



THIS IS THE BULL-FIDDLE!

which has become famous during the past few weeks as result of the city council's efforts to wrest it away from the Torrance Musicians Society, Inc. Pictured with the instrument, which the council first claimed was worth about \$400 but which George N. Mershon, director of the defunct Symphony, claims is valued at \$175, is Paul Cates of 1413 West 220th.

Gates is shown studying what

is claimed to be a law book for the purpose of aiding Mershon in circumventing the council in the controversy. This week City Attorney John E. McCall was also studying law books as he prepared his report to the city council on how the city could best go about recovering the instrument. McCall's opinion is being eagerly awaited by the city councilmen and will be delivered at the meeting next Tuesday night.

## New Tax Suit Set for Trial July 21 Testing '35-'36 Levy Validity

Thousands of taxpayers in Los Angeles county who have claims pending with the tax bills for 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36 are expected to get the answers to some of the points at issue following action of the superior court trial July 21.

The suit to come to trial in the superior court next month involves points raised in the validity of the 1935-36 levy, which are not covered in the case now pending before the California Supreme Court. The latter case is expected to be decided by the end of June, according to S. V. O. Prichard, assistant county counsel.

John Shirley Ward is the plaintiff in the suit to come to trial before the superior court July 21. In addition to the points covered in the Southern Service company's suit against the county, which the county lost and appealed to the state Supreme Court, the suit attacks the validity of including items in the final budget which were not in the preliminary budget.

**Basis of Attack Told**  
Another point raised is whether items in the preliminary budget may be increased in the final budget. A third point is the propriety of an undistributed reserve in budgets of the various school districts of the county. All points involve the 1935-36 levy.

The attack on the county tax for 1935-36 levy is not yet at issue, according to Prichard. The test suit was brought by the Rancho Santa Anita, and the county has until the middle of June to plead in this action.

**Basis of the attack on the 1933-34 levy is whether the various tax levies are legal because they were computed in even cents instead of cents and mills. Second point raised is whether the amount of the county's unappropriated reserve for that year is correct, and a third point is whether a taxpayer may make complaint on budget matters when he has failed to appear at budget hearings before the supervisors during August of that year.**

## Lt. Governor Meets With Kiwanis Board

J. Clark Sellers, noted handwriting expert and lieutenant-governor of this Kiwanis district, attended the dinner-meeting of the local Kiwanis club's board of directors last night. He spoke on Kiwanis objectives for the remainder of the year.

## Children, Car Matches, Fire, Scare, Damages

Children playing with a box of matches in a Ford coupe parked in the alley adjoining A. G. Lang's home at 1633 Acaena were said by the car owner to have been responsible for the fire Sunday afternoon which ravaged the interior of the machine.

Part of the box of matches was found in the car floating around in the extinguishing water after the blaze was put out. The youngsters, according to firemen, were badly frightened as result of their experience and doubtless will not play with matches for some years to come.

## Three Sailors Crash Pole

Three sailors attached to the U.S.S. California were injured early Monday morning when their Ford coupe ran off Highway 101 and crashed head-on into a Southern California Edison light pole near Hillsworth avenue. The sailor-driver had dropped asleep while driving the car, according to police reports.

R. R. Becker, the driver, was injured about the head and neck, his ribs were badly bruised, H. F. Adams had a head artery cut and was bruised about the face and knees. The three sailors were taken to Torrance Memorial hospital for emergency treatment. Later they were removed to recover in their ship's sick bay.

The car in which they were riding was a total wreck, according to investigating officers.

## HOME FROM VACATION

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Boos returned Tuesday from a two-weeks motor vacation tour thru Central and Northern California and the national parks in this state.

## COUNTY ROAD LEVY HELD TO 7 CENTS

Definite decision to limit the county road tax to seven cents next year was reached this week by the board of supervisors, following discussion of the budget of the county road department for 1938-39. This year's levy also was seven cents.

George Jones, county road commissioner, told the supervisors that he felt it would be unjust to increase the tax levy for road maintenance in the unincorporated areas of the county next year, in view of business conditions and the necessity of cutting everything to the bone.

## No City Assessment

County officials said they had been unable to obtain information from the various cities in the county as to how much road tax is levied inside cities, but some of them are of the opinion that the sum is but a few cents in some cities, and nothing in others. No road levy is assessed in Torrance.

It had previously been reported that it might be necessary to increase the county road tax to 10 cents, placing it back where it was from 1931 to 1934, in order to raise funds to partially offset the \$1,600,000 to be held back next year by the state as payment on the unemployment relief loan obtained by the county in 1935.

## Year's Building is \$2,161,222

Altho building permits issued here during May slipped below the total for May, 1937, new construction in the month just passed exceeded that of April and the total for the year to date continued to soar to new record heights.

Last month's building amounted to \$81,397, as compared with \$81,225 for the preceding April and \$204,615 for May, 1937. The total new construction for the first five months of this year now stands at \$2,161,222 as against only \$303,335 for the same period in 1937 and \$2,119,923 for all of last year.

May's building saw seven new homes, costing \$18,200, constructed here, four garages for \$700, 11 oil derricks for \$51,500, four alterations and repair jobs for \$6,297, two non-residential structures for \$4,400 and one sign erected for \$200.

The comparative monthly building totals so far this year are:

	1938	1937
January	\$181,950	\$41,630
February	32,400	13,815
March	154,250	21,155
April	81,225	21,690
May	81,397	204,615

**TOTAL** \$2,161,222 \$303,335

Building permits were issued during the past week to Standard Oil company for a steel rest-room and other improvements to the service station managed by Charles Mitchell at the corner of Carson and Border, \$150; Fred J. Callaway who is erecting a moved-in 35 by 40-foot house at 18108 Hawthorne; Donald Findley who is building a four-room frame stucco house at 2111 C-brillo, \$1,750, and R. F. Geard for a one-room addition to his home at 16945 South Arlington, \$100.

## Local Girls to Receive Degrees

Two Torrance girls will graduate at Whittier College June 11 with Bachelor of Arts degrees. They are Margaret B. Brewster, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. B. C. Brewster of 1620 Manuel, and Joy Phall Fossum, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Fossum of 1621 Cota.

The commencement program will be held at 4:30 in the amphitheatre on the campus. Charles B. Driscoll of New York, editor of the McNaught Syndicate, will deliver the address.

## Land Bought for Figueroa Extension

Payment of \$1,930 for acquisition of two parcels of right-of-way for the Figueroa street extension between Lomita and Wilmington-San Pedro boulevards was approved this week by the Los Angeles City Council.

Owner of the two parcels is Halse L. Vansyckle, and the property is in the Mar Vista tract.

## Clubs Demonstrate Loyalty to Zamperini; Noted Speakers Attend



## Speakers Rap Exploitation of Athletes

"Any man in the country would be proud to have his home-town demonstrate its loyalty to him like you folks have done for Louie Zamperini here tonight—with such a sincere tribute the boy should go far indeed."

The speaker was a Long Beach Rotarian who was a guest at the joint Rotary-Kiwanis ovation to the noted U.S.C. athlete last Friday night. His comment was based on an evening of informal talks and songs which reaffirmed this community's faith in Zamperini and, as far as most of Torrance is concerned, definitely ended the unfortunate Compton meet incident from which he emerged blameless despite much misrepresentation.

Seldom has a citizen of any community received such a sincere tribute as that given Louie. He did not speak but if there was any lingering doubt in the minds of any of the 75 present that he was not the honest, courageous athlete that he had previously proved he was, then the brief talks by Mayor William H. Tolson, Secretary Gilmeister and Grover C. Whyte's statements to him dispelled all uncertainty.

## Praise Louie's Attitude

The speakers of the evening, Charles Paddock, business manager and sports commentator for the Long Beach Press-Telegram and a former Olympic sprint star, and Zack J. Farmer, general manager of the 1932 Olympic Games Committee and former manager of the L. A. Coliseum, held the attention of the dinner-throng through the evening. They did not discuss Zamperini himself; very much, altho Farmer gave a detailed report on how he happened to become the mile's chief advisor following the Compton mess. But they devoted most of their interesting addresses to amateur athletic conditions as they exist in the U. S. and thruout the world today.

First Paddock and then Farmer rapped the Amateur Athletic Union in general and in particular for exploitation of young athletes and appeared to enjoy every minute of their stay in Torrance. Both praised Zamperini for his attitude toward his suspension from the U.S.C. track team and his willingness to work with his school regardless of what amounts to a personal injustice suffered at the hands of Her-

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At the speakers' table (shown at the top) for the joint Rotary-Kiwanis tribute to Louie Zamperini last Thursday night were, left to right, standing: Anthony Zamperini, father of the noted athlete; Bob Levellen of The Herald, one-time Louie's scoutmaster and for many years his most ardent supporter; Publisher Grover C. Whyte who presided as president of the Rotary club; Pete Zamperini, Louie's elder brother; Secretary L. J. Gilmeister of the Chamber of Commerce; Mayor William H. Tolson, President Earl Conners of the Kiwanis club; seated, left, to right, Zack Farmer, the honor-guest, Louie Zamperini and Charlie Paddock. Below, Farmer, Louie and Paddock.

## 1,720 Checks Totalling \$17,273 are Issued to Jobless Workers Here

The State Department of Employment distributed \$2,229,809.33 in unemployment compensation benefit checks during the month of April. Checks distributed in Torrance numbered 1,720 and the amount of funds distributed during April here totaled \$17,273.66.

The unemployed workers of Los Angeles received 40,517 checks totaling \$388,041.86. This was the largest distribution in the state. San Francisco was second with 29,072 checks totaling \$282,728.14.

The Unemployment Reserves commission is said to be steadily stepping up the production of the unemployment compensation checks, as evidenced by the fact that during the month of April a total of 233,655 checks were produced by the department totaling the sum mentioned above.

The average check during the month of April totaled \$9.11. The department gave a large amount of coverage in California during the month of April in distributing the 233,655 checks.

## SUSPENSIONS GROW

A total of 21,239 drivers had their licenses suspended, revoked or cancelled during 1937, an increase of 781 over 1936.

## PERMITS REQUIRED

Permits are required to build campfires in all national forests.

## Trite Traffic Alibis Cited by Lessing

City Judge Robert Lessing would like to hear some new alibis from motorists appearing before his police court bench. He's getting awfully tired, he said this week, from hearing the following trite "defenses."

**Intoxicated driver:** "Just two beers was all I judge."

**Failure to appear on schedule to pay fine:** "I gave the money to a friend who said he'd pay it."

**Speeding:** "I guess my speedometer must be wrong."

**Failure to observe a stop sign:** "I'm a stranger in that part of town and didn't know the sign was there."

**Failure to pay fine:** "I'm out of work, but I've got a job promised me and can pay you tomorrow."

**Failure to have operator's license:** "I was driving around the block for a friend."

## Band Bringing Two Girl Soloists Here

A pair of pretty young girl soloists will accompany Johnny Hughes and His Music of 13 pieces here when that stellar dance band plays at the Civic Auditorium Saturday night for the 20-30 club's annual Sport Dance. The music will begin at 8:30 o'clock and tickets of admission are selling for \$1 per couple. The 20-30 group hopes to raise enough money-at this dance to send its Boy Scout troop to summer camp in July.

## ENTERTAINS FRIENDS

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hayes of Santa Maria were guests of Mrs. Mary Bateman at her home, 1613 Amapola, last week-end. The Hayes are old friends of the local resident.

## Crash Injures Expectant Mother Here

A collision at Madrid and Sonoma avenues about 8 o'clock yesterday morning spun one of the machines involved over on its top and resulted in severe cuts and bruises to Mrs. Thomas Culp, 21-year-old expectant mother who lives at 1001 Sierra Place. She was alone in the car which turned turtle after collision with Water Superintendent William H. Stanger's car.

Witnesses to the accident, which smashed the right front of Stanger's machine and the right rear end of Mrs. Culp's car, told investigating officers that the water official and former mayor struck the young mother's auto. However, Stanger, in his report to police, asserted that he had made the boulevard stop on entering Madrid from the west side and "saw the other car approaching south-east on Madrid at a high rate of speed. I stopped again and was struck."

All glass in Mrs. Culp's car was shattered but the all-steel top prevented demolition of the machine. Stanger took Mrs. Culp, who was ending her last week of work at the Torrance laundry, to the hospital where 10 stitches were required to close a wound in her left leg and two more were necessary in her left elbow. Mrs. Culp is now recovering at home.

## Legion Groups Plan Reception

About 500 American Legion and Auxiliary leaders throughout California are expected to attend the invitational reception and dance to be given in the Civic Auditorium here next Thursday evening, June 9, in honor of Mrs. Pauline E. Ellison, president of the Department of California Auxiliary.

Mrs. Lucille Levellen, 19th District president, is general chairman of the affair. She is being assisted in the preparations by Cera Dunn, district vice-president, and Esther Scott of the Redondo Beach unit, who are in charge of the entertainment; Katherine Ross and Hazel Draper of the San Pedro unit, who will arrange for the refreshments, and Audie Modlin and the equities Torrance unit, which will place the decorations in the Auditorium.

The program will begin at 8 o'clock and the entertainment will feature Mrs. E. J. Pettijohn, soloist and district radio chairman for the Federated women's clubs; Mme. Teala Billini, concert pianist, and Marianna Tucker, a dancer who has appeared in a number of motion pictures.

Music for dancing starting at 9:30 will be furnished by Arthur K. and his orchestra. Hostesses will be the presidents of all Legion Auxiliary units in the 19th district.

## Mexican Faces Attack Charge

When Victor Pacheco, 23-year-old Redondo Beach laborer, emerged from the county jail Tuesday morning after serving a sentence for drunk driving, he found local officers awaiting to serve him with a warrant charging him with criminally attacking a 17-year-old Moneta girl in Torrance.

He was brought to the city jail and booked on the charge in default of \$1,500 bail and his preliminary hearing is set for next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. The warrant was signed by the father of the girl.

## Local Students to Get U.S.C. Degrees

Four students from Torrance are among the 1,600 who will graduate from the University of Southern California during the 35th annual commencement exercises in the Los Angeles Coliseum, Saturday, June 4.

The local recipients of degrees are: Helen Curtiss Berry and Louis Clifton Cramer, bachelor of science in education; and Cecil E. Bishop and Alice Burger, bachelor of arts.

## HOME FROM TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Sherfey returned Saturday from a four-day visit with relatives and friends at Calexico.

## Oil Casing Damaged by Quake

At 12:20 Tuesday morning drillers working at the Patton-Conaway Fee lease on 233rd street between Narbonne and Pennsylvania were just putting their drill back into the hole when Mother Earth indulged in a bit of subterranean shagging and the resultant tremors alarmed many a resident in Torrance and throughout the Southland.

The Patton-Conaway drillers couldn't get their equipment back into the hole, which was down to 3,450 feet, after that quake and then they discovered that the casing had collapsed as result of the earth movement.

Subsequent investigation proved that 3,000 feet of pipe had been twisted and bent by the quake which caused no other damage, so far as it could be determined by The Herald in other parts of the active South Torrance oil field and elsewhere in the Southland.

## Rolling Pipe Out

The tremor was a good, stiff shake and its jerk aroused a large number of residents who were resting up after a more or less active extended week-end holiday.

Workers at the Patton-Conaway hole are now rolling out the collapsed eight and five-eighths inch pipe to standard size. They are making slow progress, it was learned, but confidently expected to ream out the damaged cylinders without necessity of replacement.

Meanwhile, activity in the South Torrance field continued with sucker-rod drilling, cementing and pipe-setting operations at more than 50 derricks. The Doyle-Getty well on 227th off Narbonne is reported finished with the bottom well below all of the other deepened wells in the area. Crews are said to be awaiting instructions from their head office before proceeding to bring in the well.

## Old Acreage Leased

Kelly-Wilson have finished their deepened well on 233rd and are awaiting casing move. Consolidated Petroleum is preparing to test its No. 1 from 5,060 feet on the southwest corner of Pennsylvania and 233rd. Gypsy Oil will redrill its No. 1 from 2,276 feet and Nansco Oil is readying to redrill its No. J from 2,212 feet.

Kovel Oil has a rig up for its first venture near Huntington street and Prospect.

One of the latest entries into the South Torrance field is the Hampshire Oil corporation which has leased the Uren acres on 230th. The owner of the land is one of the oldest property owners in the field as he purchased the acreage from the late C. B. Hollingsworth in April, 1910. The Hampshire's No. 1 well is expected to be spudded in within the next few weeks.

Imperial Gypsum and Oil has finished its DeWitt No. 1, which is reported flowing 305 barrels of 26 gravity, cutting 0.3 percent along with some 300,000 cubic feet of gas from 5,004 feet. Hollingsworth in April, 1910. The Hampshire's No. 1 well is expected to be spudded in within the next few weeks.

## Eight Cities Join in Observance of Memorial Day

Patriotic organizations—and residents of Torrance, Gardena, Lomita, Redondo Beach, Harbor City, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Compton united at Roosevelt Memorial park Monday for a joint Memorial Day observance. The ceremonies were arranged jointly by the American Legion and V.E.W. posts and Auxiliaries of all the cities.

Rev. Father Joseph V. Fitzgerald, pastor of the Torrance Catholic Church of the Nativity, was the only local contributor to the program. J. H. Bathrick of Gardena, only surviving Civil War veteran in that community, was guest of honor during the program and former Assemblyman Ralph W. Evans was the principal speaker.

There was no local observance of the holiday and many residents remarked on the absence of a general display of flags here.