



At completion of history-making flight from California, the American Clipper herewith is shown at Auckland, N. Z., when U. S. and Antipodes were linked by air first time. At top, 27 persons come ashore. Below, Clipper in background taxiing past trans-Tasman flying boat Awana.

School Board Prepared to Defend Budget at Public Hearing Tonight

More school buildings mean more upkeep costs, but the world's fastest-growing metropolitan city cannot escape it if it is to experience such rapid growth, members of the Los Angeles board of education concluded today after further paring of the tentative 1940-41 expenditures.

While the school district taxpayers escaped millions of dollars in school district taxes by virtue of the PWA program that required the district to advance but about half the cost, each additional building has meant an additional staff of teachers, janitors, mechanics and caretakers.

At the budget hearing tonight in Los Angeles, statisticians expect to have figures on the per capita cost which will show, they believe, that their budget is being kept down as much as it is humanly possible to do so.

Operating Costs Higher

Already the board of education, at a prolonged secret meeting late last week, ordered \$520,000 taken out of the budget, in an effort to keep the tax rate from going too high due to the slash of some \$63,000,000 in assessed valuation.

In this connection, it should be explained that while the rate may go up several cents, the amount of taxes the taxpayer will pay may be actually less, due to the very fact that his property is valued as less on the assessor's books in some instances.

Cost of operating the school are higher by \$176,000 this year than last year in the new budget, the total cost being given as \$3,779,430. Cost of maintaining the school plants also is up \$25,000, to a total of \$1,525,000. Maintenance costs are expected to mount much more rapidly, however, after a few years.

Formation of V.F.W. Post Is Planned Here

Overseas veterans of Torrance will hold a meeting next Monday night, August 5, at 7:30 p. m., at the Silver Grill across from the central fire station for the purpose of organizing a post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Thousands of veterans from all over the nation are expected to attend the national V.F.W. convention in Los Angeles, August 25 to 30, and it is planned to have the Torrance post in operation at that time. All overseas ex-service men of this city are urged to attend the preliminary meeting or, if interested, to phone 1096W or 490.

MARCH OF RIMES

—PROCRASTINATION—By H. F. NOAKE

Pa and ma and sis and I decided we a car would buy, our very first, so naturally we didn't know which one to drive one mad. From which we learned, that every car was better than the rest, by far. Ma thought the wisest thing to do would be to go and see a few; and that is what we did, we four, Oh Boy! I'll say our feet got sore from tramping up and down the line and turning in, at every sign. Salesmen sharp, with welcomes warm, about us in each place, would swarm. They took us out across the hills, Lord help the men who paid the bills for oil and gas, so we might try out something, that we didn't buy. And thus it went, from day to day, we talked to all who came our way; the milkman, iceman, butcher, baker, no two agreed on any make. Now comes the saddest moment yet, a tragedy we won't forget; Pa had his pocket picked, wherein he kept the cash that should have been exchanged for some good automobile, but somehow I can't help but feel it served us right, we shopped too long, we surely couldn't have gone wrong by choosing any standard make; and now, I fear we'll have to take the street car, when we want to go. At least, 'til papa saves more dough.



NOAKE

City Employees Press for Civil Service Status

Torrance municipal employees not now under civil service status are seeking immediate city council action to place their positions under the regulations now accorded only the police and fire departments.

The employees are pressing for the enactment of an ordinance prepared about six months ago by City Attorney John E. McCall which would place under civil service all city positions except those of city judge and city attorney.

Included would be the positions of city engineer, water department manager, street department superintendent and employees of the municipal water department as well as other city workers. The regulations, it is understood, would protect the employees from arbitrary dismissal by providing that in such cases the department head must prefer written charges against the employee, who would then be given time to answer and a formal hearing before the civil service board, now headed by J. O. Bishop.

A four-fifths vote of the city council would be necessary to override the board's decision. The ordinance, it is reported, also provides that an employee serving in a position which is scheduled for abolishment must be re-hired if the position is re-established.

City council members discussed provisions of the proposed ordinance two months before the April municipal election at a meeting with city employees but it has not been heard from since in open council session.

The present civil service ordinance, which covers only the police and fire departments, is an initiative measure passed by a vote of the people of Torrance several years ago. It cannot be changed or amended in any way except by a vote of the people. The contemplated new civil service ordinance may be adopted by the city council but it could not affect the present statute.

Fingerprinting of Aliens Will Start About August 27

Many inquiries have been received at the Torrance post-office concerning fingerprinting and registration of aliens as recently ordered by an act of Congress.

Postmaster Earl Conner received advance notice from the post office department this week that the work will start on August 27 and continue for four months.

He expects further details about the undertaking within the next week or 10 days and will make the information known thru The Herald at once. Fingerprinting will be done in offices of both first and second class postoffices and at county seats, it is understood.

Sunday Night Union Services Beginning Here

A series of Sunday evening union services in the Civic Auditorium will begin the night of Aug. 4 at 7:30 o'clock under the auspices of the Torrance Ministerial Association. Special speakers are being engaged to appear at each service and the song leader for the series will be Harold Cross, well-known Los Angeles church music director.

The first speaker next Sunday night will be Frank W. Emerson who is a minister and is in charge of personnel work in the sheriff's office.

Preceding the 7:30 o'clock service, a half-hour prayer meeting will be conducted in the Chamber of Commerce building adjoining the auditorium. The public is cordially invited to attend both meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Grimm returned this week from a trip to Visalia where they visited friends and relatives.

Co. Tax Rates Begin Downward Trend This Year

General county government tax requirements have started on the downward trend this year for the first time in five years, it was learned today by examination of the figures in the office of County Auditor J. M. Lowery.

This year's drop of \$301,000 is the first time since 1934-35 that less money has been required from the general county tax levy, which was \$149 for last year. This is the second year that the county budget has been made up under the immediate supervision of a chief administrative officer, but last year's requirements from the general county levy were \$100,000 more than for the previous year.

Last year's levy, however, was down nearly two cents from the previous year, because the assessed valuation upon which the levy was based was \$30,000,000 larger last year than for the previous year. This year it is the opposite, for the assessed valuation is down \$63,000,000—with utility valuations still to come, and an increase in the general levy to well over \$1.50 is forecast in official circles.

Relief Clients to Get Food Stamps by Mail

Relief clients who have been receiving Surplus Commodities Food stamps must henceforth obtain those stamps thru the mail because the local office at 1215 El Prado was closed yesterday afternoon. Leslie H. Lowe, manager in charge of the F. S. C. C. headquarters in Los Angeles.

All those eligible to buy food stamps here and in Redondo Beach will be mailed order blanks with instructions how to order the stamps in the future, Lowe said. Headquarters of the Food Stamp Bureau is at 1215 East 14th street, Los Angeles. Officials state that the stamps will be mailed out the day an order is received. No transfers to other districts are permitted.

Bankers Win State Title



TROPHY CHANGES HANDS... With the presentation of the large gold trophy by State Semi-Pro Commissioner Dale Riley to Bank of America sportsmen, the 1940 California Tournament came to an end a few minutes after the Bankers had defeated the San Pedro Longshoremen 10 to 4 Tuesday night for the second time within the week. In the foreground of the above photo are, left to right: Manager Dick Bonnelly, Riley, Umpire-in-Chief Dewey Widner, A. K. Kiester, director of athletics for the Bank of America club, Pete Sanchez, manager of the 1939 champions—Shell Refinery and co-manager with Bonnelly of the All-Star team which will play the All-State team a Red Cross benefit game here Saturday night; Manager Tiny Police of the Longshoremen, and Mayor Tom McGuire. Standing behind Riley is G. A. Wheaton, president of the Bank of America club. For full report on championship game and sidelights of series turn to page 1-B.

County engineers disclosed this week the state highways thru this and other communities which in their opinion are the most worthy of improvement by the state during the coming biennium, 1941-43, and placed a list of 21 roads on file with the board of supervisors. Cost of the work is estimated at \$5,655,000.

Included in the list are Hawthorne boulevard and Artesia street in this district. Hawthorne would be improved between Redondo Beach boulevard and Hawthorne city limits and between Imperial highway and Century boulevard at an estimated cost of \$135,000.

The Artesia street project contemplates opening and improvement between Main street and Normandie avenue, \$100,000, and between Normandie and Redondo Beach boulevard or Crevilla street, \$100,000, and between Central and Alameda streets, \$150,000, thereby completing the artery across the county.

As soon as the supervisors have given their approval, or made changes, the list will be forwarded to the State Chamber of Commerce, and then passed on to the state highway commission for submission to the 1941 Legislature, which will be asked to appropriate the funds. The list was compiled by engineers for the county road department and the regional planning commission.

Other new Legion officers are Vern Babcock, adjutant, appointed by Bird; Larry Larava, first vice-commander; James Wilkes, second vice-commander; Ralph Satchell, finance officer; J. J. Hallanger, chaplain; James Brodie, sergeant-at-arms; Thomas T. Babbitt, historian; Charles Dunham, service officer; William H. Stanger, Pat Boyle and Grant Barkdill, executive committee; Paul Findley, Clarence Youngken, Boyle and Bird, delegates to the Department convention in San Diego Aug. 12 to 16; Alex McPhail, George Thompson, Hallanger and Larava, alternates.

Harbor Hills Will Not Become An Army Barracks

Opening a campaign to acquaint the public with details of the Harbor Hills housing project, Miss Eva Neal, supervisor of tenant selection, today denied reports that the \$1,000,000 plant was to be used as army barracks.

"Rumors that the project is to be used to quarter army officers and men are false and there is no prospect whatsoever that the buildings will be turned to that use," she said. Her office has started distribution of literature in Lomita regarding progress of the project.

The tenant selection office at Narbonne high school is open from 2 to 5 p. m., Saturdays only for the remainder of the summer and in the fall will be moved to the project site where Narbonne home-making classes may furnish a demonstration unit.

TO SET TAX RATE
Next Tuesday night, August 6, the Torrance city council is expected to set the 1940-41 municipal tax rate. The tentative city general budget totals \$217,577. Last year's levies of \$1.10 and \$1.07 per \$100 assessed valuation are expected to be retained.

WHAT IS YOUTH?
A man that is young in years may be old in hours, if he has lost no time; but that happeneth rarely.

Red Cross Fund Here Up to \$1,407 and Still Going On to \$4,000

Donations to the Torrance Red Cross War Relief Fund amounted to \$142 this week with the receipt of \$112 collected by Torrance city employees. The total-to-date now stands at \$1,407.08 which is still a long way from the city's \$4,000 quota.

The drive is continuing, however, and still to be credited to the subscription fund is the donation being accumulated by Columbia Steel Company employees.

PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED... \$1,265.08
Torrance City Employees... 112.00
Safeway Stores... 25.00
Franklin C. Kelley... 5.00
TOTAL... \$1,407.08

Two Highways Here Listed for State Projects

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New Oil Refinery to Rise On Old Julian Site Near Torrance

Within two weeks construction of a new \$600,000 refinery on the site of the old Julian Oil Company refinery off East Road between Vermont and Main street will be started, according to an announcement by the Douglas Oil and Refining company. The new firm will specialize in refining of Douglas aviation high-test gasoline but will also refine motor vehicle fuel, it is reported.

Survey work on the site will start Saturday. Articles of incorporation of the company were filed this week in Los Angeles. They permit the firm to issue preferred common stock in the total amount of \$870,000. William T. Andrews, Long Beach oil executive, will be vice-president and general manager in charge of operations.

The president will be G. W. Stratton of Beverly Hills and Donald W. Douglas, who built a small airplane factory into one of the world's greatest, is named on the board of directors.

Navy Count Is Vital to City's Census Total

If Torrance reaches the 10,000 class in population it will be by the skin of its municipal teeth and the help of the U. S. Navy. Needing only 141 more bona fide residents to enter that census classification, the exact count of local inhabitants will probably not be known for several months. The Los Angeles area headquarters for the 1940 Federal Decennial Census closed yesterday and all further additions to the city's count must now be checked at the Bureau of the Census in Washington, D. C.

Five canvassers employed by the Chamber of Commerce to "fine-tooth comb" the city in quest of persons who may have been overlooked by the census enumerators discovered 246 who said they were not officially included in Uncle Sam's nationwide nose count.

Navy to Rescue!
But on a re-check by census officials, it was found that all but 51 households represented in the canvass survey had been enumerated. Using a factor of 2.4 for number of residents in a household, this totals about 109 which may be added to the preliminary population total of 9,860 reported by area census officials several weeks ago.

But the city would still be short of its goal of 10,000—and that's where the U. S. Navy comes to the rescue.

No Navy families were included in the census enumeration by order of the Federal bureau in charge of the population count. Instead, the Navy census will be handled by the Navy department in Washington, using official records.

Total Still in Doubt
Then the Navy count will be apportioned out to the "home-towns" of the enlisted men and officers and credited to each city's population.

Torrance has a number of Navy families but whether or not the number is large enough to send the city's 1940 population total past the 10,000 mark remains to be seen.

Month's Building Totals \$39,900

New building started here during July totaled \$39,900, according to a report received today from the city engineer's office where building permits are issued.

The total for the same month last year was \$38,135. During the first seven months of 1940, new construction here has totaled \$225,300 which is considerably behind the figure for the same period last year. The 1939 total to Aug. 1 was \$450,265.

Camera Club Sees Film Made at Torrance Plant

Ten members of a recently-formed Camera club met at the home of Howard Hudson at 1753 Andree avenue last night and witnessed the screening of 800 feet of technical 16mm. film produced at the National Supply plant. The club will be glad to receive more members and full information about the group may be obtained from the secretary, C. E. "Cap" Moses at his home 1872 218th street or at Harvel's service station.

NEW WORDS FOR OLD
To help cheer up the English people, Paramount last week clipped six recordings of Jack Benny broadcasts to London.

HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?

To be properly enrolled by Federal Census Bureau is the patriotic and civic duty of every resident. If you have been overlooked by the census taker, please fill out this form and send it to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, either bank, or the city hall. Or you may telephone the information to Torrance 881.
PLEASE DO SO AT ONCE!

Name

Address

Number in family or household