

## HIGHWAY PROGRAM LAUNCHED

### Citizens' Group Backs City-Wide Road Projects

Details of a city-wide highway development program to provide badly-needed road improvements in four parts of Torrance were revealed this week after months of concentrated study on the part of city officials, civic leaders and property owners.

The necessity for broader, better paved and beautified main boulevards to permit a smooth traffic flow into and out of this city is generally recognized by all who have given the matter careful study as major obstacles to more rapid residential, industrial and commercial growth. Not since the civic center building program of 1935-36 has such a far reaching effort been made to put "Torrance on the map" and place this city in a position to enjoy a more intensified development—such as many other Southland communities are experiencing largely because of good highways.

The highway program was drafted by the city council, under leadership of Mayor William H. Tolson, with assistance of the city engineer's office and a representative group of citizens. The latter group last Friday afternoon formed a permanent organization to be known as the City-Wide Improvement Association, whose first objective will be to conduct an extensive campaign for adoption of the highway program. (For further details, see separate story on Page 2-A).

#### Improves Four Main Trunklines

Four separate highway betterments—to benefit every part of this far flung municipality—are included in the program, as follows:

**Cabrillo from the Pacific Electric station to connect with Eschelmann avenue at 231st and extending south to the city boundary at 240th street;**

**Torrance boulevard from the Pacific Electric station to Elm avenue;**

**Hawthorne avenue from Highway 101 extending up the hill to connect with Palos Verdes Drive, and,**

**Crenshaw boulevard from 190th street to the city boundary at Redondo Beach boulevard.**

These four main trunklines would be vastly improved under the proposals announced by Mayor Tolson, Leonard Young, acting city engineer, and his assistant, Glen M. Jain, to a gathering of more than 25 vitally interested citizens.

Under a unified program that would embrace removal or relocation of the P. E. tracks on Cabrillo, beautification of Torrance boulevard, re-surfacing, new paving, new curbs, gutters and drainage facilities, this city-wide effort to provide attractive arterial highways would have several immediate benefits, those at the gathering declared.

#### Cost "Boiled Down" to Minimum

It would forever eliminate the frequent criticism that "I get lost in your town—can't find my way in it; and if I do, I can't get you out of it." Others point out that while this city has exceptionally attractive civic center buildings and modern homes located on tree-shaded streets, it is "hiding its light under a bushel basket" by not providing good roads which invite outsiders to see these features.

Extension of Crenshaw boulevard will provide a direct roadway over a major boulevard to Hollywood and West Los Angeles; and improvement of Hawthorne boulevard should encourage many of the thousands of sightseers and residents at the Palos Verdes Estates to drive thru this city on their route to and from Los Angeles.

To accomplish this four-point highway program an expenditure of \$195,000 is required. This is the figure to which the projects have been "boiled down" after extensive trimming on the part of the City-Wide Improvement Association, which invites the support of every resident in Torrance, and undertake the task of carrying on the campaign to pass such a bond issue.

#### Projects Outlined In All Details

Because of the large assessed valuation of Torrance—in excess of \$21,000,000—the cost of such a bond issue to the average home owner will be approximately one dollar per year, plus interest, over a 15-year period.

In detail, here is what the city-wide highway development program includes:

**CABRILLO AVE. FROM P. E. STATION TO ESHELMAN**  
Cabrillo from station to Carson street;

A distance of about 1,500 feet on which the present Pacific Electric tracks would either be removed (the traction company has a line on Border avenue, one block east) or re-located to street level by the use of girder rails.

The center 17-foot strip, now a P. E. right-of-way, would then (Continued on Page 2-A)



**KING GEORGE VIEWS TROOPS** . . . Wearing the khaki uniform of an army officer, King George VI, accompanied by Queen Elizabeth, watches a mimic battle at Aldershot, England.

### Re-valuation of Real Property in County Sought for 1940

Re-valuation of all real property in Los Angeles county, to establish a correct market value is urged by the Los Angeles Realty Board in a resolution filed this week with the board of supervisors.

Backing of the realty board was expected to add impetus to the request of County

Assessor John R. Quinn, who has been trying to get the matter before the board of supervisors for an appropriation in next year's county budget. Re-valuation would involve the hiring of about 100 experienced appraisers to go over the entire county.

"It is the opinion of members of this board that numerous inequitable assessments of real property now are in effect," the realty board's resolution stated. "A more equitable spreading of tax levies would result from a re-valuation."

Rapid growth of certain areas has increased the value of property in the entire area, it is asserted. In some areas, such as South Gate, the virtual wiping out of many special assessment districts has lifted a burden off real property with the result that there is a market for it. The proposed re-valuation would not affect the coming year's tax rolls, but a year hence, in 1940.

### New Counters at Police Station

Removal of the U-shaped counter and installation of a modern group of cabinets forming a straight counter at the police station improved the appearance and service facilities of officers on duty there this week.

The new equipment was installed Sunday morning. The counter is topped by a glass partition now 62 inches high that will be increased to 72 inches when larger panes of opaque glass are put in place.

Behind the counter are a series of filing cabinets and receptacles for police equipment. Another, but shorter counter faces the side entrance of the station where prisoners are unloaded from police cars driven under marquee. This will be used for the booking counter.

Police Chief John Stroh said that the new equipment will permit the department to function more efficiently at headquarters and will also discourage "the number of callers we have who now make the squad-room adjoining the entrance a sort of lounging place."

#### ELSON TO SPEAK

The principal address at the Public Schools Week program to be given tonight by the Culver City Eastern Star lodge will be presented by Thomas H. Elson, principal of Torrance high school.

### 20 TO 1 SHOT! . . . And It's No Gamble . . . You're Sure to Win!

Twenty-four local business and professional men are offering you at least \$10.00 worth of merchandise and services for 50 cents—and there are no catches, no extra money to pay, no contest to solve—absolutely nothing to do but pay 50c and then go and cash in on the free gifts.

Included in the free "get acquainted" offers are such things as: car washes, half-pint of cream, 25 bedding plants for your garden, lubrication job on your car, brake adjustment, shampoo, a couple of games of bowling, and numerous other equally valuable gifts. Turn to Page 1-B for full particulars, and be sure and read ALL THE FREE MERCHANDISE AND SERVICES OFFERED in the 24 individual advertisements. You'll be SIMPLY AMAZED!

### Seven Injured in Four Auto Accidents

Three San Pedro residents suffered broken bones, lacerations and bruises and two others escaped serious injury early Sunday when the heavy car in which they were riding left the road and crashed into a 14-inch cactulatus tree in front of 25625 Norborne avenue.

Ruth Hall, 26, and John J. Karmelich, 25, were removed from Torrance Memorial hospital, where they received emergency treatment, to a San Pedro hospital Monday for further attention. Miss Hall for a broken leg and cuts, Karmelich for a broken ankle and cut above the eye.

#### HARBOR CITY CHIL D INJURED IN CRASH

A 21-months-old child suffered three scalp wounds in a crash Saturday afternoon at Lomita boulevard and Normandie avenue. The infant, Theodora Gilbert, was a passenger with Mrs. Alice Collins, 37, of Harbor City. The other machine involved in the collision was driven by William Neath, 49, also of Harbor City.

Bert L. Hopkins, 33-year-old Hermosa Beach painter, was arrested on the spot for negligence Sunday, several hours after a Long Beach youth and his girl companion were injured in a collision at Roosevelt highway and Western avenue, Harbor City.

Hopkins was held on a felony hit-and-run charge after allegedly abandoning his car and fleeing from the scene. The Long Beach couple were not seriously injured.

There are 19,400 parcels in the special assessment district.

### Nadeau District Joins Alondra Tax Strike

Formal request that the board of supervisors take the necessary steps for relief of property owners in A. and I. district 28, formed for the acquisition of Alondra Park, at the northern edge of Torrance, was made this week.

The request came from the Nadeau district property owners, and recited that the property owners had resolved not to pay any further levies for the district and asked the supervisors to assume the entire balance of the debt of the district.

There are 19,400 parcels in the special assessment district.

### City Urges County to Take Alondra

To the list of cities and districts sending resolutions urging the board of supervisors to take over all of Alondra Park assessment district's indebtedness was added the municipality of Torrance this week. The city council joined the effort to make the county conscious of its obligation for the Alondra Park, a purely county project.

### More Boulevard Stops Ordered

New boulevard stops are to be erected at once on four streets and two alleys here. The city council approved Police Chief John Stroh's recommendation for these markers Tuesday night.

The stops are to be placed on Cabrillo at Carson, for traffic on both streets, on all north and south streets running into Cabrillo, on Cravens extending Carson street, and in the exits from the alleys next to the new Grand theatre on Cravens and between Marcelina and El Prado into Arlington.

#### FIRE DAMAGES CAR

A short-circuit in C. Pickett's Chevrolet sedan parked near the high school assembly hall Tuesday night caused a fire which killed the car and damaged the building. The blaze had been extinguished before firemen arrived. Pickett lives at 3619 Emerald street.



**HOPPER ATTACK** . . . This airplane was readied at Coalinga to spread poison dust over rich fields that have been invaded by grasshoppers. Some of the 'hoppers are shown in a cluster at right.



**JOHN E. MCCALL**

Who returned Sunday from a two-weeks' business trip to his old home-town of New Orleans, La. While there he appeared before the Louisiana supreme court on a law case. McCall resumed his duties as City Attorney this week.

### Test Due On L. A. Oil Well Closure Right

The right of the city of Los Angeles to close down all wells producing less than \$25 worth of oil a day is to be defended in court soon, as the result of an injunction suit by the Barnsdall Oil Co. and other concerns, against the city board of fire commissioners, on file in Superior court today.

Permits for operation of the wells, most of them located in the Venice district, had expired and the fire commission refused to renew them, citing the ordinance which permits the city to close down wells producing less than the \$25 minimum figure.

The oil companies claim that the ordinance is discriminatory and that enforcement of it would terminate valuable property rights owned by the companies. The petitioners claim that the city has no right to enforce an ordinance based on such principle as oil-production-per-day in legislating against property rights.

### Attention Citizens! . . .

Every resident of Torrance interested in the advancement of the City, his property and business in general . . .

Attend the meeting tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 3:30 o'clock of the

### CITY-WIDE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

At the Chamber of Commerce building on El Prado. It's important! . . . Your help is needed! . . . Take Part!

—ROBERT J. DEININGER,  
General Chairman  
City-Wide Improvement Assn.

### Ban Parking After 2 a. m.

Don't leave your car parked in the business district after 2 a. m., unless you want a citation to court. The city council decided Tuesday night to draft an ordinance banning over-night parking from 2 to 6 a. m. in the business area in order to keep machines off the streets and thus allow the street department to continue its program of re-surfacing.

William Gascoigne, street superintendent, said that the gravel that works down from the crowns of the streets to the gutters must be shoveled back regularly and this can't be done with cars parked at the curbs.

### Skunk Brood Invades Culvert Excavation Here

City workmen engaged in putting in a new culvert on El Prado off Western avenue had a fine trench excavated when the noon whistles blew one day this week.

But when they returned they had to continue their labors far, far from one end of the ditch. Reason: A madam skunk and four offspring had occupied the cool, damp excavation during their lunch hour.

### Oil Field's Limits Defined

Because they failed to find oil sand to 5,200 feet, the F.S.D. Oil company has abandoned its outpost test, F.S.D. No. 1, near the northwest corner of 240th and Narbonne.

The limits of the Eschelmann area of the South Torrance-Lomita oil field have now been defined in the southeast, southwest and the north. In the west area, the field has been drilled up and in the east all the acreage is held by majors.



**LEONARD YOUNG**

Acting city engineer, who was Mayor Tolson's chief assistant in drafting the plans for the proposed city-wide highway betterment project.

### Tolson Slated for President of Road Group

With Mayor William H. Tolson of this city slated to succeed W. A. Curl of Hawthorne as president of the organization, the Southwest District Highways Association will hold its regular monthly dinner-meeting tonight at Hermosa Beach Municipal Auditorium.

Tolson was nominated Tuesday afternoon for this honor by a committee, composed of Carl Shedd, Ingewood; William Barkley, Hawthorne, and L. J. Gilmeister, Torrance, meeting at Ingewood. Other nominees included E. M. McGough, president of the Ingewood Realty Board, for vice-president succeeding Oscar Willis of Palos Verdes Estates; Pete Mowry, Hawthorne, for re-election as treasurer, and Leonard Young, acting city engineer of Torrance, for re-election as secretary.

At the meeting tonight, Gilmeister will make a report on Sacramento development affairs as they pertain to highways in this part of Los Angeles county and there will be general discussion of proposed legislation. The dinner will start at 6:30 o'clock.

### Second Forum Set for May 1

Altho they were disappointed at the small number who turned out to start the proposed Torrance Forum meetings Monday night at the high school assembly hall, Dr. Paul John Ritter and Principal Bertram Fitzgerald of Torrance Evening school announced today that another Forum would be held next Monday night, May 1, at 8 o'clock. They will discuss the proposed Ludlow "war referendum" amendment to the Constitution and invite comments from the audience on that subject and also on a regular weekly series of community discussion problems. Last Monday night, only a handful showed up to attend what was announced as the start of a regular weekly series of community discussion gatherings.

### NEW RELIEF VOUCHER PLAN GETS TRY-OUT ON JUNE 1

County relief cases in this community will receive more food, at no appreciable increase in cost to the taxpayer, under a new "limited voucher" to be tried out beginning June 1.

The plan, evolved by Wayne Allen, chief administrative officer, and approved at this week's meeting of the board of supervisors, is a distinct departure from the present method, in that the warrant may be expended only for "certain items, at certain stores, and at certain prices."

Amounts which relief clients now receive will in no cases be decreased, Allen said. Items included in the food budgets for which relief money may be spent includes all those in the list compiled by the Heller Committee for Research and Social Economics. Stores that wish to accept the new relief warrants must enter a cooperative agreement with the county purchasing agent, which position Allen also holds. Certain prices will be established by his office for food items included in the county list. These prices are to be part of the cooperative agreement between the county and the grocers.

Allen said that the Retail Grocers Association and various chain stores had approved it, as well as the county council and the county auditor. The plan is to be put into effect on a gradual basis to be determined by Allen "in accordance with good business practice," he said.