

Consolidated Edition  
Torrance Herald  
and Lomita News

ONLY NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHED IN TORRANCE

# Torrance Herald

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Two Sections  
10 Pages  
This Issue

NINETEENTH YEAR—No. 21

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1933

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## THE KLUSMAN SMOKE-SCREEN

By Grover C. Whyte

Mayor Klusman's futile efforts to throw a smoke-screen around his dickerings with officials of the water company for the sale of its system to the city by launching a personal attack upon the editor of the Torrance Herald are indeed amusing. He is fooling no one but himself. We are printing the complete text of the mayor's speech, as written by himself, confident that our readers will readily see through the mayor's ridiculous attack and comprehend his real motive.

The statements made in his written speech are on a par with the ridiculous statement he made at Tuesday's council meeting. When the writer pointed out that consumers in the county's water district in Lomita paid only 35 cents per 1000 cu. feet as contrasted with the Torrance rate of \$2.25, Mayor Klusman answered that Lomita residents paid another \$1.00 per 1000 cu. feet on their tax bill. Just how the mayor arrived at this conclusion, we are at a loss to understand. The assessment rate in the Lomita water district is \$1.02 per \$100 assessed valuation, which would bring the annual tax charge for water purposes on the average lot to not over \$2.00 per year, or about 17 cents a month. Apparently the mayor forgot the tax assessment is paid only once a year, and was applying it monthly. To our way of figuring, the monthly cost, including the tax assessment, of 1000 cu. feet of water in the Lomita district for the average lot would not run over 52 cents, as contrasted with the mayor's statement that the total cost was \$1.35. Making statements and proving them are quite a different thing, Mr. Mayor. We could go on and on,—but what's the use.

## Columbia Plant Wins Praise of Sixty Bankers

Bank of America Officials Impressed By Visit to Torrance Mills

A delegation of approximately 60 officials of the Bank of America, including Vice Presidents Orra E. Monette and Dwight L. Clark, came to Torrance last Friday evening and enjoyed an inspection trip through the Columbia Steel Company's mills here.

B. W. Lanz, Columbia plant manager, and department executives acted as guides to groups of bankers on the inspection tour. Expressions of amazement at the magnitude of the local steel mills and commendation for the tidy and well organized plant were given by the bankers as they were piloted around the various departments. The visit of the banking officials was arranged by J. W. Leech, Torrance manager of Bank of America.

## Variety Show At High School Twice Tomorrow

Clubs Arrange Attractive Program For Students and Adults

The long promised variety vaudeville show to be put on by the various clubs of the Torrance high school will be held in the school gymnasium Friday afternoon and evening, May 26.

The first performance for the benefit of the students will begin at 1:15. The second, to which all parents and friends are invited, will be given at 8:15.

The program is as follows: "Good Medicine," a one-act play of characters are: The Doctor, Elmer Munson; The Nurse, Una Paisley; The Patient, Laurella Lancaster.

Tap dancing, Misses Virginia and Jeanette Mikelson.

"A Voice From Afar," by the Science Club.

"The Magician," Key Club.

"The Melody Ringers" around the campfire, playing and singing the songs of days gone by; by the Future Farmers Club.

"Japanese Kendo," World Friendship Club.

Proceeds from the show will go to help defray the expense of publishing the school annual.

## Work Quarters Provided For Torrance Women

New Start to Be Made On Sewing Financed By R. F. C.

After a delay of two or three weeks, women of Torrance will be given an opportunity to share in the work provided through the county welfare department financed by the R. F. C. funds, which will give employment to single women, widows, or those who are heads of families who have no other means of support.

This movement was started in Torrance last month, but on account of the reorganization of the method of handling the unemployment relief the actual opening was deferred. A number of women registered for work at that time. Quarters for the work, which will be sewing, have been provided in the east end of the building on El Prado formerly used by the Veterans' Relief Association as headquarters. The veterans will partition off the east end of the building so that the women's department will be separated from the rest of the building which is still in use by that organization as a warehouse.

Sewing machines have been loaned and the materials will be furnished by the Red Cross. A wage of \$3.20 for an eight-hour day will be paid. Garments made by the group will be turned over to the Red Cross for distribution. All women who are eligible to take part in the work must register for the employment, the same as men do for work on unemployment projects. There are many women in Torrance who will be able to gain a modest remuneration and aid in meeting living expenses by this means.

## The Mayor's Speech

Here It Is, Exactly As He Wrote It—Misspelled Words and All

NOTE: When Mayor Klusman accused the Herald of erroneously reporting his attitude on the water question, the editor of this newspaper asked the mayor for the complete text of his speech as read by him at the Tuesday evening council meeting, with the promise that it would be published EXACTLY as written, in order to avoid misunderstandings.

At first the mayor consented, but after the council adjourned he refused to turn over the text of his speech until he had gone over it. However, next morning, Mayor Klusman supplied a re-written report which he states is an "exact copy" of the one he read the night before. The Herald, in accordance with its promise, is publishing Mayor Klusman's revised account of his speech, EXACTLY as he has written it, and the printer's proof of which he has approved. Here it is,—misspelled words and all:

"Gentlemen of the Council Ladies and Gentlemen of the Audience.

"Ordinary Human consistency is an Attribute to any living Being. But when an Editor of any Newspaper who styles himself an Arbitrator of Progress and Progression in the Community, twists and covets his talents, that is if he has any at all, into such meaningless allegations which even surpasses enuendos and so forth, then I say such an Editor and his Newspaper are of real detriment wherever such Paper may be in circulation.

"I claim that an Editor of that kind turns ordinary Human Consistency of his Press into the rank of Yellow Journalism.

"I absolutely believe in, and I uphold the rights and privileges to circulate Petitions, I believe in free speech, and freedom of the Press.

"Our government is founded on that very principle. The Citizens of Torrance have the right to petition the City Council on any subject in which the People are vitally interested.

"The Water Question is certainly a vital one at this time.

"I fully realize that all government consist by consent of the governed, who are the Electors of any political subdivision of the commonwealth. And this City Council of Torrance is no exception. That is exactly the way I feel.

"At the same time, the Electors of Torrance have vested that right, to this City Council of which I am a member, and that right is prescript by the Laws of California, that we use personal and diligent judgment in administering the affairs of this municipality for the best interest of its Citizens.

"Editor Whyte in the Herald states that the dilatoric attitude of Mayor Klusman is the cause of this petition and that I opposed the attempt of Councilman Ludlow to bring the water question out of the Committee into the Hands of the whole Council.

"I absolutely deny that I am guilty of any dilatoric measure, the Water Company, consisting of Mr. Hitchcock, Mr. Conner and myself as chairman have met with representatives of the Water Company, at different times. We have carefully gone into the various details which have confronted us. The Water Company has furnished us as near as possible, but there are many matters to be considered in a proposition of this kind and new questions arise from time to time. Mr. Hitchcock brought up a question which all three of us considered, was of great importance. The Representative of the Water Co had not full data on such, at that meeting, we therefore adjourned until we could be furnished that data and information.

"I have received such information at this time, as soon as possible the Committee will meet, and then lay the whole matter before the Council as a whole.

"Of course I must expect at all times from such men as Grover Whyte and some Die-Hard of the former political Combine to be ripped up the back whenever possible. Oh Well, I am pretty well used to it, and I am not loosing any sleep over it. Now I realize that Mr. Ludlow prides himself on his conscientiousness on all matters of City affairs, and He certainly is anxious to serve the People of Torrance in the fullest sense, but He should not forget, that the other Candidates on the Citizens League ticket have also some brains on par with him and some of us may have less.

"It has been beyond my objection why Mr. Ludlow has objected so seriously against the Water Committee and why He has been in such a terrible hurry about everything. He knows as well as I do we can only go so fast and no faster.

"The Bonds cannot be offered for sale until there is made a complete set up as to the assessed valuation of all Real Estate Property and so forth. That is being

## Merchants Plan Cooperative Trade Days

Preliminary Plans For Organizing Merchants' Bureau Also Discussed at Monday Meeting.

Cooperative plans for promoting Torrance as a greater shopping center were discussed by a group of 18 local business men Monday evening at a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce offices. The meeting was called by Frank M. Buffington, chairman of the chamber's trade promotion committee, and resulted in one of the most enthusiastic gatherings of local merchants that has ever been held in this city.

While the meeting was called primarily for the purpose of planning a cooperative trade event, the unusual amount of interest shown by those present, prompted the suggestion by a number of local retailers that a movement be launched for the organization of a permanent merchants' bureau of the Chamber of Commerce.

Preliminary plans were adopted for conducting an outstanding cooperative trading event to be held in the near future, and a number of committees were appointed. Mr. Buffington pointed out the important requirements for staging a successful cooperative trading event as follows: Plenty of time for advertising and promotion work; full-hearted cooperation on the part of all business interests; education of all sales people; offering of genuine bargains in featured merchandise; continuing the event twice a year,—at least,—will build confidence and attendance with consequent increase in business.

Another meeting of local merchants will be held Wednesday, May 31, at 7:30 p. m., at which time committee reports will be made. Every retailer in Torrance is urged to attend and participate in the plans for staging the special trade event.

## New Figures On Treatment Plant Put Before Com.

All Estimates On Sewer Costs Must Be Submitted June 1

All estimates on the comparative cost of constructing the White Point outfall sewer or a treatment plant must be turned in by Tuesday, June 1, it was announced today by the special committee appointed by the county sanitation districts to investigate the two proposals.

Wednesday the committee was presented with figures by Councilman Charles H. Randall of Los Angeles reporting to show that artificial treatment of sewerage would cost the districts, which serve Torrance and other communities in the southern tip of the county, \$7,360,000 instead of \$15,474,000 over the next 32 years. The \$15,474,000 figure was the estimate of Chief Engineer A. K. Warren, given the committee at its last meeting two weeks ago.

Councilman Randall, whose suave manner at previous meetings of the district directors is blamed for several months of delay, presented the new figures on the treatment plant, which were supplied him by D. Donaldson, South Pasadena a civil engineer. Randall also submitted a report by Black and Veatch, Kansas City consulting engineers. This report rather ridiculed Warren's estimate of the population growth of the area from 425,000 at present to 1,050,000 by 1965, but nevertheless admitted it "possible."

With the construction of treatment plants for the treatment of sewerage by the activated sludge method, the question of water conservation also enters in, if what the directors have previously been told by Conservation Association representatives is the truth. It is proposed to pump the treated water in pipelines to areas where it would be permitted to settle into the earth. What would be done with the sludge was not explained.

"I am personally against expending any unnecessary money for consulting Engineers and so forth. I have confidence in the majority of my Council-Coleagues and other City Officials that such can be done.

"But the Majority Vote of the Council is what counts, in that matter, and by such of course I do not load any day a little over one thousand Water Consumers in Torrance, I am going to

MRS. CONDLLEY IS SERIOUSLY INJURED  
Mrs. Theresa Condlley, 1533 Post Avenue, is being cared for at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital following an accident on May 19 in which she suffered a fractured hip.

## MAYOR IN STORMY SESSION OVER WATER SYSTEM BONDS

Ludlow Says Bonds Will Be Ready to Act On June 13; Favors Employing Consulting Engineer to Advise Local Group

The recent spell of comparatively calm weather at city council meetings was abruptly interrupted this week, when Mayor W. T. Klusman let loose a violent oratorical storm over the water question. The mayor's ire, it seems, had been aroused by recent news reports of his dilatory attitude in holding up progress on the construction of the new municipal water system, and he let go his wrath in a personal attack upon Grover C. Whyte, editor of the Torrance Herald,—the complete text of which is printed in another column of this page.

## Around the Council Table

City council tendered officials of the C. C. M. O. a unanimous vote of thanks Tuesday, for the company's action in returning \$320.51, which represented an excess over the estimated cost of moving utility lines in connection with the widening and improvement of Torrance boulevard.

A communication from the Standard Oil Company of California was read, in which the Standard sought an allocation of \$200 for moving a telephone line and \$1300 for constructing a crossing over the Santa Fe railway, both projects being part of the work in widening Torrance boulevard west of Madrona. Much surprise was indicated by members of the council at the large amount of money required by the oil company for this work. The matter was referred to the city engineer, who stated he believed the county would handle the matter.

The city was notified by the board of supervisors of the approval of a \$1800 appropriation for the purchase of materials and supervision of work on the Torrance boulevard widening between Madrona avenue and the Redondo city limits.

Representative of the Veterans' Relief Association requested the city to pay half of the \$40 monthly water charge for irrigating small farms used in raising vegetables. Councilman Ludlow stated that if the city owned its own water system, the necessary aid could be given; but as it is, the city cannot legally appropriate funds for such purposes. However, members of the council expressed a desire to assist the veterans and a committee consisting of City Attorney Jensen, City Clerk Bartlett and Councilman Ludlow was appointed to investigate further. E. C. Nelson, manager of the water company, suggested that the matter be taken up with officials of the Dominguez Water Company.

City Attorney Jensen reported that it would be necessary to amend the city's beer license to comply with the new state law. Particular attention was called to the necessity of lowering the fee for "off sale" licenses from the present rate to \$10 a year. A large number of inquiries to bond Redondo Beach had not approved a bond issue for constructing its own water plant. He stated that he had investigated a great many municipal water departments in California and that in nearly every instance they were making a good profit and paying off their bonded indebtedness out of water revenues, without expense to taxpayers.

Mayor John Clark of Redondo Beach congratulated the city on the progress being made in obtaining a municipal water system. He stated that he was only sorry that Redondo Beach had not approved a bond issue for constructing its own water plant. He stated that he had investigated a great many municipal water departments in California and that in nearly every instance they were making a good profit and paying off their bonded indebtedness out of water revenues, without expense to taxpayers.

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City Engineer Leonard advised a revision of certain portions of the city's building ordinance to include provisions in the state building code, particularly as it applies to earthquake proofing.

General Petroleum Corporation is revising its plans slightly for the extension of Cedar avenue to connect with 190th street. City Engineer Leonard reported. The revised plans for the road and the fence to border the highway are expected to be completed in a few days, Leonard said.

Mayor Klusman warned that the city would have to curtail expenditures in connection with the development of the new municipal park, as funds were running low. He stated that already the county had expended \$2500 on the park project.

Councilman Wright inquired regarding the installation of direct telephones between Walteria and the McDonald Tract to expedite fire and police calls.

Mayor Klusman's outburst followed the reading of a voluminous petition signed by 2031 Torrance water consumers, who requested the city council to proceed immediately with the construction of the new water system. The petition was circulated by W. Rufus Page with the assistance of Ralph Hoerr and Luther Hyde. It was ordered filed by vote of the council.

Mr. Page stated that at least three out of every four residents whom he contacted in securing signatures to the water petition had expressed opposition to the city negotiating with officials of the present water company for the purchase of its plant and were strongly in favor of the city constructing an entirely new system.

"Why take up the matter with the private water company at this time?" asked Mr. Page. "It seems to me the mayor should be looking after the city's business."

Consulting Engineer  
Councilman Ludlow pointed out the advisability of securing the services of a consulting engineer, and stated that during the past week members of the council had held about six meetings with prominent engineers. Ludlow stated that a representative of the C. J. Rambo & Company, city auditors, had informed him that all the information necessary for offering the bonds for sale would be ready for the council meeting on June 13. The preliminary work is well under way and nothing is being left undone that will hasten the matter, Ludlow stated.

When Mayor Klusman questioned the possibility of being able to sell the bonds on the present market, or to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Councilman Ludlow answered, "Don't take too seriously these reports that the bonds cannot be sold. I have talked with a number of bond houses and am convinced that no one can tell whether we can sell them or not until they are offered for sale. When I talk to bond houses, I can always tell who has been in to see them ahead of me."

Ludlow advocated going ahead with determination to sell the bonds, and discredited the attitude of becoming discouraged until every effort had been exhausted. "We do not necessarily have to sell them in California. I have had some inquiries from Chicago," Ludlow stated.

Mayor Klusman reported that he had received some more definite details from the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, and that the special water committee, of which he is chairman, would meet soon and report at the next meeting of the council.

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## Harbor District Chambers to Meet In Gardena May 31

The Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will meet at Gardena on May 31, where they will be afforded a "preview" of the Gardena Merchants second annual industrial and educational exposition.

The sessions will be held in the library of the Gardena high school. Burt G. Martin, secretary-manager of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce will speak on "We Build," Hon. Frank F. Merriam, lieutenant governor, will speak on "The Legislature."

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