

Hospital Benefit Ball Saturday Night Needs Your Support

Proceeds to Maintain Institution's Service; Dance in Auditorium

Doctors on the Torrance Memorial hospital staff and their wives will serve as hosts Saturday night when the annual hospital benefit ball will be held for the first time in the decorated Civic Auditorium. This affair, one of the outstanding community social attractions of the season, promises to be exceptionally well attended because local residents are well aware of the fact that the hospital deserves their generous support.

Hospital Assn. Elects Officers at Meeting

Three cash door prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10 will be awarded during the evening and members of the Torrance Woman's club will serve sandwiches, soft drinks and coffee during and after the dance. The music will be furnished by Graff's 11-piece swing symphony of Inglewood which will start playing at 8 o'clock. Tickets for the benefit are priced at \$1 per person and these may be obtained from Woman's club members or at the door.

Need New Equipment

The reason why the Civic Auditorium was chosen for this year's hospital benefit was explained this week by those in charge of the function. The Surf and Sand club in Hermosa Beach, where the past several balls have been staged, is closed and therefore could not be obtained for the 1938 festivities. The Civic Auditorium will permit a much larger crowd with greater floor space for dancing and will be gayly decorated for the occasion by members of the Torrance Woman's club.

The hospital was forced to undertake a major expensive improvements during the past year to maintain its distinguished position in ratings of Southland institutions. These improvements, together with an increase of about \$300 in taxes proved a heavy burden because their costs were not covered by customary revenue sources.

Doctors on the hospital staff have been demanding a portable X-ray machine ever since the old one was discarded to conform to safety regulations. They insist that treatment of fracture cases makes the use of a portable machine imperative. Another piece of equipment which the hospital needs is a resuscitator. The local fire department has such equipment but a similar outfit is desired for the hospital for instantaneous use when artificial respiration means life or death in an emergency.

Popular Entertainment
During the past year the local institution was completely repainted at a cost of about \$1,000, the X-ray machine was made shock-proof to conform to insurance regulations at an expense of approximately \$300 and a new boiler replaced worn-out equipment. It is to make up this expense and others that the hospital ball is being held.

At the same time, the hospital increased its services to this (Continued on Page 2-A)

Dish Trucks Are Purchased for Auditorium

Learning from the experience of serving several large dinner gatherings in the Civic Auditorium, a fleet of rubber-tired trucks would greatly facilitate distribution and collection of dishes, the city council at its adjourned meeting Monday afternoon voted to expend \$146.50 for the purchase of such vehicles.

The trucks will be used to wheel in and out heavy loads otherwise carried by waiters or waitresses—at the banquet gatherings in the big hall.

New Home Construction and Modernization on Upswing

A distinct impetus to employment and general business in Torrance is in prospect, judging from inquiries for modernization and new home construction loans at the Bank of America here. Manager Dean L. Sears discloses there is lively interest in the terms of the amended National Housing Act, both in provisions for the financing of new homes and for the modernization of homes already built.

"Reinstatement of Title 1 of the housing act," Sears said yesterday, "is big news for owners of homes which are somewhat outmoded in design and conveniences, or which are too small for present needs. It means that financing of rehabilitation is again made easy."

He revealed that as a matter of fact, Bank of America never did discontinue making modernization loans, although Title

1 of the Original Housing Act expired in April, 1937.

"We carried on with our own plan," he said. "It is widely known that this bank has loaned more than \$55,000,000 in California for construction of new homes. But it is not so well known that our institution also made 105,000 rehabilitation loans for a total of \$37,800,000, a fair share of which was invested in this district."

"That should show that we believe modernization work is important, not only to the owners of homes but for the preservation and improvement of property values and the maintenance of the tone of residential areas."

It is also important, he adds, because much of such work can get under way quickly and thus start at once the desired upswing in employment, consumption of materials and general business.

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45 Rigs Active Now in South Field

City's Share of Fees \$5,236 From State

Torrance received \$5,236.26 through the apportionment of motor vehicle license fees to cities during 1937, according to announcement made today by the Department of Motor vehicles.

At the same time it was announced that \$495,468.99 had been allotted to the treasury of Los Angeles county under the law which provides for the apportionment of funds to cities and counties on a population basis.

Total allotment to cities the state for 1937 amounted to \$2,547,350.78 while the counties were apportioned a total of \$1,273,675.37.

Angelenos Take Over Hotel Here

Negotiations for the trade of the Roi Tan hotel building here to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Smith of Los Angeles in exchange for a 12-unit apartment house at 12th and Union streets in Los Angeles were completed this week by B. E. Gwartney, Angeleno real estate broker. The hotel was valued at \$25,000 in the trade, it was learned here.

The El Prado hostelry was owned by the Associated Hotels and the exchange deal was a three-way proposition between that firm, Mrs. Anna Mikelson and Al Curler, who operated the cafe and poolhall in the building.

It is understood that the new owners contemplate some extensive remodeling and Mrs. Mikelson, who will continue to operate the cafe also intends some renovations. Curler will also continue to operate the pool hall. The Associated Hotels still own the Sunset Court and Gaylord Apartments here.

Suicide Verdict Follows Inquest

Taken to Compton Sanitarium Feb. 2 at his own accord after his nervous breakdown had brought on a grievous mental unbalance at the home of his brother-in-law here, Walter H. Levy, 45, of Independence, Inyo county, took his own life there by hanging early Monday morning. Mr. Levy was under doctor's care here at the Willis M. Brooks' home for six weeks before he went to the sanitarium.

At the coroner's inquest this morning in Stone and Myers' chapel, it was brought out that Mr. Levy had suffered a fractured jaw and the autopsy showed severe internal injuries, but the verdict was "death by suicide, with contributing injuries." Mr. Levy was survived by his wife and several brothers and sisters. The body was taken to Independence today for the funeral service tomorrow.

Greatly depressed, Mr. Levy had threatened, it was disclosed at the hearing, to take his own life several times. The injury to his jaw was the result of a blow but who actually struck him remains a mystery. An attendant, Norman Tice of Texas, who was discharged by Dr. Jesse L. Henderson, resident physician, for being "a bit out of his mind," testified that the patient accidentally struck himself.

Further Investigation
He said that Mr. Levy pulled away from him and jerked his own hand into his face. Dr. Henderson said that the autopsy report of severe internal injuries was "a surprise to me." He declared that the patient showed no signs of disability up to his death.

Other witnesses examined by Arthur H. Cane, deputy county coroner, and I. Chappel, deputy district attorney, this morning were Willis M. Brooks of this city, who testified to Mr. Levy's (Continued on Page 2-A)

When a Tale of a Whale Makes a Whale of a Story!



Tossed up by rip tides on San Francisco's "graveyard of ships" just outside the Golden Gate, a 60-foot female sperm whale has become a mecca for tourists and a problem for city health authorities. Already beset by the antics of a male whale making amok inside the harbor, the city authorities are trying to get rid of the dead whale before its odor becomes so pronounced that nearby residents have to move out.

Nearby Expo Site's Prospects Brighten as Chavez Ravine Chosen for Armory

With the Chavez Ravine site of four and one-half acres deeded outright for the proposed Naval Reserve armory and thus out of the running for the Pacific Mercade or Exposition in 1940, prospects that the Figueroa-Vermont-Normandie-Midway acreage

Police Nab Man for Gambling; Find Bogus Dice

There were only two things wrong with Curtis Townsend's use of his leisure time: He is accused of gambling and using "crooked" dice. Townsend, a 27-year-old pipe-fitter living at 2232 230th street, was arrested Tuesday morning as he was "rolling them" in the presence of a large group of men on 230th street between Narbonne and Pennsylvania. Townsend will appear before Judge Lessing today.

Motor Sergeant Ernest Ashton and Motor Officer Percy Bennett halted the crapgame after they watched Townsend make several "passes" with dice which, when inspected, revealed that it would be impossible to "seven out" with them. The "queer" set and its counterpart of a "good" set of dice were confiscated.

NEW BRIDGES DENIED L. B.

Condition of flood control funds will make it impossible to undertake replacement of six bridges across the Los Angeles river adjacent to the city of Long Beach, Chief Engineer C. H. Howell said this week.

The bridges do not need replacing, he said. Long Beach city officials recently requested the district to replace the bridges, some of them having been built in 1921. The Ocean avenue, Anaheim street and Seventh street bridges were constructed by the flood control district when the Long Beach channel was constructed for the Los Angeles river by the federal government so that it would not empty into Los Angeles harbor.

"It is our understanding that the district is no longer responsible for the maintenance or replacement of bridges upon their completion and opening for traffic," Howell explained in a letter which he filed with the supervisors. "Even if the use of district funds were legal, our commitments for acquiring right of way for federal projects would so encumber our funds that it would be impossible to provide for replacement of these bridges," Howell said in conclusion.

REGISTRATION TOTAL.
Total registration in Los Angeles county now stands at 1,238,232.

Reports Conflict on Grubbs' Production; May Extend Field

Two more deepened wells in the booming South Torrance field came in during the past week, one producing a crop of conflicting reports and the other offering only fair encouragement to operators questing for richer high gravity black gold in strata around 5,000 feet.

First Benefit Check Awarded Job-Seeker Today

First check—and a most welcome one!—from the California Unemployment Reserves Commission was delivered to a local jobless resident here today by Dr. Melville Z. Ellis, manager of the California State Employment bureau on Carson street.

It was given to Ed Sherman Clouch, 33-year-old laborer who has been out of work since Dec. 5. Clouch lives at 1639 West Carson with his wife and four children. He was formerly employed at the Columbia Steel plant.

The check was for \$10.80 and Clouch will receive a total of \$69 if he fails to find work during the next few weeks. Ten dollars and eighty cents isn't much but to Job-Seeker Clouch it meant a great deal. Manager Ellis is expecting more benefit checks in succeeding months to assist others whose "waiting period" of four weeks has expired and they are still without work.

Merchants' Meet Stir Optimism

Meeting for its first dinner-session in 1938, the Torrance Retail Merchants' association attracted 65 representative business men and women to a gathering last night in Daniels cafe that was marked for its optimism and confidence that the current recession has about run its course.

President Harvel Guttenfelder presided and following the business session the group enjoyed seeing the sound motion picture "Along Main Street" which depicted the value of customer good will in many ways. Guttenfelder reported on the Christmas activities of the association and announced that the fund collected for the decorations last Yuletide was enough to cover all expenses and clear up the deficit from the 1936 holiday "splurge." He gave full credit to the decorations committee for this fine showing.

The association leader also announced that efforts will be made in time this year to secure a branch office of the State Motor Vehicle department where 1939 license plates will be issued in Torrance. Applications to provide this service must be made in August.

Special Sale Coming
Jack Miller, speaking on behalf of the student dances to be held regularly each Friday (Continued on Page 4-A)

County Tax Levies Object of Second Attack by Group of Attorneys in Suit

Another attack on Los Angeles county's tax levies has been launched by a group of Los Angeles attorneys, in a taxpayer's suit on file in superior court today.

The newest attack is aimed at certain items in the levy made for 1935-36, and involves the general county levy of \$1.19 made that fiscal year, and the Los Angeles city school district levy, but no city taxes. The plaintiff is John S. Ward of Los Angeles.

Already under attack is the county's 1933-34 levy, in which Superior Judge Fletcher W. Bowron decided against the county, and which the county now is appealing to the California Supreme Court.

Three Points of Attack
Allegation is made in the new attack that a total of 34.6 cents of the total levy is illegal. Suits attacking the levies must be filed within three years from the date the taxes were paid, to be within the statute of limitations.

Three reasons are given for attacking the levy. First, it is asserted that the board of supervisors placed certain items in the budget and made many changes after the public hearings had been held on the items in the preliminary budget. Attorneys said they learned that the county counsel's office advised the supervisors against this procedure at the time last

year's final budget was adopted. Secondly, it is alleged that several items of revenue from known sources were omitted from the budget in 1935-36. These items should have been considered, the complaint states.

Reply Due March 1
Lastly, the suit attacks two items set up in the general fund of the Los Angeles elementary, high school and junior college district involving approximately \$750,000. Provision is made for a reserve for contingencies and for a so-called cash reserve.

Contention of the action is that no such authority exists to levy a tax for these purposes. Reply of the county is due by March 1.

Everett Grubbs' No. 2 off Pennsylvania at Sepulveda is the subject of intense speculation and rumor. Two production figures, both quoted with assurance by those who should know, for the well are going the rounds. One report has Grubbs' hole coming in flowing 500 barrels. The other, from sources close to the "discovery" operator Grubbs, minimizes the production to 125 barrels.

May Extend Field
However, it was learned by The Herald on excellent authority today that Grubbs is seeking more lease-holds in the South Torrance field and is even considering property as far south as 236th street. This is well away from the center of deepening activities and if Grubbs is interested that far south, then one would be led to believe that production at his No. 2 is much greater than the 125-barrel figure.

Several more oilmen entered the field until now the most reliable report is that there are 45 rigs being worked at the present time.

Other developments this week included Albertson Oil's bringing in its deepened well on 233rd off Narbonne on Tuesday. This well reportedly has been cored at 5,123 feet and brought in at the 5,130-foot level to make the sixth producing deep-sand well in the area.

Favor "Going Easy"
Production is said to be around 150 barrels but pressure has not been held true and this may be improved during the coming week.

Grubbs sunk his deep-thrust to 4,986 feet. Pressure at this well is also not uniform and the pipe needs casing, it is reported. Likewise, the production has not been gauged for accuracy. The well was brought in last Sunday.

Kelly-O'Brien's Emerald Oil had to be cemented for a second time to effect water-shutoff. The general impression persists that "the field still has a lot of testing to go yet before it is proven."

Larger Pipe Possible
Conservative oilmen in the area believe that this "go easy" trend of opinion is productive of much better results and a boon to the industry than a constant flurry of ill-founded rumors and conjectures that would lead to wild booming and resultant heavy losses. However, it may be reported that ultra-conservation, as expressed in the use of old equipment and heavy worn pipe, may be hampering successful exploitation of the known richer sands at the deeper levels.

Chief interest is now centering in the "grass-roots" projects where, because larger pipe can be used (most of the deepened holes have been forced to reduce to about three inches at base) greater production is possible when the wells are brought in. Several new holes are due to be brought in within a week.

More wells are expected to start producing shortly. Neil Anderson has cemented one at around 5,000 feet and another close to that level. Both are deepened holes and they are expected to be drilled thru by the end of this week.

Grubbs' May Deepen
Water trouble at Kelly-O'Brien's Emerald at the corner of 233rd and Narbonne was giving these veteran oilmen considerable effort this week. The well is standing at 5,129.

Doyle Petroleum has cemented surface pipe at the 229th and Narbonne rig and reported preparing to cement at the 230th street hole. Meanwhile, Grubbs' No. 1, the discovery (Continued on Page 2-A)