

Red Cross War Fund Drive Plans Mapped For Torrance Sector

James M. Lynch, war fund chairman of the American Red Cross in this community, announced today that the annual membership roll call and war fund campaign is now in progress.

Mrs. Lola Hoover, chairman of the local branch, is busy with details for commencement of a canvass of the business and residential districts on March 15.

Autos Collide In Dense Fog Sunday Morning

At least eight automobile crashes were reported to the Torrance police early last Sunday, the result of what Capt. Frank Schumaker described as the worst fog experienced in this community in 15 years. It was so dense, the officer claimed, that vision was obscured at 15 feet away. Motorists became so confused they could not tell where the center or curb lines of the highway were and in two instances drivers left their cars in the middle of the highway in an effort to locate the curbs before proceeding further or parking to one side of the road for safety. In both instances mentioned the cars were rammed into by other cars approaching from the rear.

Rusto Gilliano Beutalan of 21915 Wilmington ave., Lomita, reported his car was struck in the rear by another driven by W. R. Strong, Los Angeles. This collision occurred on Torrance blvd. about 1 1/2 miles west of Cravens ave. it was reported.

On Crenshaw blvd. near the P. E. shops, Mrs. Myrtle Shirley, 182nd and Prairie, stopped in the center of the street to get out and look for the curb, when Fred Towles, 243 Santa Monica st., Venice, hit her car. At the time of this collision Mrs. Shirley was in front of her vehicle and was hit by the bumper when the impact shoved it forward. Her injuries were slight. Towles said the fog was so dense he did not see the car in front in time to avoid the crash. Both cars were damaged.

J. H. Smith, driver of a truck for the Mayfair Creamery, reported he had hit a car registered to Helen E. Rice, 24415 Madison st., at Hawthorne and Sepulveda.

Artie L. McCall, Redondo Beach, filed a report after colliding with a car stopped in the middle of the highway at Torrance and Crenshaw blvds. while he was en route to work. Driver of the car hit drove away with only minor damage done to the truck.

A. H. Russell, 2440 Magnolia st., Inglewood, reported colliding with a car owned by C. F. Clark, 346 Washington st., Venice, at 1:20 a.m. Sunday morning. This accident occurred on Hawthorne near Sepulveda blvd. Only minor damage was reported.

H. H. Martin reported having collided with an unknown car on Torrance blvd. near Madrona ave. Thelma Hornback, a passenger, sustained slight injuries. Another collision was reported at Sepulveda and Arlington ave., but names of parties involved were not obtained.

William O'Neill, 1640 6th st., Santa Monica, reported to the police Monday that he had stopped for a car in front during the fog Sunday morning and that William Myer, 430 Gentry st., Hermosa Beach, ran into him from the rear, damaging both cars. No one was injured.

Sgt. Bill Evans was called out to one of the accidents on Torrance blvd. He declared that the fog was just about the densest he had ever experienced. "I think I was lucky to get through with the police car without running into something or somebody," he asserted.

Body of Suicide at Mortuary Pending Funeral Arrangements

The body of Charles Marion Fristoe, 56, an ex-marine who had been employed for some time past at the Shell Chemical plant as a plant guard, is at the Stone & Myers mortuary pending funeral arrangements. Fristoe allegedly committed suicide by shooting late last week. He used a .38 calibre special weapon to end his life. Efforts were being made to contact William R. Fristoe, a brother, who had sailed last week for Seattle, en route to Alaska. Fristoe lived at 753 Lake st., Los Angeles.

No evidence that Fristoe had any relatives other than the brother has been disclosed. His wife is said to have passed away about a year ago.

Four Candidates File for Council

The "perennial" George V. Powell, incumbent Torrance city councilman, has tossed his hat into the political ring again as a candidate to succeed himself. Four others also have filed their nominations. They are: George Thatcher, Walteria, who was the first to qualify; Paul Findley, 2121 Gramercy; Joel Hagberg, Walteria, and Robert Paul Sloecker, Walteria.

L. V. Babcock, incumbent, has taken out a petition for nomination and it has been circulated by friends during the past few days but had not been filed this forenoon.

Two other nomination papers are reported to have been called for at the clerk's office but have not been returned for filing, it was stated at the city hall.

Mayor Tom McGuire is the third incumbent who is expected to run for re-election. The deadline for candidates to file is Saturday, March 11, at noon. The election will be Tuesday, April 11.

Harbor District Chambers Guests Here on March 9

A well rounded out program has been arranged for the forthcoming meeting of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce and other civic organizations to be held in the Torrance Civic Auditorium Thursday, March 9, commencing at 6:30 o'clock, when a six-course dinner, featuring roast beef entree, will be prepared by a leading Southern California caterer.

Entertainment will be furnished and the guest speaker will be W. S. Rosecrans, son of a well known leading pioneer family of California and erstwhile president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Rosecrans will speak on the subject, "Latin-American Relations." He is an authority on this subject. A feature of the entertainment will be the appearance on the stage of the National Supply Funmakers, the cast containing a number of former professional comedy artists and other talented entertainers now doing their bit at the National plant to back the men on the fighting fronts by making equipment of war.

Visiting civic organizations and clubs from many parts of the Harbor District will be represented at the gathering. The Torrance Chamber of Commerce will act as host for the occasion and James L. Lynch, president, urges members of the various clubs to turn out and bring their wives with them.

Reservations must be made in advance and tickets are now available at the Chamber of Commerce offices at the corner of Sartori and Post aves. Lynch extended to all citizens to come and extend a hearty welcome to the visiting guests expected to come from all sections of the Harbor district.

Tea Honoring 8-7 Students of T.H.S. Scheduled Friday

With Harold E. Perry, principal of Torrance High school, acting as master of ceremonies, a tea honoring the 70 odd 8-7 students enrolled is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, with parents and teachers in attendance.

The entertainment features of the program will include a panel discussion on "How to Gain Friends and Win Fellowship," under the chairmanship of Mal Fink, Jr. Ten A-7 students will take part in the panel, which will serve as a guide to new students.

Chamber Membership Drive In Progress

Hillman R. Lee, chairman of the membership committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, today called attention to the 1944 membership drive, started last Friday, and urged every merchant and citizen to back the organization by enrolling as members and to take part in its activities.

Civilian Defense Unit Meeting Next Tuesday

The Torrance Civilian Defense group is scheduled to meet for regular drill at the Civic Auditorium next Tuesday evening, March 7. All members are asked to bring their gas masks with them to be exchanged for new ones, Chief John Stroth advises.



WINS DECORATION . . . The War Department has announced that 2nd Lt. William R. Stewart of Torrance is one of 32 Californians who were recently awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal for achievements with the Army Air Forces in the European theatre of war.

Six Get Orders for Induction Into U.S. Army, Navy

Three Torrance young men have received their orders for induction into the U. S. Army next week. They are to report at the Civic Auditorium next Monday, March 6, at 6:15 a.m. They are: Raymond Gregory Semathauer of 1313 Cota ave.; Alfred Loyal Turner, 1441 1/2 Western ave.; Richard Thomas Johnson, 1740 Gramercy ave. This is call No. 42 from the local Selective Service board.

On the following Friday, March 10, three others are to depart under call No. 2 into the U. S. Navy. They are: George Albert Carl Alpalka, 1338 1/2 218th st.; George Figueredo, 1507 Crenshaw blvd.; Robert E. Armstrong, Route 1, Box 295, all of Torrance.

Francis Kaspar Wins Oak Leaf Cluster Medal

Technical Sgt. Francis V. Kaspar of 1736 Gramercy ave., Torrance, radio operator and gunner on an Eighth A.A.F. Flying Fortress, has been awarded an Oak Leaf cluster to wear on his Air Medal for "courage, coolness and skill" displayed while participating in an additional five combat bomber missions over Europe.

Sgt. Kaspar is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kaspar of Torrance. He entered the A.A.F. in September, 1942.

Kaspar has participated in many aerial missions over Germany and the enemy occupied countries. He was aboard one of the Fortresses that recently gave Brunswick, one of the key industrial towns in Germany, a severe blasting. The American loss of planes was heavy in this battle, but was more than offset by the destruction dealt to enemy planes in the air and on the ground in addition to ruin of one of the enemy's chief aircraft plants.

Gardena Girl, Aged 5, Hit by Auto Driven By Torrance Woman

Lois N. Stiles, aged 5 years, daughter of Mrs. Freda Stiles, Route 1, Box 25, Gardena, was struck and knocked down onto the pavement by the bumper of an automobile driven by Mrs. Marion Grubb of 1307 Portola ave., Torrance, last Friday forenoon while she was en route to Gardena. The accident occurred on Western near 182nd st., in county territory.

The little girl was taken to the county hospital, where her condition was reported serious. She was said to have been accompanied by her brother, aged 7, who was sent to a neighborhood store. According to police reports, the children apparently became confused and ran in front of the car driven by Mrs. Grubb. The boy crossed over the highway safely. His sister followed and was hit by the end of the bumper. Reports say the accident was unavoidable.

Season's Rainfall Above Last Year

Rain totals in Torrance were boosted 2.15 inches by the storm of Tuesday and Wednesday, bringing the grand total for the season to 14.40 inches, compared with 13.61 on this date a year ago.

Today Last Day To Register for City Election

Today is the last day to register for the municipal election to be held in Torrance on Tuesday, April 11. To accommodate persons qualified who have not already registered, or who have moved to another location since voting at the last election, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett advised that his office will be kept open until 9 o'clock tonight.

Those who fail to register before that hour will not be legally qualified to vote for city council candidates in April, Bartlett warned.

Moose Lodge In Torrance Host At Dinner Meet

Every Moose lodge in the Southwest-Central district of Los Angeles County was represented at the monthly district meeting and dinner held last Friday evening at Moose hall on Carson st.

The local lodge was host on this occasion, with Gov. Tom Wilkes presiding at the opening. Turning the gavel over to Roy Briggs, district vice president, the meeting took on momentum.

Jim West, regional director, gave an inspiring and interesting talk about Moosecraft. Bob Shippy, secretary of the California Moose Association, gave a report of the mid-winter conference held recently at Lodi. Al Lusk, president of the state association, advised that the Moose organizations went away "over the top" in the Fourth war bond campaign and said sales of more than \$1,250,000 were reported. Long Beach Moose were credited with \$750,000, he said.

Charles Clancy, governor of Long Beach Lodge No. 600 and the last speaker of the evening, advised that the state convention this year will be held on Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at Long Beach.

The dinner served during the evening was prepared under direction of Mmes. Marie Humer, Irene Wilkes and Amy Ambach, assisted by Mmes. Jim Evans, C. D. Reed and I. Ruteo.

Bond Purchases At T.H.S. \$8,500 During Past Week

War bond purchases amounting to more than \$8,500 were made by two individual parties within one week at Torrance High school, Mrs. Fern Strauss, secretary of finance, has reported.

Mal Fink, Jr., an A-7 student, purchased \$6,225 worth of bonds at the student store on Feb. 15 which upon maturity will have a cash surrender value of \$8,000. A \$500 series F bond was bought from student body reserve funds on Feb. 23.

Fink, who made his bond purchase through the school from an inheritance, has materially aided the student body of Torrance High school in its effort to procure for the government a Ryan training plane at a cost of \$15,000 during the semester through student purchases of war bonds. The aircraft is to bear a name in honor of the school.

Leap Year Babies Left at Torrance Memorial Hospital

Two babies who will have to wait four years for a birthday because of having been born on Feb. 29, arrived at the Torrance Memorial Hospital last Tuesday. One of the leap year babies is a boy, the other a girl.

The boy is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Foreman, 71 1/2 Irena st., Redondo Beach. The girl is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Thompson, 1803 169th st., in Moneta.

Major Manning Guest Speaker

A public forum, sponsored by the vestry of St. Andrew's church, will be held at the Torrance Woman's club, Friday, March 13, commencing at 7:30 o'clock.

Major J. Knox Manning, who recently returned from the Italian war front, will speak on the subject: "The Fifth Army Landing at Salerno." The forum is a community service of St. Andrew's church as an aid to enlightening the people of Torrance on vital subjects of the day.

Committee in Charge
The committee in charge will be Wallace Post, H. T. Barnes, Frank Church, Carl Lane, Burleigh Rice and Robert Lessing. Major Manning participated in the landing of American and Allied troops at Salerno in the face of withering fire from the surrounding hills and exposed to constant bombing—day and night—by the Luftwaffe. Manning directed an air force photography unit in shooting pictures of the landing operation and the battle that followed in establishing a beachhead.

With Photo Unit
His assignment in Italy began as their landing barge roared up to the shores of Paestum, a few miles south of Salerno. The British 10th Corps landed at Salerno at precisely the same time, the strategy being for the American Fifth Army to swing around Salerno in a wide encirclement, with the British holding the hub.

Paestum was judged to be weakly defended, but the Germans were well prepared with two divisions hidden in the hills nearby. The Yaniks were allowed to beach and then all hell broke loose, according to Major Manning.

The major's crew of five photographers kept their cameras turning while German fighters strafed savagely, having it all their own way. Bombs burst everywhere and cannon fire was concentrated on them from the menacing hills nearby.

His narration of his experiences is expected to be an interesting feature of the meeting.

Student Body Chiefs Guests At Luncheon

Tom Nuckles, prominent Torrance High school student and newly elected president of the Student Body Council, was guest along with other officers at a council luncheon held recently at the school, where aims and purposes of the organization during the forthcoming semester were discussed.

Nuckles, who has held many student positions in the past and has been outstanding in athletics, affirmed many of the council's traditional aims along with several new ones.

Primarily the chief function of the council during the semester will be to foster better understanding and promote more effective cooperation between the faculty and student body.

Other students who were handed gavels in recognition of the office held were: Norma Hammond, vice president; Naida Mitchell, secretary; Don Johnson, president of boys' self government; Betty Goettsch, girls' self government, and John Agapio, president of the Boys' League. Barbara Moyer, Carol DeBary, Marjorie Chambers, Elsa Stanley, Bert Smith, Dorothy Sandstrom and Marvin Kent were elected commissioners of finance, entertainment, halls and bounds, group control, athletics, advertisement and safety respectively.

Ensign Floreine Franklin Sells Bonds on Leave

Ensign Floreine Franklin of the WAVES dropped in for a visit this week with her former associates at the J. C. Penney Company store in Torrance, where she was employed for four years prior to her enlistment.

She took time out from her one week furlough to take over the war bond booth at the Penney Company and Manager Hillman Lee reports that she "did a very fine job, too."

Ensign Franklin joined the WAVES last December and was assigned to Hunter College, New York City, for training. She is now stationed at San Diego.

Specialist Completes Transportation Survey In Torrance District

The transportation survey, for which the city council employed C. K. Koors of Los Angeles, who was represented to be a transportation specialist, has been completed. Koors' investigation is now ready to be presented to the council and to the transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce which recommended the survey. The movement for better transportation to serve this area was begun some time ago by the Chamber of Commerce, which realized that something needed to be done to solve the problem facing every industry, large and small, handicapped by lack of manpower due to inadequate transportation facilities.

Chamber Committee
The chamber committee held numerous meetings to discuss the situation. The early steps taken resulted in gathering much information and data helpful in launching a concerted and organized program. The preliminary work was climaxed by inviting plant managers to meet with Mayor Tom F. McGuire, members of the city council and members of the chamber transportation committee in the council chamber at the city hall on the night of Jan. 25. Mayor McGuire and Councilman Hitchcock were there. So was James L. Lynch, president of the chamber, with transportation committee, consisting of William H. Tolson, chairman; Philip Van Dyke and others.

Practically every war industry was represented and took part in the discussion. Keen interest was shown after the mayor explained that the city would turn in its present equipment if other means were adopted for purchase of six additional buses.

Survey Begun
The plant representatives and all others were agreed that transportation was a vital problem to the community and they were interested. At this meeting a committee consisting of C. C. Moffatt of the Bohm Aluminum and Brass Company, chairman; D. E. Blaisdell of the Doak Aircraft Company, and Koors, who was selected to go into the technical and financial features of the proposal. The committee met and Koors began the survey.

While the city council, the chamber committee and the plant representatives have not been called together to hear the report, Koors is quoted as saying his investigation "had shown the war effort is being handicapped in a very critical way because there are not enough transportation facilities to handle the 11,500 passengers traveling in and out of the area daily and that employment managers of many companies had found that nine out of ten applicants for work had refused to come to Torrance industries when told they would have to find means to 'share a ride' to get here."

The report contains recommendations, in addition, to continuation of daily scheduled service to and from Los Angeles, transfer arrangements with connecting lines that would give service to San Pedro and Long Beach; also transfer privileges at Redondo Beach to buses passing through Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach to Inglewood. Local rerouting is proposed to render better service to industries in this area, it was asserted.

Youth Recreation Is Theme of Meeting Set for March 13

The Torrance Youth Commission is scheduled to meet Monday, March 13, at 8 p.m. in the city hall for the purpose of discussing plans for much needed recreation facilities for young people. The chairman, Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, invites all who are interested to attend.

It is the wish of the commission that each service club, church, PTA and lodge send a delegate.

Evening Class Will Begin Next Wednesday

The evening class in drafting and blueprint reading will definitely start next Wednesday evening, March 8, at the Torrance High school, it was announced today. The opening time is 8 o'clock. All interested are urged to come and bring a friend.

Board Approves Reroute of Bus Lines In L.A.

The Los Angeles board of public utilities at a hearing held in Los Angeles last Friday approved the application of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for a change of routing of buses in Los Angeles for convenience of passengers carried on the city-owned lines both ways between Torrance and the new terminal to be established at 1014 S. Hill st. in Los Angeles.

Manager C. Z. Ward of the local bus system reveals that buses will be rerouted about April 1. Meanwhile alterations are being made in the terminal office which will be ready for occupancy by March 15. The change will make no difference in the present bus schedules.

Ward states that he has been informed by the insurance agency carrying the liability insurance for the municipal buses that only a minor accident occurred on the lines during last year. The agency advised: "Your mileage for January, 1943, through December, 1943, was 247,060 miles. During the 12 months there was only one chargeable accident. Your accident rate for the year was .20 per 100,000 miles for the year."

The average accident rate for 39 other similar fleets traveling 345,550,000 miles over the 12 month period last year was 1.42 per 100,000 miles. "This comparison," Ward said, "is very gratifying to us. It makes us feel that we have a very competent and efficient crew of drivers in our employ."

Improvements proposed at the L. A. terminal, said Ward, will include recess of window and door in the room to be occupied at 1014 S. Hill st., to form an alcove where seats will be placed for convenience of passengers while an attendant is not on duty. It is further proposed to install an iron gate in front of the alcove so that it may be closed off entirely during the hours that the buses are not running, between 12:30 a.m. and 5:50 a.m. Ward stated that arrangements had been completed to have the attendant at the terminal from 12 noon to 12 p.m., allowing restroom facilities and ticket purchases.

Young People's Friday Dance Moves Outdoors

Undaunted by the fact that the Torrance Civic Auditorium had been rented to another party for tomorrow night and thus was not available for their customary Friday night young people's dance, the dance committee of the Torrance Servicemen's Foundation decided to hold the dance outdoors—and to make it free of charge.

Bob Crandall and His Band will set up on the parking pavement adjacent to the A. & P. store, opposite the auditorium on El Prado, and all devotees of the swing and other modern dances are invited to come and have a good time—"free fur nuthin'." Heavy clothing and to-bee-hugan hats will be in vogue for the open-air dance tomorrow night, according to a member of the committee.

Torrance Woman, Child Hurt In Auto Collision

Dorothy M. Turner and her daughter, Jeanette, 3, of 2024 Martina ave., Torrance, sustained slight injuries in an automobile collision late last week in Compton. They returned home after receiving hospital treatment.

The other car involved was driven by Fred E. Coltron, 2058 W. Compton blvd., and the accident occurred at the corner of Compton blvd. and San Vicente st., police records in Compton show.