

## REDONDO BEACH BUS LINE FAVORED; ODT FROWNS ON OTHER SERVICE ADDITIONS

There is little likelihood of any extension of Torrance Municipal bus lines as recommended recently by the Manpower Utilization Division of the War Manpower Commission, Councilman N. H. Cucel informed the City Council Tuesday night.

Cucel said that he and C. Z. Ward, bus manager, had attended a conference with the Office of Defense Transportation and the State Railroad Commission, and that while they recognized that service between Redondo Beach and Torrance is necessary other transportation in and out of Torrance is sufficient to meet present wartime needs.

"The Office of Defense Transportation discourages extension of any bus lines, due to the shortage of heavy tires, gasoline and equipment," Cucel told the council.

Aside from that angle, Cucel declared, the MUD-WMC consultants who made the survey of Torrance transportation and recommended extension of the Torrance and Gardena lines to connect with Los Angeles yellow cars and buses at various points including Hawthorne did not appear at the hearing.

"It was apparent that all agreed, including the Pacific Electric Co., that service between Redondo Beach and Torrance is needed, and this may be brought about in the near future."

The MUD-WMC made the survey to overcome the complaint of prospective war workers that they cannot accept jobs in Torrance "must" war plans because they cannot get transportation to Torrance.

Among the lines recommended by MUD-WMC are extension of Gardena city lines to provide no-transfer service between the Western ave. yellow motor coach line and Torrance business district; extension of the P. E. motor coach lines from Redondo Beach to Torrance; extension of Torrance lines to provide no-transfer service between the Western avenue yellow motor coach line and Torrance, and the Hawthorne terminus of Los Angeles transit lines from the Torrance district.

## Slonecker Recovering From Wounds

Wounded by flak in the right thigh on his 31st mission over Berlin, Staff Sgt. Billy C. Slonecker, 19, tall gunner on a B-17 is now recovering at this United States Army general hospital in England.

His ward surgeon, Capt. William F. Hollister of Santa Monica, Calif., said, "Sgt. Slonecker is recovering satisfactorily and will soon return to duty."

An Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal was recently awarded Staff Sgt. Slonecker. The award was in recognition of "meritorious achievement" displayed while on bombing attacks against military and industrial targets in Germany.

The Welteria flyer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Paul Slonecker, Welteria. Prior to entering the Army Air Forces in November, 1943, Sgt. Slonecker was employed by the National Supply Co., Torrance, Calif. He is a graduate of Narbonne High school.

## Tartar Town Stunt Night Attracts Big Crowd of Local Young People

By IRENE HIPPIK

More than 375 citizens of Tartar Town, and guests, witnessed the first real successful program known as "Stunt Night" which was presented last Saturday at the Civic Auditorium.

There was a great deal of interest aroused by this program which led Tartar Town officials to believe that special activities of this type could be held once a month.

The recreation committee, under the chairmanship of Frances Barrington, was responsible for arranging 21 acts of music, vocal and instrumental, and comedy. All 21 acts proved that citizens of Tartar Town possessed great talents, offering hard competition.

The master of ceremonies, who was not too greatly recognized for his job, was Donnie Cooke. There were cash prizes given to first, second, and third places. The winners of the cash prizes were Nancy Whyte, who played an excellent piano solo, and the Hi-Y Club skit called, "The Coquette." The best all around act, which won first prize, was the presentation of the newly organized Torrance High school and Tartar Town swing band,

## John A. Shidler Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

2nd Lt. John Ashton Shidler, 1310 Marina ave., is one of the members of the latest class to



complete training at the Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School of the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center to be commissioned.

Completion of the rigorous four-month course qualifies the men to fill positions as administrative officers with the Army Air Forces. Training includes instruction in military courtesy and discipline, small arms, military law, camouflage, and a multitude of other subjects.

The AAF Officer Candidate School is a unit of the AAF Training Command.

Lt. Shidler is the son of Mrs. Mina Martha Shidler, 1310 Marina st.

## Border Avenue Opening Provided In Land Grant

Opening of Border ave. from Plaza del Amo to Sepulveda blvd., and extension of Lincoln ave. from Border 240 feet east was provided in two resolutions accepting corporation quit claim deeds from Remco Real Estate Management Co. to necessary rights-of-way adopted by the City Council Tuesday night.

Street improvement of other streets was provided in the following allocations: \$532 for crushed rock and \$650 for road oil for Madrona ave. from Carson st. to Sepulveda blvd.; \$220 for light road oil for Almie st., Torrance blvd. to Spencer ave.; \$148 for road oil for Torrance blvd., Madrona ave. to Almie st.; \$299.60 for road oil for Madrona ave., Torrance blvd. to 1000 feet north of Spencer st.

The council also allowed \$300 for base material for use at the Pueblo.

## Boys to Rule In Ration Office Here

Endeavoring to give today's boy a better understanding of the problems confronting the adult citizenry, arrangements have been completed to have Boy Chairmen for 39 local War Price and Rationing Boards in Los Angeles County.

Torrance is one of the 39 boards out of a total of 112 in the district which will honor boys on Monday will be Kenneth Owens, 19, A-12 at Torrance High School, and Carl Fasnacht, 17, A-12 at Narbonne High.

Owens is secretary of Torrance Hi-Y and Boys League representative. His hobby is electrical engineering. Fasnacht is a member of the Guilders. DeMolay, orchestra and band, and is on the Narbonne tennis team. His hobby is photography.

## Eucalyptus Tree Turns To Hot Potato For City

Question: When does a tree turn into a "red hot potato?" Answer: When it is a eucalyptus tree on El Prado ave. in the hands of the City Council.

The fact is, the City Council dropped the question of removal of the eucalyptus from El Prado so fast that you could hear it sizzle.

"Right back to the City Planning Commission. That's where it belongs."

So ruled the council, without even bothering to read the letters from a half dozen "southeasters" on El Prado. They'll be duly acknowledged, however.

("A 'southeaster' is a resident of El Prado who wants the eucalyptus trees removed.)

## Lt. Isbell Missing; Two Men Wounded

1st Lieut. Gerald George Isbell, 25, is reported missing in action over Yugoslavia as of April 5 according to a telegram from the War Department to his father, W. C. Isbell, of 1912 Cabrillo ave. Lt. Isbell was based in Italy where he served with the 15th Air Force as pilot of a P-38.

His wife, Judy, of Canoga Park, is employed at Van Nuys Air Base in personnel work. His mother, Mrs. Bertha Isbell, resides at Gardena and a sister, Mrs. Grace Isbell Hollingworth, SK, 3/c WAVE is stationed in Oakland.

Lt. Isbell was graduated from Torrance high school with the class of Winter 1939 where he was active in sports with a splendid record in track and basketball.

**WATSON WOUNDED**  
Pvt. Mitchell B. Watson with the 10th Armored Division of the Third Army is hospitalized "somewhere in Germany" following wounds suffered March 22, 1945, while engaged in battle in Germany. His wife, Ida Lee, lives at 2030 Cabrillo ave.

**MEADE WOUNDED**  
Pvt. Monroe Meade, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Meade, of 2181 Sierra st., is reported wounded in action and is hospitalized in France. His brother, Pfc. Marvin Meade, is on duty in Alaska. The wounded serviceman was graduated from Torrance high school with the class of summer, 1938.

## Nestor Flores Dies in Action On ETO Front

Cpl. Nestor Flores, 22, has been killed in action in the European Theater of War according to a telegram from the war department to his family here.

His wife, Guadalupe Garcia Flores, lives with his mother Mrs. Victoria Q. Flores, at No. 1 W. 203rd st. Cpl. Flores who was inducted in January, 1943, is a brother of S/Sgt. Joseph Flores and his sister is Gloria Flores, of the home address, a student at Torrance high school.

## Boys to Rule In Ration Office Here

Endeavoring to give today's boy a better understanding of the problems confronting the adult citizenry, arrangements have been completed to have Boy Chairmen for 39 local War Price and Rationing Boards in Los Angeles County.

Torrance is one of the 39 boards out of a total of 112 in the district which will honor boys on Monday will be Kenneth Owens, 19, A-12 at Torrance High School, and Carl Fasnacht, 17, A-12 at Narbonne High.

Owens is secretary of Torrance Hi-Y and Boys League representative. His hobby is electrical engineering. Fasnacht is a member of the Guilders. DeMolay, orchestra and band, and is on the Narbonne tennis team. His hobby is photography.

## FORMATION OF NEW WATER DISTRICT IN TORRANCE TO BE DISCUSSED MAY 7

While sentiment in Torrance seems to favor outright purchase of Quandt Pumping Co. water system by the proposed Municipal Water District No. 2, the City Council has set 7 p.m. on May 7 as the hour for a conference with Taylor & Taylor, engineers who made the recent survey of the needs of the southwest part of Torrance, particularly Welteria.

The water engineers Tuesday night were paid \$600 for the survey which was filed with the city two weeks ago, and it was indicated that at the May 7 conference, they will consult with the members of the City Council on the long range water development program which might result from the establishment of a municipal service in the Welteria area.

The engineers said that to acquire the Quandt system for about \$40,000, utilizing only parts of that system which are up to standard or will do, and improve the system to put it in first class condition will cost about \$187,000, including the purchase price.

Two other proposals were made, one being to extend the metropolitan water mains and installation of parallel lines at cost of about \$143,000, and the other being to install a separate system developing an independent supply, to cost about \$144,200.

While each proposal has merit, officials pointed out Tuesday night, sentiment seems to be in favor of the Quandt deal since the district could "go into business" immediately after the water district is formed and bonds voted.

It is proposed to establish a district taking in all the area south of Sepulveda blvd. and west of Crenshaw, with the exception of Clifton Riviera.

Another topic of consultation with the water engineers will be a proposal for a survey of the north Torrance area with the view of installing municipal service there.

This has been proposed by Mayor W. H. Tolson as a part of a citywide water development plan.

"We all realize that one thing is certain," he said, "and that is—a city cannot grow without water."

**LIEUTENANT NOW**  
J. Parke Montague, serving aboard a battleship in the South Pacific, has been advanced to lieutenant (j.g.). In a letter to his mother, Mrs. F. L. Parks, he told of his ship's participation in almost all of the recent major Pacific naval engagements. His wife, Virginia, lives here at 1635 Cota ave.

## Torrance Will Offer Prayers for Success of Conference on Friday

In a program sponsored by the service clubs and members of the Ministerial Union, Torrance residents will pause for a moment of silence on Friday, at noon, to offer prayers for the success of the San Francisco United Nations conference. The noon whistle on Friday will signal a moment of silent prayer to this end.

Torrance City Council, in a resolution sponsored by Torrance Kiwanis Club and Torrance Lions Club, and the Ministerial Union, called upon the citizens to pause in prayer for success of the San Francisco deliberations.

The action following the appeal of Kiwanis International to business, civic and religious leaders in more than 2250 communities throughout the United States and Canada to designate a moment of prayer each day from April 25 to May 9 for divine guidance of delegates attending the San Francisco peace conference.

The service organization, which has a membership exceeding 144,000 in the two countries, asked officers of clubs to seek the appointment of a community committee to urge the mayors of their respective cities to proclaim the daily prayer period.

In its request to club officers, Kiwanis International expressed the opinion that "the guidance of Almighty God in the deliberations and decisions of this great conference is imperative if lasting peace and international justice are to be attained."

City Attorney J. E. McCall, a Kiwanian, handled the resolution for the City Council.

## O. L. Willett Dies After Short Illness

Oscar L. Willett, 64, well known California real estate, oil and insurance man and attorney



at law, died in a Long Beach hospital Tuesday afternoon. He had been ill only a short time.

Willett was prominently identified with the development of Palos Verdes and Atascadero, and maintained offices from time to time in various cities of California. He was the uncle of City Judge Otto B. Willett, with whom he practiced law until 1940.

He resided at 628 Calle Miramar, Clifton Riviera section of Torrance, for about eight years, taking an active part in the civic development and promotion of the South Bay area and Torrance. He was a champion of an independent junior college for the whole area.

He was born in Illinois and was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He graduated from law school and practiced law in Seattle until he came to California in 1922. He was also admitted to the bar of Illinois and California.

Survivors include his widow, Ethel Willett, five daughters and one son; three brothers and one sister, all residing elsewhere. Services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Friday at Grace chapel, Inglewood park cemetery.

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, the entire world, torn by the ravages of global war, bowed in grief, tortured by hunger and despair, turns to the Delegates to the International Conference in San Francisco, California, with unutterable longing for permanent peace and international justice, and

WHEREAS, the Guidance of Almighty God in the deliberations and decisions of this great Conference is imperative if success is to be attained, and

WHEREAS, failure means continued global war until mankind is willing to live obedient to His Will,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William H. Tolson, Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby declare and proclaim a one-minute period of prayer for each and every day, beginning at 12:00 noon and ending at 12:01 p.m., from Wednesday, April 25, 1945, both dates inclusive, all business activity to cease during the one-minute period, the period each day to be devoted to prayer for the Divine Guidance of Delegates to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in establishing an order that will assure World Peace.

(Signed) William H. Tolson, Mayor, City of Torrance.

## Warning Issued On Burning Of Trash, Grass

A warning to children playing with matches or adults burning trash was voiced by Fire Chief J. E. McMaster this week as the first grass fire of the season at 2518 El Dorado, was traced to a group of children.

Ordinances provide that there be no burning except between the hours of sunrise and 10 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. and sunset. All burning must be in incinerators, or if open they must be watched by adults.

These ordinances are in effect both in Torrance and the shoestring, and violators are subject to arrest.

## Air Raid Sirens Not to Be Used As V-E Signal

Air raid warning signals or devices will not be used in Torrance in conjunction with any public celebration on V-E day, and their use will be strictly confined to that for which intended on V-E day or any other day—to give warning of an air raid by the enemy.

This statement was made yesterday by Chief of Police John H. Stroh, coordinator of Civilian Defense in Torrance.

"I quote from the letter dated April 17, 1945, received by the California State War Council from the Commanding General of the Western Defense Command," Stroh said.

"No air raid warning signal device shall be used in conjunction with any public celebration. 'Noise making devices such as sirens, whistles, horns, etc., may be used for sounding of any signal or alarm authorized by the community authorities concerned provided that the signal prescribed for the announcement of an air raid is not used for any other purpose.'"

"It is to be noted that under the above, no air raid warning signal device, installed specifically for that purpose, is to be used in conjunction with any public celebration. This means that the whistles and sirens in Torrance used for air raid warning signals will not be used to signal the end of hostilities in Europe."

## Officers of War Chest for Year Elected

Election of War Chest officers for the coming year, and announcement of leaders for the next campaign which will take place early in the fall was the high point of the annual meeting of the organization at noon last Tuesday in the Biltmore Bowl, attended by nearly 500 community leaders, War Chest heads and donors.

Neil Petree, president of Barker Brothers and until recently regional vice chairman of the committee on economic development, was elected president of the great charitable and patriotic organization, succeeding Harvey S. Mudd, president since 1943. Mr. Mudd is now chairman of the War Chest's board of directors.

Preston Hotchkis, executive vice president of Pacific Indemnity Company, was named general chairman of the forthcoming campaign, relieving P. G. Winnett, president of Bullock's, Inc., who also has given two years service. Mr. Hotchkis is immediate past president of the State Chamber of Commerce.

Richard S. McCune, vice president of Bank of America, will be chairman of the War Chest's executive committee, among others named.

Torrance representatives on the War Chest's board of directors are Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler, Otto Kresse and Hillman Lee. Lomita is represented by Richard Seden, and Gardena by Mrs. Elmer Tuttle.

**TORRANCE BOYS VISIT**  
In a letter to his mother Harold E. Massie, pattern maker, 1/c, told of a recent enjoyable visit with Richard Beecher, U. S. N., at a South Pacific base.

## SHELL CHEMICAL PLANT IN OPERATION AGAIN AFTER BLAST ROCKS TORRANCE

"Business as usual" was the rule at Shell Chemical Division of the Shell-Union Oil Co. in Torrance as the Torrance Herald went to press early today, the effects of the butadiene tank blast of early yesterday morning having been overcome to the extent that the plant could resume almost normal operation yesterday.

## Lt. Sommer Wins Wings as Navigator

2nd Lt. Hans Sommer, 24, son of Mrs. Dora Sommer, 2122 Gramercy ave., is a member of



a new class of combat navigators which won wings and commissions at Hondo Army Air Field April 21 as the AAF Training Command continued its policy of "full speed ahead" in the prosecution of the War.

During 20 weeks of intensive air and ground training at the Texas airbase, not a moment has been wasted as battlewise instructors readied their young charges for the important roles they will play in administering the coup de grace to the founding empires of Germany and Japan.

The young officers are steeped in the knowledge of maps, charts, radio, heavenly constellations, driftmeters, radio compasses and countless items of combat lore that make the American navigator the most highly-skilled aerial pathfinder in the world. They have studied under other young men who have already proved their mettle over China, Burma, India, Africa, Italy, England, France, Germany, Australia, the Philippines, New Guinea, Japan—every combat theater in the world.

## OFFICERS ARE GUESTS

Weekend guests at the home of Mrs. A. L. Fish were Lieuts. Van Barnard and Joseph Anastacia, of Rockland, Maine, who flew to Long Beach from Marfa, Texas, air base.

## Senior Play of High School to Be Presented in Auditorium Tomorrow

By ROBERT MAXFIELD

Torrance High School's Summer Class of 1945, presents tomorrow evening its Senior Play, "Seven Sisters." The play is a hilarious three act comedy written originally by the Hungarian playwright Herzog, and adapted for American production by Edith Ellis Furness. The action takes place in 1810, and the play is colorfully costumed in the vivid apparel of that period.

The Senior Play tradition at Torrance High School was revived last semester with the class of Winter, '45 production "Spring Fever." "Seven Sisters" follows along in that tradition, and is expected to even surpass all previous plays of its type in Torrance.

The cast of "Seven Sisters" encompasses a large portion of the leaders of the high school. With but a few exceptions, all members serve on the student council and are active in school affairs. The cast is as follows: Betty Goettsch and Barbara Fuller, "Mitzi"; Bettie Johnson and Barbara Moyer, "Mrs. Gyrkovics"; Eunice Abramson and Barbara Eynon for "Ella"; "Katinka" is played by Jane Ritchie, while Betty Fiesel is cast as "Sorki." The male lead, "Ferez Sarkoy," is played by Charles Duane, and "Michael Sandorffy" by Bill Shaner. Bob

Meanwhile, Clayborne May, 22, of 2211 S. Congress st., Los Angeles, was ready to be released from Torrance Memorial hospital following treatment for bruises and shock received in the blast, and J. W. Thornton, 28, 6333 Lexington ave., Los Angeles, was removed with serious burns from the Torrance hospital to Seaside hospital in Long Beach. A third man who was injured in the blast, J. R. Ensminger, 29, of 11013 Prairie ave., Inglewood, also was taken to Seaside hospital.

The terrific shock of the explosion, caused by leaking gas, of the butadiene tank was felt as far away as in Long Beach, and the brilliant flare of the fire lighted Torrance brighter than the sun's rays on a hot day, for a few seconds.

The explosion and fire did an estimated \$200,000 damage to the \$200,000,000 Defense Plant Corp. butadiene synthetic rubber works at 1821 S. Figueroa st. in the Torrance area early yesterday.

E. S. Bodine, plant manager who made the estimate of damage, said the blast probably was the result of a gas leakage ignited by boilers. The explosion, he said, occurred in what he called a surge drum containing 400 barrels of butadiene.

One end of the big drum was blown 200 yards, landing in the street a few feet from the administrative offices.

**Federal Facility**  
The plant is a Federal facility owned by the D.P.C. and operated by the Shell Chemical Division of the Shell-Union Oil Corp. as one unit in a series of mammoth operation in this area which produce a sizeable proportion of the nation's synthetic rubber.

## No Medical Aid For Youth Hurt In School Game

J. R. Stroh, son of Chief of Police and Mrs. John H. Stroh, suffered a broken wrist while playing baseball at Fremont High school, Los Angeles, with the Torrance high school team, in the absence of a coach or other authorized first aid man with either team was not able to obtain medical treatment until almost four hours after the injury.

The Torrance boys went to Los Angeles in their own cars with no coach accompanying them, and the Fremont high coach did not set the arm temporarily nor summon medical aid for the Torrance boy, Stroh said.

Curry is cast in the role of "Colonel Radvany," while his nephew, "Gilda," is played by Phillip Lisman. The three little girls "Terka," "Lisa," and "Klara" are played by Shirley Thompson, Nancy Wilkes, and Betty Tucker. Alfred Pabst is cast as a hisping coon, "Toni Telek," while Bob Garner is the stupid chore boy, "Janko." The director is Mrs. Elizabeth MacKinnon assisted by Bob Maxfield, student director.

The task of set and stage devising fell on the shoulders of Miss A. P. Anderson. She, with the aid of her art classes, turned out some beautiful costume designs. The girls of the cast are making some of the costumes, while the P.T.A. mothers are doing the rest.

The stage lights, and sets are under the direction of Raphael Demmler and his stage craft classes. All sets are of a permanent type that may be used over again for future plays. Publicity and ticket sales are being handled by Phillip Lisman, Maxfield and Betty Fiesel. Tickets are still on sale at the high school student store. Tickets will also be sold at the high school auditorium box office the night of performance. Reserved seats sell for 60c, and general admission seats cost 45c each.