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NEW COUNCIL BOOSTS TAX RATE

BREAK GROUND TUESDAY FOR TORRANCE HEALTH CENTER

Contractor Loses No Time to Get Work Under Way; Grading for New Structure Foundations Started Monday; Other Contracts Awarded

With the signing of the contract Monday by Carlo Bongiovanni and the start of actual construction the same day, work on the new Torrance-Redondo health center today was well under way.

Coincident with the signing of the contract, the county board of supervisors awarded the four other contracts for completion of the building, which will represent an investment of nearly \$50,000 when equipped for opening some time this early fall.

The H. H. Walker company was awarded the electrical contract for its low bid of \$2187. The lathing and plastering contract went to Fox and Johnson, low bidders. Tondro and Bowers will do the painting and decorating for their low bid of \$1437, while all tile and marble work will be done by the Long Beach Marble and Tile company, for \$2678.

Approval to a number of sub-contracts also was given by the supervisors this week for weather-stripping, cement work and other details.

THREE MEN IN FLAGRANT ACT OF VANDALISM

Valuable Machinery At Site of New School Damaged With Sledge

A flagrant act of vandalism was reported to the police Monday in the destruction of valuable machinery belonging to the Owl Trucking Company of Compton, which is doing the grading for the construction of the Fern avenue school house at Fern and Torrance boulevards.

Spark plugs in the tractor used to haul a scraper had been broken off in the machine, apparently by the use of a heavy sledge, as the ends of the plugs remained in the sockets, the vacuum tank had been smashed and the cable leading to the scraper had been cut in two.

The work had been done some time between 3 and 4 o'clock Sunday morning, according to the statements of persons living in the vicinity, who said that about that time three men drove to the spot in a Model T Ford and were seen about the premises. Owing to the darkness it was impossible to obtain the license number of the car.

Whether the work was done by discharged former employes of the company, or by local men disgruntled because of unemployment, is not known.

Torrance Candidate For Assembly Files

William H. Crowley, 3650 Chestnut street, is a Torrance entry in the race for assemblyman from the 65th district. Crowley filed his papers with County Registrar William Kerr late Saturday. He will run on the Republican ticket.

Other candidates who have already filed are Ben A. Hill, San Pedro, and Frank McGinley, Wilmington, both Democratic, and John T. Rawls, San Pedro, Republican.

No Celebration On July Fourth

Torrance will be fairly quiet over the national holiday, as no plans have been made to celebrate the day here, other than in the traditional manner of permitting the young fry to amuse themselves with firecrackers and other Fourth of July pastimes. The American Legion post will have booths erected as usual for the sale of fireworks.

Prizes Awarded In Ag. Contest Include a Job

Sydney Nickerson, Recent Torrance Graduate, Is Named Winner

Two prizes were awarded Sydney Nickerson, 18-year-old graduate of the Torrance high school, last week at the conclusion of a home beautifying and landscape contest sponsored by the state bureau of agriculture education. The prizes, one of which was donated by the Southern California Nurserymen's Association, were very well worth while. The first prize, offered by the Nurserymen, was \$20 worth of nursery stock. The other prize was a job.

Nickerson had two projects in this contest, one at his home, 2720 Carson street, where he had carried out some excellent ideas in landscaping, and the other at the James J. Delaney home, 5429 Hillcrest, Los Angeles. Both projects were developed successfully, as was made evident when Nickerson was awarded first place.

Nickerson's job, open to him last week, is in the employ of the Beverly Hills Nursery Company, whose head, R. E. Page, offered this inducement to the boy who should be awarded first place in the contest. He will be employed in the sales department and will have the harbor district as his territory.

Nickerson has carried on his studies in agriculture here under the direction of S. E. Merrill, head of this department at the Torrance high school.

Legion Will Aid Jobless Veterans Plan to Paint House Numbers on Curbs as Unemployment Relief Measure

Carrying on its program to relieve unemployment among the members of its organization, the Torrance Post, American Legion, is sponsoring a project to paint numbers of residences and business houses on the curbs along the streets in Torrance.

Veterans out of work who are disposed to avail themselves of this opportunity to make money are requested to report to the Legion hall at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning, July 5. There will be work for perhaps 10 or 15 men.

The work in painting on the numbers will be done under the supervision of George A. Gundelfinger, who has been handling this project with various Legion posts throughout the West. Mr. Gundelfinger furnishes the stencils and paint and directs the work.

The numbers will be painted on the top and the side of the curb, in black figures on an aluminum background which will make them visible at night as well as by day. The figures will be three inches high. By placing them on both top and side, the figures can be read by motorists driving on either side of the street.

This project is not only worthy because it gives employment to men in need, but it will be of great benefit in making it possible to find a desired house number quickly and easily by day or night.

The men who are sent out to do the work will carry credentials furnished by the local post, so that householders who employ them may be sure that the solicitor is worthy and that the work will be done as stated. The charge for painting the numbers will be only 50 cents.

Paving Almost Completed On Vermont Ave.

Supervisors Allocate Funds for Completion of Overhead Crossings

Allocation of \$4000 to pave the overhead crossings across the Pacific Electric and Santa Fe railroad tracks on the new Vermont avenue was made by the board of supervisors this week, upon request of George Jones, county road commissioner. The amount also will cover asphaltic concrete pavement for the fills, made only recently. Cement concrete is being used otherwise in the improvement of Vermont and Amaranth avenues.

Street Names Are Changed Through Harbor District

Route to Long Beach Now Known All the Way As Sepulveda Boulevard

Change of the name of Long Beach and Redondo Beach road, and Rocha street, to Sepulveda boulevard was approved by the board of supervisors this week and hereafter the street will be known by the latter name, as it is in Torrance. A section of the important San Fernando valley-to-the-harbor artery now is nearing completion in the western section of Torrance.

The name change, asked by the street naming committee of the Association of City Planners, changes the name of the boulevard from the shoestring addition of Los Angeles easterly to the west city limits of Long Beach. Request for the name change was approved by County Surveyor J. E. Rockhold.

In requesting the change the committee pointed out that the name has been established by the city of Los Angeles and followed by the city of Torrance. This week's action of the board conforms to the action of the two aforementioned cities.

Dean of Law School Will Be Principal Speaker at Rotary

Dr. Arthur E. Briggs, dean of Metropolitan College of Law, will be the principal speaker next Thursday (July 7) at a luncheon meeting of the Torrance Rotary Club, according to H. H. Dolley, program chairman.

Dean Briggs will talk on "Justice in the American Courts." The meeting is scheduled for 12 o'clock at the American Legion hall.

Many members of the local club are already acquainted with Dr. Briggs through his lecture work which he has carried on for many years under the auspices of University of California and through his educational activities. He taught law in Polytechnic evening school for seven years and two years ago organized Metropolitan University of which he is now vice president. He is a splendid speaker and through his 25 years experience as a lawyer and in the courts is thoroughly conversant with his subject.

Mayor Gets His Electric Clocks

Mayor Klusman won his long fought battle for installing electric clocks in the city hall offices, when the council by a three to two vote agreed to the purchase of two electric clocks at a price of \$40, not including installations.

Councilmen Steiner and Wright voted against the purchase. The clocks will be installed in the city clerk's office, the council chamber, fire and police departments.

Building and Loan Companies to Pay 7 Million Dollars

California building and loan associations tomorrow will pay more than \$7,000,000 to investors as interest and dividends on investment certificates and membership shares, according to a statement issued by Nell Davis, Los Angeles, executive secretary of the California Building-Loan League.

Most of this money will be paid to residents of the state and will be immediately available for reinvestment and spending. It is pointed out this disbursement should materially increase retail business activity during early July.

There are approximately 600,000 investors in the state's 200 building and loan associations. The payment to be made tomorrow is pointed to by building and loan executives as indicative of the stability of these institutions which are paying regular returns despite retarded business conditions which have resulted in many business enterprises passing their dividends.

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Tentative City Budget, 1932-33

GENERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSE:	ALLOTTED	CONTINGENT
City Clerk Salary and Expense.....	\$ 5,000.00	\$
City Treasurer Salary.....	860.00	.....
City Attorney Salary.....	1,800.00	.....
Engineer Department Salary.....	5,700.00	.....
Auditing Expense.....	900.00	.....
Building Repair.....	800.00	.....
Election Expense.....	2,500.00	.....
General Government Expense.....	150.00	350.00
Printing Minutes.....	.....	400.00
Publishing Ordinances, etc.....	300.00	.....
General Promotion (Councilmen's Personal Expense Accounts, etc.).....	1,000.00	500.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,010.00	
PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY:		
Fire Department Salaries.....	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 1,640.00
Fire Department Expense.....	1,200.00	.....
Police Department Salaries.....	18,730.00	.....
Police Department Expense.....	3,500.00	200.00
Inspection.....	250.00	250.00
Compensation Insurance.....	1,700.00	.....
Street Lights and Upkeep.....	14,000.00	.....
Hydrant Rental.....	4,250.00	.....
Cleaning Vacant Lots.....	1,500.00	500.00
TOTAL	\$ 51,730.00	
HEALTH AND SANITATION:		
Health Officer.....	\$ 1,200.00	.....
Garbage and Refuse Disposal.....	4,080.00	.....
Sewer Expense.....	500.00	.....
Sewer Connections.....	300.00	.....
TOTAL	\$ 6,080.00	
STREET DEPARTMENT:		
Street and Curb Repair.....	\$ 200.00	.....
City Yard.....	800.00	200.00
Street Superintendent Salary.....	2,100.00	.....
General Street Expense.....	600.00	200.00
Street Repair, Labor.....	6,000.00	.....
Street Repair, Material.....	5,500.00	.....
Street Cleaning.....	5,000.00	200.00
Parking Maintenance.....	4,800.00	200.00
Alley Cleaning.....	3,500.00	.....
Alley Repair.....	2,000.00	.....
Truck Expense.....	2,500.00	.....
TOTAL	\$ 33,000.00	
SPECIAL ALLOWANCES:		
Street Department Equipment.....	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Fire Department Equipment.....	1,000.00	.....
Police Equipment.....	.....	.....
Police Department Equipment.....	1,300.00	.....
Park Department Equipment.....	.....	.....
Engineer Department Equipment.....	.....	300.00
Water Litigation.....	2,750.00	.....
Litigation for Prairie Ave., Sepulveda Blvd., etc., Lomita Lighting District.....	1,000.00	\$250.00
		3,000.00
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL EXPENSE	\$117,370.00	\$ 12,490.00
UNAPPROPRIATED RESERVE	\$ 10,000.00	
CONTINGENT FUND	\$ 12,490.00	(as noted above)
BOND REDEMPTION	3,653.24	
From ESTIMATED \$20,000.00 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FUND:		
Park Expense.....	\$ 6,500.00	.....
Park Equipment.....	250.00	.....
Balance Due On Health Center Site.....	3,850.00	.....
Voted C. of C. for Fixed Overhead Expenses.....	6,000.00	.....
Balance from 10c Tax, Not Allocated.....	3,400.00	.....
TOTAL	\$ 20,000.00	
TOTAL BUDGET ADOPTED	\$163,513.24	
Estimated Income from Other Sources.....	\$ 3,500.00	

BUDGET AS ADOPTED FORCES INCREASE OF TWELVE CENTS

Ludlow and Klusman Favor "Expense Accounts" for Councilmen; Unemployed Almost Forgotten; Budget of \$163,513 Is Adopted

The newly elected city council will demand the highest municipal tax rate for 1932-33 that Torrance property owners have been assessed since 1925. When the city council yesterday approved Councilman Ludlow's budget of \$163,513.24 for the coming year, the new chairman of the finance committee admitted that the municipal tax rate will be 80 cents or more, which is a 12-cent increase over last year's 68-cent rate, and an increase of 27 cents over the 1929-30 municipal levy of 53 cents. The exact tax rate for the coming year cannot be definitely set until the new assessment figures are available, but members of the finance committee admitted that the rate would be at least 80 cents, and possibly more, if the assessed valuation fell below \$20,000,000.

Ludlow's budget as originally submitted to the council only called for \$153,513.24; but when Councilmen Wright and Steiner called his attention to the fact that he had provided no funds for the unemployed, Ludlow added another \$10,000 to the unappropriated reserve fund with a subsequent increase of the proposed minimum tax rate from 75 cents to 80 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Chamber Given \$6000 Fund By City Council

Directors and officers of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce were voted \$6000 yesterday by the city council, with which to pay the fixed and overhead expenses of the chamber for the coming year.

The council instructed the city attorney to draw up a contract with the chamber stipulating the various items covered by the \$6000 appropriation, but left the exact budgeting of the fund to the discretion of chamber directors. Mayor Klusman was the only councilman to vote against the appropriation.

Among the estimated requirements submitted by chamber officials are: secretary's salary, \$2400; assistant secretary's salary, \$1500; rent, \$600; social service, \$480; and Mothers' Educational Center, \$180. Miscellaneous office and overhead items make up the balance of the chamber's budget.

No provision is made for financing any of the promotional activities of the chamber—the understanding with the council being that whenever any funds are desired for promotion functions that special appropriations be made by the council from the ten-cent tax on recommendation of the chamber.

No method has been announced by chamber officials for the election of a new board of directors, and it is not known whether the Klusman plan of district representation will be adopted or if the chamber will favor the plan suggested by other members of the city council whereby each resident taxpayer will be entitled to one vote in the naming of directors.

During the discussion over the chamber fund, Mayor Klusman advocated cutting the appropriation to \$4335, and the hiring of but one secretary at a salary of \$125 a month.

What's the \$1000 For? Disguised under the title of "General Promotion," there appears a \$1000 item in the Ludlow budget, which is new to local municipal finances. It is intended to pay for personal expense accounts of councilmen, who have heretofore paid their own gasoline bills. The proposal to include the \$1000 "General Promotion" item was made by Councilman Ludlow, who stated that the auditors had informed him it was "legal," providing the expenditures were approved by the council. Mayor Klusman enthusiastically endorsed the idea, stating that he had been driving 10,000 miles a month in his car on city business. However, when this statement was questioned by other members of the council, Klusman reduced the mileage to 5000 a month. On the revised budget, Ludlow cut the general promotion item to \$800, with \$200 in the contingent fund.

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