

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — 12 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS

25th YEAR—No. 22.

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1939

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COMMUNITY FLAG DAY PLANNED

An elaborate outline for the observance of Flag Day, June 14, has been expanded into a week by the National Flag Association. Locally, the plan may be condensed into one day, Wednesday, June 14, and the entire community will be invited to share in the program. A preliminary meeting was held in the city hall Monday evening.

A tentative plan was projected and a larger meeting will be called for Monday, June 5, at the court room in the city hall.

Commander Lyle Doan of the Legion post is to secure a speaker and the Auxiliary will be requested to present an exercise in the use of the Stars and Stripes. The municipal band is to be invited to provide a part of the evening program which will be held in the Civic Auditorium.

A general invitation is given to each organization to send one or more representatives to the meeting June 5. It is expected that some appropriate program will be given in the high school auditorium in the afternoon of Flag Day. Another feature of the observance will be dedication of a new flag in the Methodist church. The enrollment of natives of the various states will be one means of promoting this whole plan and the recognition of the largest groups will be included.

Widow of State's First Senator Succumbs Here

Mrs. Mary E. Groff of Redondo Beach, widow of Judge Lewis A. Groff, first U. S. Senator from California, passed away last Sunday afternoon at Torrance Memorial hospital where she had been confined for six weeks following a fall that fractured a hip. She would have been 91 years old next month.

Her death wrote an abrupt "finis" to the story of her life that she was engaged in writing. It was a story that began with her girlhood in a Nebraska sod-house and continued with her marriage to the rising young attorney who later was the first Californian to enter the Senate chamber. She lived in Washington a number of years while her husband was in office.

Mrs. Groff was prominently identified with Los Angeles society and had a great many

friends in Redondo Beach, where she had lived for the past 14 years at 800 Strand avenue. In her youth she was a writer for the Los Angeles Times under General Otis and she also published a number of stories and articles.

The funeral service was held yesterday afternoon in Redondo Beach. Mrs. Groff was survived by a son, Gregory, of Los Angeles; two daughters, Mrs. Mary E. Jenkins and Mrs. Dorothea Story, also of that city, and a grandson.

CAVE-IN FATAL FOR YOUNG BOY

Memorial Day accidents in this district claimed the life of a 15-year-old Keystone boy who was smothered when a sand bank on Moneta avenue between 223rd street and Ocean avenue caved in and sent two women and a young man to Torrance Memorial hospital with minor injuries. No auto crashes were reported in Torrance over the holiday.

City firemen worked over Harold Hagerman of 2232 Moneta avenue, Keystone, with their excavator for more than an hour and adrenalin was injected directly into his heart at the hospital here. But the lad never recovered from his mishap. He was enroute to a nearby store for his mother Tuesday afternoon with two young companions when they stopped to play below the sand bank.

When the sand caved in, the other boys summoned help and altho the boy's body was recovered only a few minutes later, life was gone. An inquest is being held tomorrow at Cleveland mortuary in San Pedro where the body was removed by order of the county coroner.

Other Holiday Victims
Mrs. Burnette Locke, 58, of Los Angeles suffered an impacted fracture of the left hip when she twisted her foot in a hole in a county beach road near Redondo Beach and fell. She was brought to the hospital here at 4:30 Tuesday afternoon.

An automobile collision at 174th and Western sent Frank Glick, 22, of Gardena to the local hospital for treatment of chest injuries Tuesday night. Mrs. Frank Minter, 25, of Redondo Beach, was also treated at the hospital Tuesday night for a hand injury received from a rusty nail.

Other new patients at the local institution this week included Mrs. Verna Brodhurst, Redondo Beach, for an appendectomy performed Monday; and Mrs. Ruth Gibbs, Hermosa Beach, who entered last Thursday for medical care.

Seek Injunction to Halt Waste of Natural Gas

Enough natural gas is being wasted into the air daily by oil companies operating in the Montebello oil field to supply most of the cities of Los Angeles county for years on end, it was declared in a complaint for an injunction on file today in Los Angeles county superior court.

Estimate of the gas being blown into the air daily was placed at 30,000,000 cubic feet in the complaint filed by Earl Warren, state attorney general, and naming more than a score of companies either drilling or pumping wells.

"This natural gas so wasted should be conserved for the people of California and unless steps are taken to stop it valuable natural resources will be lost forever," the complaint stated. The action is similar to that taken several years ago against operators in the Signal Hill field.

About 50,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas is being produced daily in the Montebello field, of which about 7,000,000 is sold for commercial use and 13,000,000 feet used in the field, the complaint states.

Principal offenders were alleged to be the Graham-Loftus Oil, Standard Oil and Union Oil companies, all declared to be flowing more than 3,000,000 cubic feet daily into the air.

Accuse Junkman of Burglary

Charged with the burglary of equipment valued at \$500, Jack Ackerman, 43-year-old Ocean Park junk dealer, was arrested Saturday on a warrant issued by City Judge Robert Lessing.

Ackerman, who gave himself up at the local police station, was released shortly afterwards on a \$500 bail bond deposited with Superior Judge Ruben S. Schmidt. He is said to have sold the equipment stored by Dillinger here for about \$28. Ackerman will have his arraignment June 6.

COUNCIL BEGINS FRAMING BUDGET FOR COMING YEAR

Planning a budget for a concern valued at \$21,234,490 and doing a business of more than \$228,000 a year is no easy task.

That's the big job that three members of the city council, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and City Auditor C. J. Rambo tackled this week.

Tax Payments Best in 10 Years Here

One of the best indices of economic conditions is the amount of tax delinquencies in a year.

Using that information, it appears that business in Torrance is making a big step forward.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced this week that the municipal delinquency tax this year is the lowest it has been in 10 years—only about \$3,669 remains uncollected on the city-wide general tax levy that totaled \$176,300.

"That's the best record since 1926," he said. "And taxpayers still have until July 1 to make their returns. We are eating into that delinquency every week and I shouldn't be surprised if it will be found to be the lowest in more than 10 years."

N. S. Workers and Firm Sign New Contract

A new contract, covering terms and conditions of employment at the Torrance plant of the National Supply company was signed May 17 by officials of the company and officers of the Employees Association of Workers, it was announced this week by Edward T. Curran, president of the employees' organization.

The contract will remain in effect until May 16, 1940, and contains provisions for renewal at that time. Collective bargaining agreements between the National Supply and the Employees Association have been in successful operation for the past two years, Curran said.

During that time, many important improvements have evolved as to pay rates, overtime, plant conditions, vacations and adjusting of individual grievance cases. Under the terms of the new contract, the Employees Association is the exclusive collective bargaining agency for all hourly workers of the Torrance plant.

Membership in the association is open to all workers and the operation of the organization conforms to the purpose of the National Labor Relations Act and to requirements of California statutes under which it is organized and incorporated. A meeting of the association will be held next Monday afternoon, June 5, at 5 o'clock in the American Legion clubhouse at which time officers for the coming year are to be elected.

IDECO PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY

More than 500 are expected to attend International Derrick and Equipment company's third annual employee's picnic which will be held Sunday, June 4, at Banning Park in Wilmington. All employees, their families and friends are being invited to the outing, which will begin at 10 o'clock in the morning.

Features of the day's program will be an old-fashioned basket picnic dinner with coffee and ice cream being furnished free and a schedule of athletic events, baseball game, horseshoe pitching and a good time for all, according to Ted Simonson, chairman of the day.

Ideco workers from Bakersfield to Torrance will participate in the gathering.

HARBOR MEETING

Vierling Kersey, superintendent of Los Angeles city schools, will be principal speaker at the dinner-meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce, June 8, at Huntington Park high.

Their concern was the city of Torrance and their business was providing funds for the various municipal departments and to pay interest and retirement charges on the bonded indebtedness.

The budget committee, Mayor William H. Tolson, Councilman Tom McGuire and James Hitchcock, anticipate no increase in the 1939-40 municipal tax rate. While they state they are doing everything they can do to keep city expenses down, they said that any report that the levy might be reduced "was premature."

86-Cent Rate Last Year
A number of special adjourned meetings of the entire council will be necessary between now and June 29 when the budget is to be adopted. At these sessions, the itemized figures of municipal expense will be closely scanned and checked with previous budgets to keep the total down.

Clerk Bartlett said it was likely that special meetings would be held every Tuesday evening this month, starting with June 6.

The 1938-39 general tax rate here was 86 cents and the total was \$1.10 in District No. 1 (old city area) and \$1.07 for District No. 2. To the District No. 1 rate was added a 55-cent tax per \$100 assessed valuation of land only for the Municipal Water District.

This assessment was levied last year to enable the reduction of water rates which, together with the income derived from the water department in excess of operating expense, provides for retirement of the \$325,000 worth of water bonds.

Bond Debt Itemized
City officials are anticipating a substantial increase in the Torrance assessed valuation. Last year this totaled \$1,234,490, of which \$5,778,560 was on land, \$5,033,540 on improvements and \$7,103,405 on money and securities.

The city's bonded indebtedness now totals \$399,000, according to the city clerk. The original total was \$464,000. The outstanding debt as itemized by Bartlett this week follows:

Street improvement, May 1, 1922, \$12,000; Civic Auditorium, Oct. 1, 1935, \$26,000; City hall and library, Oct. 1, 1935, \$38,000; Municipal water district, July 1, 1934, \$323,000.

Normandie Ave. Bond Relief Due

Included among new county districts eligible for special assessment relief is the Normandie avenue improvement district No. 70 from 182nd street to Lomita boulevard, according to a resolution of the board of supervisors transmitted to the Los Angeles city council this week.

The Normandie paving assessment delinquency will come under direct-lien areas eligible for general tax aid through amendments to the state bond acts voted by the state legislature, the county's special assessment relief committee announced in its report filed with the supervisors.

From gas tax funds and general tax money, the supervisors have in recent years assisted bonded districts to retire their delinquencies. The new state laws will allow delinquencies other than Mattoon act assessments to be retired with county funds.

Chamber Elects Directors Monday

Members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will elect three directors from a ballot containing six names next Monday. The election will be held from 9 a. m. to 7 p. m. at the chamber office.

The candidates, representing the general membership, are L. G. Barkdull, retail meat market; Harvel Guttenfelder, auto service and supplies; Sam Levy, department store; William Rojo, laundry and dry cleaning; Dean L. Sears, banking, and A. H. Shilgo, builder materials.

SHE'S KEEPING IT POLISHED . . . When July 30 rolls around and the California State Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament ends at the city park diamond, the major trophy to be given the winning team will be in perfect condition. Miss Dorothy Jensen, comely young Torrance Chamber of Commerce secretary, is keeping the distinctive award polished while the chamber's committee in charge of the sports event proceeds with plans for the day and night games, starting July 8.

Ten teams have already sent in their applications to enter the tournament to determine the California state championship team here, July 8 to 30, Dale Riley, city recreation director, announced this week. He was recently appointed state commissioner for the tourney by the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress.

The other members of the Chamber of Commerce committee preparing for the big sports event here are Alden W. Smith,

chamber president; Tom McGuire, city councilman; L. J. Gilmeister, chamber manager, and Michael Straszer of the Herald.

In addition to the major trophy, a number of other awards are to be given teams winning places in the tournament. The Torrance municipal park diamond was recently equipped with a new flood lighting system in preparation for the games. Sixteen of the Southland's outstanding semi-pro clubs will compete in the double-elimination schedule of tournament games.

Small Hope Held for Alondra Park Relief, Co. Supervisor Says

Discussion of Alondra Park's assessment troubles and of the threat, reported by Secretary Pat MacDonnell of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, to build below average cheap homes on a section of that district, featured the dinner-meeting of the Southwest District Highways' association here last Thursday night.

Twenty civic leaders from Long Beach, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Gardena, Manhattan Beach and Torrance attended the session which was presided over by Mayor William H. Tolson, new president of the association. Principal speaker was Dr. Oscar Hauge, county supervisor, who declared that "a settlement of Alondra Park's A. & I. assessments was economically, legally, financially and morally impossible at the present time."

"You'll just have to go on and hope for something to happen because the problem cannot be touched now because of the prices of the outstanding bonds," Hauge said. "These are selling at a premium of about \$1,400 per thousand at the present time and you'll never get the owners to cooperate in selling them for less if property owners in Alondra Park go on paying in taxes and keeping the bonds up."

MacDonnell's report that the owner of some 212 lots at the corner of Riverside - Redondo boulevard and Hawthorne avenue was contemplating building garage houses there to sell from \$500 to \$800 each was discounted by Carl T. Sheehan, president of the Inglewood Realty Board. He said that this deal had been dropped within recent weeks and no revival was anticipated.

O. L. Calkins, Inglewood engineer, commented briefly on the possibility of obtaining the first "real motorway in the county" between beach and inland cities east of Mines Field and running thru Torrance on Riverside-Redondo boulevard.

Harbor City Road Project Sought

Renewed effort to provide Harbor City with more direct access to main motor routes will be the aim of that community's Chamber of Commerce during the coming 12 months, directors said this week as they began a new year.

Alternate proposals, members announced, will be to seek continuation of Belleporte avenue to the north across present farm land, where it could swing either to the east or west. To the east, Belleporte could be connected directly to Normandie avenue near the Santa Fe railroad viaduct, and this plan, it was agreed, may be looked on with more favor by city highway engineers if the Pacific Electric railway is allowed to abandon its line which the extended highway otherwise would have to cross.

A second proposal to continue Belleporte avenue to the west would hinge upon completion of Western avenue between Torrance and Lomita boulevards. Either plan, proponents pointed out today, would give feeder roads into the center of Harbor City from the north.

Issue Warning On Purchase of Tax Sale Land

Local residents who may bid on the 795 parcels of property in various sections of the county to be sold at public auction in beginning June 19 should not buy them unless they are cheap, as they will find it necessary to file quiet title actions in most instances, county officials warned today.

A total of 369 parcels are located in the unincorporated territory and the smaller cities with 426 parcels within Los Angeles city.

Assessed valuation of the 795 parcels is about \$400,000, according to H. L. Eyring, county tax collector who is in charge of conducting the sale, the first to be held for many years. "The necessary legal advertisements for the 795 parcels have been inserted in a small Los Angeles newspaper."

Persons interested in the various parcels already have deposited the amount necessary to defray the cost of advertising, and in many cases not more than one bid will be received, it was indicated. The tax sales division of the tax collector's office, at room 543 of the Hall of Justice, will conduct the sale.

School Safety Signs May Be Standardized

Standardization of highway signs thruout Los Angeles county will be sought by county road officials, at the suggestion of the board of supervisors, with issuance of instructions to bring in plans for uniform signs for approval of the board.

The request was made at Supervisor William A. Smith's suggestion. He said he learned that the "Safety Sally" school crossing signs had proved a hazard to human life in some instances, instead of a safeguard. Recently a reckless driver ran into and destroyed one of the signs, apparently deliberately. Should reckless drivers, bent upon destruction, mistake a school child for one of the signs it might result in loss of life, Smith said.

Confuse Motorists
In San Francisco, Smith said that a likeness of a policeman at crossings proved to be no deterrent to reckless drivers, and use of the signs has been discontinued, he said he was told.

Smith said there were now about seven different types of highway signs throughout the county that conveyed the same meaning, and that the different signs were confusing to motorists. George Jones, county road commissioner, is to bring in a report on proposed uniform signs.

COLLEGE PRE-REGISTRATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15

With the approach of Torrance high school Alumni Homecoming Day, June 15, attention of all former students is called to the fact that pre-registration for the fall semester of Torrance Community College will also take place during that day and evening. Students unable to register on that day are requested to sign up at some time during the week, so that class enrollment and scheduling may be organized prior to the opening of the college in September.

Interesting and favorable comment has been received from

business and industrial sources on the plan of the college. The first courses instituted will be particularly designed to fit the needs of those people desiring advanced training in particular fields of industry and commerce.

Registration of students will be accepted for any amount of time they may wish to spend on the campus, whether for one course or subject only, or for whatever amount may fulfill their needs. Full courses of certificate level are available for those desiring to continue in the field of higher education.

Building Here In May Totals \$43,240; Year's Construction to Date \$364,295

New construction in Torrance during May totaled \$43,240, according to a report received from the city engineer's office today. This was a sizable increase over the previous month's building, which amounted to \$31,785. The total for the year to date now stands at \$364,295 as compared with \$2,161,222 for the same five-month period of 1938. The May, 1938, building permits amounted to \$81,397.

Month-by-month construction here this year follows:

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| January | \$115,960 |
| February | 82,670 |
| March | 90,690 |
| April | 31,735 |
| May | 43,240 |
| TOTAL | \$364,295 |

New Construction Jobs

Building permits were issued during the past week for the following projects: Rubbercraft Corporation for a concrete block reinforced warehouse at the corner of 220th and Border avenue, \$2,000; Dan N. McCormick for a

frame and stucco double garage at 1438 Engracia, \$300; Tony Ramos for a four-room frame mill barn at 17145 Arlington, \$1,500.

Ed Becker for an addition to a residence at 315 Beech, \$300; C. M. Severin for an addition of a room to a house at 1508 Ampala, \$200; T. J. Wilson for a wood frame garage at 2350 227th, \$150; Lee Norton for a three-room frame residence and garage at 2329 229th, \$1,500; William J. and Sarah I. Thomas for a six-room frame stucco house and garage at 606 Acacia, \$2,700.

Roy Daniel for a chicken house at 2253 241st, \$200; Torrance Refinery for erection of a 1,500-barrel corrugated iron tank on Narbonne avenue, \$500; C. H. Lebow for a wooden oil derrick, \$5,000, and a corrugated iron office and warehouse at 23740 Walnut street on the Kettler Ranch, \$300; and Bob Russell for a three-room frame residence at 1747 Date, \$850.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Monday, June 5, 7:30 p. m.—Organizations meet to plan Flag Day at city hall courtroom.
8:30 p. m.—Regular meeting of City-Wide Improvement Assn., at C. of C.
Tuesday, June 6, 7:45 p. m.—City council meeting in city hall.
Wednesday, June 7, 7:30—Organizations to start Factory Frolic plans in city hall courtroom.
Wednesday, June 14, 6:30 p. m.—St. Andrew's Men's club dinner-meeting in Guild hall.



JIMMIE GETS NEW BOAT . . . The 41-foot, \$13,000 cabin cruiser Half Moon unloaded at Los Angeles Harbor for delivery to James Roosevelt, who will cruise in it while completing his recovery from a recent operation. The president's son is now a cinema executive.