

## CITY SPENDING \$77,564 MORE THIS YEAR THAN DURING 1943-44 PERIOD

Torrance City Council, in adopting a \$301,890 budget Tuesday night, raised the salaries of 107 city employees \$15 a month each, estimated its expenses at \$77,564 more than the past fiscal year, yet realized its four cent reduction in the tax rate. The reason for the reduction in the tax rate, despite the increase in expenditures, is due to the tremendous increase in the assessed valuation of the city.

The city effected a 10 cent reduction from last year's 35 cent Water District No. 1 tax rate, promised lower water meter rates and raised the salaries of the employees of the district, which includes in its territory about one-third of the area of Torrance. The balance of the city is in some half dozen private and public water districts.

The estimated income from the general government sources is \$301,890, and the budget exceeds \$301,890.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

General government	\$50,120
Health and sanitation	8,425
Protection of life,	
property	120,440
Street department	67,090
Special street work	11,250
City garage	725
Recreation department	13,880
Park department, general	3,300
Miscellaneous accounts	15,770
Equipment	10,770
Salaries of the chiefs, captains, lieutenants and sergeants of the police or fire departments got raises of \$20 a month. The lowest salary paid by the city now is \$170, for ordinary laborers of the engineering department, to \$345 for the city engineer. Elective officers do not get a raise.	
The increases are retroactive to July 1, 1944.	

## War Chest Plans Committee Work For Big Drive

War Chest leaders, headed by Hillman Lee, chairman here, met at headquarters Monday evening to discuss plans for the coming campaign and particularly to decide upon the number of "short-term" volunteers who will be required in each district.

Lee presided at the meeting, which was attended by Mayor William H. Tolson; George L. Johnson, campaign vice chairman in charge of special gifts; James L. Lynch, vice chairman of business districts; Harry B. Lewis, chairman of the speakers' bureau and a campaign colonel; and Philip Van Dyke of Longren Aircraft Company, who will act as a campaign major.

Mayor Tolson is among the first of Torrance citizens selected to serve in the district council of War Chest. "board" members, founder members, persons interested in Community Chest and other War Chest agencies, and which will act in an advisory capacity.

At least 650 men and women will be needed to carry the War Chest appeal for funds to support 133 major war-related and home services for the coming year into every home and place of business here, it was determined.

"This job is one that not only calls for the contributions of citizens when the time comes, but for their service as well," Mr. Lee said. "We will look to everyone to share a little time to raise the fund which directly backs up the fighting forces, merchant marines, our lads in enemy prisons, helps strengthen our Allies with food, medicine and clothing for their harassed people, and looks to the needs of our own neighbors and children."

The great major of volunteers now sought will be asked to work only short periods of time in the door-to-door campaign which will begin in October, Mr. Lee explained. Territories convenient to their homes or places of business may be chosen when desired.

Campaign headquarters for enrollment and organization of volunteers have been opened at 1400 Cravens st.

## Youngsters of 16 And Under Not To Be Hired

The City of Torrance will not hire anyone less than 16 years of age, and then will not pay less than the job would pay to a person hired by the city, according to a policy adopted by the City Council Tuesday night.

Protests were read against the hiring of juveniles and the sentiment prevailed that compensation should be made for the job itself, not for the individual or his age.

## Cucci Against Water Tax Rate Reduction

Councilman N. H. Cucci, in a burst of oratory Tuesday night, insisted that the tax rate of Water District No. 1 be kept at 35 cents per \$100 assessed valuation when an effort was made to cut the rate 10 cents to 25 cents a hundred.

Cucci wanted the water rates cut instead. He said the consumers should be given the benefit of any reduction.

Other members of the council declared that the property owners should be given the benefit of savings as well, but Cucci was against it.

In walked William H. Stanger, manager of the water department, who recommended the reduction in the tax rate.

Standing his ground, Stanger said that eight months ago he had submitted to the council a new scale of reduced water rates, and declared that they could have both the rate cut and the tax reduction and still operate the department nicely.

With that Cucci consented to the tax rate cut.

## Col. Westbrook Leaving Local Army Hospital

Lt. Col. W. H. L. Westbrook, Jr., commanding officer of the Torrance Army Hospital since its opening, is being transferred to Washington, D. C., and is being replaced here by Col. Earl LeRoy Wood, M.D.

Col. Westbrook is completing his arrangements for transfer and Col. Wood already is in the base.

Col. Westbrook, who has guided the hospital through its period from a purely LAPE station institution to a full army hospital receiving patients from foreign battlefronts and army posts throughout the coast, was high in his praise for Torrance and its help to the institution during his period of command here.

"I would like to have you say that I appreciate the cooperation which the citizens of Torrance have given us in all our projects," Col. Westbrook told the Torrance Herald. "The way your citizens have gotten behind the hospital and its personnel is gratifying, and it has made my stay here a great pleasure. When the hospital is located among many communities, it has been Torrance that we have become accustomed to look to for support. Torrance adopted the hospital and the hospital has attached itself firmly to Torrance."

Mrs. Westbrook will accompany the colonel on the trip to Washington, where they will await the colonel's next assignment.

## Cox Brothers Home for Visit With Parents

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Cox of Sierra Place the past two weekends have been their sons, Pvt. Gerald W. Cox of Camp Roberts and Lt. Dean D. Cox, who flew from Marfa, Texas. Lt. Cox is a member of the standardization board of the 37th Wing of the West Coast Training Command, A.A.F. For the past 18 months he has instructed in instructor's candidate school and was recently appointed to the standardization board. The Cox's have another son, Pfc. Gail K. Cox of Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

Mrs. Dean D. Cox and baby daughter, Deanna Dee, are spending several weeks here. Other guests were Mrs. Gerald W. Cox and children, Jerry and Susan, of El Segundo, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butler and daughters, Connie Myrna and Dianne, of Burbank.

## Women Pay \$50 Fines for Nude Bathing Here

Swimming in the surf at Torrance Beach in the nude proved costly to Alice Grommet, 38, and Christine Simms, 29, both of Los Angeles, when Police Judge Otto Willett fined them \$50 each. Both had been on \$50 bail after police had arrested them last week on the complaint of spectators. Capt. E. M. Ashton and Sgt. Gene Garner made the arrest. They pleaded guilty when they appeared in court Saturday.

## RUMMAGE SALE

The Torrance Woman's club will stage a rummage and cooked foods sale on Aug. 28, 29 and 30 at the corner of Post ave. and Cravens, the old Red Cross headquarters. The sale will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## DEMOCRATIC MEETING

The Democratic County Central committee for the 68th Assembly district will meet with representatives of Democratic clubs on Monday evening at 8 o'clock at 602 Broad ave., Wilmington.

## NEW BUS LINE IN TORRANCE STARTING SOON

Loop bus service, covering the various outlying districts of Torrance, will be placed in operation on a 30 minute to one hour schedule at once, according to Mayor W. H. Tolson. Petitioned by residents of areas which are "stranded" due to lack of transportation, the city will establish a route as follows:

Starting at the terminal on Cabrillo, to Carson, west to Greenwood ave., north to Torrance Blvd., and return to the terminal; then to Carson, east to Vermont, north to 190th st., west to Western ave., and south on Western to Torrance Blvd., then back to the terminal.

The "figure 8" loop service will require about one-half hour for the run, and an effort will be made to keep the bus in continuous operation to maintain that schedule. Until the arrival of new equipment, the mayor pointed out, it may be difficult to maintain thirty minute service.

## TAX RATE CUT DUE TO GAIN IN VALUATION

The Torrance Industries Tax Committee, in expressing appreciation to the City Council for courtesies extended to its members in consideration of the current budget, has pointed out that the reduction of four cents in the general tax levy to 95 cents per \$100 assessed valuation was made possible only by the tremendous increase in the assessed valuation of the city this year.

R. I. Plomer, Jr., chairman of the committee, said: "The burden of taxes upon industry is still a serious problem and we would like to see local taxes be further reduced to a minimum required for proper and efficient local government."

"To accomplish this end, our committee again expresses its desire to offer all possible cooperation and assistance."

## Two New Sewer Districts May Be Formed Here

Sewer districts may be created in two areas in the City of Torrance, it was indicated yesterday by Mayor W. H. Tolson.

Residents of the South Torrance area, he said, are in need of sewage facilities and a drive is to be undertaken to provide necessary signers to petitions to create an assessment district.

On the Pueblo Village program, it appeared probable that the program will proceed for the installation of a trunk line the full length of 203rd st. A majority of the residents of that area have indicated their willingness to bond themselves for the project.

## Women Pay \$50 Fines for Nude Bathing Here

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## Old Watches on Sale for New, Merchants Say

Retail merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has issued a warning from the Better Business Bureau, of which it is a member, that thousands of second hand watches are being sold to the public as new.

It is pointed out that the production of watches for civilian use is far below normal. However, civilian demand for watches is much higher than usual. Such a situation is unprecedented and furnishes dishonest vendors with a golden opportunity to sell used watches as new.

For the average person it is difficult, if not impossible, to detect the difference between a new watch and a re-cased used watch. Therefore, prospective purchasers should be certain that they are dealing with reliable dealers.



**FRIENDS OF OLD "DOC" STORK** ... While husbands and new fathers are in the service of their country, National Supply Co. "Funnakers" have come to the front to do their part to make things comfortable for their wives and children by furnishing the ward at the Torrance Army Hospital. Shown here unloading a truck filled with furnishings for the ward are: left to right, Fairy Whitler, Marie Boyes, Marie White and Irene Fohnhoefer, of National Supply, with Lt. Robert Ecton and PFC. Dave Dortort assisting them.

## Blood Bank Day Tomorrow in Torrance

Blood Bank Day in Torrance will be tomorrow morning from 8:40 a.m. until 12:40 p.m. The American Red Cross mobile unit will be stationed at the Torrance Civic Auditorium.

## LEATHERMAN IS AWARDED PURPLE HEART

Mr. and Mrs. Clare Leatherman, 912 Coia ave., yesterday received from the Secretary of the Navy the Order of the Purple Heart awarded to their son, Cpl. Everett Lytle Leatherman, U.S.M.C., for wounds received at Guadalcanal on Oct. 9, 1942.

In addition to the Order of the Purple Heart, Cpl. Leatherman has two Presidential citations, one for five campaigns and the other for seven.

He is back on duty and moving closer to the Japs, the parents say, and spent four and one-half months in the hospital after he was wounded. He is attached to the First Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which has been operating on Guam and other islands in the Pacific.

Young Leatherman joined the Marines on Feb. 4, 1942, and was attached to a mortar unit. He has not been home since he was first shipped out.

Characteristic of the 21-year-old Leatherneck, he did not tell his parents anything about the award of the Order of the Purple Heart, nor about his wounds. They knew nothing about the award of the Order, which was established during the Revolutionary War by General Washington, until they received the notice and medal in the mails.

He has a brother in the service, Chief Gunner's Mate Wendell Leatherman, who was home a year ago. He was at Pearl Harbor when the Japs made their sneak attack.

## Marine League Schools Plan to Prevent Student Friction, Strife

As school administrators prepare for the opening of the fall semester, Marine league high schools are taking steps to avoid friction between schools, which has led to the student riots in Long Beach and Torrance shortly before the close of schools in June.

H. E. Perry, principal of Torrance high school; C. P. Lyon, of Narbonne; H. E. Gross, of Banning; F. X. Goulet, of Gardena, and E. J. Ziehbauer, vice principal of San Pedro High, presented an analysis of the situation, revealing that difficulties may arise because of:

1. Failure of students to ascertain true facts concerning incidents and to settle grievances through school authorities in the proper and authorized procedure.
2. Overzealous alumni who momentarily forget that their indiscretions reflect on the honor of their alma mater.
3. Small anti-social groups who may or may not be from areas outside the Marine league schools and who regard school situations as an opportunity to settle personal matters with a minimum of police interference.

They recommended that a plan of action may well include:

1. An insistence that any and all difficulties involving students of two or more schools be reported to and handled by the administrators of such schools—

## NATIONAL SUPPLY PLAYERS FURNISH CHILDREN'S WARD AT TORRANCE ARMY HOSPITAL

"He who gives a child a treat, Rings joy bells on heaven's street."

The beautiful sentiment expressed in these few lines of poetry could be spoken very appropriately as a toast of thanks to the employees of the National Supply Company for the furnishings and equipment of the children's ward at the Army Hospital of Torrance.

A large bronze plaque with the inscription, "National Supply Variety Ward," will be displayed over the door.

The National Supply variety show, a group of men and women selected from the employees of that company, have been conducting hospitals, rest homes and army camps for the past 11 months. Their show ranks among the best of its kind and not a few of these performers come from professional shows. Bert Smith is acting show manager and master of ceremonies, assisted by his wife, Marjorie.

Miss Margaret Vorhees, women's counsellor, organized the show for the purpose of entertaining the soldiers at the Army Hospital in Torrance. The show entertained at the hospital once a month and became so well trained that they were invited to perform for various army camps and naval bases.

In recent months they have given shows at the Lomita Flight Strip, Normandie and East Road Base, Roosevelt Base, Terminal Island, Coast Artillery Rest Home, Santa Monica, and U.S.O. of Wilmington.

## Western Avenue Walkway Will Be Constructed

The City of Torrance will take immediate steps to install sidewalks on the Torrance right-of-way on Western ave., from 203rd st. to Torrance Blvd., and at the same time will petition Los Angeles city council to provide lighting for the stretch.

Reason for the action is the first death from traffic in Torrance in two years, which occurred last week when J. D. Chitwood was killed walking along Western near 203rd st.

Mayor W. H. Tolson said that the walks will be of the nature of paths, but that they will be of decomposed granite and will serve to keep people off the heavily traveled highway.

All but ten feet of the 100 foot Western ave. right-of-way is in Torrance, the balance being in Los Angeles.

## Santa Fe Railway Willing to Aid Traffic Situation

The Atchison, Topoka & Santa Fe Railroad is willing to cooperate with the City of Torrance in any matter relative to operation of trains through the community, the City Council was informed in a letter from W. L. Moore, superintendent, Tuesday night.

It answered inquiries about breaking up of trains at various Santa Fe crossings in Torrance to stop blocking of traffic.

Already there has been considerable improvement of the condition, with trains being broken up at main intersections where long stops are necessary by virtue of switching.

## TORRANCE GIVES L. A. SCHOOLS TWO DOLLARS FOR EVERY ONE SPENT IN LOCAL OPERATION

The Los Angeles city school district tax rate for 1944-45 will be \$1.7171 per \$100 of assessed valuation, Assistant Superintendent Harry M. Howell, budget director, estimated unofficially yesterday.

The rate, 10.67 cents above last year's, would be the fourth highest in school district history.

This rate will mean that Torrance property owners with an assessed valuation, which totals \$26,590,050 including the solvent credits will pay \$456,592.34 to the Los Angeles city schools during the present fiscal year.

In addition to this, Los Angeles will get the state aid for the Torrance schools based on average daily attendance. The high school a.d.a. for last year was 467 students of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, and state aid on this figure would amount to \$38,629, on the basis of \$87 per a.d.a.

Junior high school students at Torrance High school total 344, but they bring the district only \$65 per a.d.a., being counted as elementary students. Torrance elementary school has an a.d.a. of 791 for last year; Fern Avenue school 291, and Waverley 96. These elementary figures total 1,522 average daily attendance for last year, and the \$65 allowance of the state for the present fiscal year per a.d.a. would bring the Torrance income to \$98,930.

Coupled with the high school a.d.a. of 388,629, the total is \$137,559.

Added to the property tax which is furnished by the taxpayers of Torrance alone, the total income which the Los Angeles school district will get for Torrance schools this year is estimated at a few thousand dollars less than \$600,000, or \$694,151.

## Rittmiller Girl Still In Coma; Needs Witnesses

Still in a coma almost four weeks after she was hurled from a fast-moving "Tilt-A-Whirl" at a carnival show in Torrance, 12-year-old Darlene Rittmiller is now paralyzed on her left side, but there are hopes that it may clear up.

In Torrance Memorial hospital, the best that medical science has to offer has been provided for the child who was happy in a group of boys and girls attending the carnival July 29, and the next minute was lying critically wounded, her skull crushed when she hit a pole as she flew from the twisting, crowded car.

It will be three or four weeks before doctors expect any change in her condition.

Meanwhile, the parents are appealing for those who witnessed the accident to contact them. There are some witnesses who already have volunteered information about the tragic accident, but additional ones are needed.

Such witnesses should contact Mrs. Gus P. Rittmiller at 1667 Gramerey ave. after 3 p.m. of any day.

## Boulevard Stops Ordered Along Crenshaw Blvd.

Boulevard stops were ordered for Crenshaw Blvd. at 164th, 166th, 174th, 182nd and 190th sts., with proper danger lighting at the intersection of 190th st., at the request of Chief of Police John Stroth Tuesday night.

The City Council was told the street will be a maximum speed limit avenue, and that the cross traffic should be properly warned and required to stop before entering Crenshaw.

The Olympic Contracting Co. was given a \$15,000 payment on its contract Tuesday night.

The chief also was authorized to hire four school crossing guards for the coming school year at last year's salary.

## Local Red Cross Aids Navy Man To Reach Mother

Through the good offices of Mrs. Lola Hoover, chairman of the Torrance Branch American Red Cross, Ensign John Thelen was able to reach his parents' home at Faulkton, S. D., in time to see his mother before she passed away on Aug. 10.

Through the Red Cross service, Thelen obtained airplane travel priority for the urgent trip.

Ensign Thelen, who has been on duty on the east coast, had been transferred to San Diego and arrived in Torrance on Aug. 6 expecting to spend his leave with his wife and two sons, who reside on an Arlington ave. He received a message the same day telling of the serious illness of his mother and prompt action on the part of the local Red Cross allowed him to leave that night for South Dakota. He returned to Torrance this week and will leave for San Diego tomorrow.

## City Considers Buying of Pins For U.S.O. Girls

The Torrance U.S.O. wants the City Council to buy some pins for hostesses at the local club, but the city must have time to think it over.

A plea that \$50 be spent for 100 senior hostess pins and \$15 for 100 junior hostess pins was referred to the city attorney. The hostesses are serving voluntarily, and the pins are awarded elsewhere in recognition of the service of the groups.

## CAR CERTIFICATE

Donald L. McMillan, 20622 Oak ave., has been given a new car certificate by the Office of Price Administration.