

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 — TWO SECTIONS — 10 PAGES

25TH YEAR — NO. 29

SECTION A

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1939

PER COPY 5c

NEWSSTAND PURGERS TO BEGIN PROBE

To launch an investigation of the amount of salacious literature on sale at local newsstands and determine the best means of curbing distribution of such periodicals, the committee named by Judge Robert Lessing at the last meeting of the Coordinating Council will meet next Wednesday, July 26, at the city hall.

Rev. Thomas R. Marshall, vicar of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, was named chairman of the group by Judge Lessing. Other members are Mesdames Nell Whitney, Hillman Lee, John E. Minor, Irene E. Davis and V. Grimm.

The committee has been furnished a list of 72 publications which have been banned from newsstand sales in Pasadena and will use this as a guide to its probe of the local field. The Los Angeles League for Clean Literature has also offered to lend its assistance in the "local purge" of periodicals held "lewd, obscene and spiritually destructive literature."

Lomitan Heads Legion Post

Bernard F. Peterson of Lomitan, a veteran member of the local post, was elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland unit of the American Legion here Tuesday night. He will succeed Lyle Doan as head of the veterans' organization. Peterson lives at 25004 Eshelman and will be the first Lomitan to command the post since Pat Boyle held that position in 1936-37.

Other new officers chosen were: W. W. Rowland, first vice-commander; Jack Kemp, second vice-commander; James R. Wilkes, chaplain; C. E. Youngken and H. C. Bender, sergeants-at-arms; L. G. Barkdull, service officer, and Thomas T. Habbitt, historian. Members of the executive board will be George Thompson, William H. Stanger and Lyle Doan.

Installation August 1. Delegates to state convention will be F. B. Boyle, Alex McPhail, J. E. McCall, and the incoming commander. Alternates will be Charles Smith, Paul Findley, Ray Begue and Ed Bird.

Installation of new officers will be combined with the similar ceremonies for Sons of Legion on August 1 at the Legion club-house with the Wilmington post officiating. Robert Lewellen, Jr., is to be installed captain of the Sons unit.

Commander-Elect Peterson joined the U. S. Army in August, 1917, and was discharged in May, 1919. He has been a member of Bert S. Crossland post for more than a decade and has taken deep interest in all memorial affairs arranged by the unit. For the past two years he has been chairman of the Sons of Legion guidance committee.

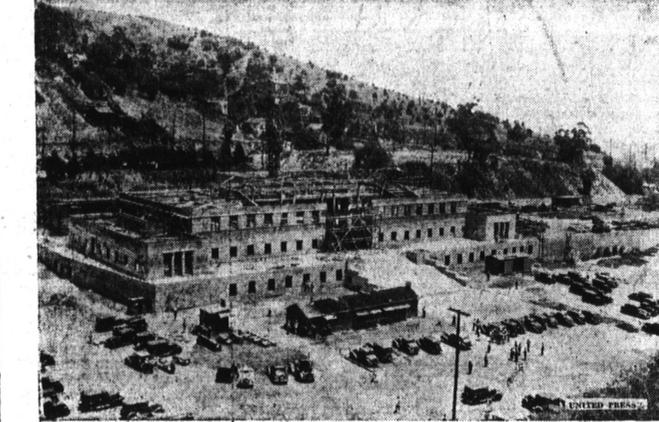
Church School Plans Advanced

Additional leaders for departments of the Community Vespertine Church school which opens Monday morning, July 31, in the Christian church were enlisted Tuesday when Miss Alice Robertson met with the group. Several united plans for the entire school will be arranged, but the most important features of the two weeks' school will be carried out in separate departments.

While many other specialty leaders for music, art, manual training and recitation will be needed, the committee announced that additional volunteers for work during the school will include Mesdames L. F. Watson, Dan Bryant, Elsie DeBra, Cleona Kline, Florence Hill, Geo. Stern, Lorna Thistle, Miss Elizabeth Stern, Hazel Briney and Paul Hippik.

Department leaders and workers are scheduled to meet at 3 o'clock Monday, July 24, in the Christian church. They will make further study of the daily schedules for the intensive ten days of co-operative study under the sponsorship of the Ministerial Union.

TWO GRASS FIRES
A second grass fire in the vicinity of 166th and Gramercy Place was extinguished by the fire department Monday before any damage was done. Firemen had been called to the same location the day before.



WPA WORKERS LEAVE BIG JOB . . . WPA workers in walk-out at Chavez Ravine in Los Angeles, where the \$1,000,000 United States Naval and Marine Corps Army, second largest in the nation is under construction. It will house 2500 persons in case of a major disaster.

CAR CRASHES INTO LIBRARY AT WALTERIA AFTER WILD DASH DOWN P. V. HILL

Thanks to the faulty brakes on Mrs. Millie Williams' car, Walteria may get a new library building sooner than it expected.

Late Tuesday afternoon that automobile practically demolished the wooden building used as a reading center when it plowed thru the south-side wall and finally came to a halt up against the other wall.

In its wake the machine left shattered furniture, smashed shelves and a scattering of several hundred books, many of which were damaged. Mrs. Williams and one of her four passengers, Mrs. Frank Mehlon of Los Angeles, were slightly injured.

Fortunately there was no one in the Walteria library when the car made its abrupt entry thru the wall.

Eye Glasses Shattered
Mrs. Williams, 36, who lives at 3637 West 104th street, Inglewood, was driving her Chevrolet coach down the Palos Verdes hill and into Hawthorne avenue about 5:15 Tuesday afternoon when the machine went out of control and proceeded to smack into the building after coasting about a half-mile. In the car with Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Mehlon were eight-year-old Shirley Williams and Mr. Mehlon.

The impact of car and library caved in the front of the auto and shattered glasses worn by its three adult occupants. Stone and Myers' ambulance was called to the scene but the injured women at first refused offers of medical attention. Later Mrs. Williams was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital for treatment. She was released to return home a few hours later.

Extension Damage
Investigating police officers learned from the woman motorist that the brakes on the car refused to hold after the machine got out of control on the steep grade leading down to Walteria from Palos Verdes Estates.

The south side of the library (Continued on Page 2-A)

NO COUNTY FUNDS FOR ALONDRA
To give county funds toward the retirement of bonds still outstanding against property in the Alondra Park Mattoon Act district would be against the best interests of the property owners of the district, the county special assessment relief committee told the board of supervisors yesterday.

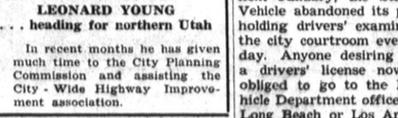
The report also disclosed that there are not 320 acres but only 315 acres in the park, which County Engineer Alfred Jones appraised at \$236,250. There is still outstanding in bonds against the old Mattoon Act district \$659,461, or nearly three times the value of the park land that was purchased.

County officials also set forth that property owners in the district had paid in a total of nearly \$600,000, and the county has contributed some \$400,000 of gasoline tax funds to aid the district, although there still is \$659,461 left to pay out on bonds. This district is declared by officials to be the worst situation in the county.

Holding Out for Par
To contribute \$144,000 this year toward retirement of the remaining bonds would only increase the value of the bonds, and county officials believe the holders of these should take a cut, considering the interest that has been paid them. Most of them are holding out for par for their bonds, while the county (Continued on Page 2-A)

Pencil Portraits of Prominent Personalities

When he gets away tomorrow with his wife Cecilia and two sons, Leonard and Robert, for his annual vacation, Acting City Engineer Leonard J. Young will head for northern Utah to enjoy some fishing and incidentally inspect his ranch. A native Californian who was born Aug. 29, 1894 in Ventura, Young came to Torrance in May, 1926. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado, extension division who earned his present position thru his own initiative studying nights on his chosen profession. Young has had wide experience in civil engineering, having served with the Interstate Commerce Commission during the World War and 10 years private practice in Southern California before coming here directly from an engineering position with the Metropolitan Water District. He is secretary of the City and County Engineers and the Southwest District Highways associations and a director of the Torrance Kiwanis club. A veteran amateur photographer, Young also puts fishing high on his list of avocations.



LEONARD YOUNG . . . heading for northern Utah

Chamber's Policy Extended to Serve Entire Community

A more community-minded Chamber of Commerce working in harmony with the city administration, civic organizations and private citizens for the good of all local residents and interests is the aim of Richard R. Smith, newly-elected president of the Torrance civic organization.

Since his election last month, President Smith has held numerous conferences with city officials, chamber directors and civic groups to ascertain their ideas on how the Chamber of Commerce could better serve the community. Final approval of the plan for broadening community participation in chamber activities was announced this week following the first meeting of the newly-chosen board of directors.

Responsibility for the various chamber activities will be allotted to individual directors who will serve as chairmen of committees. These chairmen, in turn, will appoint members of their committees from the chamber's membership at large, and in this way the entire community will rightfully take part in the work of the chamber; just as it did so successfully years ago in the early development of Torrance, Smith explained.

Stresses Committee Work
"We do not intend to go hurriedly into any proposition, but we will give careful consideration to all suggestions and requests when properly presented. However, before the board of directors is to be asked to pass upon any proposition, the proper committee will be given ample opportunity to study the matter and submit its report."

Exempted Groups Must Pay Levies Part of Quarter

Officials of the State Department of Employment today announced that all corporations and associations exempted from paying contributions to the Unemployment Reserves Fund through provisions of Assembly Bill 362 nevertheless must pay these contributions until June 20, 1939, effective date of the bill.

According to interpretation of the bill by the Department's legal section, the measure exempts small non-profit corporations and associations from paying contributions to the fund after June 20, but as the provisions are not retroactive, contributions are due and payable to that date.

Another exploration crew is scheduled to go out to the island within six months with a second shipment. If drilling is started, the National Supply company of this city may send out rigs and rotary drilling equipment, it is reported.

A popular make of truck formed the basis of the special conversions built at Superior's plant under direction of C. B. King, shop foreman. To skeleton frames with 95 horsepower gasoline motors, the shop added custom-built gearing which takes the driving power to all road wheels, front and rear, and built bodies designed to hold the geophysical testing equipment.

Abolish Local License Office

Included in the list of 15 temporary registration offices abolished in an economy move by the State Department of Motor Vehicles is the local branch which served motorists in this city, Lomita, Gardena and a number of other communities for the first time early this year.

Legislative slashes in the annual budget necessitated abolishment of the Torrance office and those located in Redondo Beach, Monterey, Coalinga, Paso Robles, Whittier, King City, Watsonville, Gilroy, La Jolla, National City, La Mesa, Coronado, Oceanside and Escondido.

The dropping of the local branch came as a surprise to local Chamber of Commerce leaders who co-operated with the state motor vehicle department this year in establishing the office at 1601 Gramercy avenue.

During the 29 days it was open here, the branch issued 10,949 license plates, received 11,122 applications and collected approximately \$76,000 in fees, according to a report given The Herald last February by L. E. Tristram, manager of the office.

ABANDON DRIVERS' EXAMINATIONS HERE

Co-incident with announcement that there would be no local distribution center for license plates next January, the State Motor Vehicle abandoned its practice of holding drivers' examinations at the city courtroom every Thursday. Anyone desiring to obtain a drivers' license now will be obliged to go to the Motor Vehicle Department offices in either Long Beach or Los Angeles.

Local Residents Join Thousands at Hollywood Bowl MRA Meet

Scores of Torrance residents were among the 25,000 who thronged Hollywood Bowl last night to hear how Moral Re-Armament, embodying the cardinal principles of honesty, unselfishness, purity and love, purposes to bring Christian sanity back to a world teeming with greed, threats and general unrest. Under star-lit skies they heard Dr. Frank Buchman, founder of the movement which is opening its world congress tomorrow at Del Monte, declare after an impressive silence:

"America may be God's last chance to save the world."

A procession of 1,000 men and women from 30 countries, escorting banners of 60 nations led by the Stars and Stripes and California's Bear flag, opened the meeting. In addition to Dr. Buchman, founder of the Oxford Group movement and MRA leader, impressive messages were given by internationally-known figures in person and statements endorsing the tenets of Moral Re-Armament were read from President Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Henry Ford, Ian A. Mackenzie, Canadian minister of national defence, and others.

As Dr. Buchman was introduced by George Eastman, former president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, four giant searchlights speared the background of the Bowl platform, symbolizing the pillars of MRA — honesty, unselfishness, purity and love. A deep feeling of moral interest pervaded the huge amphitheatre.

Members of the Torrance committee named by Mayor William H. Tolson to represent this city at the meeting included all city councilmen and their wives, City Clerk and Mrs. A. H. Bartlett, City Attorney and Mrs. J. E. McCall, Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Steele, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Babcock, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas R. Marshall, Rev. and Mrs. E. W. Matz, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Deinger and Bernhard D. Bunje.

Today Rev. Harry Banks, pastor of the Methodist church, announced that he would devote his Sunday evening service to "Echoing the Hollywood Bowl MRA Meeting."



(See Page 5-A for Complete Tournament Report)

TRAIN EAGLE-EYES ON GAMES . . . Two of the closest observers of the State Baseball Tournament games, now being played at Torrance City Park diamond by 20 teams from Pismo Beach to El Centro are, left to right above, Manager Walt Morris of the Torrance-Lomita Merchants, and Dale Riley, state commissioner in charge of the Tournament which will end July 30. In front of them is the large gold trophy which will be awarded the winning team, together with a cash prize of \$500 to pay the champions' traveling expenses to the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress in Wichita, Kansas, in August.

Highway Group Seeks More Details on P. E. Offer and Sewer Plan

Until the Pacific Electric submits in writing its latest proposition, as revealed by Mayor William H. Tolson last week, regarding the removal of tracks and overhead wires on Cabrillo avenue, the City-Wide Highway Improvement association can take no action toward recommending the proposal to the city council.

However, the Association, which met Monday night at the Chamber of Commerce, decided to obtain informal estimates on the cost of removing the tracks, believing that the city can do the work for considerably less than the \$9,500 asked by the P. E.

With Chairman Robert L. Deinger presiding, the association heard a report by Leonard Young, acting city engineer, on the railway-company's offer to clear Cabrillo of tracks and overhead wiring for around \$18,355. Young made the report in the absence of Mayor Tolson. While the group agreed that the P. E.'s offer was "reasonable," nevertheless, members believe with Deinger and Young that the track removal figure of \$9,500 can be materially reduced.

Consider Sewer Plan
Howard P. Raymond said he was "rather astonished" at the P. E.'s estimate for removal of rails and repaving and declared that "\$300 would be nearer the correct figure, plus cost of paving." He offered to secure estimates from reputable contractors on the work, the figures not to be considered as formal bids on the job.

"I think that we are getting somewhere when the railway makes us this kind of an offer," Young said. "Our original estimate on the cost of the entire Cabrillo avenue improvement project was \$87,800. By the latest P. E. offer we can reduce this to \$31,600 and thus make a saving of \$26,200 to the taxpayers."

Only other matter considered by the Improvement association at the Monday night session was the possibility of extending the city sewer system to Vista Highlands by the "Burbank plan." This was explained in detail by Engineer Young. He reported he made an investigation of what (Continued on Page 2-A)

Nearly \$2,000,000 Gain in City's Assessed Value

Increase in the assessed valuation of Torrance and practically all other areas surrounding Los Angeles city is reflected in the new assessed valuation figures for the entire county, released by County Assessor John R. Quinn.

Total assessed valuation of Torrance this year is given as \$20,442,385, including real estate, improvements and personal property. This city's total assessed valuation last year was given out as \$18,518,050. The figures do not include public utilities in either case as these now are being evaluated by the state, to be announced later.

A county-wide increase of \$21,754,335 was made this year by the county assessor's office, principally due to new building thru-

by teletype and will transmit the information to police chiefs in their districts.

It will be up to Chief Stroth to convey the "warnings" to cooperating citizens' groups, industries and other units here. An accurate "log" or record of the times when the warnings are received and transmitted must be kept by all those participating in the exercises, according to word received by Stroth from Sheriff Eugene Biscanuz.

Residents and workers are asked to remain off the streets, evacuate or simulate evacuation of the various industrial plants here. No "black out" or general "alarm" is planned. Aerial bombs will be sent up from two different parts of the city when the warnings are received here. One aerial bomb will be discharged as an "all clear" signal when the raiders have passed, Commander Doan said.

'Air Raiders' to Test Warning Service on Scheduled Periods

Further details on the air raid and defense maneuvers to be conducted by the U. S. Army with the cooperation of all civilian authorities and citizens on the Pacific Coast, Aug. 1 to 3, were obtained this week by Police Chief John Stroth and Commander Lyle Doan of the American Legion post.

The exercises, in which nearly all of this city's industrial plants, Legion, Red Cross, police and fire departments will participate, will be divided into three periods daily, Aug. 1, 2 and 3. The hours when "air raiders" may be observed over the Southland are 8 a. m., to 11 a. m.; 1 p. m., to 4 p. m., and 8 p. m., to 11 p. m.

During these periods "hostile" squadrons will operate and air raid warnings communicated via the state teletype system and telephone from military to civilian authorities. Sheriff's offices in every county will be contacted