

Consolidated Edition
Torrance Herald and Lomita News

Only Newspaper
Published In Torrance



Over 60,000 People Live
Within 5-Mile Radius

Two Sections
10 Pages
This Issue

EIGHTEENTH YEAR—No. 17 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1932 SECTION A 5c PER COPY

POPULAR BASEBALL MAN KILLS SELF

COUNCIL DEFEATS MAYOR'S MOVE TO OUST DEPT. HEADS

Charges and Counter Attacks Fly In Heated Arguments Between Klusman and Fellow Councilmen

INCUMBENT OFFICERS RETAINED FOR YEAR
Rev. Cameron and Elih Drake In Audience Exchange "Compliments" In Final Round of Oratorical Fracas

Mayor Klusman's single-handed effort to oust the present appointive city officers and replace them with men of his own selection met with decisive defeat at the hands of other members of the city council Tuesday night. Klusman's motion to accept the resignations of City Engineer Leonard, Chief of Police Calder and Superintendent of Streets Gascoigne, failed for lack of a second.

In a series of bitter attacks the fiery Klusman flayed the incumbent officers and even accused two of his fellow councilmen, who were endorsed by the Citizens' League, of failing to carry out the wishes of their constituents. However, Klusman's heated attacks fell on deaf ears, and the oratory was ended by the council adopting a resolution retaining the present appointive officers for the ensuing year, which will not end until July, 1933.

Crowded Chamber
The council chamber was crowded to capacity. Mothers brought their babies, met at on the floor, and while others packed on chairs or perched on railings and outside walls. An hour before the hour set for the opening of the session, every chair in the council chamber was taken.

Klusman Removes Coat
The crowd waited patiently for over an hour while the councilmen met in executive session behind the locked doors of the city clerk's office. Finally, the doors were unbolled and the city dais walked into the council chamber to carry out the duties of the council.

Resignations
Mayor Klusman opened the meeting by stating that it was a special meeting called to consider the resignations of Chief of Police Calder, City Engineer Leonard and Superintendent of Streets Gascoigne. Then followed the reading of the three resignations addressed to their respective department chiefs. Each of the three officers stated that they were tendering their resignations at the request of Mayor Klusman.

At the request of Mayor Klusman, Councilman Steiner took the chair. Councilman moved that all resignations be accepted. An ominous quiet prevailed to the motion. "Is there a second to the motion?" asked Chairman Steiner. Then followed another silence.

"The motion is lost for lack of a second," ruled Steiner.

Klusman Attacks
Mayor Klusman arose and stated that the reason he had asked for the resignations of the officers was that his constituents had elected a new board of directors to repudiate the old administration by their votes at the ballot box. Three councilmen allowed themselves to be endorsed by the Citizens' League, and they were supposed to act accordingly, stated Klusman. He stated that in his opinion all appointive officers should have handed in their resignations out of courtesy to the new board. Two of them acted like gentlemen and did, said Klusman, referring to former City Attorney Findley and City Recorder Rippey. One was not.

Gascoigne Flayed
"Pernicious activity in politics and civil service is a public sin," shouted Klusman. "Gascoigne was the pernicious in politics up to the time of this election. Some years ago Gascoigne fired a man because he voted for Bill Klusman. That's not the kind of man the Citizens' League wants to keep in office," said Klusman.

Criticizes Councilmen
The fiery mayor then accused Councilmen Ludlow and Wright, who with Klusman were endorsed by the Citizens' League, of "flopping over to the combine just as soon as they got in office. They haven't got the stamina to second my motion," shouted Klusman.

Returning to Gascoigne, the mayor stated that the street superintendent had given preference to his own relatives in hiring men.

TURN TO STORY ONE
Page 4

Public School Week Observed Here Tomorrow

High School Offers Varied Programs and Exhibits to Stimulate Interest

The Torrance high school will observe Public School week, which began Monday, April 25, with an elaborate program to be given at the school building beginning at 8:30 o'clock tomorrow evening, April 28.

Displays of the work done in the different departments will be on exhibit in various rooms, and in addition to the local school work, material from different up-town departments will be shown. Moving pictures and slides will be shown, to present the work of the schools in a more effective way.

All rooms will be open to the public until 8 o'clock when the program of the evening will begin in the high school auditorium. The program will be as follows: Overture by the high school orchestra. Welcome address by Tom McNeill, president of the Student Body. Music by the orchestra.

Ten minute talk on Visual Education by Miss M. S. Chick of the Visual Education department. Selection by the Girls Glee club, Junior high. Ten minute talk by Dr. M. E. Herriot of the Psychology department.

TURN TO STORY 2
Page 5

Vaudeville At High School to Benefit Annual

Townpeople Invited to Attend Peppy Program Given by Students Wednesday

Townpeople are offered the unusual opportunity of attending a benefit vaudeville performance to be staged by Torrance high school students Wednesday afternoon at 1:15. The show is being given for the purpose of raising funds to finance the school annual which is now being printed, and in addition to having a worthy object, the show itself will be of a highly entertaining nature.

The Scholarship Club will present a play, "Bills," with Cleo Long enacting the part of Mr. Jones, a lawyer who stutters; Eugene Stegmeyer as Mr. Jack Davis, and Ula Pansley, Mrs. Jack Davis.

The agricultural club will feature a "Horse" and Feet Trio, jokes, and a whistling solo. "Pierrot and Pierrette" will be portrayed by Edward Hartwell and Blossom Roque. "Living Statuary" by Pal Marie Henry, a Chinese dance by Mary O'Brien and Edward Hartwell, and a Spanish dance by Blossom Roque and Ruth Nahmens, all of the Beauty Lovers Club.

The Varsity Club will be seen in action when James McLean boxes Assistant Coach William Thurman, and Edward Hartwell and Leroy Thompson meet in a fencing bout.

A double quartet from the Madrigal Singers will offer popular numbers, while the World Friendship Club has procured some Japanese jiu jitsu wrestlers as their part of the entertainment.

The whole program promises to be full of pep and fun, and the students extend a cordial welcome to the public to attend. A general admission fee of 10 cents will be charged.

Asleep At Wheel
Man Drives Car Over High Bank

Vernon Leadbetter, 1428 Maple street, Hammerton Tract, drove his Ford coupe off an embankment on the Santa Fe railroad right-of-way, about 12:30 Tuesday morning. The incident occurred near the intersection of Madrid avenue and Sierra. Leadbetter, told police who were called to the spot, that he was returning from Inglewood and had fallen asleep at the wheel. The Santa Fe section crew was called out to remove the damaged car from the tracks.

MAYOR DISCLOSES PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION OF CHAMBER

Old Board and Hyde to Resign; New Advisory Committee to Be Chosen From Districts; No Money to Be Spent Except By Council

A Chamber of Commerce of all the people of Torrance with representatives from all annexed territories as well as from the "old city" serving on the advisory board, is the aim of Mayor Klusman, who outlined his plans before the present chamber directors Monday afternoon. The mayor's plan calls for a complete reorganization of the board of directors and a rigid paring of operating expenses. The idea was endorsed by the directors of the present board, and they offered to resign immediately in order to clear the way for the reorganization.

However, at Mayor Klusman's request, the old board agreed to delay its retirement until the new advisory board can be selected.

Mayor's Plan
In outlining his new plan Monday afternoon, Mayor Klusman said: "The Torrance city promotion fund represents the taxpayers' money. Therefore the public should have the right to express its wishes, through representatives, as to how this fund shall be disbursed."

"The city council is at all times the custodian of the promotion fund as voted by the people, and lawfully canvassed by the retiring city council. Furthermore, it was ruled by the county council that the aforesaid is legal, etc."

District Represented
"The citizens at large should elect or appoint an advisory committee to act in an advisory capacity to the city council, as to how the promotion fund shall be disbursed for the various purposes, etc."

"The advisory committee, which shall constitute the Chamber of Commerce, should be composed of representatives of the following districts:

- "One taxpayer from South Torrance.
- "One taxpayer from Hollywood Riviera.
- "One taxpayer from Walteria.
- "One taxpayer from the C. C. M. O. Camp.
- "One taxpayer from the McDonald Tract.
- "One taxpayer from the district between Carson and Plaza del Amo.
- "One taxpayer from the district above Engracia from Carson to Border avenue.
- "Two taxpayers from the business district.
- "One representative from industries, and more to be added if desired.

Mass Meeting
"Each district can elect its representative by the usual mailing system as has been the custom in the past or any other plan which might be selected. Group meetings should be held to advise or acquaint all Torrance people of this plan and give them all the information in regards thereto."

Secretary at \$125
"The selected representatives of the districts shall meet at regular sessions as arranged and held at the Chamber of Commerce."

County Ready to Begin Work On \$50,000 Health Center Here

The county will be ready within three weeks to ask for bids on the new \$50,000 health center in Torrance, and actual construction will begin shortly thereafter. Supervisor John Quinn told Mayor Klusman and Carl Hyde, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, this week.

Supervisor Quinn states there are \$50,000 of county funds now available for the health center and that the plans are all ready. The county project will be erected on the three-acre triangular piece of ground at the junction of Carson and Plaza del Amo, which was purchased out of Chamber of Commerce funds. The chamber has paid \$7000 of the \$15,000 purchase price, and it is assumed that the \$8000 balance will be appropriated by the city council from the same fund.

Realization of the county health center for Torrance is a reward for many months of untiring effort on the part of Ex-mayor John Dennis and Secretary Carl Hyde

of the Chamber of Commerce. Many surveys were made and the Chamber of Commerce compiled all the required data on the proposed project. Supervisor Quinn promised Dennis and Hyde months ago that as soon as Pomona secured its \$200,000 appropriation for a grandstand at the county fair grounds that Torrance would get its center. Contracts for the grandstand at Pomona were let this week.

The proposed health center will bring about 20 families to Torrance and will serve a large radius including the cities of Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Gardena and the communities of Keystone, Harbor City and Lomita.

ED. TANSEY SHOOTS WIFE, SELF CLIMAXING FAMILY TROUBLES

Ill Health, Financial Worries, Blamed for Tragedy Which Closes Career of Well Known Business Man and Sportsman of Torrance

Ed Tansey died at 10:35 Monday night at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. His death resulted from a revolver shot through the brain, fired by his own hand in a mad instant following his attempt to take the life of his wife, Frances A. Tansey, who is lying at the hospital suffering from two bullet wounds in the head.

Tansey's death and the wounding of his wife, was the culmination of domestic difficulties existing over the past five months, which came to a tragic conclusion Monday afternoon when the pair met at the home of Earl Rinker, 16174 218th street, to discuss their affairs.

Mrs. Tansey, who had left her home here several weeks ago, following trouble with her husband, had instituted proceedings for divorce. She came to the Rinker home and sent word to Tansey inviting him to come to see her in order to discuss necessary business matters. Tansey went to the house shortly after noon on Monday and the couple went out to his car to talk over their affairs in privacy.

After a discussion, in which it is said that Tansey attempted to bring about a reconciliation with his wife which was refused, Tansey got out and went to the back of the car where he secured a revolver, approached his wife who grappled with him when she saw he was armed, and fired two shots. One took effect in Mrs. Tansey's right temple ranging downward and to the front through the palate and emerging through the left cheek. The other struck Mrs. Tansey in the back of the head but did not penetrate the skull. Neither wound injured the brain, and Mrs. Tansey, who was taken to the hospital within a short time, remained conscious and rational.

Mrs. Tansey broke away from her husband and ran to the Rinker home a few steps away where Mrs. Rinker met and assisted her. She followed a few steps, then raised the pistol to his own head and fired. The bullet entered the back of his skull and emerged through the forehead. He fell in the Rinker yard a little distance from the porch.

Neighbors attracted by the shooting hastily summoned Torrance police and Dr. A. P. Stevenson, who rendered first aid to Mrs. Tansey, who was bleeding profusely. Stone & Myers ambulance was summoned and removed the injured woman to the hospital. The physician then went to examine Tansey, who was thought to be dead, and found that he was still breathing. He was also taken to the hospital where he died without regaining consciousness nine hours later. The shooting occurred about 1:30 in the afternoon.

The tragedy shocked Torrance to its depths as the news of the shooting quickly spread. Mr. and Mrs. Tansey, who have resided and been in business here for the past eight years were widely known and highly esteemed among friends and patrons and the news of the terrible event astounded everyone. Expressions of regret and horror at the news were heard on every hand.

The Tanseys came to Torrance from Oakland in 1924 with Mr. Tansey's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tansey, and the four engaged in business, opening a barber and beauty shop on Carson street. Shortly afterward the brothers dissolved the partnership and each entered business on his own account. Ed remaining in the original location and Charles opening the American Barber and Beauty Shop at 1422 Marcella avenue. Later Ed and his wife took a location in a new building at 1223 Cabrillo avenue where they operated a barber shop and beauty parlor until the present date.

Ill health becoming rapidly more acute in recent years compelled Ed to seek some outdoor recreation and he organized the Torrance Merchants, afterwards called the Torrance Blues, baseball team. As manager he directed the activities of this organization for some time until last year when the team disbanded and Ed turned his attention to the night ball game and

TURN TO STORY 3
Page 6

Gas Explosion In Oil Furnace Burns Employee

H. L. Garland Suffers Severe Injuries In Blast at General Petroleum

H. L. Garland, 1027 Amapola avenue, suffered severe burns over almost the entire left side of his face and body at 2:19 Saturday afternoon when accumulated oil in a furnace which he was tending at the General Petroleum pipe line and tank farm at Ocean and Main street.

Garland was knocked unconscious by the blast and found himself lying in a pool of blazing oil. His clothes on fire, when he recovered his senses a few seconds later. He managed to pick himself up from his hazardous position and put out the fire in his garments. Other employees at the plant rushed to his assistance and applied first aid. He was taken to Dr. N. A. Leake's office in Torrance for medical attention, and is now at his home recovering from his burns.

Garland's arms and legs were showered with burning oil, while his face received the full blast of the fiery gas. Mr. Garland is resting as comfortably as may be expected at present but will probably be unable to return to work for several weeks.

Mrs. Rinker Ill
Due To Shock Of Tragic Affair

Mrs. Earl Rinker at whose home the tragic shooting affair took place in which Mrs. Frances Tansey was wounded and her husband took his life, suffered a nervous breakdown following the tragedy and has been under the care of a physician. Mrs. Rinker was compelled to witness Tansey's act in turning the gun upon himself while she was assisting Mrs. Tansey to enter her home. Tansey watched her drug his wife into the doorway, then raised the pistol to his head and fired. The shock and excitement of the affair brought about a nervous collapse.

Mrs. Rinker is the wife of Earl Rinker, barber employed by Tansey for several years.

City Yard House
Broken Into After Council Meeting

The office and tool shop at the city yards was broken into Tuesday night and ransacked thoroughly, Commissioner of Public Works G. A. R. Steiner informs. The Herber Shop at 1422 Marcella avenue, later Ed and his wife took a location in a new building at 1223 Cabrillo avenue where they operated a barber shop and beauty parlor until the present date.

When asked if he thought the raid had any connection with the threats to "get Supt. of Streets Gascoigne," which were expressed at the heated meeting earlier in the evening, Councilman Steiner said: "I am in no position to comment."

Miss Rose McCongogue of Los Angeles was the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Neil McCongogue last week-end.

Glider Pilot Is Hurt, One Killed In Flights Sunday

B. W. Wilson, Detroit glider pilot who came from the eastern city to take part in the sixth pre-international glider meet held at Hollywood Riviera Sunday, crashed into the face of the bluff and was slightly injured. He was treated at the Hermosa-Redondo hospital for a scalp laceration and shock and was released from the institution in a short time.

Wilson's plane, which he had transported by automobile nearly 6000 miles to enter the meet, was not badly damaged. His fall cut short an endurance flight in which Wilson had remained aloft for three hours and 14 minutes.

Three other pilots of the Hollywood-Riviera trials landed in the surf during the meet but were uninjured.

Lyle Armstrong, 23-year-old glider pilot, a member of the American Glider Association and an instructor for the past two years, fell to his death near Lanester Sunday when the wings of his home-made glider collapsed 25 feet from the ground on a trial flight. Armstrong was taken to the hospital at Lancaster but died as he was being carried into the institution. Armstrong resided at 145 So. Manhattan Place, Los Angeles.

Mrs. J. S. McMullen, Mrs. J. P. Buck and Mrs. Charles Kellon of Portola Apartments attended a bridge luncheon yesterday at the home of Mrs. A. Nagel at her home in Redondo Beach.