the promotion tax by which the chamber is financed.

After a two-hour session in which the important phases of the issue were explained and discussed, the Legion men took copies of an initiative petition which calls for an amendment to the present promotion tax ordinance, reducing the amount to be raised from ten to five cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Kiwanians Get Behind Legion In Tax Drive

Endorsement of the five-cent promotion tax for the Chamber of Commerce was given this week by members of the Torrance Kiwanis Club, when they voted to assist the American Legion in its efforts to defeat the Wright repeal movement by amending the tax to five cents per \$100 assessed valuation instead of ten cents.

Torrance Men Visit Harbor

The annual saving in freight rates is nearly three times the total cost of the harbor development, a committee from the Torrance Chamber of Commerce learned Monday when an inspection trip of the harbors was made by DeKalb Spurlin, George Neill, Dr. J. S. Lancaster, W. Rufus Page and Grover C. Whyte.

The average difference between water-borne and rail-borne freight rates is \$6 a ton, and by multiplying this amount by the annual tonnage handled at the harbor, the saving in freight rates alone is three times the total cost of the harbor, a member of the Los Angeles harbor board told visitors at the Foreign Trade Week activities at the harbor.

Los Angeles harbor is 80 per cent municipally owned and Lomita Beach harbor is only 10 per cent city owned; the balance in each case being held by railroad interests.

City Observes Birthday of Washington

Commemorative Program at
a High School Auditorium
Has Large Audience

Commemorating the 200th birthday of our first president with arrangements, and all service clubs, fraternal and civic organization participating, a splendid program was presented at Torrance high school auditorium Monday evening. The program was opened with an orchestra selection by a Redondo high school orchestra, followed by President's Flourish by Bert S. Crossland Post drum and bugle corps and a salute to the flag.

Mr. Gourder then spoke briefly, "A one-act play, 'George Washington's Future,' by Percy MacKay was then enjoyed. George Washington, a youthful surveyor, was played by Edward Hartwell, Milton Everett enacted the role of Richard Glenn while Charles Williams as James Talbot and Kenneth Pess as Keith Carey, chairman, and Foster Terry as Red Rowan, the frontiersman's daughter, cleverly enacted their respective roles. The speaker of the evening, Olin Hendrix Price, who chose as his subject, 'George Washington,' was well received. A reading by Miss Jean Solomon, 'Washington's Birthday,' was enjoyed, after which the audience, led by Herbert Wood, sang the 'Star Spangled Banner.' 'Washington's Prayer at Valley Forge' was then read by Rev. John B. Speed and Mr. Gourder's expression of appreciation for the splendid cooperation of every one brought the program to a close.

Legion men were assigned definite city blocks to work and it is expected that the required number of signatures will be secured by Monday of next week to assure the submission of the proposed amendment at the April 11 election.

Mattoon Rules
In last week's Herald, the statement was made that if electors signed the amendment petition it would automatically nullify their signatures on the Wright repeal petition. However, County Counsel Everett Mattoon has ruled since then that names on a petition once filed cannot be removed, so both propositions will probably

Drive Against Unemployment Opens Next Wk.

Plans for local participation in the national drive of the American Legion against unemployment were discussed Monday evening by Commander Louis Deininger of Bert S. Crossland post. The local Legion unemployment committee consists of: A. C. Turner and Charles Schultz, representing the Kiwanis Club; L. B. Kelsey and Frank Hartington, representing the Rotary Club; B. C. Buxton and Louis Rippey, representing the Chamber of Commerce; N. F. Jamieson and Donald Findley, representing the American Legion; J. W. Post and Grover C. Whyte.

The national campaign has as its objective: the employment of more men by industry, shortening of the number of working days in the week, to provide employment for more men, and a house-to-house canvass to encourage property owners to repair or remodel their homes while labor and materials are at a low cost level.

Industrial executives will also be asked to assure present workmen of steady employment so as to instill confidence and encourage workers to spend their earnings and provide additional orders for manufacturers.

The local committee plans to call a meeting of industrial leaders in Torrance within a week to discuss the plans.

Judge Adams to Speak Here Sunday

The men of the Central Evangelical church will present to the people of Torrance, Judge Ida Mae Adams, of the Los Angeles municipal court, on Sunday evening, February 28. Judge Adams will speak on "Crime Among Juveniles" and will endeavor to show how to combat its growing tendencies.

As Judge Adams is a platform speaker of considerable ability, and a just note in the district, her message will be one of deep interest particularly to parents.

A special musical program has been prepared.

Register Now!

Remember that if you fail to get on the rolls before March 2 that you can still register up to March 24 to vote at the primaries in May.

This is a permanent registration unless you change your residence or fail to vote.

Register now.