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Torrance Herald  
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NINETEENTH YEAR—No. 11

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1933

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# QUAKE DAMAGE HERE VERY SLIGHT

## KLUSMAN REPLIES TO WRIGHT, RECALL CHARGES ARE DENIED

Mayor Says Wright Has Acknowledged He Is Not of Sound Mind At All Times; Irregularity In Proceedings Charged

A complete denial of all charges and reasons for the recall proceedings brought against him by Councilman J. M. Wright is made by Mayor W. T. Klusman in a published statement in this issue. The mayor's statement in part is as follows:

"1. That J. M. Wright, has acknowledged to me personally that his mind and eyes will not work together at all times, and therefore he gets confused on many important matters, that he therefore cannot drive an automobile, or attend to other affairs at all times.

"2. I deny that any of my actions as a City Official have been at any time secretive, arbitrary, non-cooperative, undignified, untruthful, responsive or destructive, or that I have created class prejudice or retarded proper and effective business administrations of this city.

"3. I deny that I have conducted myself so at any time that the confidence of the Council or the public has been shaken, and I also deny that I have undermined the morale of the present city employees at any time.

"4. I hereby make this statement to the qualified electors of Torrance without any reservations that Councilman J. M. Wright has acknowledged that he is not of sound mind at all times, that his mental faculties will not co-relate themselves at all times, and I hereby state, that J. M. Wright is only a political tool of other individuals, who are anxious to bring about my recall and eliminate me from the Torrance City Council, for their own purpose and benefits which they may receive thereby.

"5. Furthermore, that the Notice of Recall served on me by J. M. Wright, and his advertisement in the Torrance Herald is not according to the Act 5620a Page 3024, of the General Laws of the State of California. The law especially states that 'it must be a Notice of Intention' which J. M. Wright failed to do, therefore the proceedings cannot be legal."

Must Wait 21 Days

Under the Recall Act, 21 days must now elapse before recall petitions may be circulated, making the earliest date for circulating April 6. The petition must contain both the charges and the answer. Signatures of at least 25 per cent of the entire number of votes cast for the office at the last regular election must be secured, and the petition must be filed with the city clerk on or before May 1.

**CITY EXPENDITURES**  
3% BELOW BUDGET

Municipal expenditures are 3 per cent under the city budget so far. Finance Chairman Ludlow informed the city council Tuesday night, which he stated he considered a very good showing.

## City Council Endorses Plan For Naval Base

Communication Sent to Coldden Pledges Support of Measure

At the regular meeting of the city council held Tuesday night action was taken to forward a communication from the city of Torrance to Senator William G. Mead and Congressman Charles J. Colden, supporting the measure just introduced in the house of representatives by Mr. Colden asking an appropriation of \$7,000,000 for a naval base in San Pedro. This figure was the estimate wired by the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce to Mr. Colden in answer to his telegram of inquiry as to the probable cost of this improvement.

The largest part of the sum would be spent for the graving dock, estimated to cost \$4,200,000. Bulkheadings, wharves and filling of the area would cost approximately \$1,991,000 and the construction of storehouse, machine and forge shops and other necessary shops and structures including roadways, trackage, water systems, pipe lines, etc., \$886,000.

A general plan of the proposed naval base is expected to be completed soon by the Los Angeles harbor department and will be sent to Congressman Colden.

Everly D. Smith, president of the Torrance and Lomita Taxpayers' Association, and John T. Gaffey, San Pedro founder of the organization in Los Angeles county, have both expressed themselves in favor of the immediate action by Congress and the construction of the proposed improvement.

## Young Men Cause Row At Klan Hall

Twelve young men who caused a disturbance at the old American Legion hall on Border avenue, now in use as Ku Klux Klan headquarters, were reported to the police department Saturday night. When the officers arrived all but two of the boys had left and these two were reprimanded and ordered away. No particular damage was done.

## All Schools In This District Open Monday

All schools in Torrance and Lomita will be open on Monday. Inspection by the officials sent down by the board of education was made this week and all structures were pronounced safe for use. Repairs are now being made to replace fallen plaster and bricks.

At the Lomita elementary school the fire walls are being repaired and chimney rebuilt. Narbonne high school damage was largely confined to the auditorium where plaster ornaments fell but no structural damage was done.

The Torrance schools are in good condition, and class sessions in all schools of the district will be held as usual unless further orders are received from the board of education.

The Walteria school, a brick building built in 1925, will not be used until repairs are made but sessions will be held in the frame bungalow. The damage at Walteria consisted mainly in the widening of cracks which had already existed, the principal crack having been sustained during the Santa Barbara earthquake, and this, which is in a partition wall was enlarged. Some plaster fell and some bricks from the arches in the porch.

## Legion Auxiliary Nobly Responds to Call For Aid

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary in Torrance rallied nobly to the call for action sent out Friday night immediately after the earthquake disaster in Southern California and worked for many hours to provide relief for the stricken and refreshment for the Legionnaires who had been called out on guard duty in the ruined area.

Within a few minutes after the emergency call had sounded, 30 members of the auxiliary gathered at the clubhouse on Carson street. They were kept busy during all of Friday night making coffee and sandwiches, which were sent to the boys on duty and to the shelterless and footless citizens of Long Beach.

At 5 o'clock Saturday morning, Alex MacPhail, Legionnaire in charge of the relief operations in Torrance, notified the auxiliary to get ready to prepare breakfast for 50 refugees who were to be brought from Long Beach. These people were fed at the Legion clubhouse and housed in Torrance from Saturday morning until noon on Monday when they were permitted to return to their homes in Long Beach. Quarters were secured for them in the Torrance Military Academy building, where cots and bedding were provided. The Auxiliary members remained

on duty or on call until Tuesday, when the need for their services had ceased to be urgent and they disbanded. Among other duties they found time to make 35 pneumatic jackets for use at hospitals in Long Beach.

Torrance auxiliary has the honor of being the first unit to respond to the call for aid and carried out their duties most successfully. Mrs. Roxie Sleeth, president of the auxiliary, said yesterday, that the people of Torrance had responded most generously to the auxiliary's calls for food, clothing and bedding for the refugees and that she wished in behalf of the auxiliary to thank all the individuals and organizations who took part in the work and co-operated so splendidly.

## Benefit Show At Cabrillo Beach

The Unemployed Relief Association of San Pedro will sponsor two benefit shows at the Recreation hall at Cabrillo Beach Saturday afternoon. The first show will be given at 1 o'clock and the second at 3 o'clock. A film and a stage revue will complete the program. The public of the harbor district is invited.

## Fern St. School Not Damaged In Recent Temblor

The Fern street school, recently completed, which has been in use only a few weeks, was the only Torrance school which escaped damage in Friday's earthquake. No plaster fell and no cracks in the walls were noted.

Some damage was done at the Torrance elementary school where plaster fell in some of the upper rooms and cracks appeared in the partitions. At the high school the damage was largely confined to the machine shop and the library.

A comparatively small amount of injury was done to the Walteria school. All of the institutions were closed for one week while inspectors sent out by the board of education made their rounds to inspect the numerous schools in the city school system.

## Chimneys Are In Good Condition

The Torrance fire department has made a thorough inspection of all chimneys in the city and found the majority of them in good condition following the quake. A few will need new tops but with these repairs will be safe to use.

## Banking Status Better

Expect to Lift Holiday Ban At the First National In Day or Two.

Business conditions in Torrance showed a decided upturn Wednesday morning with the re-opening of the Bank of America branch here on a nearly normal basis. A further impetus in local trade is anticipated as soon as details can be completed for lifting the temporary holiday ban at the First National Bank of Torrance, which is expected within a day or two.

In a statement this morning, J. W. Post, president of the First National Bank, said: "We are conforming strictly to the regulations laid down by the Secretary of the Treasury, and while the temporary delay in resuming full banking facilities may cause some inconvenience to our depositors, I am sure they will be patient. The task of carefully examining the records of every bank in the nation has thrown a tremendous burden upon federal banking officials, and we must be patient and await our turn."

In connection with the delayed opening of the First National Bank, the public is reminded of the statement made by President Roosevelt in his talk over the radio Sunday evening, in which the president said:

"Let me make it clear to you that if your bank does not open the first day you are by no means justified in believing that it will not open. A bank that opens on one of the subsequent days is in exactly the same status as the bank that opens the first day."

## QUAKE DAMAGE WILL NOT BE OVER \$12,500

Broken Windows and Building Ornaments Constitute Major Portion of Loss

Property damage in Torrance resulting from the earthquake that Friday will not exceed \$12,500, it was stated yesterday by City Engineer F. R. Leonard after he and a committee of three local contractors had completed their examination of buildings throughout the city. Other members of the special inspection committee appointed by the city council were: M. L. Darling, John Holm and W. L. Reeve. The city engineer acted as chairman of the committee, which was given full authority by the city council to order necessary repairs to structures or to condemn buildings deemed by the committee to be unsafe.

The old office and garage building of the Tolson Transportation System at Border and 21st street was the only building condemned in Torrance and the front of the Walteria garage at Newton and Hawthorne avenue was closed.

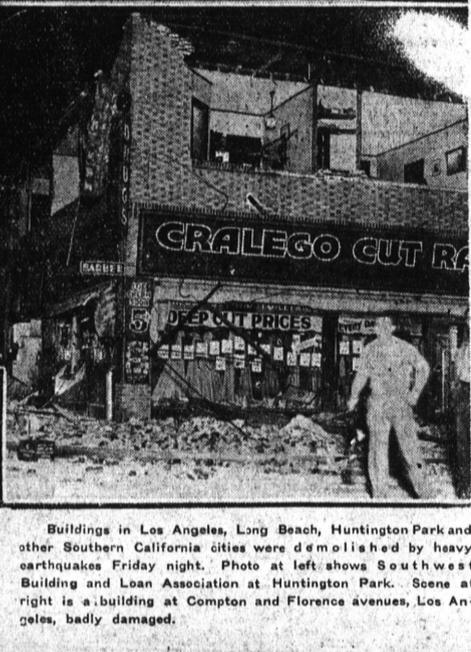
Repairs were ordered in a number of apartment buildings in Torrance but tenants were permitted to continue occupancy. It was also necessary to strengthen the city jail with tie-rods and to repair the roof.

"There is nothing to be alarmed about, as walls in apartment buildings are structurally sound," Mr. Leonard stated. As a matter of precaution, the public will be kept a safe distance from the National Hotel on Artesano avenue, and the Gaylord Apartments on Sartori avenue until necessary repairs have been made, but people inside either building are in no danger, Leonard stated.

Generally throughout the city, damages consist principally of broken store windows, fallen or loosened building ornaments, the work, and in a number of cases parapet or fire walls which were insecurely fastened to the building. To correct this danger in the future, the city engineer stated he would recommend to the city council an amendment to the building ordinance requiring parapet walls to be tied into the roofing joist as well as the ceiling joist.

Workmen have been busy this week making necessary repairs throughout the downtown business district and this morning there was little evidence of the earthquake remaining in this city. Local industries report no losses from the temblor, and an examination of heavy machinery found it to be perfectly in line. In response to a communication from the county board of supervisors, which body is negotiating for a rehabilitation loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the city council notified county officials this week that the replacement cost of damaged buildings in Torrance would approximate \$12,500.

## BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED BY SEVERE EARTHQUAKE



Buildings in Los Angeles, Long Beach, Huntington Park and other Southern California cities were demolished by heavy earthquakes Friday night. Photo at left shows Southwest Building and Loan Association at Huntington Park. Scene at right is a building at Compton and Florence avenues, Los Angeles, badly damaged.

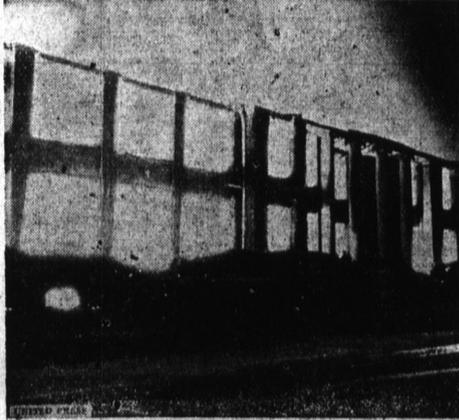


Photo at left shows Huntington high school in flames. It burned to the ground. Interior of Sunset Drug Store at Walnut Park is pictured at right.



## Conserve On Water!

Residents of Torrance are urged to refrain from irrigating lawns and gardens until the pumping plant of the Dominguez Water Company at Carson and Alamitos boulevard can be repaired. The plant was badly damaged by the earthquake and the water supply of Torrance is limited to the capacity of one well near Redondo. The reservoir is full and the Redondo well is keeping up with the present restricted consumption.

In an official proclamation issued last Saturday, Mayor Klusman commanded Torrance residents to limit the use of water to domestic purposes, and this order is still in effect. The water supply in Torrance is in no immediate danger, Mayor Klusman said yesterday, but it will be necessary to discontinue irrigating until repairs have been made at the Dominguez Water Company's plant.

## Sympathy and Blessing

By W. T. KLUSMAN  
Mayor, City of Torrance

"The citizens of Torrance should consider themselves very fortunate in not sustaining more damages to property and the water supply of this city in last week's temblor. "First of all, we should be thankful that there was no loss of life or injuries to any person. Repairs can easily be made on buildings, but life cannot be restored. Suffering of injuries is painful and the process of mending on the human body is very slow. Therefore, the citizens of Torrance should be grateful and offer prayer and thanksgiving to Almighty God, in that, this city has been spared the calamities that have befallen some of our neighboring communities. The people of Torrance offer their condolence and sympathy in unison and one accord, and stand ready to give help wherever such is needed in any place.

"I want to commend the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, all the good women of Torrance and others who have done their part in helping the afflicted and are doing so now, for their fine, noble work.

"The sorrows and afflictions of our neighbors are more serious than our own, and we offer our helping hand, while our troubles are only a minor matter.

"W. T. KLUSMAN,  
Mayor of Torrance."