

The Torrance Herald never has believed in writing and publishing editorials just to fill a certain space in a certain position in each edition. We feel that the space involved is much too valuable to the readers of this newspaper—that rather they would like to see in print something of interest to them, something about someone.

Especially in this day of limited newsprint and shortage of manpower do we want to give the readers every line of information possible before we (our fellow publishers might disagree with us) attempt to impose our own opinions upon the thousands of persons who buy and read this newspaper.

However, when a topic of community interest arises in which the obligation of the editor of a newspaper to present his viewpoint is required, we feel that the readers will be just as much interested in our statement as we are in voicing our viewpoint.

And it is with this thought in mind that for the third straight week we utilize this position on topics of importance to everyone, stressing viewpoints which we feel should be called to the attention of our readers. For the sake of brevity, we shall subhead them and trust that your interest warrants our effort beyond our ordinary policy.

## TREES FOR BUSINESS DISTRICT

One of the most progressive suggestions which has been presented in Torrance in recent years is that of Park Superintendent Fred Blake supported by the retail merchants of the community for planting of the tall, slender and beautiful coccas pamosa palms in the business district.

The sidewalks of Torrance are sufficiently wide to permit the planting, and the policy of the park department is such that they would have proper care.

Torrance is growing, but with her growth, we should not lose sight of her traditional beauty. The average newcomer, making a quick survey of the community, is shocked to find that more than 51 basic industries are located in Torrance.

The visitor does not run into a "smog," nor into heavy trucks darting in and out of crowded streets, nor into the noise and the hustle-bustle crowd that usually accompanies an industrial city. Yet Torrance has a bigger payroll, more industries, than many cities of much greater population.

Trees do much to accomplish this, and coccas pamosa palms in the business district will make this shopping center for the vast Torrance trading area one of the most beautiful in Southern California.

This program is worthy of whole-hearted support.

## WATER DEVELOPMENT

The area of Torrance is some 20 square miles — third largest city of Los Angeles County. The percentage of this vast area properly served with water facilities is small. The service of Water District No. 1 is limited to a section in close-in or original townsite of Torrance; several private companies provide water for much of the remaining territory, but some of the area even is without water.

Future growth of Torrance is dependent upon proper development of a sufficient water supply to provide for growing residential districts or for industry. The same is true with sewage facilities, but for the time, we intend to deal only with this subject.

As the people of Welteria and others south of Sepulveda Boulevard and west of Crenshaw Boulevard progress with their effort to provide themselves with a water system, we feel that it is our duty and obligation to call their attention to the condition along the whole South Bay area where salt water is making its inroads upon subterranean water supply. Manhattan Beach is experiencing considerable difficulty, and other communities in the area are worried — and they should be. It is said that the subterranean streams now run from the ocean inland rather than from inland areas toward the ocean.

What would happen if the wells of Torrance should salt up, say within a year?

The answer as far as Torrance proper and the industrial district are concerned is simple. The service of Metropolitan Water district could be utilized at once, and few would know the difference.

But, what would happen if the wells of that vast area of Torrance not connected with the Metropolitan system should become salt? That is a serious question, the answer to which must be given complete consideration before any plans are made to spend the money of Torrance or any section of Torrance for development of a supply independent of Metropolitan.

True, wells may be drilled and may produce for years; yet, the warning is voiced, salt may come in at any time. All private companies and municipalities are deeply concerned, as so must Torrance be concerned. The facilities for distribution of Metropolitan water to all Torrance should be included in any water development plans.

## SCHOOL GANG FIGHTS

Recently a father was taking a group of high school young people on a "hay-ride" when a gang of boys in automobiles without license plates pulled ahead of the horses; stopped the wagon, grabbed the reins and started pulling the youngsters from the hay stack aboard the wagon. Fortunately, the father driving the horses had a long whip handy, the sting of which was too much, if not too surprising, to the perpetrators of the gang fight.

Within a few days of this, a gang followed the Gardena high school bus and, as students would alight, they would pounce upon them. The extent of the "childish prank" was so great that policemen were needed to accompany the children home the next day.

Those who close their eyes to this form of "play" must be held responsible for the injury which might result, by accident or otherwise, from their short-sightedness.

This sort of rowdiness is not necessary—especially in Torrance, and if Torrance had its way, it would not occur.

Here again, we feel it our duty to call a condition which exists here to the people of the community for their enlightenment.

The work of the Y.M.C.A. with its Hi-Y club and council is a step in the right direction and a commendable community activity. It should have general support to enable its scope to be broadened to a point where it will include a sufficient number of the youth of this community and others that this energy evidenced in the "gang fights" can be directed to good. The Tartar-Town club for "teen-agers" is another very worthy movement.

Let us hope for the day when the "Y" can have its own building and gymnasium here, and the city and schools can have a well-rounded and complete recreation program for the youth of the community.

## Clothing Drive Well Over Top

Torrance, with contributions of about 15,000 pounds, went well over the top in the United National Clothing drive, according to Hillman R. Lee, local chairman.

The final shipment of used clothing to foreign nations suffering from the effects of the war was made yesterday.

Lee said that the total collected here exceeded that of some whole states.

## Navy Spur Is Hit By Residents

Property owners adjacent to the Santa Fe tracks through Torrance had their innings again at the adjourned meeting of the City Council Tuesday evening spending the better part of a short session seeking information as to the effect of the granting of a permit to the railroad to run spurs into the new Navy Material Redistribution Center upon its franchise through Torrance.

Led by A. J. Elder, the delegation wanted definite assurance that if the permit is granted to Santa Fe to run a spur across Arlington ave. from the present main line it will not affect their campaign to have the railroad re-routed through Torrance.

Mayor W. H. Tolson said that it would not have any effect on the franchise, held in abeyance until after the war. City Attorney J. McCall said the same thing.

Mayor Tolson remarked however that the Navy has the right to go ahead and run the spur track into its 91-acre tract without asking the city, if it so desires. "We are in a war," the mayor said. "And we will not do anything to interfere with the prosecution of this war."

City Engineer G. M. Jain presented a list of "must" conditions which he said should be included in the permit as follows: (1) No standing of cars across Arlington ave.; (2) Use of heavy type ballast in the roadbed; (3) Future improvement of alleys and streets across trackage to be at the expense of the railroad; (4) Fully automatic signals to be installed; (5) Granting of the permit to the contingent upon the renewal of the franchise on the present route.

Jain said the railroad had agreed not to stand cars on the crossing of Arlington. That sufficient room to switch 25 cars at a time into the Navy installation if necessary is given as the reason that the spur must be constructed across Arlington ave, he declared. The railroad has a 60-foot right-of-way there, and no additional land will be needed for the spur, he declared. The law will not permit switching from the main line, according to Jain.

The council will view the area involved, and probably will grant the permit at the next meeting, it was indicated.

## Closing of Oak Street Hits Snag

The matter of closing of Oak st. from Carson st. to Jefferson st. was referred to the City Planning Commission by the City Council Tuesday evening after a letter from the Navy department was read stating that it did not want the street closed until after Crenshaw blvd. is paved.

The Navy had agreed to the closing of the street to permit International Derrick and Equipment Co. to have complete access to land which the firm is buying on the opposite side of Oak st. from its main plant here.

The Navy's letter said that the closing of Oak st. now might interfere with access to the Navy Material Redistribution Center being constructed south of Jefferson and east of Crenshaw.

Crenshaw will be closed during the process of paving it was pointed out. This coupled with the closing of Oak st. would mean that the only access to the big Navy installation would be from the east and south-east.

IDECO is asking an easement granting the use of the street and its closing to traffic. It has been little used and the Navy stated it had no objection to the closing, except that it would interfere with its traffic during the period Crenshaw blvd. is being paved.

## KENNETH HASLAM

Kenneth Haslam, an apprentice seaman at San Diego Naval Training Center, was host to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Haslam and his son Skipper, who visited him recently.

## TORRANCE FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE FORMED FOR READJUSTMENT PROBLEMS

At the suggestion of the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee, a group of public spirited citizens of Torrance has set up a committee to reexamine plans for the return of service men and women into community life.

The committee is composed of: Reed H. Parkin, president of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, chairman and representing industry; Mayor W. H. Tolson, vice chairman, representing the City of Torrance; Grover C. Whyte, vice chairman, representing the press; Kenneth C. Beight, vice chairman, representing labor; Hillman R. Lee, representing commerce and service clubs; Glenn M. Jain, planning commission; Mrs. Mary Eggleston, welfare center; the Red Cross; Paul M. Wheeler, churches; Postmaster C. Earl Conner, veterans' organizations; Harold E. Perry, principal of Torrance high school; schools; K. E. Bradley, manager of the USES office, employment and manpower control; H. B. Lewis, executive secretary, Chamber of Commerce, coordinator.

"This is the first survey of its type in Los Angeles county," Coordinator Lewis said. "Torrance is being used as a test case, and the results here will be used in other cities' surveys." Parkin, in announcing the new committee, said: "Torrance must look to the future. Now that V-E day has come and gone; now that the boys are starting to add up points for home-coming, it is high time we reexamine our plans for these boys and girls of ours. Our first interest must remain the unconditional surrender of Japan. Alongside that effort must go our plan for jobs and business opportunity for returned service men.

"This is a complex task. The federal government must get its policies under way. So must our legislature in Sacramento. But can we afford to wait? Should not Torrance do its own share of the job now? Before any plans can be proposed, we must know what the problems are. That is the suggestion of the State Reconstruction and Reemployment Committee, the public spirited citizens of Torrance have set up a committee to find out.

"This committee may call upon you to find out your individual plans. That's the only way this community, or for that matter the L. A. County Committee, can find out. Cooperate with them so that a survey is made with speed and dispatch. The committee is meeting again on Thursday, May 17, and will continue to take time for meetings until the job is done.

"When all the segments of L. A. County are surveyed, the problems as a whole will be tackled. All cities will be represented. Together a plan or series of plans will be worked out which will ease us through the transition."

The job of stripping the surface of weeds, trees and other obstructions will require about a week, it was said, and this will be followed by setting of forms for concrete work and preparation of roadbeds for track laying.

P. J. Walker has a contract for erecting four 202 by 602 foot heavy steel and concrete warehouses, big repair shops, an administrative building, cafeteria, several miles of paving and railroad spurs, garages, parking space, storage facilities, installation of sewers and storm drains, and similar work. This contract is for \$1,800,000; first of several jobs which eventually will amount to about five millions of dollars, it was said.

The plant is of a permanent nature and will employ regularly some 350 civil service workers in handling repair and redistribution of materials from the world's largest Navy. It is one of several plants being erected at various coastal points.

An emergency call from the Navy department for "O" type blood to relieve the thousands of wounded on Okinawa has resulted in Torrance American Red Cross branch Blood Bank being designated to supply the first shipment, according to Mrs. O. A. Kresse, chairman of the Torrance bank.

"All who can and will come in are asked to do so in view of this emergency call," Mrs. Kresse said.

The hours are the same as for the regular plasma bank, Friday, May 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.

"There is no limit on the number we can handle," Mrs. Kresse said. "All will be typed. In view of the severe losses on the island of Okinawa, Type 'O' blood is critically needed. Torrance always has come through in emergency. Once again the people of this community and surrounding areas are called upon for assistance."

Mrs. Kresse explained that Torrance was designated to supply the shipment of "O" type blood because its Blood Bank tomorrow is the first one since the call was received Tuesday.

## AT SANTA MONICA

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zuver and children Lee and Nancy enjoyed a dinner and theatre party Sunday at Santa Monica.

## Torrance Pilot 'Bombs' S. F. Bay In Exhibition

Lt. J. G. Vernon Fierce, Navy Helldiver pilot, led the mock carrier-based dive-bomber attack on the ferry boat in San Francisco bay on May 5, it was learned this week. Among the newspapermen aboard the U.S.S. Delta Queen to witness the practice attack was Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News. Whyte described the thrilling experience in last week's issue, but neither the publisher nor Lt. Fierce knew of the other's presence until after the story appeared.

Lt. Fierce is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. R. Fierce, 2383 El Dorado ave., Torrance. He has been in the Navy for nearly three years and has participated in many well-known Pacific battles.

## Stripping of Navy Plant Land Is Undertaken

While giant tourmalls are stripping the 91-acre site for the United States Navy Material Redistribution Center in Torrance, members of the Navy and civil service staff are gathering here to administer the operation of the \$5,000,000 base.

Lieut. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake, S. C., U.S.N. officer in charge, announced that Lt. Theodore L. Hughes, S. C., U.S.N., had arrived to take over the duties of accounting officer at the base, and that John M. Mahaffey has assumed the duties of administrative assistant to Commander Drake.

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DIES IN ACTION . . . Addison F. Smith, chief quartermaster, U.S.N., who was killed in action in the Pacific. A graduate of Torrance high school, he was the husband of Louise Smith, 24331 Lucille st., Lomita, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Smith, 2215 Andreo ave., Torrance.

## Louie Alvarez Dies in Action In Philippines

Purple Heart Soldier Louie F. Alvarez, 21, a private first class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andres Alvarez, 2234 W. 203rd st. in the Pueblo, was killed in action on Luzon, the parents were informed Monday. He and a young Gardena girl were to be married upon his return from war.

Louie left Torrance High School to enter the Army March 14, 1943, and trained at Fort Knox with an armored unit. He leaves many relatives in this area, including his sisters, Mart, Sabina, Frances, Julia, Consuelo, Ermelinda and Phyllis; brothers, Robert, Joe and Raymond at home and brothers Sgt. Andres and Pvt. Jesus in Germany and Italy, respectively.

Hundreds of friends and relatives called at the Alvarez cottage to express sympathy for the family. Memorial service is being arranged at St. Joseph's Church in the Pueblo.

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## R. L. O'Brien Death on Luzon Is Revealed

Pfc. Richard Lowell O'Brien, 20, son of Mrs. W. E. O'Brien, of 101 S. Bandini st., San Pedro and formerly of 1301 Crenshaw blvd., was killed in action on Luzon, on April 25, according to a telegram Monday from the War Dept.

Inducted in March, '43, the serviceman has been overseas since September, '44. He is survived by his mother, three sisters, Miss Evelyn, serving in the clerical files at Fort MacArthur, Dorothy; a student at Torrance high school and Joan, all of the home address and Bruce O'Brien, attached to the Naval Air Forces.

## Two Local Men Are Reported Hurt in Action

Pvt. Robert V. Hedberg, of Compton, a brother of J. A. Hedberg of this city, who was wounded in action in Germany last March 25, is hospitalized at Bussanell General Hospital, Brigham, Utah. The serviceman was participating in intense fighting with the 1st Army, east of Cologne when he suffered wounds which resulted in the amputation of his left arm and a leg wound.

Pvt. Claud V. Denton, 1543 W. 214th st., also was reported wounded by the Army this week.

## LONG BEACH GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Lamb entertained as their Sunday guests, Mr. and Mrs. James Bell, of Long Beach.

## SHAKE-UP IN BUS DEPT. AS SPOTTERS' REPORTS RESULT IN DRIVER 'RESIGNATIONS'

A general shakeup of bus drivers in Torrance Municipal Bus department may result from the recent operation of "spotters" hired by the department to view the conduct and methods of operation of the drivers.

At least five drivers have "resigned" or may quit city service as a result of the spotters' activities, it was reported, and it is expected that Councilman N. H. Cucci, of the city transportation committee, who has taken an active part in the investigation, will render a report as to the effect of the activities upon the condition of the bus department generally.

The shift of control from Mayor W. H. Tolson and Councilman J. E. Hitchcock resulted from drivers' dissatisfaction over the appointment of Charles F. Koors as transportation engineer over Bus Manager C. Z. Ward, about a year ago.

The controversy grew in scope among the drivers and in the City Council until Cucci, Gilbert and Powell seized control of the bus department and terminated Koors' contract.

During Koors' tenure with the city, the City Council bought six new 45-passenger buses from Crown Body & Coach Co., and upon delivery of four the remaining portion of the contract was ordered cancelled. The final payment of \$4,000 on the four new buses is being withheld by the city because of brake trouble with the coaches, and Crown is reported to be threatening suit against the city for this money.

Additional drivers were hired to handle the new buses, and the revenue of the bus department jumped from approximately \$6,000 a month to \$10,000 a month when they were placed in operation. Local service inaugurated and additional schedules to Los Angeles put into effect.

What the attitude of the drivers will be on the latest phase of bus department operation is a matter of general interest, but the cases of the "resignations" are said to be "airtight."

The whole investigation has required much of Cucci's time, both at the City Hall and at home, it was said.

During April, income from the local lines was \$1454.80, almost \$100 more than that for the longer month of March.

Of the total revenue of \$10,753.27, the fare boxes brought in \$419.10; Beacon Drug Co. and Tenth & Hill stations, \$6,498.15; with miscellaneous revenue making up the balance.

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