

The Torrance Herald

WORK STARTS ON HUGE PLANT HERE

GENERAL PETROLEUM TAKES OUT \$452,102 PERMIT FOR FIRST UNITS OF REFINERY

Another \$400,000 Building Permit To Be Issued Shortly; 700 Men To Be Put To Work Within a Month

Two building permits totaling \$452,102 were issued Tuesday by City Engineer Frank Leonard for the construction of the first units of the General Petroleum Corporation's \$10,000,000 expansion program in Torrance. Company officials stated that another \$400,000 permit would be taken out soon, covering the erection of nine big tanks and other construction.

One hundred men were at work on the project this week, with an additional 600 scheduled to be on the job within the next month, it was pointed out by S. J. Dickey, General Petroleum vice president.

"We do not want to offer false hope to unemployed workers, however, and want it understood that the coming jobs already have been spoken for by former employees of our company," Dickey explained.

Seven Buildings
The projects covered by this week's permits include \$399,550 for seven buildings in a cracking unit and \$52,552 for cooling towers. Several foundations for the new construction have already been laid on the General Petroleum's 1000-acre site on 190th street in Torrance, between Arlington and Twelfth avenues. The present units are being erected a little west of Cypress street. It is expected that the construction now under way will be completed by April 1. Practically all materials and equipment is being purchased locally, and a number of Torrance industries have received substantial orders.

Huge Development
Plans of the company call for a \$1,500,000 development on the site, of which the new buildings are to be the first major units. The ultimate expansion program will reach the \$10,000,000 figure, company heads have announced.

"The present crew is busy on concrete foundations," Dickey said. "We want to get the concrete in before heavy rains arrive. Delivery of materials for the buildings will start shortly and within a month we expect to have the full crew of 700 men at work."

Noted Socialist To Speak Dec. 23 In Torrance High

William W. Buelck, national organizer of the Socialist party and said to be one of the finest orators in the country, will speak in the Torrance high school auditorium, Friday, December 23, at 8:00 p. m. His subject will be "America's Way Out," a subject that has been baffling millions. The public is invited.

"I Did It!"—Confesses Man As Police Arrive At Burning Sheds

Setting fire to three sheds behind a warehouse on 21st street, late Saturday night, a man giving his name as James C. Linn, of Chico, caused the complete destruction of one building and damage to others, before police, arriving at the scene of the blaze with firemen, placed the alleged incendiary under arrest.

"I did it!" Linn told arresting officers, later explaining incoherently that he was "driven by the government to blow up powder magazines which were not to be used any more because the world was at peace."

After being held in jail until the following Sunday morning, the man was turned over by Torrance police to the Los Angeles county psychopathic ward, with instructions that he be held for the filing of arson charges, if found not to be insane.

Linn gave his age as 62, claiming that he was married and the father of a large family. Recently, he told police, he had been living in a shack in Sawtelle and eating occasionally at the Soldiers' Home. Value of damage to the sheds, which are located back of Frank

Relief Benefit At High School Aided By Navy

All Local Churches Cooperating In Bible Class Program At High School

A benefit program, sponsored by the Torrance Men's Community Bible class, will be given at the high school auditorium, Friday evening, December 16. Proceeds will go to the local Co-operative Relief Association, and all Torrance churches are co-operating in attendance plans.

Sailors of the Pacific fleet will furnish entertainment, and the program will be prefaced by Christmas carols, sung by the Madrigals, a chorus of high school boys and girls under the direction of Mrs. Marjorie Elschen. Seven acts are scheduled for the program proper, including a demonstration of hypnotism, banjo selections, mind reading and others. Beautiful stage settings have been prepared. It was stated, and music will be supplied by the U. S. S. Maryland orchestra. Jesse Felleman, U. S. N., will act as master of ceremonies.

Admission of 15 cents, or the equivalent in canned foods or staple groceries, will be charged for adults, while no charge will be made for children under 12. Harry Dierker, president of the Torrance Men's Community Bible class, announced this week. Neither sponsors nor contributors to the program will share in the proceeds, the entire receipts going to relief work.

The program is scheduled to begin at 7:15, following rendition of carols by the Madrigals.

Thieves Take Radio Supplies From Home

Theft of radio supplies and testing appliances valued at fifty dollars was reported by John D. Dawson, 2625 Strawberry street, on Thursday, December 8. Dawson told police that marauders entered his home the preceding evening between 10:30 and 11:00 o'clock.

Just 8 Shopping Days 'til Christmas

WANTS TO SELL BEER AND WINE

Herman Steffen, property owner on Cabrillo avenue, was first to petition the Torrance city council for a permit to sell wine and beer with meals, if and when the federal and state authorities legalize the sale of wine and beer. Steffen asked for a permit to operate a restaurant and serve wine and beer at 1650 Cabrillo avenue. His request was filed.

Local Relief Gets 29 Tons Staple Foods

Manager Beach to Return to Delano Immediately to Secure Supplies

Twenty-nine tons of food supplies have been shipped by truck into Torrance for the relief of needy unemployed, from the concentration camp established at Delano by veterans' relief organizations. H. W. Beach, manager of the Torrance unit this week announced. The supplies consist of citrus fruits, grapes and sweet potatoes, and are part of a total of 117 tons similarly carried to other relief centers in the state.

Mr. Beach returned to Torrance this week after an absence of 21 days at Delano, where he participated in relief work going forward there. The local veterans' relief manager also plans an immediate return.

"Oranges, and all kinds of citrus fruits, in addition to grapes and sweet potatoes, are being gathered in the Delano concentration camp," Mr. Beach declared. "They are coming to all relief units in Los Angeles county which are able to send trucks. Twenty-one trucks, carrying 117 tons of foodstuffs out of Delano, have already been loaded and returned. Twenty-nine tons of this amount have been received at Torrance."

Part of the Torrance supplies have been divided with other agencies, chief among these being Wilmington, Mr. Beach explained. Following his return to Delano, the local relief manager expects later to transfer his activities to Stockton, where an extensive concentration camp has also been established for picking up and sacking river potatoes. These will be shipped to a central distribution warehouse in Los Angeles, under the supervision of Colonel O. C. Wyman, Los Angeles county food administrator.

Mr. Beach reported that his three weeks in Delano were spent living in a tent and cooking outside, surrounded by snow and ice, and "getting toughened up."

"Participating in the benefits of the relief work being done in outside concentration camps are Pasadena, Alhambra, Huntington Park, Lawndale, Wilmington, San Pedro, Belvedere Gardens, Long Beach and three different units in the city of Los Angeles."

During the absence of Mr. Beach, James Obelo has been in charge of the Torrance Veterans' Relief, and will continue to act until Mr. Beach's next return. Present activities of the local unit include distribution of 14,000 cans of foodstuffs, these having all been canned in Torrance. This distribution, it was explained, has been going forward since Thanksgiving.

Metropolitan Water District Directors Lauded

Congratulations were extended the directors of the Metropolitan water district this week by the county board of supervisors in a resolution by Supervisor John R. Quinn of the fourth district.

The felicitations were offered on receipt of news that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had just made an acceptable bid for the first block of bonds put up for sale.

"The supervisors hope that nothing further will transpire to occasion any delay in this important project," the resolution stated.

Community Chest Drive to Raise \$4,000 Relief Fund to Begin Monday

A drive to raise \$4000 with which to carry on relief work in Torrance will be launched next Monday morning, December 19, and it is hoped that by Christmas eve contributions will have reached the \$4000 total, which has been set as the absolute minimum required to finance necessary relief work during the coming year.

J. W. Post and Sam Levy have been appointed as a committee to conduct the drive, which is being raised under the auspices of the Torrance Community Service Association, which was organized recently to act in an advisory capacity in disbursing funds to the Torrance Relief Society, the Co-operative Relief Association (formerly known as the Veterans' Relief) and other established agencies engaged in local relief and welfare work. Officers of the Torrance Community Service Association include: R. R. Smith, president; J. W. Leech, vice-president; J. W. Post, treasurer; L. J. Gilmester, secretary; C. T. Rippey, Sam Levy, Bert W. Lutz and Rev. O. D. Wonder, directors.

"No general house-to-house canvass will be conducted due to economic conditions, but it is hoped that those who are able to contribute will volunteer their subscriptions," said Messrs. Post and Levy. "As there probably never was a time in the history of Torrance when relief funds have been so urgently needed."

All funds contributed go to actual relief work among local residents, as none of the agencies financed by the Community Service Association has any salaried workers. An especial appeal is being made to public employees and others on regular salaries or incomes, as it is believed that this class of people is best able to give. Contributions or subscriptions may be left at the Chamber of Commerce or at either of the local banks.

The week before Christmas seems a most fitting time for helping those among our townsfolk who are in need, and everyone who opens up his or her heart and assists in this worthy work will enjoy a much happier Christmas by so doing. In the words of Him whose birthday we are soon to honor, "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."—Matthew 25:40.

Municipal Christmas Program With Gifts For Kiddies To Be Held At High School, Dec. 21

Sponsored by members of the Torrance fire department, and aided by united co-operation of Torrance churches and city council, the annual community Christmas program will be presented Wednesday night, December 21, at 7:30 o'clock, at the high school auditorium.

Candy, apples and nuts will be distributed to the kiddies, music will be furnished by the orchestras of Torrance churches under the leadership of Mr. Chapman, while reader Christmas carols under the leadership of Richard Hoag. Suitable presentation of a Christmas story by members of local Sunday schools has also been announced, and preparation has been made for community singing.

The program is open and non-sectarian, and part of efforts sponsored locally by firemen and Torrance churches to make each Christmas season memorable. In line with these efforts, firemen have installed an electrically lighted Christmas tree in the little park in front of the theatre, while members of the American Legion are placing a similar tree in front of the high school auditorium.

The city council appropriated \$500 to defray expenses of the municipal Christmas program and distribution of gifts to the children.

TOYS WANTED
Toys—old toys, new toys, any kind of toys that can be repaired
TURN TO STORY ONE
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STORES OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL XMAS

Beginning tonight, many Torrance merchants will keep their stores open evenings until Christmas, and with the exception of food markets, practically all local retail stores will be open every evening beginning Saturday of this week and continuing until Christmas eve.

The Torrance postoffice will be open from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m. every day until Christmas, including the two Saturday afternoons which are usually holidays, Postmaster Gourdin announced.

School Building Costing \$64,000 Awaits Students

New Fern Avenue Structure Replaces Frame Houses After Holidays

When Christmas vacation ends, and approximately 140 youngsters now attending the Fern avenue school return to classes, they will no longer be housed by the old wooden structure moved here four years ago from El Segundo. Instead, a spacious two-story building, costing \$64,000, comprising 10 modern planned class rooms, and surrounded by a square block of play ground, will await them. The transfer was assured when the Los Angeles county school board this week accepted the new building from contractors as completed.

The new structure on Fern avenue is located between Torrance boulevard and El Dorado. Grading has been done on the streets leading to the site, the grounds also have been graded, and shrubbery planted along the terrace fronting on Torrance boulevard.

Until the beginning of the new semester in February, the pupils now occupying the old site will be the only ones transferred to the new. At that time, however, a realignment of the district to be served by the new school building will permit transfer of a portion of the students now attending the Torrance elementary school.

Guy Holliday, principal of the present Fern avenue school, will continue in charge at the new school building.

Uselessness of Boulevard Stops Is Pointed Out

Police Commissioner Earl Conner expressed his opinions frankly regarding the uselessness of many boulevard stops in Torrance when traffic problems were under discussion at the city council meeting Tuesday night. With one or two exceptions, Conner stated in his opinion it would be better to abolish all boulevard stops in Torrance. He pointed out the futility of stops at the corners of Engrstrom and Craven, Arlington and Carson, Post and Arlington, and other intersections where the traffic was not heavy.

L. B. Kelsey, insurance agent, told the council that there had been more accidents at the corner of Marcellina and Sartori since the boulevard stop was established than before it was posted.

Councilman Wright asked that one-way traffic on Torrance boulevard at Craven be enforced, as several near accidents had occurred by motorists driving up the left-hand side of Torrance boulevard.

On request of B. W. Lanz, lighted signals were ordered placed at 190th street and Western avenue. It was also agreed to remove the Edison company to request foliage on the grounds of its substation at the intersection in order to lessen the traffic hazard.

The police committee was requested to review traffic problems and report at the next meeting of the council.

Advertising has established values and confidence.

COUNCIL CLOSES PARK DEAL FOR 10 ACRES ON ARLINGTON

Accepts J. W. Post Property and Rejects Adjoining 12 Acres Submitted By J. C. Smith

A new park and playground was definitely acquired for the people of Torrance Tuesday night when the city council closed the proposed deal with J. W. Post for the leasing and purchase under option of a ten-acre site on Arlington avenue. Four members of the council voted their approval

of a resolution which authorizes Mayor Klusman to sign the necessary legal papers. Councilman Wright cast the only negative vote. Under the terms of the agreement, the city is to pay J. W. Post, trustee, \$900 cash for a one-year lease and is given an option to purchase the property at \$1500 per acre. It is planned to remove the lease and option from year to year until the total purchase price has been paid. The entire deal will be financed out of the 10-cent promotion tax fund.

The ten-acre site is located close to the corner of the residence district on Arlington avenue at the Santa Fe tracks. It covers exactly 10.15 acres and lies between Arlington and Cabrillo avenues on the west and east, and Santa Fe and Lincoln avenues on the north and south.

Work of improving the park and playground is already under way, being done by unemployed crews. It is planned to move the night baseball park equipment from the present location on Carson street to the new Arlington avenue site. Lawn, tennis courts, picnic tables and open ovens will be provided. Plans for the improvement of the park and playground will be drawn by the city's engineering department.

The council rejected an offer Tuesday night for the purchase of 12 acres adjoining the Post property, which was submitted by J. C. Smith, representing the Torrance Oil & Development Company. A price of \$1300 an acre was offered by the latter company, but was rejected by the park committee on the grounds that it was not as desirable for park purposes as the Post acreage.

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El Prado Trees Not To Be Cut

The troublesome question of removing eucalyptus trees on El Prado, which has been submitted to every city council for a number of years, was "settled" again, temporarily at least, Tuesday night, when the city council decided to leave the trees standing.

After City Clerk Bartlett read a petition signed by 17 property owners on the street, protesting the removal of the trees, Councilman Hitchcock stated that in his opinion it would be inadvisable to cut down the trees, and the matter was dropped.

However, Hitchcock stated that the city wood yard was in need of additional timber and suggested that one row of trees be removed from Plaza del Amo between Arlington avenue and Carson street, which was approved by the council. At present, there are four rows of trees on Plaza del Amo. Street Superintendent Gascoigne stated that the city crews were also removing every other tree on Cedar street.

Lomita V. F. W. Plan Christmas Party, Dec. 19

Lomita Auxiliary No. 1622 of the V. F. W. will hold a Christmas party for members and their families on Monday, December 19, at Veterans' hall on Lomita boulevard. A tree will be decorated and candy, fruit and nuts for the children provided. A Christmas program is also being arranged.

The chairman of the Sawtelle committee, Mrs. T. Sanford, is making arrangements to call at Sawtelle Thursday, December 22, to give Christmas cheer to veterans of ward 17.

Quinn Named On Sanitation District Board

Supervisor John R. Quinn of the fourth district this week was chosen as a special director of county sanitation district No. 11, to replace Supervisor Frank L. Shaw, new chairman of the board. Selection of Quinn was made on recommendation of A. K. Warren, chief engineer of the district, who pointed out that Shaw as board chairman was a director-at-large anyway and that this left a vacancy.

Quinn's appointment was suggested by Engineer Warren because the district, embracing the "salt water" system in the Baldwin Hills and area south of Culver City, is in the fourth district.