

LAST MEMBER OF YOUTHFUL AUTO THEFT TRIO NABBED

Sometimes, like the Northwest Mounted Police, Chief John H. Stroh "gets his man" even if it takes months. It took almost four months to the day for him to catch up to William Franklin, 19-year-old Redondo Beach youth, for the asserted theft of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Brown's new car from beside their home at 1738 Cabrillo on the night of Oct. 29, 1939.

But during those intervening months, young Franklin had joined the U. S. Army. When he was arrested in Redondo Beach, he was on a furlough to visit his grandmother. He was given a preliminary hearing before City Judge Robert Lessing yesterday and bound over to Superior Court. Police Chief Stroh has notified Army authorities that Franklin is in custody awaiting trial on automobile theft charges.

Member of Trio

Three boys, Franklin L. Stone, also 19 and of Redondo Beach and DePorte Rampley, 16, of this city were implicated in the theft of the Browns' car and that of Mrs. Anstis M. Albertson's machine last October. Stone, who accompanied the other two back to Oklahoma in Mrs. Albertson's car, was found innocent of any connection with the theft.

Young Rampley is now serving a year's sentence in a mountain detention camp. The trio was arrested in Bristol, Okla., last November on suspicion but were released by authorities in that city before Police Chief Stroh's telegram asking they be held for extradition arrived. Young Rampley later returned from Louisiana and gave himself up to police here.

Destitute Family Receives Aid But No Work Yet

A local church, a school teacher, neighbors and the Torrance Relief Society came to the aid of the Indiana family whose head, Ivan M. Johnson, appealed to The Herald last week for work to keep his brood from going hungry. The response came within two hours after the paper was distributed and proved most welcome to the destitute family.

But Johnson still has not found the work he begged for. At his home, 1218 Annapola, he said yesterday that they are deeply grateful to Rev. Frank M. Porter and the First Christian church, the school teacher who gave them \$5 but wished to remain anonymous and the Torrance Relief Society for food and clothing.

Neighbors give groceries. "But I've tramped the streets every day and called everywhere I could without success in locating even temporary work," Johnson, 32 years old, said. "Neither has my father, who is a husky man at 54, been able to find work and we want to earn our way instead of depending on the kindness of charitable organizations."

Mrs. Smithy of 1828 Highway 401 Lomita gave the Johnsons — the wife and three young children — two good mattresses. The family's landlady has let them remain at 1218 Annapola street without paying the rent she needs to keep up the payments on the house. Other neighbors have likewise responded with groceries — but the Johnsons, father and son, want work. The Herald will be glad to transmit any offers to them.

School Principal Judges Entries In Want Ad Rhymes Contest

Leonard Dykes, principal of Torrance Elementary school, headed the group of judges who selected the best rhymes this week for The Torrance Herald and Lomita News Want Ad Rhymes contest. Their selections follow:

First Prize Winner
Eleanor Hickey of 1002 West 164th St., Gardena, will kindly call at The Torrance Herald office for her prize of one dollar.

The Ad:
"A R LOANS
Cash Now!
Take up to 29 months to pay. Mr. Woessner, manager, PERSONAL Finance Company
San Pedro Office, 638 So. Pacific Phone San Pedro 2509"

The Winning Rhyme:
"I went to the cupboard after some food,
And saw nothing there but a bone.
I said to myself, 'I'll not be a brute,
I'll go get an A & R Loan!'"
Second Prize Winner
Carol Northern of 1929 257th street, Lomita, will kindly call at

Big Name Band to Play Friday at Auditorium



HAL GRAYSON
... rhythmic king on tour

Hal Grayson, "California's own rhythmic king" and his entire orchestra is the exciting treat booked for this week's community dance on Friday evening, March 1, at the Torrance Civic Auditorium, according to Vernon Coil, who has charge of the Friday night dances for the Torrance Coordinating Council. There will be no advance in prices, Coil says.

Harold Grayson began his orchestra leading career while attending U. S. C. He was chosen by Harold Roberts to direct the Trojan band and upon graduation, decided to organize his orchestra, and it played regularly at a large group of university proms throughout the West. Grayson's first hotel engagement was with the Hollywood Roosevelt where, he remained nine months. From this location he broadcast nightly. Following this Grayson and his orchestra went with Columbia Pictures, Inc. where they made more than 40 pictures including "Big Broadcast" with Bing Crosby.

Then following a long series of successes, with Warner Brothers pictures, at the mammoth Trianon Ballroom in Seattle, the Palomar in Los Angeles, Embassy Club in Hollywood, St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, Catalina Island Casino, and the world-famous Alexander Young Hotel in Honolulu.

It is little wonder that local patrons of the popular Friday night dances are all a-jitter over the prospects of dancing this week to the thrilling, luring strains of Hal Grayson's incomparable dance tempos. They are waiting to meet the "king" in person in Torrance.

Scouters Hear Nat'l Leader of Camping Here

About 50 Scout leaders from all parts of Harbor and South Bay District received a number of helpful suggestions from Wes H. Klusman, assistant national Boy Scout camp director, when he appeared at a conference held in the Civic Auditorium Tuesday night. Klusman detailed much information of value to the Scouters concerning plans for summer camping activities.

Month's Building Totals \$24,155

Twenty-one building projects in Torrance this month were begun and completed at a cost of \$24,155, according to the regular month-end report from the city engineer's office. In February of 1939 there were 40 construction jobs, amounting to \$82,670.

This month's total added to January's building figure of \$23,910 starts the new construction record for the year at \$48,065 as compared to \$198,630 for the first two months of 1939.

Building permits issued during the past week from the city engineer's office totaled \$5,300, according to a checkup late yesterday. New construction jobs were under way by the following:

Albert G. Lund, who is erecting an addition on a moved-in house at 24063 Neece avenue, Waverly, \$1,000; A. Van Vliet, a double residence at 22801-03 Hawthorne avenue, \$3,000, and John Tufts, frame residence and garage at 2152 236th street, \$1,300.

Three out of five car owners in the United States have never owned a new car. The used car lot is their marketplace.

May Itemize Colden Estate by Court Action

In what is believed to be the first legal test of its kind Superior Judge Myron Westover ruled last week that a widow may bring a court action to determine the amount of community property included in the estate of her deceased husband without jeopardizing her rights under the will.

The victor in this action was Mrs. Clara Colden, widow of the late Congressman Charles J. Colden of the 17th district who left an estate valued at more than \$200,000.

Mrs. Colden was opposed by other heirs who contended that any action brought by the widow to determine the character of the property would be in violation of a forfeiture or contest clause in the will.

File in Two States

Under terms of the will Mrs. Colden has the option of accepting one-fifth of her husband's estate after certain other bequests have been deducted or receiving one-half of the community property included in the estate.

Following the ruling by Judge Westover, Mrs. Colden will be permitted to file declaratory relief actions in California and Texas to determine how much of her husband's property in these two states was community property.

Defendants in the action before Judge Westover included executors of the estate, John M. Costello, Mrs. Abbey Bell Colden Alexander (daughter of the late congressman) and Charles J. Colden, Jr., son of Mrs. Colden and the congressman. Other defendants were Vi June Colden Hawthorne and Archie John Colden.

Onyx Products Being Made Here

The beauty of polished onyx has an enduring charm that has delighted decorators for ages. Today modern methods of quarrying and finishing have placed that highly colored stone within reach of many for home decoration.

To supply a demand for onyx-decorated fireplaces, mantels, bathrooms and table tops, Ed Comber of Los Angeles has opened a modest plant at 1230 1/2 West 215th street where he is now completing work on some samples of his art.

Comber has been in the stone business all his life and for the past several years has specialized in onyx products. He obtains his material from quarries in Utah, Arizona and Mexico and by embedding odd-shaped pieces in concrete is able to fashion fireplaces and mantels with unusual distinction.

He did much of the decorating in onyx and other colored stone when the Los Angeles city hall was under construction. He has developed a technique which is said to be the most satisfactory manner of inlaying onyx. Comber plans to market his products thru Los Angeles and Beverly Hills mantel and fireplace firms.

Authority on City Administration Shows How Planning Commission Can Serve a Community

In proof of his point that "the first essential of good city government is good planning," Walter H. Blucher, executive director of the American Society of Planning Officials, takes the case of a mayor plagued by civic troubles and points out how many problems pertaining to city administration can be solved by an alert planning commission.

Blucher's "case-history" was published in the current issue of The American City magazine, a monthly publication with wide circulation among city officials. Because his statements have particular interest here, in view of the Torrance Planning Commission's efforts to draft a new city-wide zoning ordinance, The Herald herewith re-prints pertinent excerpts with Torrance interpolations—thusly:

The local situation and local angle . . . troubles common to all cities

At the present time, the local planners are apparently awaiting the expiration of a 90-day extension granted a group of North Torrance residents who objected to adoption of zoning regulations—even the most primary—in their district. In the meantime, the Planning Commission is completing its work on the draft of the proposed ordinance, utilizing the extension period to prepare the measure which many believe is the most important piece of legislation ever enacted by the city. The planners are to recommend its adoption by the city council, probably sometime next month.

Landier Bus Deal With Gardena Opposed Here Protest Will be Filed

Any transportation plan involving necessity of transferring to another bus or street car to get local residents to and from Los Angeles would be "most unsatisfactory and a distinct set-back from the fine bus transportation we now enjoy" in the opinion of Mayor William H. Tolson.

The mayor thus condemned the proposal of the Landier Transportation Company and the city of Gardena to establish a bus service from Torrance, thru Gardena, to Huntington Park. This plan endorsed by Gardena's city council, would relieve that city of continuing its present municipal bus line and enrich its treasury by a \$500 payment from the Landier firm.

"We don't want anything to do with that kind of a deal," Mayor Tolson declared. "In the first place, our residents want transportation to and from Los Angeles not Huntington Park or Watts. In the second place, such a deal would deprive Waverly and Lomita residents of through bus service they now enjoy with the Torrance municipal buses.

Will File Protest

"The Torrance city council, I am certain, will join me in instructing our city attorney to appear at a hearing on the Landier Transportation Company's application for a bus franchise next Wednesday and file a protest," Tolson said.

This hearing before the State Railroad Commission's Examiner Baker, will convene at 10 a. m. in the State building at Los Angeles, according to the last information. At that time the Landier firm will file a request to establish a bus service in conjunction with the city of Gardena.

The Landier proposal for bus service from Torrance to Huntington Park has found no support here. At the present time municipal buses are operating on an hourly schedule and providing transportation from Waverly, Lomita and Torrance to Ninth and Hill streets, Los Angeles.

Two More Bus Hearings

According to a report of the Gardena Valley News, that bus company has agreed to pay the city of Gardena \$500 on the day when it begins to operate its proposed bus line. In return the city of Gardena has agreed to abandon operation of its municipal bus line.

The agreement, the Gardena newspaper says, also "carries the proviso that unless the Landier Company is granted the certificate of public convenience and necessity by the State Railroad Commission on or before May 1, the city shall have the option of cancelling the agreement on a 24-hours notice."

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Authority on City Administration Shows How Planning Commission Can Serve a Community

Case History of Civic Problems Has Local Interpolations

Blucher stressed the need for and the reasons why a planning agency must serve a progressive city.

"I can't provide you with a sure-fire remedy," Blucher told his harassed mayor-friend, "but let's look at each of these situations and see what might have been done."

"When a group came to see you asking for a street widening, your planning agency would have made a study of the situation. It might have determined, for instance, that the congestion existed for only a half-hour in the morning and a half-hour in the evening. It could have told you how many people come down town each day, and it might have been able to show you that by resurfacing a parallel street no further action would be necessary. I can see the planning commission coming to you with a report outlining the situation fully, telling you that the cost of such a street widening would be \$300,000, recommending that the petition be denied, and giving you sound reasons for denial of that petition."

"When a citizens' group comes in complaining about parking, your planning agency would have made a study of the situation and might have discovered that the reason for much of the inconvenience arose from the fact that merchants and clerks were parking their automobiles in front of their stores. It might have said also that there was excessive congestion and that parking facilities ought to be provided, not through an expensive street widening, but perhaps by acquiring cheap property in the interior of the block, off the street. It might have suggested that the cost of this improvement be borne by the stores. If your experience

To the perplexed mayor — and here is the "Torrance angle" or reason for reprinting the

Torrance Election Campaign Has 13 Entries Now

That popular sport of hat tossing in political rings took a slump in Torrance during the past week but is expected to pick up during the coming nine days as "dark horse" candidates for the three city council seats, make public their nominations.

No. 13 to file for the April 9 city election was W. H. Klusman, one-time mayor and perennial candidate for public office. Mrs. Klusman deposited his nomination certificate with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett Tuesday.

At least three more potential candidates are known to have nomination blanks in the process of acquiring signatures of supporters. These are Gordon L. Mann of North Torrance and two Waverly residents, James W. Loughridge and John M. Minor.

Two Tickets in Race

Only one "ticket" as such and publicly announced is in the race. This is the Legrande (Grant) Barkdull, Lewis M. Fernley and Wallace H. Gilbert slate. However, one of many campaign reports in circulation indicates that Messrs. George V. Powell, Loughridge and Mann will compose another.

Albert Isen and Bevin M. Prewett are actively working to secure support for a political sheet which is scheduled to appear early next month. Isen and Prewett are reported to be supporting Powell, Loughridge and Mann in the hope of getting lucrative appointments should this ticket be elected.

Klusman is believed to have abandoned the idea of obtaining two running mates for his slate. He attempted to form a combine in 1938 but was also unsuccessful so far.

Three Issues So Far

Other candidates who have so far refrained from identifying themselves with any ticket are: Lawrence V. (Vernon) Babcock, Joe Hagberg of Waverly, Tom F. McGuire, incumbent; James J. O'Toole, Frank Schmidt, William F. Shields, Carl D. Steele and Mayor William H. Tolson.

Among the "issues" which have come to public notice as a source of campaign material are (1) the proposed new civil service ordinance of which few have direct knowledge of its contents or what it proposes to do; (2) purchase of city supplies, several aspirants asserting there should be more open bidding and preference to local merchants, and (3) divorce of local schools from the Los Angeles board of education, a point which is expected to increase in importance as the campaign gets hotter.

Pledged Support

Economy of administration may be attained through the election of men equipped to carry out such a program and O'Toole is "economy-minded," his committee states.

"Our candidate will seek election on his record of accomplishment rather than on future

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City Must Launch Condemnation Suit to Get P. E. Strip

It will take a condemnation suit, brought by the city, to get a clear title to the Pacific Electric right-of-way along Cabrillo avenue which the railway offered to sell to the city for \$8,055 last year, an offer which was accepted by the city council.

City Attorney John E. McCall informed the council Tuesday night that as result of a conference with P. E. officials, engineers and attorneys "a few days ago" it was reported that when the sale reached the railway's legal department it was found that the company could not give a fee simple title to the city "because the line was in operation on Cabrillo."

Altho the city attorney informed the council he was ready to proceed with a condemnation suit and that P. E. officials told him further conferences were useless, the council decided to seek another meeting with the railway officials on the matter. No date was set for this session.

"Such a condemnation suit would be a friendly proceeding," McCall said, "and conducted merely to clear the records. We should introduce all papers in our possession pertaining to the Pacific Electric's offer to sell the right of way for \$8,055 and our acceptance of it. I am briefing the case now and will have a complete opinion to render in a few days."

Building Front Said Hazard

Declared a dangerous hazard, the front of the building at 1629 Cabrillo avenue, was damaged by fire Sept. 27, 1938, must be barricaded or torn down by the recent purchase within a few days or the city will institute condemnation proceedings.

This was the verdict of the city council Tuesday night after City Engineer Leonard Young had reported his various attempts to get the property repaired. He said he understood the property has been sold and the deal is now in escrow. The front pier has settled more than three inches, he said, and the slightest earth disturbance would send the bricks crashing down.

City's Water Lines Purified

If your morning coffee is a little off color and your drinking water tastes like Purex with a dash of Chlorox, don't worry. It's good for you and the taste and smell of your H2O is better than running the risk of contracting contagious disease.

William H. Stanger, manager of the Municipal Water department, ordered an extra dose of chlorine for his various tanks early this week and used up approximately a million gallons in flushing all city lines.

The cleansing was ordered to avoid any contagion such as some other Southland cities have suffered which may have come from their water supply. Stanger said the excess chlorine will wear off in a few days and "we'll all be the better for it."

Assessors Start Canvass Monday

Preparatory to taking the field on the first Monday in March, which is next Monday, more than 400 deputy assessors were given special instruction this week for their canvass of personal property in Los Angeles county.

A slight change has been made in the law whereby every person is required to file a written property statement between noon on the first Monday in March (March 4) and 5 p. m. on the last Monday in June (June 24). Taxes on personal property not secured by real estate, become due at noon on the first Monday in March and delinquent on the first of September, and draw 8 percent penalty.

Real estate tax bills will be mailed only to taxpayers who have filed statements with the Assessor during the assessing season. Statements may be made to the deputy when he calls at the home or place of business, or taxpayer may make his statement at any office of the County Assessor during the assessing season. Values placed upon statements made in any office of the Assessor will be subject to inspection and revision by Field Deputies.

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