

PARENTS' GROUP WILL MEET TONIGHT TO HEAR REPORTS ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Torrance Parents' Association will meet tonight in the City Council chambers of the City Hall for its second meeting, and although no effort is being made to stage a "mass meeting," the association's members and others desiring to aid in the drive to withdraw Torrance schools from Los Angeles city school system are asked to attend, according to Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman.

The meeting is called for 7:45 o'clock.

Reports will be heard on schools of communities similar in size and wealth to that of Torrance, and who have mastered problems similar to that of Torrance, it was said.

The reports will include those of Beverly Hills, which pulled out of Los Angeles district several years ago and since has saved \$1,000,000 in addition to providing one of the finest school systems in the state; Saugus, which is now in the process of withdrawing from Los Angeles district; Huntington Beach, which community has an assessed valuation of about six million dollars more than Torrance, but which has a complete, independent and well-operated school system operating on a tax rate of only \$1.23 per \$100 assessed valuation, and Redondo Beach.

'Gifts' to Los Angeles

Torrance is paying Los Angeles almost \$2 for every \$1 spent here by Los Angeles for operation of Torrance schools, including the state average daily attendance support, and this money, which will amount to a "gift" to Los Angeles of about \$300,000 this year, would provide Torrance children with the finest opportunities in education if Torrance had its own schools, it was pointed out.

"Beverly Hills school leaders said that that community is more than satisfied with its schools under its own jurisdiction because of the close contact between the people and school administration," Mrs. Carr said. "The people have the kind of education they want and the schools are responsive to the people who live in the area. Besides, they have saved more than one million dollars in a few years."

"If Beverly Hills parents want their children to have 'A, B, C' education or the three 'R's' in preference to progressive education, they get it."

"That is the opportunity we want here in Torrance, a voice in our schools, a chance to spend our own money for the benefit of our own children, to give our children the finest educational opportunities possible, and provide the finest school plant possible for this purpose. We can do it and still save the taxpayers money."

The Beverly Hills school board is composed of two housewives, one banker, one lawyer and one financial broker, all having children in school, Mrs. Carr, who was accompanied on her visit by Mrs. Renee Bartlett, secretary of the Torrance Parents' Association, said.

Mrs. Carr also announced that Oscar Willett, local resident and property owner who has had considerable experience in school affairs, had offered his aid in the local school campaign, to serve with Judge Otto Willett and City Attorney J. E. McCall on the legal committee.

W. E. Walton is chairman of the research committee of the association, and will report on findings regarding legal procedure for withdrawing from Los Angeles schools, having had conferences with city and county board of education officials since the last meeting.

Service Center Here to Serve Lomita Area

New areas to be served by the Torrance Service Center are to be represented tonight at the meeting of the Community Council, when the proposed by-laws are adopted.

With their recent War Chest campaign completed, health and welfare services are available to Lomita, Rolling Hills and Palos Verdes.

These communities will be served through the Torrance Service Center by the agency workers now stationed locally. Local citizens are being elected to the Torrance Community Council to represent the interests of these communities and to carry back information about the services.

The following individuals are being presented for membership: N. D. Myers and Mrs. L. B. Fleet of Palos Verdes Estates; Mrs. Harold D. Snow of Rolling Hills and Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Edna Smith of Lomita.



MRS. EVELYN CARR Leads Parents Fight

Division of City Garage Is Demanded

Who has priority on mechanics at the city garage?

This question bothered the City Council considerably Tuesday night, with Councilman N. H. Cucci insisting that the bus department should have first call, and City Engineer G. M. Jain, aided by Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, declaring that city maintenance and street department equipment should be handled immediately after breakdown.

Councilman C. M. Gilbert insisted that there should be a complete division of the city garage, with the bus department having its own mechanics, tools and equipment. Such an improvement had been suggested weeks ago by C. F. Koers, when he was acting as transportation engineer.

To iron out the situation, an additional mechanic is being hired, and two of the mechanics will be put on the night shift. The bus department will assume the expense of two mechanics, and two will be paid by all other departments.

The council authorized the buying of \$952.49 in parts and accessories for the new Crown custom-built coaches, \$201.84 for a spring assembly for a Ford bus, \$289.63 for a generator and cylinder assembly for a Ford, \$149.48 for a differential assembly, \$150 for a reconditioned motor for Ford truck No. 8 of the street department, \$275 for a winch for Dodge No. 11, transferred to the park department, and \$325 for a new bed for Dodge No. 11.

Also authorized was payment of \$22,566.40 for payment for two new Crown coaches and \$165 for repairing doors of the garage to admit entry of the new buses.

Crenshaw Blvd. Not Workers' Speedway

Crenshaw Blvd., is not to be a speed boulevard for war traffic nor any other traffic, at least not in Torrance, according to Chief of Police John Stroth in commenting on reports that the boulevard has been completed as a "fast route." Already there have been six serious accidents in Torrance on the new section of Crenshaw Blvd., and steps will be taken to curb others by strict enforcement of the law, it was said.

The job of completing the paving of Crenshaw Blvd., at a cost of \$50,000 from Century Blvd., to Redondo Beach Blvd., will be completed this month.

County Road Commissioner O. F. Cooley said that as soon as the county work is finished this wide boulevard will be ready for through travel. Cooley said that one of the factors that made the paving and widening very necessary was the extension of the Northrop plant to Crenshaw. This plant which manufactures the famous Black Widow night fighter now spreads from Prairie Ave., clear to Crenshaw.

The Torrance City Council voted funds for the improvement of its section of the street some months ago and the \$30,000 job was completed recently.

Purple Heart to Local Boy Who Fled Jap Camp

Corp. Don E. Meyer, Torrance soldier who is one of the few to escape a Japanese prison camp, has been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart by Gen. George C. Marshall, in Washington, according to word received here.

The son of Mrs. E. F. Meyer of 21730 S. Figueroa St., he has been honored on various occasions in Washington since his arrival in this country from Japanese custody.

As late as Nov. 2, the provost marshal's department had made public a transcription of a broadcast from a Japanese prison camp quoting Meyer, and in a telegram to his mother gave the full text of the message.

It is assumed he escaped after the broadcast.

Meyer left from the local Selective Service Board in the fall of 1941 and was taken prisoner at Corregidor. He has a brother, Raymond, attending Torrance high school.

The following is the telegram quoted in whole: "The following enemy propaganda broadcast from Japan has been intercepted: 'My dearest mother—Have the opportunity to send you a radio message to let you know that I am thinking of you all continually. I sure long to be home again. I received a letter from you and was happy to get it. I am glad of the news about Peggy's baby. The packages from you and Uncle Merel were wonderful. I am in good health and feel all right. Give Dad my love and hope he is feeling O.K. Mother, please notify Mrs. Lorraine Wright, No. 610 Eleventh St., Stillwater, Okla., that her husband sends his love. The majority of us have received letters and personal packages.'"

"It was a wise move on the part of the Mayor and others in Torrance who supported the move," Seden said. "We only hope that Torrance will benefit financially from it as we will be benefitted by having a first class line serving our section. It gives us a 1000 per cent gain in possibilities for development of the area."

Zoning Laws Set Aside In Two Cases

Two zoning variances were granted by the City Planning Commission at its meeting on Monday night.

John Wall was granted a variance and permitted to build a grocery store and market, in addition to a house and garage, on his recently acquired property at the northwest corner of Cabrillo and Plaza Del Amo. The store will face on Cabrillo Ave., in the R3, multi-family dwelling zone.

Many residents and property owners within 300 feet of the corner supported Wall's petition, and there was no opposition. Fred H. Michler was given permission to construct a 16 by 20 foot addition to a garage of that size to convert the building into a dwelling house for an elderly couple. This property is located at 1608 Iris Ave., in an A-1, agricultural district.

Stores Here Open Evenings Until 8:30 Next Week

Torrance stores will remain open evenings until 8:30 p.m. at next week, to give shoppers an opportunity to take advantage of the big stock of Christmas merchandise on hand in the local stores.

The stores have been remaining open until 8 p.m. this week.

Torrance post office will remain open until 6 p.m. each Saturday from now until Christmas, according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner. The Saturdays are Dec. 16 and 23.

The office will handle every type of mail, including parcel post.

Early mailing of all parcels is urged by the postmaster.

Thorsteinson New Official of National Supply

Election of E. H. Thorsteinson as vice president and controller is announced by the National Supply Co., Pittsburgh. Mr. Thorsteinson joined the company as controller, March, 1942, coming from Montgomery Ward and Co., Chicago, where he had been assistant general controller.

HARBOR CITY AND LOMITA DISTRICTS HAIL NEW BUS SERVICE BY TORRANCE LINE

Immediate praiseful response to the establishment of the Torrance bus service connecting Harbor City and Harbor Hills with Lomita and Torrance and the shaping of a new schedule for the entire area served by the system came from many quarters after the service started Sunday morning. Notable among those heartily approving the new routes are H. J. Nugent, manager of Harbor Hills, speaking for 1250 residents there, and R. D. Seden, Harbor City real estate broker and civic leader.

"If only to make certain that our people can come directly home from Los Angeles without riding trains to San Pedro and taking cabs from the station there, the service is valuable to Harbor Hills," Nugent said. "But it also makes shopping easier for women and eliminates the use of precious automobiles by hundreds of our war-working residents."

Ten buses daily serve the area.

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Fellow Officer In High Praise for Lieut. Ramsey, Killed In Action

Lieut. Floyd F. Ramsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Ramsey, 2262 23rd St., has been officially declared as "killed in action" by the War Department.

A telegram informing the family of the official declaration of his death came from Maj. Gen. J. A. Uilo, the adjutant general. Lieut. Ramsey was last seen flying in formation in his B-24 Liberator toward Bremen, Germany. It is believed his plane went down in the vicinity of Wangeroo Island, about five miles off the northwest coast of Germany, on Nov. 13, 1943.

The popular Narbonne high school football star, well known equally in both Lomita and Torrance, graduated from the AAF school at Santa Ana and on June 9, 1943, was shipped overseas. He piloted Liberators over North Africa, Sicily and southern Europe, and was sent later to England for flights over German targets. He was the husband of Mrs. Jacqueline Ramsey, half brother of Sgt. Henry E. Garner of Torrance Police Department and a brother of Raymond Ramsey, Lawndale, and Ralph Ramsey, AAM-1/6, U. S. Navy, who was shipped out the day Lieut. Ramsey was reported missing.

One of the highly prized possessions of the Ramsey family here is a letter from one of Lieut. Ramsey's brother officers, Lt. P. C. Vanderhoek, which was written the day after the plane was reported lost. "I feel that I was as close to him as any of



LT. FLOYD F. RAMSEY, Killed In Action

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Torrance Moose Christmas Party Fund at \$1,814 as Appeal Renewed

James W. Barker, secretary of Lodge No. 785, Loyal Order of Moose, Torrance, reports much progress in the plans and arrangements for the gigantic children's Christmas party and entertainment.

The oranges, candy and nuts have been ordered and individual Christmas stockings will be made up for distribution to approximately 2,500 children of the Torrance area. The distribution will follow the entertainment, according to the committee appointed by Barker.

As previously announced, all Torrance children up to the ages of 15 will be invited and all children of service men and women in the area covered by the Torrance Board of Selective Service, including Gardena, Lomita, Waverly, Harbor City, Rolling Hills, Palos Verdes and Hollywood Riviera. The canvassing of industries, commercial organizations, service and fraternal clubs, and citizens continues this week and all who desire to contribute to this worthy cause are urged to send in their contributions with the blank furnished at the foot of this column without delay, to permit the committee to allocate the funds for the various projects.

MOOSE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUND

Please find attached hereto, donation in the sum of \$..... to help defray the expense of the Christmas Party and Entertainment, and special gift to the Torrance Military Hospital.

Signature.....

Lt. Shaner Died In Action, Says War Department



LT. EUGENE SHANER Killed In Action

Second Lieut. Eugene Shaner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shaner, of 1622 Crenshaw Blvd., listed as missing in action since Aug. 17, 1944, has been killed in action, according to official pronouncement of the War Department.

Lt. Shaner was declared missing in the North African area. He was 22 years of age and had resided in Torrance for about 11 years prior to entering the service. He graduated from Torrance high school in 1941 and entered the Army Air Force in January, 1942. He was an apprentice pattern maker at Columbia Steel Corp., Torrance prior to that time.

Another Shaner boy, Edward, is an X-ray technician with the Army in Italy.

Lt. Shaner was last home in December of 1943, shortly after he received his commission as second lieutenant.

Dwellers In Trailers Here To Face Court

Trailer dwellers living outside designated camps are being given 30 days to locate in camps or, at the end of this time, they will be brought into court for violation of city ordinance No. 316, the City Council decided Tuesday night.

Chief of Police John Stroth was asked to give the trailer residents, mostly in the Waller section, the 30 days notice to meet the requirements of the ordinance, and if they fail to do so, let City Judge Otto B. Willett decide the merits and issues involved in this war-born problem by citing the parties involved to court.

Councilman C. M. Gilbert voiced the opinion of the council when he said the city should admit all trailers or clean up the situation.

Watch for Check Forgers, Chief Stroth Warns

Chief of Police John Stroth today asked that we remind our merchants that it is the rush of the holiday season when the check thief and the forger enjoy their easiest "pickings."

Chief Stroth referred to the educational campaign conducted by the Torrance police department and the U. S. Secret Service, and said: "Now is the time for merchants to talk these matters over with their employees. Caution them to be more careful in accepting either Government or commercial checks, especially from strangers. Have them initial any check they accept, and jot down some memo as to what was used for identification. This fixes responsibility and serves to remind one of the transaction. Make up your mind to save yourself from loss by knowing your endorser and requiring identification. Merchants should ask themselves this question: 'If this check is returned as a forgery, do I know where I can locate the forger and recover my money?' Unless the answer to that one is 'yes'—well, it's their money."

CITY OF TORRANCE HAS GAIN OF 629 DWELLING UNITS IN PAST FOUR YEARS; NOW 3,784

There are 3,784 dwelling units in Torrance, as of October, 1941, an increase of 629 units over the 1940 Federal census according to figures just issued by the County Regional Planning Commission, but the figures leave in doubt just what the population of Torrance is today. Local estimates place it at 14,000.

The Planning Commission states that the population is 12,390, but its figures do not check out, it is argued by city and chamber of commerce officials.

If the Regional Planning Commission figures were correct, Torrance would have an average of 3.3 persons in each dwelling unit.

However, it is pointed out, the Federal census of 1940 showed only 3.01 persons per dwelling unit. This would give Torrance a population of only 11,630.

Again, the Regional Planning Commission shows that the 629 new dwelling units brought a total population gain of 2,440 since 1940. This figure would show that the new units contain an average of 3.72 persons per dwelling unit.

Population 14,076

It is argued that if the new units show 3.72 persons each, then surely this gain is reflected in the other 3,155 units. This would give Torrance a population today of 14,076. Gains in school attendance here bear this figure out.

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce, through Harry B. Lewis, executive secretary, states that the population per dwelling unit is 3.8 persons, or a total of 14,279 for Torrance.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett harkens back to old days when they figured population on the basis of 2 1/2 persons per registered voter. This would give Torrance a 13,785 population, the city having a total registration of 5,514 qualified electors.

The usual figure used in figuring California populations would be four persons per dwelling unit, which would place the population of Torrance at 15,136. To find the exact population would require determining just what the population per unit is, and this the City Council has been wanting to do for some time with the aid of federal and state agencies.

Population estimates for Los Angeles County for January, 1945, issued by the County Regional Planning Commission, show an anticipated 3,375,150 residents, a gain of 589,507 over the last Federal census of April, 1940.

In the same period the number of dwelling units in the county will have increased from 961,541 to 1,110,914, a gain of 148,373.

Final U.S.O. Party to be Tomorrow

Torrance USO will hold its final function tomorrow night, at least for the present, when a party is given for service men and women and their families, and particularly honoring the junior and senior hostesses.

It will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Mrs. Phyllis Lauson is in charge of refreshments.

The affair will be an open house, to which all members of the organization as well as individuals who have had any part in the establishment and operation of the club, are invited according to C. Z. Ward, chairman of the USO committee.

The USO will be reopened at a later date, if necessary, it is announced.

Council Takes Option on Two Pueblo Lots

The city of Torrance will take an option on lots 62 and 63 on 203rd St. in the Pueblo tract for recreational purposes, it was decided Tuesday night.

Plans for development of the Pueblo area into a model Mexican settlement, by cleaning up and paving the streets, painting the houses, providing recreation centers and other improvements are under way by a joint committee composed of city officials, residents of the area, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Father Wood and the Catholic Welfare bureau.

Purchase of the lots are in line with this program, it was said.

A community hall is to be built in the area.

Would-be Tent Dweller Asked To See Council

A Davilla will be asked to meet with the City Council of Torrance before he is permitted to live in a tent on his 14-acre tract on 174th St. between Yukon and Ainsworth St.

Davilla, who has a wife and family living in Santa Barbara whom he would like to move to Torrance, said that he is trying to erect a dwelling on his property, but that he desires to occupy a tent on the big tract of land during process of construction that he might be able to guard his materials at night.