

TORRANCE HERALD

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TO ARMED FORCES On the Post... RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS BUILDING HELPS OUR SERVICE MEN SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. TODAY, as always, the American Red Cross is on the front lines of the Nation's defense.

Year's Building Totals \$804,397 Largest Since '38

Torrance building permits in 1941 gained \$372,980 over 1940's \$421,417 total, the city engineer's office reported Friday.

Permits for December 1941, however, declined \$32,068 from the December 1940 total of \$89,225, which included \$66,000 of the National Supply Company's expansion program.

Defense expansion at National Columbia Steel and other Torrance plants, and defense workers' home construction furnished the impetus for the huge 1941 building gain here.

A total of 83 single dwellings, valued at \$234,675, were erected during the past year. There were 107 repair and alteration jobs on homes and 42 similar improvements to non-residential structures, the work amounting to \$101,722.

The 1941 building total was the largest here since the all-time record figure, set in 1938 during the deep-sand oil boom, of \$3,143,873. The year-by-year building total for the past decade:

Table with 2 columns: Year, Total Building Value. 1941: \$804,397; 1940: 421,417; 1939: 591,533; 1938: 3,143,873; 1937: 1,066,057; 1936: 453,976; 1935: 204,893; 1934: 138,787; 1933: 937,710; 1932: 389,899; 1931: 102,682.

Building permits issued during the past week totaled an even \$10,000. They were issued to: Orrin Stadder, reconstruct the earthquake damage to store and warehouse building at 1912 Carson st., \$2,000.

Susi Staddon, reconstruct quake damaged store and apartment building at 2203 Torrance blvd., \$3,200.

R. Kemel, reinforced brick front porch at home located at 1407 Cota ave., \$300.

Fred Rittmiller, construction of a 12 by 20-foot frame garage at 1621 Maad ave., \$100.

W. A. Dreman, alterations to industrial building at 2212 Border ave., \$1,000.

Edith M. Keeth, four-room frame residence at 2008 182nd st., \$2,300.

Chris Rasmussen, 10 by 16-foot frame playhouse at 24252 Los Codona, WALTERIA, \$200.

P. O. Receipts For 1941 Set New Record

War proved no dampener to Christmas mailing in Torrance, Postmaster Earl Conner revealed Friday when he announced that gross postal receipts for the December quarter totaled \$15,338.44 as compared to \$13,666.83 for the same three-month period at the end of 1940.

Gross receipts at the post office for the calendar year amounted to \$49,603.61 as against \$45,651.53 for the year 1940.

Defense bond sales at the postoffice up to Dec. 14 when the supply of small denomination bonds ran out amounted to \$18,000. Conner reported. A new supply of \$25, \$50 and \$100 bonds arrived this week. The total bond sales for the year was \$64,724.75.

The postoffice marked 1941 by winning a first class rating on July 1 on the basis of gross annual business of more than \$40,000. The past year's total receipts were the largest in history here, Conner said.

PLAN '42 SHOW Committee members of the Torrance Flower, Art and Hobby Show will hold a dinner meeting next Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 8:30 o'clock at Christy's cafe to discuss plans for the 1942 show.

P. O. Basement First Public Raid Shelter

Conversion of the postoffice basement into a public air raid shelter, accommodating 400 persons, and Red Cross dressing station was completed Tuesday as sandbags were placed about the windows and entrances.

The main entrance of Marcelina avenue, was sandbagged as was the rear entrance to the boiler room. Postmaster Conner said the basement will be available to the public if and when an air raid alert signal is sounded.

To date, this is the first public air raid shelter announced for use in the city. Both local banks could convert their vaults into places of safety for their staffs and some stores have been surveyed by their occupants to determine the best places in case of bombings.

The Herald staff is prepared to use the concrete pit under the printing press for a shelter. This will accommodate 12 or 15 persons sitting down.

Industrial Employees To Purchase Bonds Thru Monthly Pay Deductions

Employees of Torrance industrial concerns will soon be able to purchase defense bonds through monthly payroll deductions, it was announced today by a local committee which is contacting labor and management groups.

359 Get Auto License Strips On First Day

A total of 359 sets of 1942 motor vehicle license strips were issued from the Torrance branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles at 1316 Border ave., last Friday — the first day the new license markers were available.

Manager H. L. Rose commented that while the demand on the first day was not great, undoubtedly the Torrance branch will serve many more motorists this year than the number — 12,348 — who were issued 1941 plates a year ago.

Last year the first day's plate customers totaled 444. The Torrance office, manned by Rose and a staff of three including Miss Margie Kelso, local typist, is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weekdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 o'clock noon on Saturdays.

Manager Rose said that on Saturday, Jan. 31, the office would be open all day.

GUARD UNIT STILL HAS FEW OPENINGS

With Lt. Chalmers M. Dulmage as acting commanding officer, Company H, California State guard is now drilling in earnest Tuesday and Friday nights and Sunday mornings at Torrance city park.

Four men, L. Guy Cable, Norman Gardner, Dr. T. W. Bullock and Joseph La Forte have received warrants as corporals. Rifles have been issued and gun racks are being built.

There is room for ten or 12 more recruits. The local company is now an infantry company solely.

A number of men, veterans or men skilled in the handling of arms, have recently joined the company and with the work being done now the group will shape up, their commanding officer believes, as one of the state's finest.

Information regarding enlistment may be obtained from L. Guy Cable, 26335 Western ave.; Charles C. Ray, 24520 Narbonne ave., Lomita; Robert Lewellen at the Torrance Herald office, or at the city park at the time of drills.

First Aid Class at H.S. Open to All

A new First Aid Class, sponsored by the American Red Cross is being held at the high school Monday nights, starting at 8:30 o'clock, according to Mrs. R. E. Smith, local branch chairman, who invites all interested to report there next Monday evening when the second lesson will be given.

Home nursing classes will start here in about two weeks and nutrition instruction will begin in about a month, Mrs. Smith said.

3-Car Crash New Year's Day Opens Road Toll

Eighteen hours after 1942 arrived, the first automobile collision casualty was recorded by the Torrance police department when two persons were slightly injured in a three-car crash on Western ave., near 203rd st.

Old Year 1941 had marched out of the records with this accident toll in Torrance: Three deaths, 81 persons injured in 64 accidents involving injuries and listed by the police department.

David V. White, 25, 2364 West Sepulveda blvd., and Geraldine McCombs, Hermosa Beach, were reported injured in the Western ave., crash at 5:50 p.m. Jan. 1.

White's car was struck by a machine driven by John V. O'Brien, Hermosa Beach, which had been hit from the rear and propelled into White's car by a garage truck operated by Clarence Locke, 40, of Lomita.

O'Brien told investigating officers his machine had become waterlogged in the rain and had stalled. He asserted he had all his lights burning and was parked as far off the traffic lanes as he could get.

Locke's truck rammed the stalled machine from the rear, causing O'Brien's car to collide with White's auto. Locke claimed there were no lights on O'Brien's car and that he could not see it until he was only about 20 feet away.

White and Miss McCombs were treated for minor cuts and bruises at Torrance Memorial hospital.

Two Men Try to 'End It All' in Truck, Jail

Six hours after a Los Angeles resident made an unsuccessful attempt to take his life by shooting himself in the head on Monday night at Torrance blvd., and Maple ave., a Torrance resident confined in the city jail tried to "end it all" by slashing his wrist with a broken steel shaker.

The Angeleno, Earl Hobby, 26, was removed to the county hospital after being treated here. His condition was reported critical and he faces total blindness from the gunshot wound over his left eye.

Harvey A. Larson's attempt on his life in the city jail early Tuesday morning only resulted in a clean-up job for him later. He was rushed to Torrance Memorial hospital for treatment and then returned to mop up the blood that he had shed in a cell.

Larson was arrested Monday on a charge of habitual drunkenness. He is a 38-year-old clerk living at 1311 Sartori ave.

Would-be suicide Hobby was discovered in a semi-conscious condition in a truck by Harry Gartin, C. C. M. O. pumper. In his pocket was a note to his wife stating: "I'm no good, I'm going to end it all," police said.

When Larson was taken before Judge John Shidler late Tuesday morning, white and shaken from his ordeal, he pleaded not guilty and demanded a jury trial. After this was set for Jan. 13 and he was returned to his cell, he changed his mind, offered to plead guilty and Judge Shidler sentenced him to 180 days in the county jail where he will probably be confined in the psychopathic ward for observation.

Local Tire Rationing Board Appointed

Appointment of five citizens to serve on the local tire rationing board in accordance with Federal regulations was announced this week by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett. Each member of the council named a member of this board of which two will serve as alternates.

The tire rationers here will be John Melville, 1423 Beech ave., Wallace H. Gilbert, 1621 Cota ave., and Mrs. Tom McGuire, 1411 Beech ave., and Howard C. Locke, 1824 Andro ave., and L. B. Kelsay, 817 Madrid ave., alternates.

Registration of Men Between 18, 64 May Last Several Days

WHO MUST REGISTER ON FEBRUARY 16 All male citizens and most aliens of the nation between the ages of 20 and 44 who have not registered previously. That means, all born on or after Feb. 17, 1897 and on or before Dec. 31, 1921. Registration will be between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Feb. 16 for approximately 9,000,000 men.

Only men from 20 to 44 years of age, inclusive, are to be registered for Selective Service, Monday, Feb. 16, according to the President's proclamation this week. The new registration will eventually include all un-registered males from 18 to 64, inclusive, but the partial sign-up is ordered now to avoid undue disturbance of the nation's war effort.

Air Raid Wardens Summoned for School Friday

All men who have registered here for Air Raid Warden service and others who desire to volunteer for this work are urged by Chief Warden Jack Hallanger to meet at the Civic Auditorium Friday night, Jan. 9, at 7:30 o'clock for the first session of a school of instruction.

Hallanger, Councilman James Hitchcock, Police Sergeant Percy Bennett, Fire Captain J. J. Bonner and E. G. Brady, assistant city engineer, recently completed a course of instruction for Air Raid Warden service given in Los Angeles by the U. S. Army Chemical division.

This instruction, Hallanger said, would be passed on to the local volunteers in a series of weekly lessons. It covers such subjects as civil defense, high explosive bombs, incendiary bombs and war gases as well as routine patrol duties.

To provide speedy sign-ups of those unregistered males from 18 to 64, inclusive, in this district as many registration centers will be set up as there are women volunteers to operate them. Local Selective Service board men assist each industry in the area with its own registration point and others will be located at strategic sites to facilitate the third "R" day in the nation's current war history.

Dirt Flies As Big Aluminum Project Starts

Dirt began flying high and wide this week at the site of the fifty million dollar aluminum plants to be erected at 180th st., between Western and Normandie avenues. Giant "bull-dozers," said to be the latest type equipment for excavating and grading dug into the 253 acre site as soon as the ground had sufficiently dried of excess moisture from recent heavy rains.

The huge machines capable of moving 18 tons of earth at a speed of 15 miles an hour were temporarily idled during the heavy rains because of inability to obtain proper traction in the adobe soil.

Meanwhile, crews of the Santa Fe railway began laying track along 203rd street west of Western avenue, and Pacific Electric railway workmen are extending that company's tracks into the aluminum plant site.

No decision, as yet, has been reached by officials of the Defense Plant Corporation, regarding the location of the \$22,000,000 aluminum sheet mill, but work on the other three plants is proceeding with all speed possible, The Herald learned.

Officials in Washington estimate that approximately 25 million men would be registered in addition to the 17,500,000 previously enrolled under the Selective Service Act. Men already registered will not be required to register again.

History of "R" Days The new registration would make all men between the ages of 20 and 44, inclusive, liable to military service on a selective basis. The existing registration machinery will be used for the new massives in Selective Service has available a basic force of 250,000 employes and volunteers in local boards.

The first Selective Service registration — on Oct. 16, 1940 — was manned by a million volunteers. The names of 17,500,000 men between the ages of 21 and 35, inclusive, were enrolled. Locally, Board No. 280 had the services of local selection precinct workers of that first "R" day when 1,263 registered in Torrance and 629 in Lomita. Later the grand total for the (Continued on Page 5-A)

Air Spotters Badly Needed Army Raps Area for Singular Apathy of Citizens

Aroused by the singular apathy of local citizens to so vital a defense service as aircraft observation — he declared not a single volunteer appeared to date in answer to his plea published in The Torrance Herald, Dec. 18 — Edwin A. Bird, head of the "spotter" service in this area, addressed a report to the chief of the intercepter command.

"One man who has been helping at one post here was forced to discontinue his service for the sake of his health. Because of the shortage of volunteers he was on duty from midnight to 6 a.m. — and then went to his daily job. That shows how understaffed we are in Torrance.

"We have two stations here," Bird continued. "One off Sepulveda blvd., and the other in Hollywood Riviera near Palms Verdes Estates. A third station is located in Redondo Beach and it is properly staffed so we don't have to worry about that one. But we do need men and women for service in the two posts right here at home.

"We Can Do It Ourselves" "If this appeal for volunteers fails to bring out enough citizens who are concerned with possible invasion — and that possibility is no pipe dream! let me assure you — then I don't know what we'll do. Perhaps we'll have to tell the Army that (Continued on Page 4-A)

Drive Workers Asked To Meet Here Tonight

To make final preparations for launching the local American Red Cross drive to raise the city's quota of \$9,950 of the national fund of 50 million dollars, General Chairman Jack Hallanger is calling a meeting of all volunteer workers and others who would like to assist in this great cause for tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock in the Civic Auditorium.

"We need every worker we can get to help raise our quota which amounts to practically one dollar for every man, woman and child in Torrance," Hallanger said today. "I hope every organization in the city responds with representatives to attend this vital meeting which is called on this short notice.

"Whether you are a member of the Red Cross or not — you will be most welcome to attend and hear the plans made for a vigorous campaign to raise our quota in the shortest possible length of time," he concluded.

Two Owners of Quake-Damaged Buildings Defy City Ordinance

"You can't leave a building half-finished until next summer until the city decides what it is going to do about it," Frank Dalton of the D. & M. Machine Works at 2304 Abalone ave., said yesterday as he continued to defy a written stop order issued by City Engineer Glenn Jain affecting existing reconstruction of the D. & M.'s quake-damaged buildings.

The city engineer reported to the city council Tuesday afternoon that he had issued the stop order when Dalton persisted in continuing repair work without conforming to the emergency ordinance adopted Nov. 19. This measure, which has aroused considerable controversy in recent weeks, enforces rigid inspection and the necessity of having plans and specifications for major reconstruction jobs prepared by a licensed structural engineer or architect.

"I've got a building permit — bought and paid for — to repair my building," Dalton said. "If other large concerns here can go ahead with construction projects without inspection and red tape I figure I can and I will."

Engineer Jain also told the council that Harvel Gutfenfelder another vigorous objector to the stringent terms of the emergency ordinance, had rented his quake-damaged building at 1618 Cravens ave., without first obtaining an "occupancy permit." Jain was instructed by the council to write the occupant stating that the city would not be liable in case of any damage.

Civilian "Rookies" in School Auditorium is Classroom for 800 Men Tuesday Nights

Nearly 800 auxiliary officers are now being trained by the Sheriff's department in a school especially established by Captain Raymond L. Bergh of Sub-Station No. 3 in the Torrance Civic Auditorium where two-hour sessions are being held each Tuesday night. The first lesson was given Dec. 30 after most of the men were properly registered and given identifying cards. The second instruction was held in the Auditorium last Tuesday night.

At that time Police Chief John Stroh announced a meeting would be held of all Torrance residents enrolled in the school Sunday afternoon, Jan. 11, at 1 o'clock in the Civic Auditorium for the purpose of organizing the local unit. A morning class for those who cannot attend the regular Tuesday evening sessions is being held Friday mornings from 10 to 12 o'clock noon at Jefferson school, 104th and Pimmon.

Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz, chairman of Los Angeles County Civilian Defense Council, opened the school here in the presence of mayors, councilmen and police chiefs of Torrance, Gardena, Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan Beaches, Palms Verdes, El Segundo and surrounding unincorporated area. Approximately 100 Torrance men are enrolled for the course which totals 38 hours of instruction, of which ten are to be devoted to studies in emergency first aid work.

The sheriff expects to train 8,000 auxiliary police officers for those who cannot attend the

(Continued on Page 4-A)