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Torrance Herald

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TWO SECTIONS 16 PAGES THIS ISSUE

TWENTY-THIRD YEAR—No. 7. SECTION A TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1937 PER COPY 5c

City High and Dry in S. C. Weekend Flood

3.75 Inches of Rain Cause No Damage and Small Inconvenience Here

Many a local resident reading newspaper reports about last week-end's rainstorm and subsequent floods or listening to radio broadcasts of damage the downpour wrought in Southern California found another attraction to living in Torrance. Except in a few isolated spots in the southern part of the city, this community was high and dry and no local resident was forced to battle floodwaters to get to or from his job.

It was the second successive heavy weekend rain storm and third successive Saturday-Sunday downpour. However, local precipitation was not as much as the Feb. 6-7 rain, the last downpour leaving 3.75 inches as compared to 4.20 inches for the first storm this month.

The total rainfall this season is now 16.63 inches, the most Torrance has received at this time of year since the high school began recording raindrops in 1929. Last year at this date, Torrance had 8.78 inches. A total of 8.29 inches of rain has fallen here so far this month.

Highway Deep in Mud

Other rain totals at this date were: 1935—14.03; 1934—7.26; 1933—9.33; 1932—14.51; 1931—13.98; 1930—6.82 and 1929—6.02. The average rainfall as of Feb. 18 is 10.81 inches.

Lomita reports 4.89 inches from the weekend storm, bringing the season's total to 18.49 as compared with 6.64 inches to date last year. Lomita boulevard was closed at two points and barriers erected across several other inner streets in that vicinity for the safety of motorists late Saturday afternoon. The state highway was deep in mud and debris at the foot of Eshelman avenue and at 249th and Eshelman mud was piled up two feet deep.

In Torrance, however, the flood caused little if any inconvenience and there was no damage or evacuation of homes. Western avenue was closed to traffic Saturday night but all streets within the main part of the city were free from water. No industrial plant suffered any loss although the Hydril company in the southwestern part of the city was surrounded by water.

Shoestring Flooded

The only inconvenience here was the halting of street car facilities between this city and Los Angeles and San Pedro. This was rectified with the installation of a bus service Monday morning that connected local passengers with the Redondo car line.

The P. E. tracks were washed out on both sides of Torrance. Train service was resumed early Monday afternoon.

Mail service was disrupted a few hours but Postmaster Earl Conner taxied two loads to Redondo and brought in 43 bags from that city Monday morning and the brief interruption was hardly noticed.

A number of homes in the Shoestring strip were abandoned as flood waters reached to floor levels, especially to the east of the city where a number of small ranches were inundated and crops are still under water.

City Rests Secure

Fair weather Monday cheered thousands of residents in communities all around Torrance which were flooded. Hundreds of workers began drudging in the mud to clear streets of thousands of tons of debris spread over the highways by the weekend rains. The run-off from the Palos Verdes hills surged down upon Wilmington and San Pedro to cause considerable damage and the Wilmington-San Pedro road was blocked entirely by an avalanche of clay. The port was accessible by highway only through mud and water in many places running-board deep.

More than a foot of mud over the Gardena line P. E. tracks had to be shovelled away before traffic was resumed there. Large areas of Long Beach, Compton, Watts, Hawthorne, Lennox and other populous sections northward were badly flooded. Vast areas became

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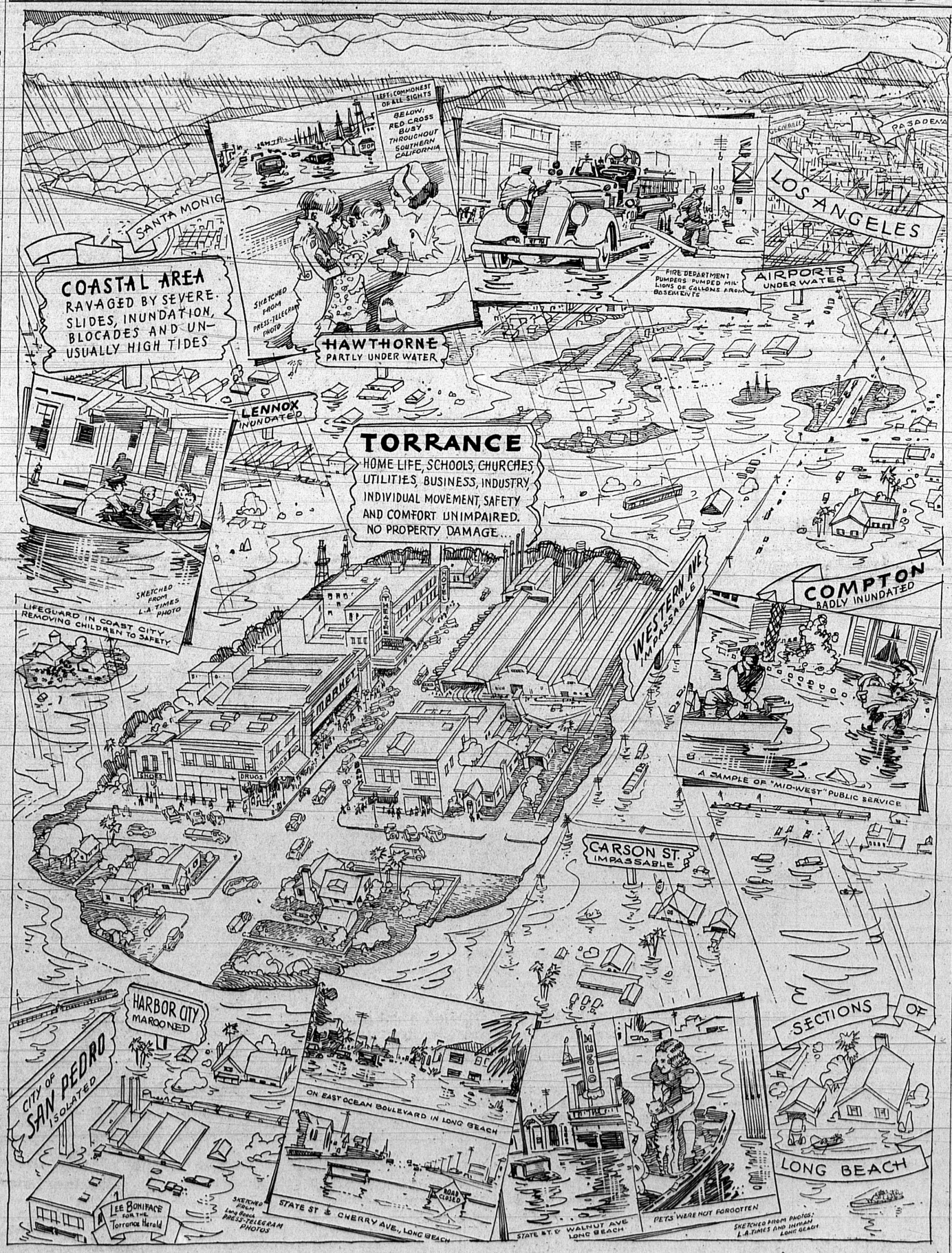
THE MODERN NOAH'S ARK...FEARS NO FLOOD!



The weather man provided a smashing reason for living in Torrance this week—as the above graphic drawing proves. Employes of local industries who have their homes here consoled those who waded thru mud and flood debris in attempts to reach their jobs from other communities. Many of these had their cars stalled, their homes flooded, their furnishings damaged—all outside Torrance. Others gave up attempting to break thru flooded highways and returned home, losing pay.

Wet feet, exposure and sodden clothing took their health toll elsewhere and while homes in the rest of the Southland suffered more than a half-million dollars damage, not one house was flooded here! Real estate in surrounding territory tumbled downstream in flood waters but Torrance realty remained sound—all evidence that even the elements favor home-building in Torrance!

There are hundreds of reasonably priced desirable residential lots in Torrance. Under the FHA plan, workers here may build homes and pay for them in small monthly payments which include taxes, insurance, interest and retirement of loans. In most cases these are LESS than rent—with the added protection against increased rents.

Civic Building Awaits Final PWA Okay

Lowest Bid On the Proposed Structure Is $19,790 By Wickholm, Ltd.

If the city council at its adjourned meeting this afternoon awards the contract for the erection and furnishing of the proposed civic administration building to the lowest bidder, Eiser Wickholm, Ltd., the next move toward construction of the structure to adjoin the civic auditorium on El Prado will be up to the PWA authorities in Washington, D. C.

The council, it is understood, can award the contract to the low bidder subject to the approval of the PWA. A full report of all preliminary steps leading to the opening of the offers early this week was sent to the PWA office in Los Angeles for inspection and recommendation for final approval. No word has been received from the regional PWA officials concerning the progress on the joint city and federal project.

Get 13 Offers

Thirteen bids—six more than the number submitted on the building at the first call, Jan. 5—were opened and read in the presence of more than 50 representatives of construction companies present in the council chamber. The new quotations ranged from $24,207 to $19,790 on the erection and complete furnishing of the building. The first set of bids ranged from $29,986 to $23,350 on the building alone.

Eiser Wickholm, Ltd., was again apparently the lowest bidder for the complete project, his offer being $19,790 as compared to his Jan. 5 low estimate of $23,620 for erecting the building and partially equipping it.

This week the lowest bid on constructing the proposed civic structure was Guy E. Hall's $16,794. In addition to that job, the contractors were invited to submit three other quotations on equipping the building with the necessary furnishings and supplies.

First Bids Too High

After the first bids were received and shortly before all of them were thrown out and the contractors invited to bid on a slightly changed set of specifications, City Engineer Frank R. Leonard said that he and the architect, P. A. Eisen, had estimated the building would cost "about $17,000 and not more than $18,000 on the basis of $4 to $4.50 per square foot."

At that time Mayor W. H. Stanger expressed the opinion that the city could not build the proposed civic structure with the Jan. 5 bids because "our PWA allocation toward the cost will not permit anything over $18,000."

Following are the offers submitted Tuesday night, the first figure being the bid on the building itself, the second being the total of the bid including furnishings:

Second Bid Offers

Brunzell and Jacobs, $19,583, total $20,973; Kirk Lipshultz, $20,980, total $23,564; White McGinnis Company, $18,287, total $21,237; Stark and Schmidt, $19,875, total $22,738; Arthur Finner, $20,978, total $24,393; Long Beach Brick Company, $20,158, total $23,039.

Guy E. Hall, $16,794, total $19,847; Hansen, Howard and Schaffer, $21,374, total $24.207; Frank Schoenrock, $17,789, total $20,544; Eiser Wickholm, Ltd., $17,000, total $19,790; Whittacker and Snook, $17,250, total $20,310; R. J. Daum, $18,967, total $22,057; W. W. Petley, $16,873, total $19,813.

Muzzle Sought for Rooster Pair

Too late to actually hear the culprits disturbing the peace of the 1800 block on Andreo avenue, Capt. John Stroh of the police department started out this morning on a hunt for "two very loud roosters" who "start crowing about 5 a. m. and continue to 7 a. m., and then resume operations early in the evening." The police report on the rooster duet continues with the following threat: "Neighbors would like 'em muzzled—or else."