

Harbor District C. of C. Backs Alondra Park Assessment Fight

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City Gets Final Motor Tax Grant

The department of public works has announced appropriation to cities and counties of \$64,354 in motor vehicle "in lieu" taxes for the last quarter of 1938. Of the total, \$87,771 went to the city of Torrance and Los Angeles county received \$8,318.76. These payments brought total 1938 receipts from the license fund to \$5,386.22 for the city and \$510,010.90 for the county.

Firemen Solve Problem of Inside Exit

The strange sight of a scantily-clad fireman darting out of the rear entrance to Station No. 1 on Cravens avenue, scampering up the steps and back to his warm bed in the second floor dormitory will no longer amaze late visitors at the police station.

After enduring the cold blasts of winter for many months in making this back entrance and exit to answer phones or calls, firemen figured out a remedy.

They cut a door thru the wall near the main entrance and now can come downstairs by the front way and into the main part of the station without going outdoors.

ENLISTS IN NAVY

Edward Allen Ballentine enlisted in the U. S. Navy last week. His mother resides at 2929 Hill, north avenue, Lomita. He was sent to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, for twelve weeks' training, after which he will be sent aboard some ship or to one of the many trade schools which the Navy maintains.

Safety Rules for Kite Flying Told by Edison Company Manager

Observance of a few simple safety rules for kite flying will avoid possible dangers for children, according to C. C. Bartlett, manager for the Southern California Edison company in this territory.

"The coming of spring brings the advent of the kite flying season, and because of some hazards in this sport, the Edison company is joining other electric, telephone and street railway companies throughout the country in warning children to keep their kites away from overhead lines.

"Kites should be flown only in open spaces where there is no likelihood of their coming in contact with electric lines. Especial care should be exercised in choosing the spot, for it should be remembered that the kite string is at an angle and may pass over electric lines a long distance away, perhaps out of sight.

"If a kite should become entangled in electric wires, children should not pull it or make any attempt to remove it. Under no circumstances should they climb a pole and try to bring down the kite. The proper procedure is to call the electric company, telephone company or railway company to which the wires belong, and linemen with proper equipment will be sent to take the kite from the lines.

"It is unsafe for children to

pull down a kite from electric lines because in doing so the wires may be pulled together, causing a short circuit. It is possible in such cases that the wires may break and fall to the ground, causing serious injury to anyone who may be near them.

Make Kites Safe

"Construction of the kite should measure up to safety standards also. No metal or metallized cord should be used. It is dangerous to make kite strings of wire, tinsel cord or any cord with metal strands in it because such materials are conductors of electricity. It is also important to remember that the kite cord should be kept off the ground where there is any possibility of it becoming damp. A wet kite cord becomes a conductor of electricity when it touches an electric line.

"Kite flying is a fine sport and is entirely safe for children when they fly a properly-made kite in an open space away from electric wires. The observance of these few suggestions will not detract from the fun and may prevent accidents."

AUTO DRUNK FINED

Fred Kunz, 46, Los Angeles oil worker, was fined \$50 or 25 days for being drunk in an auto early Monday morning. He paid the fine.

Police Bandit Robs Redondo Liquor Store

Police authorities throught Southern California are seeking a bold bandit who "waited on the trade" when customers and a police officer entered the Roberts Liquor store in Redondo Beach on Torrance boulevard last Saturday. The Redondo officer was given permission by the bandit to use the telephone. The store's clerks were forced at gunpoint to give up checks and cash totaling \$1,800 and then lie on the floor in a rear room.

Before he could get the cash, however, a couple of customers entered the store and the bandit served them. While he was clerking, the Redondo officer entered and asked to use the phone to call headquarters.

"Sure," said the bandit, politely, "help yourself." The customers and the policeman departed and so did the bandit.

Moose to Hold Beauty Contest

Any single Torrance girl between 18 and 25 is eligible to enter the Moose lodge bathing beauty contest that will conclude in the fall with the selection of a national winner. The local contest is open now, according to A. H. Bartlett, director of the Torrance lodge.

The successful local candidate for state and national pulchritude honors, who will be known as Miss Torrance and represent the Moose lodge No. 785, will be chosen at a public dance to be held next month. The selection will be made by a committee of judges during the festivities, Bartlett said. Girls under 21 years must have the written consent of their parents or guardians to enter the local, state and national contest.

The state winner will be chosen at the California Moose Association Frolic, April 1, at Venice. The national contest will be held in Atlantic City, N. J., this fall. Entry blanks for the local contest may be obtained from Bartlett at the city clerk's office.

FAVORS COUNTY TAKING OVER AREA TO CLEAR TAX BURDEN

Decision of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce to back the Alondra Park Taxpayers' association in its fight to rid property owners of the heavy park assessment, voted at the recent session of the Harbor District organization, came at a time when the support will be most welcome. The taxpayers' group, organized here late last year, started off with a rush but somehow bogged down during the past several months.

Now with the Harbor group championing the cause, the Alondra Park assessment battle gives evidence of being renewed and carried thru to a definite settlement in favor of the harassed property owners in that area. The Harbor District association favors the proposal that the board of supervisors take over Alondra Park as a county park and thus lift the entire assessment burden from the taxpayers.

Pat MacDonnell, secretary of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, made the plea that convinced the associated chambers that the Alondra's problem was worthy of support. MacDonnell said the Harbor association had the park assessment district was originally formed following a "scare" that a Negro colony was to be established in that area.

Petitions urging the supervisors to establish the assessment district were signed in large numbers by citizens of Inglewood, Hawthorne and Torrance, as well as the unincorporated area. Then when the assessment district was established all the incorporated cities withdrew from the district leaving the burden of acquiring the park site on a comparatively small area.

A board of referees established a purchase price of from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per acre, whereas the land never at any time had a value of more than \$1,000 per acre, MacDonnell stated. The total bonded indebtedness including interest for the acquisition of the park was \$2,044,944. Today the property is worth less than \$500 per acre, MacDonnell charged.

In relating the progress of the 1938-39 tax strike, MacDonnell

Naval Hero of 198 Visits at Steel Plant

(Continued from Page 1-A)

A network of mines which deterred the blockading U. S. fleet from action.

A call for volunteers to cut the Spanish mines free was just another engagement for thrill-loving Capt. Spicer, and he performed the duty with the production of the commanding officer and later the Congress.

For his act of heroism, Spicer received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Recently he was awarded a new issue of this medal and proudly displayed the new and the old trophies to his friends here.

Celebrating Release from County Jail Lands Man in Jail

A long record of prior offenses and the fact that he had been released from the county jail only the day before (after being 120 days) did not deter Robert H. Atchley, 31-year-old Garfield, from slaking a thirst with hefty swigs at a bottle of wine last Sunday. The celebration proceeded to go places in his car.

He did not go far because he was arrested by local officers on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Appearing before City Judge Robert Lessing Monday morning Atchley pleaded guilty, was fined \$200 or 100 days of which \$150 was suspended for two years. Unable to pay the remaining \$50 he was lodged in the city jail.

Youth Working Out Sentence at Range

Arrested last Saturday for intoxication, disturbance of the peace and violation of probation received as result of a previous infraction of the law, Tracy Griffith, 20-year-old, Los Angeles youth, is now putting in 25 days' labor at the city range. He was sentenced to the local conception of a rock-pile Tuesday.

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WHEN SPRING WINDS BLOW

REMEMBER THESE KITE SAFETY RULES

1. Fly your kite in an open field. Keep it far away from power lines.
2. Be sure the string is perfectly dry. Never use wire, tinsel string or cord that is damp from rain or fog.
3. If your kite catches in an electric line...let go! Do not pull it. Phone the service company to which the line belongs and a lineman will come to get your kite for you.

Parents! Impress these safety rules upon your children, and they will know all the joys of kite flying with none of the dangers which attend carelessness.

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