

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — 12 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1939

PER COPY 5c

25th YEAR—No. 10.

New Torrance Catholic Church . . . Opens With Impressive Rites



IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES . . . Marked the celebration last Sunday of the first Mass to be held in the new \$25,000 Torrance Catholic Church of the Nativity. At the left is a view of the interior of the Spanish-Colonial structure at Engracia and Manuel avenue as seen from the choir

loft. Rev. Father Noel Dillon of St. Columkille's church, Los Angeles, is delivering the inaugural sermon while the resident priest, Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald is sitting at the right with altar boys. The massive yet simple architecture of the church is apparent from the beamed ceiling

and the canopied altar and the two side altars. Father Fitzgerald is shown in the center photo as he was entering the new church robed in the vestments of his office. At the right is a close-up view of the main altar with the pulpit at the left. The rich velvet drapes in the canopy form

a colorful background to the ebony crucifix and the six tall candles that illuminate the altar with its large gold tabernacle. New pews and a sound-proofed floor make the large nave most attractive. The above photos were made by William Husband of 1811 1/2 Gramercy avenue.

Alondra Parkers Vote Tax Strike; Group to Contact Supervisors

VITAL MEETING HERE NIGHT OF MARCH 18
Every property owner interested in the outcome of the Alondra Park assessment fight is urged to attend a "decision" meeting at the Civic Auditorium next Thursday night, March 16, when the executive committee is to report its impressions of the supervisors' attitude toward lifting the tax burden. Supervisor Oscar Haughe is expected to be present that night when a final decision regarding a tax strike will be sought from Alondra Park property owners.

Members of the Alondra Park Taxpayers' association, meeting here last Thursday night, voted to withhold paying assessments in the Alondra Park improvement district. It was also decided to go before the supervisors and again seek some redress. The time of this appearance was tentatively set for March 14 in Los Angeles.

On the committee scheduled to try again for some relief from the crushing assessment burden that has hung over the large Alondra Park area (about 9,000 acres) are John Salm of this city, Judge Frank Carrell and Pat MacDonnell of Gardena, B. L. Cook of Lawndale, Mayor Colfax Hill and Councilman Chester Daxley of Redondo Beach.

The Alondra Park improvement district, which includes portions of Torrance, Redondo Beach, Gardena and the unincorporated district between those cities, was formed in 1927 under the Matton Act. The land taken in at that time for park purposes is about 320 acres, located on the north side of Redondo boulevard and between Crenshaw and Prairie avenues.

Area Closed to Public
The county, until last year, had made contribution of about \$72,000 annually to take care of the assessments for principal and interest on the bonds, which originally totaled in excess of a million dollars. The amount unpaid is now in excess of \$668,000.

Because the county did not grant its customary \$72,000 last year, the tax rate, in addition to all other taxation that has been levied on the district, is \$3.30 per \$100 assessed valuation in one Alondra Park zone and \$1.98 in another, the latter area extending into a district, which association members declare, cannot possibly be benefited to any extent, by the so-called "park."

Property owners are objecting to the district even being called a "park," contending that it has never been improved for development as a recreation area and that the present time is closed off to the public.

AWAIT TEST DATE

No information has been received as yet by Postmaster Riva Pedrick as to the time for the Civil Service examination for postmaster in that community. A large number of Lomitas have filed applications to take the test.

A. and I. No. 70 Taxpayers Will Meet Here Tonight

A mass meeting of taxpayers interested in lifting the Matton Act bond assessments from A. & I. District No. 70, off Normandie avenue in the Shooting strip, will be held at the Steelworkers' hall, 1536 Crenshaw avenue, tonight at 8 o'clock.

All owners within that district who desire to obtain relief from the \$79,000 bond issue now due, are urged by Mrs. A. Green of 1622 Carson street to attend this meeting and participate in making plans for a request to the board of supervisors. S. E. Elliott, special assessment investigator for the county, is expected to attend and give some late information about the district's indebtedness.

MWD Group Meets Mar. 15

First meeting of the recently formed committee to obtain information on what the Metropolitan Water District will mean to Torrance when Colorado River aqueduct water becomes available the latter part of this year will be held next Wednesday noon, March 15, at the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse.

William H. Stanger, manager of the Torrance Municipal Water District, is chairman of the group which will confer with M. W. D. engineers and officials to frame a series of informative questions that will be answered at a public meeting in the near future.



Torrance Herald Photo. Altar Boys Lead Procession of Priests from Parish house on Engracia Into New Catholic Church

Harbor Chambers Meeting Tonight

In conjunction with the South-side Chamber of Commerce, the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce will hold a dinner-meeting tonight at Club Shangri-La, 1010 East Slauson avenue, to celebrate the opening of a "bottle-neck" on that thoroughfare near Compton.

The Harbor District group held regular business sessions this afternoon, beginning with an important highway committee meeting and concluding with a general business party. At the dinner-meeting Dr. Rufus B. von KleinSmid, president of U.S.C.; Mayor Fletcher-Bowron, Supervisor Gordon L. McDonough and Judge Leroy Dawson are scheduled to speak.

Week's Building Totals \$8,950

Building permits issued during the past week from the office of the city engineer totaled \$8,950. They were issued to: C. H. Lebow for a steel derrick at 24125 Walnut, \$5,000; Charles E. Hadley for an addition to a residence at 1317 Cedar, \$200; Ganby Boos for a four-room frame moved-in house at 1230 Date, \$1,000; Victor H. Johnson for a four-car frame garage at 2421 Sierra, \$400; M. Granitzky for a one-story frame and brick veneer storage and machinery repair building at 1941 182nd, \$600, and the Vesta Petroleum company for two 1,000-barrel welded oil tanks at 1039 228th, \$1,750.

'TIS A GREAT DAY!
An All-Irish program in observance of St. Patrick's Day, March 17, is being prepared for Narbonne high school students.

PROCESSIONS PRECEDE FIRST SERVICES IN LARGE EDIFICE

Half-an-hour after Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald had reverently carried the Blessed Sacrament from the old church to the new while a hundred parishioners knelt along the sidewalk Sunday morning, the \$25,000 edifice at the corner of Engracia and Manuel avenues, the Catholic Church of the Nativity, became the parish center with celebration of High Mass.

Preceding the first service in the new church, there was a second procession of altar boys and other surplice-garbed youngsters followed by the local priest and Rev. Fathers James Falvey of Loyola University, James McLaughlin of San Pedro and Noel Dillon of Los Angeles from the parish house to the Spanish-Colonial structure whose 60-foot tower is now becoming a Torrance landmark.

The church was filled almost to its capacity of 410 when Father Fitzgerald began intoning the Mass before the canopied liturgical altar. A second High Mass followed at 11 to start the Forty Hours' Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This period of continuous prayer and meditation ended Tuesday morning with the ceremony of the Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

First sermon in the new church was preached by Father Noel Dillon of St. Columkille's church, Los Angeles, who invited the parish to use the new building as a "sanctuary where all can shed the cares and worries of everyday life in serene contemplation of Our Lord's many gifts to the world." A large choir, directed by Miss Mary Scallan and Mrs. Neil McCloghlin of this city, sang the responses and offertory of the Mass with exceptional effect from the choir loft overlooking the rear of the church.

The altar, flooded with indi-

Bride Killed in Lomita Crash

A coroner's jury Tuesday afternoon refused to fix blame for the auto-truck crash that caused the death last Thursday of Mrs. Gladys Jameson, 30, a Long Beach bride of a few weeks, at Lomita boulevard and Eshelman avenue. The jury, sitting at A. M. Gandy's chapel in Lomita, held the accident was unavoidable.

Ray Vickery, 40, truck driver of Long Beach, is in the county hospital recovering from injuries and Dr. Harry Jameson, 45, Long Beach dentist who was driving the car involved in the crash, is still reported in a serious condition at Torrance Memorial hospital. Anna Rhodabager, 55, passenger in the Jameson car, is recovering from severe bruises.

The accident, which resulted in the first fatality in the Lomita area this year, occurred at the same intersection where an auto-truck crash cost the life of Otis Pedersen, veteran Lomita rural mail carrier.

Mrs. Jameson, married but three weeks, was instantly killed when the car she was riding in collided or was struck by the truck driven by Vickery.

C. I. O. Leader in Demand as Speaker

Carl Steele, president of the local C. I. O. lodge of steelworkers, was one of the principal speakers at the C. I. O. lodge formed by International Harvester and General Metals workers Tuesday night in Maywood. Tomorrow night Steele will address a meeting of the Consolidated Steel lodge in the same community.

Cities Unite to Push Extension of Western Avenue to Completion

A concerted "bird-dog" drive to put thru extension and improvement of Western avenue at the earliest possible date was launched at an enthusiastic meeting yesterday at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce offices.

Present were Roy O. Baldwin, chairman of the highways committee of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce; Supervisor Oscar Haughe, O. E. Cooley, assistant county road commissioner, and 36 other leading citizens from San Pedro, Torrance, East Torrance (L. A. Shoestring), Lomita, Harbor City and other communities along the proposed highway improvement. Loren Howe opened the meeting and later introduced Baldwin, as chairman.

First objective of the Western avenue campaign will be the acquisition of right-of-way between 228th street and Lomita boulevard, most of which is in Los Angeles city territory, but a small strip of which is within the city limits of Torrance thru the Ketter property. South of Lomita boulevard, the right-of-way follows an entirely new route thru the Palos Verdes Hills. It is wholly within unincorporated county territory and the right-of-way has been secured, Asst. County Road Commissioner Cooley reported.

Planners Seek Co. Consultant

Recommendation to the city council that a contract be signed with the County Regional Planning Commission to act as consultant for the newly-created Torrance City Planning Commission was made at the regular monthly meeting of that civic organization Tuesday evening. Principal work of the city planning commission is the drafting of a city-wide zoning ordinance. Under the terms of the proposed contract with the county, officers of the Regional Planning Commission would meet with the local planning board upon request for a nominal fee of \$10 per meeting.

It is estimated that approximately two months will be required to conduct field work and land use study preliminary to drafting the zoning ordinance, after which public hearings are to be held before submitting the zoning ordinance to the city council. Members of the planning commission expect it will take about six months to prepare the zoning ordinance for submission to the city council for adoption.

Need 25 Conferences

The consultant services available to the local planning board were explained Tuesday evening by Kenneth Sampson, land use engineer, in behalf of William J. Fox, chief engineer of the Regional Planning Commission. Engineer Sampson estimated that about 25 conferences will be required to complete the project.

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Cities Must Help

Supervisor Haughe spoke strongly in favor of the project and said it had been given a position of first importance by the county road department. Cooley also stated that the county was ready to go ahead with the improvement of Western avenue as soon as the necessary rights-of-way were obtained.

However, he explained that before the county could spend money on the improvement of Western avenue, it would be necessary for the several municipalities along its route to consent to allotting the necessary funds from their portions of the quarter-gas tax.

This means that the cities of Torrance and Los Angeles would have to contribute a portion of their gas tax money to the cost of paving Western avenue and that the balance of the cost would be borne by the county.

Committee Appointed

Following the discussion, a committee composed of representatives from the various communities along the proposed extension of Western avenue as well as communities to the north of Torrance was appointed.

It is the task of this committee to secure the needed rights-of-way at the earliest possible date, and as an indication that they

(Continued on Page 2-A)