

## Narbonne's Principal for 18 Years Going to Larger Venice High

Bringing to an end a close association with Lomita, its people and organizations that has lasted for nearly 18 years, Miss Clementina de Forest Griffin, who has been Narbonne high school's able principal for that period of time, was assigned late last week to the Venice high school beginning with the 1938-39 term in September. The assignment, together with some 10 other changes in school management in the Los Angeles city system, was announced by the board of education.

Miss Griffin, who won the esteem and friendship of students, parents and civic leaders for her many services to the Lomita community, will be succeeded by John Leslie Abbott, former boys' vice-principal at Susan M. Dorsey Junior high school. The Narbonne principal transfer was the only harbor district high school change announced although John Whitley, Gardena high school principal, has retired.

Several other personnel changes are due to be made at the Lomita high school because of Miss Griffin's transfer. Ben Comrada, vice-principal, boys' counselor and veteran coach, is also slated for transfer because Narbonne is not large enough for more than one vice-principal.

**Held Merited Promotion**  
A woman will be appointed to replace Comrada, it is believed, because the school board has long followed a policy of having a woman in that position when there is a man principal and vice versa.

Abbott, as new principal, will also serve as boys' vice-principal, it is understood. Miss Griffin said this week that she has accepted the Venice high school position although she regretted breaking the close friendships formed with Lomita people and institutions. Venice high has an enrollment of between 2,300 and 2,500 students or more than twice that of Narbonne.

It has a staff of about 90 teachers and two vice-principals. The change is regarded by school authorities as a well-earned advance for Miss Griffin. It also has the advantage of placing her a school closer to her home at 3301 West Adams street, Los Angeles.

**Wise Counsel Valued**  
A strict disciplinarian, an educator who believes scholastic attainments are the peer of athletic prowess and a generous spirit who constantly sought to mask her many charities in anonymity, Miss Griffin leaves an indelible impression on Narbonne high school and the Lomita community. She has legions of friends throughout the harbor district and her graduates have always remained loyal to "the Griffin ideal" of high scholarship and cooperating citizenship.

With but few and isolated exceptions, Lomitanians in general sincerely regret her transfer. After 18 years in the community, eight years in a long time and friendships won and held during that period of time are not prone to break with ease. But Lomita people will not be the only ones to miss her wise counsel and active interest in community activities. Here in Torrance Miss Griffin had many admirers who feel that they are losing an associate valued for her vigorous spirit and cooperative zeal.

**Other Changes Told**  
Phil Lieb, physical education director during the past year at Narbonne, has been transferred to Polytechnic high school's physical education staff, it was learned this week. Other general changes were as follows:

Ralph Detler from Huntington Park to Fairfax; Claude Reeves from Bell to Huntington Park; Charles H. Naylor from Huntington Park to Canoga Park; Francis X. Goulet from Edison Junior high to Bell; Clementina de Forest Griffin from Narbonne to Venice; Harry Gross from San Fernando to Roosevelt; Floyd Hann from Roosevelt to Manual Arts; Edwin Compton from curriculum department to Edison Junior high; Elizabeth Sands from curriculum department to Mulr Junior high; Paul Webb from research department to San Fernando. Retiring principals are Rae Van Cleve, Fairfax; George Monroe, Canoga Park; Edward Clark, Venice; Albert Wilson, Manual Arts; John Whitley, Gardena.

**Oil Concern Is Granted Permit**

A building permit for the construction of an oil cleaning and topping plant, estimated cost \$3,500, was ordered issued to the Crown Oil and Refining company of this city Tuesday night by the city council. The president of the concern, E. E. Peveto, applied for the permit in a letter that stated the building would be erected below the Pacific Electric station near the old refinery in the industrial tract.

## Mayor Revives Recovery of Bull-Fiddle

Dormant for the past two months, the "bull-fiddle battle" which began May 12 when the city started to recover possession of a string bass valued at \$175 from the Torrance Musicians' Society was revived Tuesday night by Mayor William H. Tolson.

"...About that bull-fiddle... I don't know what to do about it," he began. "I understand it has strayed off clear out of town... well, we'll talk it over at our next meeting."

Efforts to recover the instrument, including orders to the police department to confiscate it, have failed to date. Mayor Tolson did not elaborate on his understanding that it was now out of the city.

## DRIVER HELD FOR DEATH CRASH HERE

Charged with negligent homicide as the result of a fatal accident last Saturday afternoon at the intersection of Hawthorne avenue and Highway 101, in which Leo Wentz, 35, of Long Beach, was killed following a collision of his motorcycle and a Ford sedan, William C. Holmes, 50-year-old salesman and resident of Altadena, will have a preliminary hearing tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock before City Judge Robert Lessing.

Attorney John Shilder of this city is serving as Holmes' counsel. Holmes, who reported the accident to local police an hour and a half after it occurred, is out on \$1,000 bail. The coroner's jury investigating the fatality yesterday morning brought in a verdict that Wentz's death was "accidental and due to negligence on the part of Holmes."

The coroner's probe revealed serious discrepancies between the defendant's claim that he halted on Hawthorne to make the boulevard stop before proceeding across Highway 101 and two witnesses who claim he did not observe the stop.

Holmes was driving south on Hawthorne, enroute to his temporary residence at the Alvin Rice home in Palms Vedes last Saturday afternoon about 2 o'clock. The victim, Leo Wentz, who was married for the second time two weeks ago, was motoring east on the highway. Witnesses at the inquest testified he tried to avoid colliding with Holmes' car but struck it on the right front side. Wentz and his motorcycle was flung to the side of the road and his broken body was thrown up on the sidewalk.

**Fear for Wife's Health**  
Wentz was rushed to Torrance Memorial hospital in Stone and Myers' ambulance and he died there an hour later. He is survived by his bride, Mrs. Caroline Wentz, who lives in Oxford, a 13-month-old daughter.

(Continued on Page 4-A)

## TAX RATES RETAINED

Having received from the county auditor the total assessed valuations of Torrance tax districts Nos. 1 and 2 and of the Municipal Water district (see valuation story elsewhere on this page), City Clerk A. H. Bartlett introduced the ordinance Tuesday night which will fix the 1938-39 municipal tax rates. These are the same for the preceding year—\$1.10 per \$100 assessed valuation in District No. 1 (the original city) and \$1.07 for district No. 2 (annexed territory).

Fund	No. 1	No. 2
General budget	\$.86	\$.86
Parks, Music and Adv.	.10	.10
Gen'l Promotion	.01	.01
Public Library general fund	.05	.05
Bond interest and redemption, 1932	.03	.03
Bond interest and redemption, 1935, city hall & jail	.025	.025
Bond interest and redemption, Auditorium	.025	.025
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>	<b>\$1.07</b>

# "TORRANCE ON THE AIR!" ...

## Souvenir Edition in Preparation for Publication by Herald Next Month



Determined to present "the story of Torrance in 1938" in a form and style complementary to the moderne architecture of the new KNX-CBS transmitter station and the Civic Center Buildings, The Herald staff is now busily compiling material, photos and advertising for a "Torrance on the Air" souvenir edition. This publication is tentatively scheduled for issue on Sept. 8.

Every effort is being made to include all phases of Torrance development... the amazing revival of the oil field... graphs showing the city's gains in population... in building... in school attendance. Many new features of and about this community will be reported by word and by new pictures.

The theme of the souvenir edition—Torrance's welcome to the \$350,000 KNX-CBS plant—will be covered in detail with special stories and feature articles giving an intimate understanding of what the radio establishment at Columbia Park here really

means. This material is being prepared by KNX and CBS engineers to insure its accuracy.

While the opening of the transmitter station provides the theme and incentive of this publication, only about eight of its 48 or more pages will be devoted to the radio plant. The other pages will be filled with articles and pictures about Torrance, its people, its organizations, its industries and community life.

In magazine style, printed in colors, "Torrance On the Air" will be a distinctive souvenir edition, easily digested and kept for future reference. More than 200 photos have already been taken by The Herald's staff photographer for inclusion in this publication.

The press order will include several thousands of extra copies for wide-spread distribution and sale. The Herald is confident that the two months' preliminary work in designing the make-up of the souvenir edition will bring a final result that will merit any readers' attention and spur interest in Torrance.

From week-to-week until the day of publication early next month, further details of the "Torrance On the Air" souvenir edition will be reported. Announcement will be made shortly of the advance sale for distribution throughout the world.

# TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — 10 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS

24th YEAR—No. 32.

TORRANCE, CALIF., AUGUST 11, 1938

PER COPY 5c

## Dedicate KNX-CBS Plant Here Sept. 10

### CITY VOTE TOTAL HITS NEW PEAK

Torrance hit a new high in registration for the Aug. 30 primary election with the announcement this week that a total of 4,687 men and women are eligible to ballot on the candidates seeking county, state and federal offices.

The new total of 4,687 compares with a total of only 3,970 for the general election of four years ago when Upton Sinclair, a former socialist, obtained a Democratic following, got the party's nomination but lost the election when many old-line Democrats allied themselves with the G.O.P.

Twenty-four cities have a Democratic majority, and the other 10 remain Republican, with San Marino and Pasadena having strong majorities. Los Angeles, Long Beach, Compton, Huntington Park, South Gate, Bell and Maywood have overwhelming Democratic majorities.

**Bourbons Hold Lead**  
Torrance's registration is divided among the seven political parties and the decline-to-state group as follows: Democratic 3,155; Republican 1,290; Socialist 10; Prohibition 12; Progressive 7; Communist 1; Commonwealth 2; Townsend 4; Decline-to-State 166; making a total of 4,687.

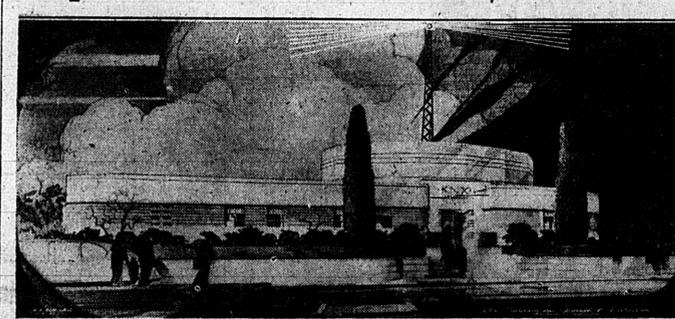
The 44 incorporated cities of the county have a total registration of 1,269,148 for the August primary, while only 192,713 reside in unincorporated territory. Total for the county is given as 1,461,861, the highest in the county's history.

Democrats still hold a nearly two-to-one advantage over Republicans—the count being: Democrats 888,338; Republicans 487,352.

### LOMITA REGISTRATION 3,290—NEW HIGH

Lomita, like Torrance, also reached a new peak in registration for the primary election, with the announcement that a total of 3,290 persons are eligible to vote at the election. The total is divided as follows: Democrats 2,198; Republicans 949; Socialist 10; Prohibition 5; Commonwealth 2; Communist 1; Commonwealth, none; Townsend 4. (Continued on Page 2-A)

### Inspiration for Two Civic Events



Workmen are now putting the finishing touches on what radio engineers describe as "the last word in high fidelity transmitting plants" at the Columbia Park KNX-CBS station in Torrance. This \$350,000 structure has furnished the theme for two civic events of great interest: The dinner-broadcast festivities in the Civic Auditorium, tentatively set for Sept. 10, and the publication, by The Herald, of a special edition—"Torrance on the Air"—planned for Sept. 8. The Herald's contribution to the community's welcome to the KNX-CBS entry into Torrance will contain scores of new pictures, articles and features of particular interest to all Southern Californians.

### 15 DERRICKS GET PERMITS

With 15 of the 19 building permits issued during the past week allowing the construction of new wooden oil derricks in the South Torrance field, the week's construction total amounted to \$77,850. The number of permits for new derricks set a new record here. The average of new well towers has been six a week here for the past year.

The locations of the new projects are given in the news summary of oil field activities published elsewhere on this page. The remaining building permits covered the following construction:

The Woolner Oil company of Long Beach is building a galvanized iron frame warehouse at 2422 227th for \$450; Oscar Walls is adding to a garage at 1727 Martina; \$100; L. H. Kurtz is building a frame dairy barn 44 by 40 feet with cement walls and a corrugated iron roof at 16601 Arlington, \$1,000, and Otto J. Batsch is erecting an addition to his house at 2413 Cabrillo, \$1,300.

### Gas Company Pays 45-Cent Franchise Fee

A total of 160 feet of pipeline having been laid during the past six months, the Southern California Gas company tendered its franchise payment by check to the city treasury Tuesday night.

The city council learned that, at the regular franchise fee of \$15 per mile, the payment totaled 45 cents.

### School Budget Gets Under Way

With only hours to spare, the Los Angeles school district board of education late Wednesday adopted its \$41,497,591 budget for 1938-39, just in time to legally qualify for the \$18,000,000 in state and county allocations.

Adoption of the budget had been held up to the last possible day by a temporary restraining order issued by Superior Judge Jess E. Stephens pending his decision in a petition for a writ of mandate, filed by a taxpayer, to compel the board to stop off \$5,682,249 from the total.

### VALUATION IS 20 1/2 MILLION

Revealing an amazing gain of nearly a million and a half, the total assessed valuation of Torrance, including public utilities, is \$20,500,100 for 1938-39!

This figure, the basis for the city council's computation of the municipal tax rate and subsequent income for the year, was obtained Tuesday by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett from the county assessor's office.

The increase is actually \$1,545,605 over last year's total assessed valuation. The council, having retained the municipal tax rates of \$1.07 (in annexed territory) and \$1.10 (on property within the original city limits) per \$100 assessed valuation, will thus have considerably more funds this year for municipal use.

**Raises General Fund**  
Valuation totals for the two tax districts are: No. 1, \$9,484,850; No. 2, \$11,015,250.

A part of these totals, the valuation on public utilities operating in this city are: \$1,107,710; No. 2, \$1,630,310. Last year's (Continued on Page 2-A)

## Oil Activity Continues March South, East and West

### This Week in the Oil Fields . . .

Record producer (950 barrels) brought in. New "outpost" wells being drilled south and east. Eshelman avenue area being revived. Production curtailment expected in September. Six new wells go on production. More projects staked in Harbor City area. Casing being set on Rolling Hills well. Lease agents offer "boom-time" prices.

The well is now standing cemented around 5,000 feet. Two New "Outposts" Indications that the South Torrance-Lomita field is going more west than south with Bandini Oil company establishing the newest "outpost" well on the Weston Ranch near the Hydril plant. The Union Oil drilled

street. Agents and oil firms were reported paying up to \$5,000 bonus and up to 20 percent for rights.

Having disposed of his Carson street lease to Petty-John Oil company of San Diego, P. V. Collier, who originally tapped the deeper sands here, has been moving machinery in on the old Ted Frenger lease of 10 acres at Hawthorne boulevard for a deep plunge.

**Curtailment Expected**  
Eshelman avenue again popped into prominence as four wells were started at the corner of 237th. Farther north, Eshelman projects were unsuccessful on account of water penetration. The new wells are regarded as (Continued on Page 3-A)

## PLAN CELEBRATION DINNER-RADIOCAST TO MARK OPENING

Dedication of the new \$350,000 KNX transmitter at Columbia Park at Hawthorne avenue and 190th street, has been tentatively set for Sept. 10 by Donald W. Thornburgh, CBS vice-president in charge of Pacific Coast operations. Completion of this new 50,000 watt broadcasting plant

is closely following dedication of the new CBS studios at Columbia Square in Hollywood, establishes Columbia's Pacific Coast headquarters as the most modern and complete radio station in the world. The new facilities represent an investment by CBS of approximately \$2,000,000, and both the studios and the transmitter incorporate the latest devices of radio accomplishment.

The 37-acre plot on which the new KNX transmitter is located, was originally a land grant by the King of Spain to Juan Jose Dominguez, one of the early California Dons.

**Plan Gala Celebration**  
Soon after the construction started on the transmitter, the city council passed a resolution designating the site as "Columbia Park," and plans are under way now for a gala celebration here Sept. 10 when the building is officially opened.

A meeting of the city committee charged with the local end of the dedicatory program will be held early next week to lay the groundwork for the dinner and major network broadcast show that is to be held in the Civic Auditorium. This committee is composed of L. J. Gilmeister, chairman; City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, treasurer; Alden W. Smith, president of the Chamber of Commerce; George J. Peckham, president of the Torrance Retail Merchants' association; Mayor William H. Tolson, City Councilmen James Hitchcock and Thomas McGuire and Publisher Grover C. Whyte of The Herald.

"We are extremely proud of our new Columbia 'workshop,' which is now from the basement of the studio building to the tip of the 490-foot tower," declared Thornburgh. The new transmitter bids fair to become one of Southern California's showplaces, resembling in exterior design a country club, more than a broadcasting plant. The new white and red concrete building sits back from the highway approximately 30 yards, facing a lawn landscaped with trees and flowers.

**Tour Thru Station**  
Some 200 yards to the rear of the transmitter building, stands the 490-foot, triangular tower, from whence KNX-CBS programs will radiate. Located only four miles from the Pacific ocean, CBS programs will have the advantage of transmission over salt water in both northerly and southerly directions, which is expected greatly to enhance the clarity of the signal, according to James Middlebrooks, CBS liaison engineer, in charge of construction.

### Brush Blaze Causes Freak 4-Car Crash

While the county forestry department battled a brush fire on the banks of Nigger Slough last Friday afternoon, four cars, their drivers, confused by the billowing smoke, piled up in a crash on Main street. Only one person, Charles M. King of 20718 Main street, Keystone, was injured. He suffered lacerations and bruises. All four cars were badly damaged.

The freak accident occurred, according to deputy sheriffs, when a car said to have been driven by George P. Morros, 21, of San Pedro, struck a parked car hidden by the dense smoke. Morros' car was in turn hit by King's machine and a fourth car, driven by Otto G. Sampson of Long Beach, piled into them before the brush fire was extinguished.

(Continued on Page 2-A)