



INSTALLED IN UNIQUE CEREMONY . . . C. Earl Conner was installed as commander of Torrance Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Mrs. Clara Conner, his wife, as president of the post's auxiliary, at a double installation held at the Civic Auditorium last Thursday. Shown above are the officers who participated, left to right, Alvin Kime, Fourth district commander; Hazle Garrety, Fourth District auxiliary president; Lester E. Stanley, past commander of the local post who was installing officer; Commander Conner, Rolla McFall, department of California commander, and Mrs. Conner. (Photo by Bill Husbands)

City-Wide Water System May Result From Survey Of Walteria Area Needs

Steps toward ultimate service of all of Torrance with a municipal water system may result from the filing with the City Council of a survey of the needs of the Walteria area leading toward establishment of a water district there.

Completed by Taylor and Taylor, consulting engineers, of Los Angeles, the survey gives the people of the Walteria area and as many additional property owners as desire to participate in the district the choice of three programs:

1. Acquiring the Quandt system and utilizing only parts which are up to standard or will do and improving the system to put it in first class condition, estimated total cost: \$187,000.
2. Extending a pipeline from Metropolitan main and using that water exclusively, estimated total cost: \$143,600.
3. Developing an independent, separate water supply and system, estimated cost: \$144,200.

The engineers appraised the Quandt property at \$44,161, and in addition to the purchase price, they estimated the following costs would be necessary: Well pumping plant, \$2,000; reservoir, \$18,000; 10-inch pipelines, \$32,700; 8-inch pipelines, \$20,000; 6-inch pipelines, \$35,000; 4-inch pipelines, \$8,400; valves and fittings, \$5,000; fire hydrants, \$2,700; office equipment, \$1,000; contingencies and engineering, \$12,000; organization expense, \$10,000. In the \$187,000 figure, the purchase price was lumped at \$40,000 "without significance as to what we consider the Quandt system (Continued on Page 3-A)

Gilmeister Is Hawthorne C. of C. Secretary

Leo J. Gilmeister took over his duties as secretary-manager of Hawthorne Chapter of Com-



Leo J. Gilmeister Hawthorne Chapter Secretary

merce Monday, the first full-time secretary that the organization has had in several years, it is announced by Harold E. Crozier, president of the chapter.

Gilmeister served for nine years as secretary-manager of the Torrance chapter and as secretary of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce.

Since leaving Torrance, Gilmeister has been active in public relations work for private corporations and in public fund raising campaigns.

Torrance and Gardena will honor their war dead with joint Memorial Day programs on May 27, 1945, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts and auxiliaries of the two cities, with other veterans' groups, the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and troops of the California State Guard invited to participate.

This announcement was made by C. Earl Conner, commander of the Torrance VFW post, who took office last Thursday evening in impressive ceremonies, though saddened by the sudden death of President Roosevelt, in the Civic Auditorium.

Commander Conner and Commander Lester C. Fix of Bert S. Crossland post, American Legion, visited Gardena on Sunday with representatives of their auxiliaries, and arrangements were made for a two-fold program to include a parade, memorial service and dedication ceremony in Torrance, and a memorial program in Gardena at Roosevelt Memorial park.

The Torrance program will open at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 27, with a parade in which the Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, members of the veterans organizations and auxiliaries, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts and

Hours On Local Ration Board Are Adjusted

Office hours of the Torrance area war price and ration board at 2300 Carson st. have been shortened to give volunteer workers ample time to process the hundreds of applications for rations received daily, Chief Clerk F. W. Daniels said yesterday setting at rest rumors that the office is closed.

"We have cried and cried for additional volunteer help," Daniels said, "and while the response has been good, it has not been sufficient. The only alternative was to shorten hours, and this we are doing." The new hours are:

Monday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

R. L. Stambook Dies in Action On Iwo Jima

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Stambook of 1226 Acacia ave., have been notified of the death of their son, Robert Leo Stambook, a private, USMC, March 14, in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The deceased was 19 years of age, has two brothers in service, Lt. Richard E. Stambook, stationed at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, recently returned from overseas duty, and Private Donald William Stambook, AAF, who is attending radio school.

Stambook was graduated from San Pedro High school with the class of '44.

Lewis said that he and Tolson also would speak for smaller contractors and landowners who have plans for single homes and for less extensive projects.

The acute shortage of homes for workers in "must" war plants in Torrance, and the advent of the new Naval Redistribution Center which will employ several hundred men, will be called to the attention of the committee.

Torrance has had far less war housing than most cities in Southern California areas because it is included in the "harbor district" and larger cities right at the harbor have been awarded most of the priorities it was said.

Others will ride or march, with the 2nd Battalion State Guard band and troops of Co. H, 2nd Battalion, 39th Regiment, commanded by Capt. R. L. Lewellen, and Co. A, 4th Battalion, commanded by Capt. C. Van Steenwyk invited to participate.

This will be followed by a ceremony in El Prado Park, at Cravens ave., in which the roll of World War I and II dead will be called and a plot of ground dedicated by the City of Torrance to their memory. Also planned are introduction of Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, returned veterans and heroes of World War II, patriotic numbers rendered by the band, sounding of taps and firing of a volley over the dedicated Memorial ground in the park.

TORRANCE SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE FOR CHILDREN OF NEARBY LOS ANGELES AREA

Torrance will provide classrooms for all children within the immediate vicinity of Torrance on a contract or tuition basis, as well as provide for its own children, when an independent, locally controlled and operated school system is established. This is required by the California Education Code of all school districts.

Patterson Is Wounded Third Time, Report

S/Sgt. Edward Patterson, serving with the infantry and attached to the Third Army, has



been wounded in action for the third time, according to his mother, Mrs. Gladys Dye, of 1670 W. 218th st.

A telegram to her from a U. S. hospital plant advised:

"Your son is making normal recovery from a penetrative wound in the left thigh."

A letter from her son states: "Don't worry about me, I'm getting along fine."

His earlier wounds were an ankle injury in November, 1944 and in January, 1945 when both legs were wounded in battle in Germany.

Tolson, Lewis Will Appeal for Building Here

Appeals for immediate priorities for mass home building in Torrance will be pressed by Mayor W. H. Tolson and Harry B. Lewis, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, in a hearing before the Congressional housing committee of Congressman A. J. Elliott in the Los Angeles City Hall, being held all this week.

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The Gardena program in Roosevelt Memorial park will start at 1:30 p.m. and it will be featured by a similar program in honor of the war dead of that community. There already is a plot in that park dedicated to the war dead of Gardena valley, and crosses are erected in memory of each hero.

Referring to several postal cards sent out by an unidentified opponent of the right of Torrance residents to the democratic opportunity of selecting the school system of its choice, Mrs. Evelyn Carr, chairman of the Torrance Parents Association, is the author of the above statement.

"We know that we are going to experience some unusual opposition," Mrs. Carr said. "In fact, it already has been demonstrated that Los Angeles will cloud the true issues and merits of this campaign any way possible to keep the process from our \$27,000,000 assessed valuation."

"However, when anonymous postal cards are sent out which would indicate that children living in the shoestring strip of Los Angeles would be deprived of schools when Torrance establishes its own system, we feel it is necessary to clarify the matter. Law Quoted

"The code provides that classrooms MUST be provided for all children up to 18 years of age, and we will be prepared to care for these children when we have our own schools just as they are being cared for now. We, however, will provide them with better schools, because we will spend here all of the money collected for school use in Torrance or on behalf of Torrance. The code states that we must contract with outlying districts for education, and provide transportation for the children of outlying areas. Naturally we will be prepared to do this."

"The reason Los Angeles is fighting so hard to prevent Torrance from having its own schools, or even having a chance to vote on the question of control of its own schools, is that Los Angeles is making good money on Torrance," she said.

"Los Angeles is collecting from or on behalf of Torrance almost twice as much as it costs to run the schools. Torrance is a 'plum' and a mighty sweet one."

"But we want this 'plum' for our own children and those of surrounding communities. We are paying for the finest schools and are getting the worst, and there is no evidence of a desire on the part of Los Angeles to better our situation."

"We are in this to win, with one ultimate object — Torrance schools for Torrance children, and we will not stop until this is accomplished."

"We know that Torrance overwhelmingly favors operation of its own schools. Right now we are seeking the right in a democratic manner to say 'yes' or 'no' to the question. Los Angeles even wants to deny us this opportunity. But we are out to win, and we will stay until we win."

Arthur Law Is Back in U.S. With Family

Staff Sgt. Arthur Law, who has been a German prisoner of war since last August recently arrived in New York, and this week joined his wife, Eleanor and their two-year-old daughter, Karen. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Law of 1733 Calbrillo ave.



LOMITA MAN GETS TROPHY . . . One of the first trophies taken in Forbach, important Saar industrial center captured by the 70th (Trailblazer) Infantry Division, was this 10-foot Nazi flag taken from a picturesque medieval castle dominating the town. The captors are (left to right) T/S Harold E. Birt, Eaton, Ohio; S/Sgt. Travis W. Skipper, Lomita, Calif.; S/Sgt. James L. Cassole, New York, and Pfc. Gilbert Cheramie, Golden Meadow, La. (Trailblazer Photo)

Rezoning of Torrance Blvd. Area Denied

Torrance City Planning Commission Tuesday night rejected the plea of Chaslor-Candfield Midway Oil Co. for rezoning of the section of Torrance blvd. west from Crenshaw blvd. to Madrona ave. After two public hearings in which the protests were heard from more than 100 residents with property adjacent to the area proposed to be rezoned from agricultural and residential to heavy manufacturing, the planning commission decided to inform City Council that it is the commission's recommendation that the zoning variance be denied.

A public hearing before the City Council will be conducted at an early meeting, probably May 8, it was indicated.

No one appeared in support of the petition of C.C.M.O., and the company merely said that it desired the rezoning to permit the establishment of factories there requiring railroad sidings.

At one time, it was indicated that C.C.M.O. would not sell its land on Carson st. west of International to IDECO and Equipment Co. to IDECO unless the zoning change was granted, and it was reported Tuesday night that the firm does not intend to allow sale or subdivision of the Torrance blvd. land for any purpose other than that of heavy manufacturing.

Torrance, Like Nation, Hit by Roosevelt Death

News of the tragic death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt stunned and shocked the world last week, but even though grief-stricken by the nation's loss, there was no letup in the tasks at hand — the winning of the war.

Torrance picked up its war tools with a grim determination to stay on the job and finish the job. But though war plants hummed, the rest of the community's activities were subdued as sober citizens devoted themselves to work and prayer.

Mayor William H. Tolson proclaimed a 30-day period of mourning, and business closed down during the funeral services for the late president. Industrial plants observed with wheels stopping for a few moments of silence.

Funerals of memorial services, honoring the nation's great war leader, were held here and throughout the nation — in churches, in synagogues, by veteran's organizations, by fraternal orders, by labor unions, in schools.

It was a strangely sober Torrance last week. Life will resume its normal bustle now that the first shock has passed, but Franklin Roosevelt will be mourned much longer than the decreed 30 days period.

Veterans Aid Program Is Functioning

The Veterans Assistance Program of the selective service boards and U. S. Employment Service, is now functioning to give aid to returning veterans in many different lines, according to J. G. Caldwell, chairman, local Veterans Service Committee, 1339 Post ave.

Assistance is rendered in making application for pensions; applications for hospitalization; emergency aid; home building; to engage in business; for employment for temporary places to sleep; rooms or for homes.

The service is offered the veterans at both offices, 1339 Post ave. or 1927 Carson st.

Ralph Wagner Reported as Nazi Prisoner

Staff Sgt. Ralph Wagner, AAF, reported missing as of last December, has now been declared a prisoner of war in Germany.

PERMANENT NAVY SUPPLY DEPOT, FLEET HOME BASE SEEN FOR HARBOR DISTRICT

Plans are well advanced for the construction of a permanent naval supply depot at Los Angeles-Long Beach harbor, with this port expected to be the home base for the United States fleet as soon as the war in the Pacific ends, LeRoy M. Edwards, president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce informed.

Herman Jones Dies in Action On Iwo Jima

Mrs. Arthur Barnett of 815 Cota ave. received word her son, Pfc. Herman W. Jones of the



Third Marine Division, had died of wounds received on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, March 2. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, March 8, 1944.

Jones was born in Lomita, March 13, 1926, where he lived until July, 1938. Then the family moved to their home on Cota ave. He graduated from Torrance High, June 1943. He was employed at Shell Refinery in Wilmington at the time of enlistment, but was a former employee at Torrance Sawmeyer store and butcher shop.

He was active in Boy Scout work and was a member of the First Christian Church of Torrance and worked with the young people continuously. He was president of the conference club one year, and was later elected president of the state conference held at Idyllwild, Calif.

He leaves his mother and stepfather Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Barnett, his father, John F. Jones of North Long Beach; two sisters, Hazel Livingston of Lomita and Helen Denness of Seattle; two nieces, Karen Livingston and Verna Livingston and a nephew, Blake Livingston.

Joyce Kilmer Has Bad Night Over Tree Controversy

Messages from the "Spirit World" said that Joyce Kilmer had a bad night Tuesday.

The immortal author of "Trees" seemed to be aware that the beautiful eucalyptus tree was the subject of renewed controversy along El Prado.

First the "north-westerns" had their say, and they called the tree beautiful — that the eucalyptus were planted long before the "south-easters" built their homes on El Prado. They want them kept.

Then the "south-easters" said the trees were a nuisance, requiring constant care to keep yards, roofs, downspouts cleared of fallen leaves and twigs. They want them removed.

The "north-westerns" said that the eucalyptus are what make the street beautiful.

The "south-easters" said that when the "north-westerns" see how beautiful their new trees are, they will want them too.

The Planning Commission just sat there. After virtually every resident on El Prado had his or her say, they decided the issue was too evenly divided, and continued the matter. A recommendation to the City Council will be made later, it was said.

AT OVERSEAS BASE

Charles W. Woodington, S 1/c, R.M. U.S.N.R.S., a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woodington, of South Gate, and formerly of Torrance, was graduated from radio school March 9. Following 3-days' delayed orders, Woodington left for duty at an overseas base.

Torrance Police Cooperating in Brakes Drive

Members of the Torrance Police department are cooperating with other peace officers engaged in a nationwide program designed to focus interest on the necessity of keeping brakes in good condition, according to Chief of Police John Stroth.

The program, which started last Sunday and will run until June 1, is sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Safety Council and other organizations. The sheriff's office and all chiefs of police of Los Angeles county are cooperating.

Chief E. Raymond Cato, of the California Highway Patrol, is acting as statewide coordinator. Local phases of the program are directed by Chief of Police Stroth.

Motists stopped by the officers for any reason will be asked to submit to a simple test, taking less than 60 seconds, to determine whether their brakes are in good working order. Only in extreme cases will arrest citations be issued as the program is educational in character.

The test will be made by placing a small precision-engineered wooden block under the brake pedal. If the brake, when depressed, touches the block it is regarded as engineering proof that repairs or adjustments are needed.

The local police chief has requested the cooperation of all vehicle owners of Torrance in making the program a success in the interest of traffic safety.