

# TORRANCE HERALD

24th YEAR—No. 51

ESTABLISHED 1914 — 12 PAGES — TWO SECTIONS  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1942

PER COPY 5c



INVESTORS IN SECURITY—Sharlene Ray St. Martin, right, holding her bank and Joyce Louise Schlerf were among the scores of youngsters who purchased many War Stamps at the opening of the attractive booth in the Fern avenue school.

## Fern Avenue School Students Have Own War Stamp Booth

Erected in the front hall of the Fern Avenue school, a War Stamp booth drew its first customers last weekend and when school resumes Dec. 28 it will probably be swamped with business as the children trade their Christmas money gifts for the Stamps.

Built by Dick Turner and Melvin Fonnecan and decorated with red, white and blue crepe paper by Beverly Wernett and Erlene Simonson, the booth is manned by Miss Charlotte Waddell, principal, other teachers and P. T. A. members on certain days which are announced in advance in all classrooms.

"The children are responding remarkably to the plea of their country to invest in the nation's security by buying War Stamps," Miss Waddell said last Friday. "We plan on holding regular sales for the duration."

One Fern Avenue school youngster, Tommy Long, eight-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Long of 1222 Date st., was so inspired by his teachers' announcements of the War Stamp center that he voluntarily sold his bicycle and invested his money in the securities.

## Bomber Fund In War Bonds at Midway Point

One month has gone by in the drive to sell War Bonds and Stamps in Torrance for the purchase of a medium bomber costing \$175,000 and this city has passed the half-way mark in reaching its quota.

From Nov. 16 to Dec. 15, Mrs. Harriett V. Leech, chairman of the women's division promoting the sale, announced today that a total of \$94,584 had been reached. This includes sales at the booths manned by volunteer workers at the two banks, sales at the postoffice, and payroll deductions for bond purchases at Torrance industrial plants and business houses.

Beginning yesterday, 34 selling days remain before the deadline for the quota is reached Feb. 1, and if the demand for bonds and stamps remains at its present level, the promoters of the drive believe that this city will not only reach, but exceed the sum set down as its present portion of the war effort.

Sales during the 25 working days of the period ending Dec. 15 averaged \$3,783.36. This is excellent, but there must be no slackening of the pace if the quota is to be reached and the proud day comes when the "City of Torrance" will take to the air. With the favorable news that there is coming in recent days from the battle lines on the various fronts, it is up to the people of Torrance to do just a little bit more to furnish the sinews of war that will help the fighting men to deal a knock-out blow, and fast.

Let's go, Torrance! Buy that Bomber!

## Russian Relief Agency Set Up

Mrs. Max Pons of 1610 Cabrillo ave., has been appointed Torrance representative for the Russian War Relief Agency and she will welcome donations of warm clothing to be shipped to the Soviet whose gallant warriors have amazed the world with their courage and devotion to their country.

Mrs. Pons, wife of the owner and operator of the novelty manufacturing company bearing his name, is also selling souvenir Russian War Relief stamps in 10, 25, 50 cents and \$1 denominations, the proceeds of which are being used to purchase medical supplies for the Russian people.

## Experts With Needle Sew Service Flag

Only the best needleworkers affiliated with the Torrance branch of the Red Cross have been entrusted with the work of sewing the three and possibly four gold stars on the large (six by four-foot) silk service flag which will be enclosed in a glass frame and installed soon in front of the Civic Auditorium at the corner of El Prado and Cravens ave.

The expert seamstresses will also sew the total number of Torrance and Walteria men, now 410, in white numerals on the large blue star that signifies the community's record of men in the armed services. The flag will be installed during a public ceremony which is being planned by Police Chief John Stroh as coordinator of Civilian Defense.

Those who memory will be enriched with gold stars are John Junlor Fess, U. S. N.; Raymond Pennington, U. S. M. C.; and Clarence T. Schieber, U. S. N. There may be a gold star for George Herbert Coburn, U. S. N., if investigation determines that he was a resident of Torrance.

## 18-Year Draft Signup Is Slow

Draft registration of 18-year-olds in this area is slow work for Mrs. Doris Watson, clerk and her assistants at Selective Service Board No. 280 in Torrance. Only 10 boys have registered so far and the Board, located at 1337 El Prado, remained open all last Sunday to sign up one youth.

Boys who were born on or after July 1, 1924 but not after Aug. 31, 1924, must register by 5 o'clock this (Thursday) afternoon.

Those who were born on or after Sept. 1, 1924 but not after Oct. 31, 1924 will be required to register at the Torrance draft board's office any day during the week beginning Friday, Dec. 18 and ending Thursday afternoon, Dec. 24.

Those born on or after Nov. 1, 1924 but not after Dec. 31, 1924 will register any day during the period beginning Saturday, Dec. 26, and ending Thursday, Dec. 31. The Torrance draft board office is open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. every day except Saturday when it closes at 12 o'clock noon.

## Priorities Sought For Rebuilding Damaged Structure

Reporting that plans for the improvement of the old Ford garage at 1514 Cabrillo ave., are now before the W. P. B. for priority rating, the California Trust Co., asked the city council at an adjourned meeting Monday afternoon to defer condemnation of the Nov. 14, 1941 quake damaged structure.

The company asserted by letter that it expected "no unnecessary delays" but wanted more time to carry out its proposed reconstruction of the building. In event priority ratings cannot be secured for the work on the structure, the company said it would comply with the city's requests to brace the walls or submit to condemnation.

The council took no action pending the return of City Attorney John E. McCall from a trip to New York City. The attorney is expected to be present at the next regular meeting of the council which is scheduled for Tuesday night, Dec. 22.

## Water Plant Gift Rejected by City Following Study

No proffered Christmas gift was given a more thorough inspection and appraisal than the one which the city of Torrance rejected Monday afternoon. Offered by Mr. and Mrs. John Kirsch of 18207 Prairie ave., a complete water plant with 12 customers was turned down by the city council on recommendation of City Engineer Glenn Jain and Water Superintendent William H. Stanger.

But the refusal of the outright gift was accompanied by a vote of thanks from the council to the Kirshes who are disposing of all their property here which they have owned since 1930. They were also offered the services of the city attorney and city engineer in forming a mutual water company among the 12 consumers of the plant who may operate it themselves.

The joint report of Engineer Jain and Superintendent Stanger pointed out that the Kirsh water plant "would be more of a liability than an asset to the city" inasmuch as the 10,000-gallon wood tank needs considerable repair and the two-inch pipe serving the customers was also old. If the gift were accepted, they said the city would have to replace some of the equipment and would assume the responsibility of providing water service from then on Jain and Stanger suggested that the Kirshes dispose of the plant to a private individual or form a mutual water company among the consumers.

Councilman James Hitchcock in moving that the city reject the gift, declared the offer was "a very nice gesture and the Kirshes deserve a vote of thanks for their fine civic spirit."

## Former Resident Killed In Africa

A former Torrance resident, Otis H. Furr, who lived at 1816 Annapola ave., and worked at the National Supply Co., was killed in action in North Africa Nov. 13, according to word received here, Ernest Maloy of 815 Annapola ave., this week. Furr's widow, Mrs. Kitty Furr, wrote him about her husband's death. Mrs. Furr lives at 1410 Sunny Hill Lane, Ridgewood Park, Upper Darby, Pa., with her two children, Dickie, 10, and Mary Lou, eight.

Mrs. Furr informed Maloy that her husband, who was a chief machinist mate in the Navy, died during a "five-day battle." Furr, who was 39, lived here until about 18 months ago when he returned east and re-entered the Navy. He had served for 16 years, being honorably discharged in 1936 with a rating of first class machinist's mate.

## Story Hours Attract Children to Library

Miss Georgia Billingsley, a student at Frank Higgins Arts and Crafts school, designed the attractive poster at the entrance to Torrance City Library inviting children of the community to attend the special story hours. These began yesterday at the library and will be repeated Friday, Dec. 18, and Wednesday, Dec. 23.

## Dimout Christmas Darkens Civic Displays

Exigencies of wartime have eliminated Christmas decorations on the business streets of Torrance but there will be no restriction on Yuletide joys in private homes—providing the dimout regulations are observed.

Gone for the duration is the miniature Swiss village which was to have been increased by several chalets and other structures in El Prado park this Christmas. The huge candlesticks which were attached to ornamental light poles in the business area were not taken out of storage. No trees have been festooned with colored lights in El Prado park and the little park at Marcelina and Sartori aves.

And the strings of lights which outlined the shopping district also remain stored away—awaiting the Christmas of peace and victory that is sure to come.

## Council Expected To Take Action On Housing Aids

As result of a conference with the city council and City Engineer Glenn Jain Tuesday night, Pat MacDonnell, city housing coordinator, expects to receive the go-ahead signal at the next regular municipal board meeting on two fronts in his battle to obtain more housing here.

It was learned yesterday that the council has tentatively agreed to lift some of the building restrictions which are crippling the housing program and may employ an architect to create plans, specifications and material lists for "sample dwellings" whose requirements will meet all Federal wartime regulations. Adoption of an emergency resolution that will permit necessary changes in the building code without changing the city zoning ordinance is slated for next Tuesday night in order that a number of prospective builders may proceed with plans for both single and multiple housing units without further delay. Coordinator MacDonnell's recommendations are contained in the following letters which were read to the council Tuesday night as a basis for the informal discussion and decisions:

### Architect Wanted To Prepare 'Samples'

Proposing that the city council employ an architect to draft sample floor plans and prepare specifications and material lists which will meet Federal restrictions as a direct method of helping private owners to remedy the city's critical housing shortage, Pat MacDonnell, city housing coordinator, addressed the following letter to the municipal board Dec. 14:

Recent regulations imposed by the War Production Board, having to do with the use of critical materials in matters of housing, have imposed a terrific liability upon owners of property who would under ordinary circumstances take advantage of the present need and build. The housing situation in Torrance is extremely critical and is due to become more acute in the very near future, and everything this city can do to assist private owners in building will help con-

(Continued on Page 5-A)

### Garage Requirement Should be Lifted

Urging action by the council to change its building ordinance to conform to the new Federal regulations which do not permit erection of garages, Pat MacDonnell, city building coordinator, wrote the council as follows on Dec. 14:

"War housing construction standards as laid down by the Federal Housing Administration and the War Production Board, to conserve construction materials critically needed in the war, restrict the square foot area of single family residences containing one bedroom to 560 square feet of area; two bedroom to 720 square feet and three bedroom to 900 square feet. In reply to an inquiry from this department, the Federal Housing Administration, under date of Dec. 7 gave the following interpretation covering structural areas mentioned above:

"Porches and garages are (Continued on Page 5-A)

## National Supply Expands Plant; 13 New Homes

Construction of a large machine shop addition to the present plant has been started by the National Supply Corporation for the National Supply Co. at the intersection of 213th and Huber sts. The building, of wood construction, will cost approximately \$250,000, according to the record of the building permit obtained Tuesday. The structure will be 182 by 200 feet in size and will house production of aircraft accessories.

This project and the start of construction of 12 new homes in the 2400 block on Gramery ave. by S. J. Katz and other building made the week's total in permits \$305,365.

Each of the frame stucco residences to be erected by Katz, developer of the Park Knolls tract, will have its own garage. The 12 dwellings will cost \$45,000. Other building permits issued during the past week were:

A. M. Kast, a frame stucco residence and garage at 1308 Greenwood st., \$4,200; M. A. Richey, reconstruction of earthquake damage to the Carson apartments at 1728 Abalone st., \$5,000; D & M Machine Shops, frame shed roof between the laundry and electric shop at 224 Abalone ave., \$375; Rubbercraft Corp., cut opening between two existing buildings at 2012 Border ave., \$280; H. B. Dunn, frame moved-in house at 3618 Newton st., Walteria, \$200; Mrs. W. L. Reeve, rebuild brick chimney at 2108 Gramery ave., \$135, and Torrance Hospital Association, frame interior partitions at the hospital, 1425 Engracia ave., \$175.

MAJ. W. J. HARRISON

## Boys Discover Skeleton In Palos Verdes

Unless the Bureau of Investigation of the Sheriff's office can locate a missing person who disappeared in around Lomita about 20 years ago, the skeleton of a man's body, found late Monday in the Palos Verdes hills by three Lomita youngsters will have to fill an unmarked grave.

The investigation being made by Ray Hopkinson of the Bureau of Investigation of the Sheriff's office, Pathological examination of the bones by coroner Frank Nance's office so far indicate that the body had been undisturbed in its shallow grave in the hills for at least 20 years.

The bones were discovered by George Wells, 22, of 2417 266th st.; Bruce Brown, 18, of 25541 Pennsylvania ave., and DeFord Gobert of 2407 266th st., stumbled over a worn shoe protruding from a depression in the earth in a deep ravine near where much dirt is at present being taken for grading purposes.

The boys were hiking in the vicinity of the Old George F. canyon and, seeing what seemed to be a shoe, investigated and found the skeleton.

The bones indicated the man was slightly over 50 years of age, about 5 feet tall and while some bones including the right Douglas first white, the skull and other bones did not show any signs of violence, the coroner's office reports.

## Next Edition Out Tuesday, December 22

Next week's edition of The Torrance Herald and The Lomita News will be distributed on Tuesday, Dec. 22, instead of Thursday because of the Christmas holiday. There will be no weekend editions.

Classified advertising will close at noon Monday, Dec. 21, instead of the usual closing hour of 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday.

Churches and other organizations having announced Christmas services and meetings should submit them not later than Saturday noon, Dec. 19, to assure publication. The final issues of 1942 will be published at the usual time, Thursday, Dec. 31.

## Boulevard Stops Will be Reduced To Aid Motorists

To enable Torrance motorists and others to attain as closely as possible the 15 miles per gallon allotted them under gasoline rationing, the city council authorized Police Chief John Stroh Monday to make an immediate survey to determine how many boulevard stops can be eliminated here. He is to report his findings to the council at the next regular meeting, Tuesday night, Dec. 15.

Accurate tests recently completed by engineers for the Automobile Club of Southern California disclosed that a 34 per cent loss of mileage efficiency occurs when five boulevard stops are made in one mile.

The tests showed that further "uncoordinated" stop-and-go signals in operation on Los Angeles' Sixth st., cut the mileage efficiency approximately 24 per cent compared with the return attained on Wilshire Blvd. with its "coordinated" controls.

Streets Believed Safe  
Chief Stroh said he welcomed the opportunity to make a thorough check on the boulevard stops here and would have his report ready on time for action by the council. He said that both traffic volume and hazards have been "greatly reduced" here as a consequence of gasoline rationing and the ordered nationwide maximum speed limit of 35 miles an hour.

A large segment of the motoring public is operating on a minimum of gasoline and is anxious to attain as closely as possible the 15 miles per gallon allotted under the mileage rationing plan.

It is believed that scores of boulevard stops can be eliminated here without undue danger to motorists and pedestrians alike.

## Torrance Now In 'Cadillac Class' For Only \$65

Time was when a city which owned an official Cadillac sedan was in the "high hat" class.

Only the larger municipalities whose officials possessed silk hats and morning coats and enjoyed bowing to their constituents from the leather seats of that expensive motor car during parades could boast of such distinction.

Well, Torrance has finally purchased its first city-owned Cadillac sedan but it is highly doubtful if any city official will want to parade in it.

The machine has seen much better days and was purchased for only \$65.

Will Haul Pumps  
It was built in 1935 and has a "California top" which can be lowered to allow an unimpeded view of the populace but it will only be used to haul auxiliary pumping equipment for the fire department.

City Engineer Glenn Jain, who recommended the acquisition, pointed out to the city council Monday afternoon that its weight—6,000 pounds—is necessary in order to haul the fire equipment which is being obtained from the O. C. D.

The council also purchased another car Monday but paid \$870.50 for that one. This machine is a 1941 four-door custom built DeSoto sedan which will be used by the police department. Allan H. Paul sold it to the city, taking an old police car in trade to the value of \$650.

## Bank Dividend Declared; One More Will Liquidate Assets

A dividend of 6 1/2 per cent will be paid on certificates of participation issued by trustees of the First National Bank of Torrance on Dec. 20, to the officials, C. T. Rippy, Beverly B. Smith and Sherwood McIntyre, announced today.

Rippy said that it is anticipated that an additional dividend of about five per cent will liquidate all of the assets now in the hands of the trustees and this will be declared as soon as some property is sold, "probably within five or six months."

The First National has paid three previous dividends, one of 10 per cent and two of five per cent each, to holders of the certificates. Those desiring to obtain the new fund apportionment must mail or bring their certificates to Rippy at his office, 1333 Post ave.

MAJ. W. J. HARRISON

MAJ. W. J. HARRISON