

P. E. Will Abandon All Rail Passenger Lines in This Area

The Pacific Electric is not prepared at this time to institute a motor coach service to serve the Torrance district, although it is planned to discontinue rail passenger service as soon as the Railroad Commission issues an order, it was learned yesterday at a continued hearing on P. E. operations at the State building in Los Angeles.

Company officials are most concerned with service in the larger adjacent communities, such as Gardena and Burbank. They are preparing to discontinue the use of many old-type cars, if they are not already too antiquated to cause them to be turned back to the holding company that is said to own them, and from whom the P. E. only leased them.

Rail passenger operations on the P. E., San Pedro line via Torrance are expected to be discontinued before the end of the year, as the result of a statement Wednesday from President O. A. Smith of the company.

One Bus Substitute
Recess in a hearing before the State Railroad Commission has been taken until Nov. 8, in order to give anyone interested an opportunity to protest changes which the company proposes to make, which changes were recommended last March by the Commission.

Discontinuance of rail passenger service also is expected to be effected before the end of the year on the company's line between Los Angeles and Redondo Beach, via Gardena. No freight is to be carried between Moneta and Redondo Beach and the P. E. will abandon this section of the line under its plan as recommended by the commission.

On the company's other Redondo Beach line, via Playa del Rey, it is planned to discontinue rail passenger service and substitute motor coaches, to be operated between Redondo and Los Angeles.

ALONDRA PARK REFUNDING MOVE GAINING SUPPORT; CARRELL STILL OPPOSED

Reporting that owners of between 3,500 and 4,000 acres within Alondra Park's Acquisition and Assessment district of 9,380 acres have already signed petitions requesting the board of supervisors to institute refunding proceedings to lift the Mattoon Act debt burden, Secretary Pat MacDonnell of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, asserted this week he is confident the move will be endorsed by 80 percent of the property owners.

"We plan to present the petitions asking the supervisors to contribute \$329,000 or half of the cost and refund the balance next March or April," he said. "By that time we expect to have more than a majority in favor of this plan."

MacDonnell, while asserting that the existing "tax strike" in the district is "not going to do Alondra Park property owners any good in lifting their tax burden," said that continuance of refusal to pay the Mattoon Act obligations would be beneficial in "keeping the pressure on until we get actual relief."

The refunding move, which is based on a contribution from the county of 50 percent of the remaining debt—said to be \$650,461 plus accrued interest amounting to \$82,807—, meanwhile continued to meet strong opposition from Judge Frank Carrell of Gardena and a number of

Canvass Shows Bus System Favored Here

Only one householder out of 148 heads of families interviewed this week by canvassers now compiling information for a new city directory and undertaking a bus survey did not think that a bus system would be needed here when the Pacific Electric railway discontinues local passenger service to and from Los Angeles.

This was the preliminary report given local officials yesterday by the Western Directory company which is making the combined census, resident listings and bus survey. A total of 148 homes were visited Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday by the canvassers.

One hundred and seven households indicated they believed a bus system was needed here and 55 members of families declared they would use the proposed bus transportation service at frequent intervals.

The canvass by experienced workers is continuing and local residents are asked to be prepared to answer their questions concerning data for both the new 1940 city directory and the proposed bus system. It is pointed out that the canvassers are not prepared to enter into any discussion of the merits of bus transportation but merely to tabulate opinions of those interviewed.

Kids Warned About Short Cut Danger

As result of three nearly-serious accidents to local youngsters during the past week, Police Chief John Stroh today issued a warning to parents and children concerning the traffic of bicycles and skaters through paved service station yards.

"Three children narrowly escaped serious injuries this week when they skated or bicycled into local service station yards at a fast clip," he said. "The yards, since most of them are paved, seem to invite children to make 'short-cuts' through them and the boys and girls are not always careful in observing auto traffic in and out of these places of business.

"The attendants are usually busy working and cannot watch out for youngsters who delight in speeding through the yards rather than go around corners. I wish parents would warn their children about this cutting through service station yards so that we won't have a fatality."

Church Ready for Anniversary Functions Here

Two important events will feature the 20th anniversary celebration of St. Andrew's Episcopal church next week. A confirmation class will be presented to Rt. Rev. Robert B. Gooden, D. D., at the 11 o'clock service Sunday morning, Oct. 22. After the confirmation service, Bishop Gooden will address the congregation. A large number of members and friends of the church are expected to attend this service.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. Episcopalians and their friends will meet in the American Legion Hall for the 20th anniversary dinner. A brief historical sketch of the life of the church will be given each guest as a souvenir to remember the occasion.

Included among guests who have been invited to the dinner are Bishop and Mrs. W. Bertrand Stevens, Bishop and Mrs. Robert B. Gooden, Rev. Dr. Edwin T. Lewis and Mrs. W. Jarvis Barlow. A representative of the local ministerial union and Mayor Tolson will also be among the guests.

Rev. Thomas R. Marshall, vicar of St. Andrew's, wishes to extend a cordial invitation to the many friends of the Episcopal church in Torrance to attend both the anniversary service and the dinner.

Week's Building Totals \$9,520

New building, amounting to \$9,520, was started here during the past week, according to records at the city building department where the permits were issued.

The Texas company is installing a 550-gallon gasoline tank at 2056 Carson street for \$70; M. Foreman is building a five-room stucco house and garage at 1720 Watson street, near the high school, for \$3,800, and O. M. Hunt is equipping an oil cleaning plant with tanks and boilers at 2580 Border avenue at a cost of \$4,000.

John Davis is building a stucco double garage at 1608 Hickory avenue for \$150 and Joe L. Costa is erecting a milk barn and milk house, 32 by 36 feet in size, at 3300 182nd street for \$1,500.

Vote Total Here 200 Short of 1938 Record

Registration for Torrance city for the coming special election stands at 4,639, or about 200 short of the city's all-time record high of 4,859 set at the November general election last year, it was disclosed this week.

W. M. Kerr, county registrar of voters, disclosed that nearly 1,000 persons have registered in Torrance since the rolls were cleared of all non-voters last Dec. 16. At that time there were 5,797 voters left in the city precincts.

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OLD SOL TRICKS TREE . . . These warm summer days have given a 19-year-old plum tree in the rear garden of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brennan's home at 812 Cota avenue an idea that somehow winter just

skipped by. The Brennans are shown looking at the blossoms which appeared on the tree this week. They are wondering if they'll have a crop in time for plum pudding come Christmas Day. —Torrance Herald Photo.

In all the 22 years Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brennan have lived in Torrance they have never seen plum blossoms in October until this week.

But those harbingers of the spring have crossed the calendar up and are now turning a 19-year-old tree into a white spray in the rear garden of the Brennan home at 812 Portola avenue.

The tree has been "just loaded" every year with plums, according to Mrs. Brennan, who is now wondering if the present autumn-summer will continue and allow the blossoms to be-

come fruit in time for Christmas puddings.

Her husband, who will have completed 22 years' service at the Columbia Steel plant the latter part of next month, took a flowering spray from the tree to work with him yesterday.

"Just to prove to that gang I work with that I wasn't getting away with a tall one when I claimed our plum was blossoming."

The Brennans' attractive rear garden also boasts another oddity—two different varieties of

apples from a single tree.

From several other parts of Southern California came reports this week of fruit and nut trees sending out buds. The county agricultural commissioner states that the budding apparently has not taken place on a large scale since it has not yet come to the attention of his inspectors. He explained that the budding probably is the result of both the present heat wave and that of last month which was followed by heavy rains.

So it appears that the trees were just fooled into starting their work early—they thought it was spring. No reports have been received by The Herald, however, that housewives have started their spring cleaning this far in advance of the traditional vernal renovation.

Gardena Airport Opens Saturday

Plans for a celebration Saturday to mark the opening of the Gardena airport for accredited pilot training under the Civil Aeronautics Authority have been completed by the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The airport is at Gramercy Place and Rosecrans boulevard, two blocks west of Western avenue. Fifty students of the University of Southern California have been assigned to the airport for special training.

The dedication program, set for 10 a.m., will include music by the U.S.C., and Sheriff's Boy Scouts bands. A special mailing cachet has been arranged.

CALL MEETING
A dinner-meeting of the Torrance Retail Merchants' association will be held next Tuesday night, Oct. 24, at Daniels cafe, starting at 6:30. Important fall and Christmas plans will be discussed.

PLAN ANNUAL SHOW
Local police and firemen are now selling tickets for their third annual vaudeville show, to be given in the Civic Auditorium Nov. 17.

Steel Film Here Oct. 26
The latest sound film illustrating the making and the various uses of steel has been secured for showing in the Torrance high school assembly hall next Thursday, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m.

The management of the Columbia Steel Company, through Superintendent H. T. Lintott and others, has secured use of this film for the first showing in this area. The Community Service committee of the Methodist church has initiated a series of programs which will bring worthwhile features to local citizens, and because of the anticipated unusual interest in this film, the cooperation of the high school has been secured.

Fire Truck Deal to Draw More Blasts Tuesday

Additional data concerning the 1,000-gallon Mack pump truck, which was delivered to the fire department late last month and last week drew strong criticism from four local residents, is to be aired at next Tuesday night's city council meeting.

City Clerk Books Now Under Audit

An audit of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett's accounts was begun this week by the nationally prominent firm of Allen R. Smart and Company, accountants and auditors, with Egbert H. Davis of the company's Los Angeles office in charge.

The check-up of Torrance municipal accounts, which are kept by employees of the city clerk's office under the direction of Bartlett and City Auditor C. J. Rambo, was authorized by the City Council late last week. Councilman Tom McGuire, chairman of the council's finance committee, explained yesterday that the audit was deemed advisable before anyone takes over the work formerly done by Deputy City Clerk LeRoy Stevens. Until his death on Oct. 4, Stevens had done most of the actual work on the city clerk's accounts for a long period of years. In municipal accounts, City Clerk Bartlett also acts as purchasing agent for the city, and most of his time is taken up with these and other activities.

Allen R. Smart & Company are said to be one of the four largest auditing and accounting firms in the United States. They maintain offices in Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City, Chicago and Dayton.

Notice calling attention of "taxpayers and voters" to the session is published in an advertisement submitted by the "Citizens' Investigating Committee" and published elsewhere in this addition.

"If you are interested in hearing additional facts about the 'new' 1932 remodeled fire truck be at the council meeting Oct. 24 at 7:45 p.m.," the advertisement states.

Appraisals are Made
Attorney Albert Isen, spokesman for the committee, said yesterday that "we have secured considerable more information about that second-hand fire truck and will present it to the council with a view toward reconsideration of the fire truck deal." It was learned that independent appraisals by men said to be "experts" have been made of the truck which the city has contracted to "rent-with-option-to-buy" for \$8,600 plus interest.

The attorney stated that the results of the committee's investigations would be made in detail only at the regular council meeting.

Vigorous opposition to the transaction was voiced at the council meeting of Oct. 10 by Isen, Carl Marsteller, E. M. Prewett and Abel Beech. At that time 64 residents were in the audience. In view of the interest created by the discussion and subsequent investigations this week by the citizens' group, it is likely that the council chamber will be packed to capacity next Tuesday night.

Powell Expresses Doubt
The citizen-critics of the fire truck deal assert that the city is paying too much for a truck whose chassis was built in 1932 and has been used as a demonstrator model in a number of Pacific Coast cities since that year.

City Councilman George V. Powell was the only member of the municipal board this week to express a doubt that "perhaps we've made a bum deal." He said that, in view of the truck's history—which he asserted he did not know at the time the negotiations were considered, he believed the price was too high. Minutes of the council sessions show Powell

Four Hurt As Autoist Speeds Thru Stop Sign

Four persons were injured, one of them seriously, Sunday afternoon in an automobile collision at the intersection of Redondo Beach boulevard and Prairie avenue, according to police reports. The victims were taken to a Hermosa hospital where they are reported recovering.

While driving east on Redondo Beach boulevard, George W. Rosebush, 63, Redondo Beach, was struck by a car that was assertedly driven thru the boulevard stop sign at a high rate of speed from Prairie avenue by Theodore W. Fields of Inglewood. In the car with Rosebush was his wife Anna, 55, and daughter, Miss Arvilla Rosebush, 28.

Fields, according to witnesses, was traveling south on Prairie avenue and went thru the boulevard stop at about 65 miles per hour. His machine struck Rosebush's car, spinning it around in the opposite direction and completely demolishing it. Fields' auto continued in a southeasterly direction, turning over at least two times. It stopped 64 feet from the point of impact, investigating officers determined, after turning over on its right side and facing northeast.

Rosebush apparently was the most seriously injured of the four victims, suffering lacerations of the scalp, a possible concussion, contusions of the left leg and fracture of the right ankle. Mrs. Rosebush was treated for a possible fracture of several right ribs and a cut on her forehead. Their daughter suffered scalp wounds on her forehead and back of her head and a deep cut on her right knee.

Fields, whom witnesses told police showed he had been drinking—an empty bottle was found by officers in his car—was treated for wounds on his scalp, forehead and right shoulder.

Fall from Ladder Hospitalizes Andre

While repairing the roof of his home at 2385 227th street last Friday, Jules Andre, veteran National Supply company worker fell from a ladder sustaining serious injuries, which will keep him confined in a Los Angeles hospital for weeks. He suffered a crushed shoulder blade, three fractured ribs and other injuries.

Bus Questionnaire Please be Prepared to Answer These Questions

Canvassers now in the field gathering data for a new City Directory are also cooperating with the Torrance city council by asking three simple questions concerning the type of bus service to Los Angeles that local residents favor. As an impartial check-up is desired, canvassers are not permitted to express their views, but are instructed to simply ask each householder the following questions:

1. When the Pacific Electric railway quits carrying passengers, do you think we need a bus service to Los Angeles? (Answer Yes or No.)
2. Do you favor a city owned or privately owned bus system? (Answer "City" or "Private").
3. How often would your family use a bus line? (Answer "Once a week," "Every week day," "Twice a Month," etc. Also state how many members of your household would use the bus.

"It will facilitate matters, if householders will have their answers ready to the above questions; and you are respectfully requested not to embarrass the canvassers by asking their personal opinions," said Grover Inskip, manager of the Western Directory company, which is conducting the survey and will shortly publish the new City Directory.

Pencil Portraits of Prominent Personalities

Sketched by ELIZABETH LOSEY

Twenty-three years ago when Arthur Mullin came to Torrance business in the Southland was "dead-end a mackerel" . . . World War I was hanging away. Los Angeles was still a sleepy, sprawling town, Torrance was a village of 425 residents and the roads consisted of East Road to Los Angeles, Wilmington-Redondo (101) highway to Redondo Beach and points north and south.

Mullin came to this city direct from Sydney, Nova Scotia, where he was married and where his daughter, Miss Edna, was born. He worked for the Lewellyn Iron Works (predecessor of Columbia Steel) following his trade of electrician. In 1924 he went into the garage business and today his firm is a landmark of service and headquarters for Oldsmobile's fine 1940 models.

Born at Wooster, Maine, 60 years ago Oct. 8, Mullin spent most of his boyhood on Prince Edward Island. His mother died when he was four and he went to that "garden spot" of the Northumberland Strait to live with an aunt until he was 11. Then he packed his small belongings and went to Boston. Altho he spent several years in the creamery business—"when a cheese maker was cock of the walk on \$10 a month and found"—Mullin devoted most of his life in the east to electrical work. He helped build and install steel and iron plants in Sydney,



ARTHUR MULLIN . . . knows his wires and Oldsmobiles

Birmingham, Ala.; Gary, Ind.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Long Island, N. Y.; and other places. That training has enabled him to diagnose a motor's ignition ailments almost at a glance and his garage is regarded with confidence by many local motorists.

Miss Edna Mullin is the business manager of her father's establishment but Mullin still bosses the service end of the firm. The Mullins live at 1323 Cota avenue, their home for the past 23 years.

Delays In Buying Homes, Costly!

Some people who are planning to build "later" are missing excellent opportunities in ready-built homes at a big savings. Why not tell your broker your problems? He or she will help you in buying or building. For advice see the advertiser whose ad is partially reproduced herewith—

— Homes 841
\$250 DOWN—5 rooms and 2 bedrooms on improved street and fine neighborhood. Closed in.

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