

# Locomotive Explosion Did This



Four men died in wreckage pictured here of Southern Pacific freight train near Salinas, Cal., when locomotive exploded and derailed some of 65 cars in train. Officials blamed lack of water in boiler. Note utter destruction of locomotive, also heavy truck demolished in wreckage.

## Torrance 20 Years Old As City Next Monday

Next Monday, May 12, Torrance will celebrate its 20th anniversary as an incorporated city.

Torrance was actually founded Oct. 24, 1912 when Jared Sidney Torrance, then president of the Dominguez Land Company, made "certain statements" to a notary public of Los Angeles regarding the restriction and sale in small parcels of a certain piece of property to be known as the City of Torrance.

But it was not until nine years later that this community incorporated and became a city of the sixth class.

The Dominguez Land Company had been incorporated in May 1911. In December of that year the Union Tool Works (now National Supply Company) completed buildings on 25 acres of land here—the first manufacturing plant in the new city. The original city limits included 3,494 acres of land.

**City Born of Idea**  
Today Torrance embraces 12,083 acres and is the fourth largest city in area in the county. According to a voluminous report compiled at great expense in August 1925 by a firm of consulting economists, engineers and statisticians, the idea of an industrial site, as planned for Torrance, was first brought up at a directors' meeting of the Union Tool Company.

"Land was excessively high in price and facilities were very limited in the city of Los Angeles at that time and it was shown that there was a definite need for industrial land which might be bought at a comparatively low price and which might have been furnished with facilities making it as desirable to manufacturers and workmen as Los Angeles city land and if possible, more desirable," the comprehensive report stated.

**War Disrupts Plan**  
"With this idea in mind the city of Torrance was planned and the industries (Union Tool, Pacific Electric Shops and the Llewellyn Iron Works, which later was acquired by the Columbia Steel Company and subsequently by the United States Steel Corporation) allotted acreage located according to the original plan of the city.

"A great deal of attention was attracted by this early experimental development in city planning and sales of lots during the period from August, 1912 to August 1913 were very active. The original idea was to have a place where industry could operate with all the advantages offered by city location and yet, at the same time, give workmen in industry opportunity to take advantage of the many desirable factors found in a suburban residential area.

"The plan worked out very satisfactorily and was well accepted by both industries and workmen. The World War and discovery of oil in Torrance, however, disrupted the plan of (Continued on Page 8-A)

## MARCH OF RIMES

AFFINITIES By H. F. NOAKE

Have you ever paid attention to the marked affinity existing 'twixt a sea of things, well known to you and me? For instance salt and pepper, so also, ham and eggs; divorced, they'd be as lonesome as chairs without their legs. There's Amos teamed with Andy, There's Grace and George Burns; it's always working side by side that makes them going concerns. We always speak of Nip and Tuck, and likewise to and fro; not motoring we meet more twins, the famous Stop and Go. There are thousands of affinities, familiar, without doubt, but none quite so unwelcome as that old pair, Down and Out.

# TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 TWO SECTIONS 16 PAGES TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1931 PER COPY 5c

## County Sets Up Men's Camp at Alondra Park

Establishment of a camp for single, unattached men at Alondra Park near Torrance was disclosed this week, when the board of supervisors authorized seven additional jobs of utility work for the camp.

Inquiry concerning the additions to the county payroll revealed that the county is planning to send some of the men to the new camp from the American House in Los Angeles, and some from the Rancho Los Amigos. It was announced recently that the American House would be discontinued as a hotel for the indigent men, many of them alcoholics, who would otherwise frequent "skid row."

Other less desirable residents of the American House and the Rancho will be sent to the county's Warm Springs Camp, located in Elizabeth Lake Canyon, where a number of alcoholics already are being cared for in healthful surroundings and removed from temptation.

Still another camp for single unattached men is located at Acton, and this is to be for tubercular men exclusively henceforth. In each camp the men are given light tasks to do around camp to keep them busy, such as keeping the premises neat, and watering grass and shrubbery. At Alondra Park, it is proposed to have the men assist in the upkeep of park areas that it is hoped to develop this summer.

## Police Break Up Youths Assembled for Auto Races

Nearly a dozen youths were assembled at Crenshaw blvd. and with their "hopped-up" cars ready to start a series of unsanctioned road races when police officers arrived, dispersed the would-be pavement burners and called the races off.

**FACES TRIAL**  
Jack Lynne Crutcher, 42, Los Angeles, was arrested last Friday on Gramercy ave. and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released on his own recognizance by Judge John Shidler to appear for trial tomorrow morning.

## P.V. Hills Suicide-Blast Causes Cave-In at Doak Plant Site in Torrance

The dynamite blast in a parked auto that killed its igniter and scattered parts of his car 100 yards last Sunday in the Palos Verdes hills sent underground repercussions as far as the Doak Aircraft factory building, soon to begin operations on the site of the old Torrance Flat Glass plant.

Authorities had learned that the explosion which took the life of Clinton L. Beck, 37-year-old truck driver for an El Segundo aircraft engineering company, was heard two miles. But officials of the Doak plant in Torrance believe that the cave-in of the excavation for the huge drop hammer at the factory building located at 224th and Abalone was caused by the suicide-blast.

Beck, who lived in Redondo Beach, is believed to have placed several sticks of dynamite on the engine of his car, connected an electric detonator to them and the ignition, turned on the switch and died in the resulting blast. The cave-in at the Doak plant occurred at about the same time, it was learned.

The sand-pile that slumped into the excavation from the side nearest the Palos Verdes hills was cleaned out in a few hours and did not delay work of preparing for setting up the huge drop hammer.

Beck, it was learned, had been despondent for several weeks. His brother was said to have

**Mercury Thieves Again Active Here**  
Ten and one-half pounds of mercury, valued at \$27.30 according to the current price of \$2.60 per pound, were stolen from two oil well meters on rigs operated by the Natural Gas Company at 2429 229th street last Friday night, according to police reports. Considerable mercury was spilled on the ground at one place, indicating that the thief was scared away before he got all of the valuable metal from the meter.

## Torrance Can Treble Its Population--IF Houses Are Provided

**An Editorial**  
The lead story on page 1, section B, of this edition carries a highly significant banner, entitled, "Local Communities Will Share Defense Boom IF Homes Are Built."

The workers are coming all right, over 100,000 strong. Some sources, considered reliable, even predict there will be over 200,000 men put to work in the National Defense program in this area. These figures, of course, include the booming activities at the harbor as well as the expansions in the industrial districts of which Torrance is the hub.

Where are these thousands of new employees going to live?

There is little likelihood of much residential building in Wilmington due to the F.H.A. ban there because of oil drilling, Long Beach and adjacent communities will be taxed to the limit to provide housing for the 18,000 to 20,000 workers which will man the new Douglas Aircraft plant scheduled to begin production July 1. The expanding aircraft industries in the Inglewood-Santa Monica district are absorbing all the new dwellings that are being built in that area.

It is only logical that a large share of the thousands of workers who are to be employed at the Terminal Island shipyards and other defense activities at the harbor will seek homes in Torrance and Lomita. Furthermore, there are "big expansions" coming in our local industrial plants which will greatly increase their payrolls. Already, there is an acute shortage of houses here. What will be the situation a year, or even six months from now?

We stand at the threshold of becoming a good sized city, perhaps two or three times the present population,--IF we can provide houses. There will be thousands seeking homes here. Who will provide them?

It is to be expected that some large scale housing activities under Title VI of the Federal Housing Administration will be launched by building concerns who are already alert to the situation. Title VI is the newly enacted F.H.A. section which was added to encourage residential building in National Defense industrial areas.

But large scale housing projects cannot take care of all demands. There will be need for multiple unit dwellings, and individual homes built on the remaining vacant lots in Torrance and Lomita.

We cannot all go into the building business, but we can all help finance home building if we put our spare dollars thru the right channels. An attractive offer was made last week, and repeated again this week,--by the Lincoln Building and Loan Association, whose Torrance office is at 1335 Post-avenue. Every dollar you invest in this association's 3 1/2 percent Federally insured, certificates, will be matched with two dollars of outside money and will be utilized immediately to build homes in Torrance and vicinity, according to W. E. Bowen, local manager.

This is one way we can all help even though our funds be limited. —G.C.W.

## Incumbent School Board Members Are Re-elected

All four incumbent members of the Los Angeles board of education who received support from electors--the few who did go to the polls--were re-elected in Tuesday's election. They were Dr. E. Vincent Askey, John F. Dalton, Dr. Clarence W. Pierce and Mrs. Fay E. Allen, Negro, who pulled thru by a narrow margin over Mrs. Ethel G. Brown.

While only a comparatively few Torrance voters went to the polls, Los Angeles electors returned Mayor Fletcher Bowron for another term over Stephen W. Cunningham and adopted a \$3,500,000 bond issue for completion of the L. A. Municipal Airport. Bowron defeated Cunningham by approximately 32,000 votes.

Wilder W. Hartley won another term on the Los Angeles city council, representing the 15th district adjoining Torrance. His total vote was 11,863 to Franklin P. Buyer's 7,917.

**Few Go To Polls Here**  
A new record for lack of interest on the part of the voters was set in Torrance Tuesday when only six-tenths of one percent of the registered electors cast ballots in the school board election. Only 252 out of the city's 5,363 registered voters went to the seven consolidated polling places to turn in the following complete but unofficial returns:

Clarence W. Pierce	170
John F. Dalton	165
Ethel G. Brown	151
Edwin V. Askey	147
Elizabeth McManus	89
Fay E. Allen	88
Richard F. Carlyle	82
Glen Bradford	57

The election turn-out locally was a sad performance, considering the interest 1940 elections held for Torrance voters. In that year the April 9 municipal election received a 61 percent vote with 2,965 of the 4,866 registered voters.

## "IRON LUNG" CREDITED WITH SAVING FIRST LIFE

Exactly eight days--almost to the minute--after the Torrance American Legion Post had presented a portable "iron lung" to the city for the free use of any person needing its service, the equipment was credited with saving a life.

Mrs. Esther Hudson of Keystone was near death last Wednesday night at Torrance Memorial hospital when post-operative complications developed. She was having extreme difficulty in breathing. On the advice of her physician, Dr. A. P. Stevenson, a call was

sent to the fire station where the "iron lung" is kept and the equipment was immediately rushed into its first local service. Two hours later Mrs. Hudson had improved and was out of danger. The "iron lung" relieved her heart and lung muscles from exertion and allowed her to gain strength. The life-saving equipment thus "paid for its cost a hundred times over," in the opinion of Commander Edwin Bird, who led the campaign to raise \$540 for the purchase of the "lung."

Four months' building here is \$104,872  
New building during the first four months here this year has amounted to \$104,872 as compared with \$122,015 for the same period in 1940, according to a report from the city engineer's office this week. Last month's new construction totaled \$21,592 while building in April 1940 was valued at \$37,050.

Six new houses were erected last month at a cost of \$18,875, according to building permit records. Other construction was: seven non-residential structures, \$1,600; four alterations and repair jobs, \$942, and three oil well derrick demolitions, \$175.

Building permits were issued during the past week to: Baptist church parsonage at 1827 Andree ave. for repairs and termite treatment, \$150; Mr. and Mrs. Paris Tuttle for a single frame garage at 2424 1/2 Hawthorne blvd., \$200; Allen L. Nelson to remodel a residence at 17805 Crenshaw blvd., \$250; L. N. Pierce for re-roofing a residence at 1609 Anapola ave., \$82; Rubbercraft Corporation for a five-room frame residence at 2027 Abalone st., \$2,500; H. C. Ritchie for a double frame garage at 1610 Beech ave., \$225, and Ernest E. Clark for a rear screen porch and closet addition to a residence at 1731 1/2 Andree ave., \$100.

Imet Inonu, president of Turkey, is deaf.

## Western Avenue Extension Said 20 Percent Done

Estimating that the work will be completed by June 30 work is rapidly progressing on the Western ave. extension in Harbor City and is now 20 percent completed. The total cost is estimated at \$30,476 and the work is being done as a W.P.A. project with 40 men employed.

Curbs and gutters will be laid for a total of 1,130 feet, 16,000 cubic yards of dirt being removed and used to fill the gulleys below 262nd st. The street will be improved for a width of 70 feet and the right of way is 100 feet. Except for slight detours, the improvement is causing little inconvenience to motorists who take the western ave. road to San Pedro.

## Child Drowns in Slough Near City Yesterday

Yesterday morning little DeWayne Beall's mother buttoned his five-year-old sturdy body into a sunsuit so he could begin absorbing his share of sunshine at their home, 20832 Margaret st. in Keystone.

A few hours later, the body of little DeWayne was removed dripping from the slough at Figueroa and Main street. Despite strenuous efforts of Torrance city firemen and use of their inhalator and the American Legion's "iron lung," the child was beyond reviving.

The little boy had traveled about a mile and a half to his doom in the flood waters of the slough. His body was discovered floating by neighbor woodworkers, Captain W. R. West and Fireman R. L. Perry responded to calls from deputy sheriffs for inhalator and later "iron lung" service. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Beall are the bereaved parents.

Organization of an air raid warden service for Southern California cities was outlined in detail by a committee of fire chiefs at a meeting yesterday in Los Angeles which was attended by Fire Chief McMaster of this city and a number of other fire officials and members of the Forestry Service. While the plans are still in a formative stage, nevertheless the suggested wartime duty is almost certain to follow many of the ideas expressed at the meeting, McMaster said.

## Dr. Smiley to Take Health Officer Test

Four district health officers, including Dr. H. C. Smiley of Torrance, will compete with Dr. Roy O. Gilbert in the examination for county health officer for Los Angeles county, to be given next Tuesday and Wednesday, it was announced today.

Health officers of the Torrance, San Fernando, Inglewood and Santa Monica health districts, and Dr. Hubert O. Swartout, director of the bureau of communicable diseases, are the five who will take the examination along with Dr. Gilbert. The four district health officers are Dr. William F. Reanser of Santa Monica; Dr. David E. Smallhorst of San Fernando; Dr. John Wirt Robinson of Inglewood and Dr. Smiley. The position pays \$6300 a year on appointment.

Within 90 days a training program for a corps of air raid wardens for use in event of emergency--major disaster or war--will be launched on a county-wide basis, the fire chiefs were assured. The program will cover incorporated and unincorporated areas alike, and Fire Chief William J. Mohr of Santa Monica is scheduled to be in charge of its direction.

Today county attorneys are working on legislation that will vest the necessary authority in the men who will be recruited to act as air raid wardens. One warden will be delegated for each 250 persons. Duties of these (Continued on Page 8-A)

## Recall Move Favored

Circulation of recall petitions demanding the ouster of Councilmen George V. Powell, John V. Murray and Vern Babcock on six charges is proceeding "very satisfactorily," according to Attorney Charles Mitschrich, chairman of the recall committee.

He said today that the volunteer workers "report very little reluctance on the part of voters to sign the petitions."

"We cannot report the exact number of signatures obtained to date because a number of our volunteer petition circulators have not made a report for the past several days," Mitschrich stated.

"But those who have reported indicate that Torrance is determined to rid itself of the incompetent and undemocratic trio now dictating city policies."

**Office Open Evenings**  
A number of people desiring to sign the petitions which ask an election to determine whether or not Powell, Murray and Babcock will remain in office have been unable to contact those carrying the statements.

For the benefit of those citizens and others who work during the day-time, Mitschrich said that he will remain in his office at 1409 Marcella avenue every evening except Saturday, and Sunday from 6 to 8 o'clock to take signatures.

He is at his office during the day and will be glad to receive recall endorsements then.

## Air Raid Warden Service Plans Are Under Study Here

Organization of an air raid warden service for Southern California cities was outlined in detail by a committee of fire chiefs at a meeting yesterday in Los Angeles which was attended by Fire Chief McMaster of this city and a number of other fire officials and members of the Forestry Service. While the plans are still in a formative stage, nevertheless the suggested wartime duty is almost certain to follow many of the ideas expressed at the meeting, McMaster said.

Equipment, qualifications, legislation, duties, number required, training program and organization for the volunteer corps--all based on fire department plans--were outlined for the benefit of the officials present.

McMaster said it was agreed that there should be one air raid warden for every patrol mile of urban or farm territory, one for every half-mile street patrol in residential areas and one for every quarter-mile of congested business or apartment districts. The Torrance fire chief is now studying the proposals made at the Los Angeles meeting with a view toward suggesting certain precautions and arrangements for any emergency in this city to the city council.

**Early Start Seen**  
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## Lucky Day for Our Readers

You have often said to yourself, "I'm never lucky." Here is good luck for you. If you will take your time and read today's "People You Should Know," and telephone for the answers to the questions asked, we are sure you will say this is one time you are "lucky." Then you can join in the chorus with the rest of the fans and sing "This Is My Lucky Day."