

WALTERIA SLOW TO ACT ON ANY OF THREE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE WATER FACILITY

Walteria this week was said by residents to be slow in taking any one of three courses possible for the formation of a water district.

Meanwhile dark-hued water with a decided odor flowed for 10 days up to Tuesday through consumers' lines and both children and chickens in the community looked at it with misgivings. The brownish stuff came through an emergency line connecting Walteria with the Palos Verdes system after the C. H. Quandt pumping system broke down.

Numerous residents said during the crisis that they were still shivering around for solution to the problem.

Alternate courses laid down by engineers who studied the situation and filed a report with the Torrance City Council are to take the initiative, by petition, and form a district after which the property owners could buy the existing system and improve it or put in their own lines and develop water or hook up with the Metropolitan Water District.

None are expected to win unanimous favor but guesses were that householders, especially women with white clothes to rinse, would sign a blank check.

Up to Tuesday night, Walteria showed less interest in an improved water system than in opposing a proposed rubbish dump, a proposal which several weeks ago aroused the community. At the same time, some residents living in the shelter of the Palos Verdes, while leaving an imaginary "George" to fix the water system, continued to swear by the community as ideal for residential purposes.

In fact no one but C. H. Quandt, operator of the line that broke down, had time to graciously express appreciation of the good leadership of the mayor, members of the council, the fire chief and the police department during the critical breakdown period. They're the ones that caused a Torrance fire hose to be connected between Walteria's famous overflowing tank and the Palos Verdes pipes up on the hill, so the people could continue to drink the water of life freely.

Even Saturday night — and Sunday — passed without expected numerous complaints of rings around bathtubs, made by whatever it is that colors the borrowed water.

Community "leaders" are reported to have opposing views on the course to take, toward getting a dependable supply of water.

Local Truants Arrested For Burglary

Two Torrance high school boys who had not been to class for two weeks were in custody of juvenile court in Los Angeles this week as a result of their arrest in the act of burglarizing the Torrance Bowling Academy at 8 a.m. Friday.

The youths were arrested by Chief of Police John Stroh after street department workers called the police when they became suspicious of the boys inside the bowling academy.

They had taken 20 cartons of cigars, a \$1 bill and other items, the chief said.

Each was 14 years of age, and one resides in Keystone district and the other in Torrance.

The chief said that he checked the lads' attendance records at school and found that they had not attended classes. He said he had not been able to determine whether or not the parents of the boys were notified by the school of their absence from class.

Rabies Break Out and Two Horses Shot

Rabies again broke out in a dairy in the southern section of the county last week when a rabid horse bit its team mate, necessitating the killing of both, according to Dr. Henry C. Smiley, Torrance District Health Officer.

Source of the infection was thought by county health official to be a stray rabid dog which was discovered in the same dairy a month ago.

During the past year records show that five cows, one goat, a rabbit, 12 fowls, as well as the team of horses, have been victims of the rabies menace.

Ray Sleppy Is State Medal Play Champ

Ray Sleppy of Torrance, won the 36-hole California medal play championship at Chino Sunday.



tacking a 69 on his opening 70 for 139, a stroke under regulation figures.

Tied with Tom McAvity of Lakeside Saturday in the American Golf Association-sponsored tournament, Sleppy kept right in the groove. McAvity slipped to a 76 to wind up in third spot with Jim Ferrie of Long Beach at 146.

Johnny Dawson, defending champ, had nothing but trouble in his two rounds, finishing far back with 78-78 — 149, bracketed with Frank Hixon of San Gabriel, who was in second spot.

In second place Sunday at 145 were Dave McEvoy of Inglewood and young MacHunter of Riviera, who caught fire for a 69. This 16-year-old son of Willie Hunter, Riviera pro, was the only golfer able to equal Sleppy's round.

Five Torrance Women Complete Gray Lady Class

Five Torrance women this week were graduated as full-fledged Red Cross Gray Ladies assigned to service in the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation Station Hospital in ceremonies conducted in the hospital auditorium.

Principal address of the afternoon was given by Mrs. Edwin Loeb, chairman, volunteer special services for the Los Angeles Red Cross chapter, on the subject: "Today's Challenge in Volunteer Service."

Miss Catherine Laughren, Gray Lady Corps leader, presented the class with Col. Stanley W. Matthews, commanding officer of the Port of Embarkation hospital, accepting.

At the present time, the Los Angeles chapter of the Red Cross is in quest of 200 additional volunteer Gray Ladies for assignment at the Sawtelle Veterans' Administration, it was announced.

Graduation certificates were presented to the five local women, among 20 graduating, by Mrs. Lida Hoover, chairman, Torrance branch of the Red Cross, with corps pins awarded by Mrs. Loeb. Torrance residents now Gray Ladies are: Mrs. W. E. Bowen, Mrs. Harry T. Jacobs, Mrs. Harvel Guttenfelder, Mrs. Linden Johnson, and Mrs. Howard A. Wood.

Perry Children Win Prizes in Health Contest

Announcement of the winners in the mouth health poster contest made this week by Dr. Hazel M. Merrick, chief of the division of public health dentistry, Los Angeles county health department, revealed that honorable mention certificates were awarded to five children from the Perry School, North Torrance: Kent Bradley, Betty Jo Fittinger, Patsy Payne, Barbara Specht, Lavella Wooten.

Juvenile Officer For Tartar Town Hired by City

Torrance Police Department will have a juvenile supervisor for the balance of the fiscal year to be on duty at the Tartar Town programs in the Civic Auditorium. It was decided Tuesday night by the City Council.

One hundred dollars was appropriated to defray the cost of hiring the juvenile officer, and it is expected that a permanent officer will be hired shortly after the start of the new fiscal year on July 1.

Tanker Torrance Hills Rescues 10 Navy Fliers

The big oil tanker, S.S. Torrance Hills, named for the oil producing area here, which recently went out on her maiden voyage under the house flag of Los Angeles tanking operators, saved the lives of ten Navy aviators who parachuted from a burning plane in the Hawaiian area, according to the War Shipping Administration.

Capt. I. C. Welter, whose home is in the Hilton Hotel, Long Beach, has been commended for his quick and intelligent action and excellent seamanship in the prompt rescue of all ten officers and men, it was said.

The War Shipping Administration said the official commendation from the Navy stated that without such alertness and prompt action on the part of the captain of the S.S. Torrance Hills some or all of the airplane's crew would probably have been lost.

She was commissioned at Sausalito yard where she was built and delivered April 19, 1945.

Harry E. Keller Leaves for Post in Badin, N.C.

Harry E. Keller, general superintendent for the Aluminum Company of America in the operation of the Defense Plant Corporation's giant aluminum ingot plant at Torrance, left this week to assume his new duties at Alcoa's Carolina Aluminum Company at Badin, N.C.

Keller was in charge at the aluminum plant here from the time it began production in February, 1942, until it was ordered to cease operations recently because of a surplus of aluminum ingots for war needs. During its two years operation, however, the Torrance plant attained all-time high records in efficiency, surpassing the records of any other Alcoa plant in the nation, according to company officials.

Status of the Torrance plant remains uncertain. At present it is ordered to "stand-by" for any possible future war need of aluminum. The plant is not for rent, nor for sale, according to Federal authorities.

In returning to Badin, N.C., Keller will rejoin an Alcoa plant at which he was operating as permanent superintendent for 18 years prior to coming to Torrance. He has just completed 25 years with the Aluminum Company of America. Mrs. Keller has been visiting in Badin for several months.

While in Torrance, Keller was a member of the Torrance Rotary Club. He and other workers at the Alcoa plant took an active interest in community affairs, and have many friends here.

Pulling Phone Off Wall Costs Man \$10 Fine

Because he got mad at the telephone company and pulled its instrument off the wall at 4th and Main streets, R. Thompson, of Torrance, was required to pay a \$10 fine in the City Court of Judge Otto B. Willett.

The man had half of a \$20 fine suspended on promise of good behavior.

Gardena Service Station Held Up

Torrance police were on the alert yesterday for two Mexican boys who held up a service station at 184th St. and Normandie

Elmer Moon Hired City Recreation Supervisor to Plan Play Program

Elmer S. Moon, long identified with sports and recreation activities in Torrance, was hired by the City of Torrance Tuesday night as a recreation supervisor to work out a well-rounded recreation program for various age groups, particularly teenagers of the community.

The recommendation for the hiring of Moon was made by Dale Riley, superintendent of city recreation, and it had the approval of the recreation commission members, Riley declared.

Moon has been working for National Supply Co. for the past several years, and has resided in Torrance for nearly 15 years.

He has during the past years been in continuous participation in recreational activities in numerous capacities, including player, team captain, coach, manager, league organizer, official in baseball, basketball and softball; instructor in handball, swimming, tennis, badminton, table tennis, football, soccer, volleyball, croquet and horse-shoe pitching.

He played with Whittier High school in 1914 to 1916 on their SPAAU championship basketball teams and with Los Angeles Athletic club on its National AAU team in 1919. He organized, played or supervised basketball teams in Redondo Beach night school; Redondo Beach Eagles; Pacific Coast Club, Long Beach, and from 1934 to 1945 organized Torrance city leagues, inter-city night school leagues, coached National Supply team and Torrance Athletic club team. He has a similar record in softball, both here, in Whittier, Long Beach and elsewhere, with a string of championship teams.

Torrance Has Jump on Calif. Cities Seeking Navy, Army Academies

While many cities of California are jumping into the campaign to have a military and Navy academy located in their communities on the West Coast, Torrance was months ahead of many in filing briefs on the subject, it is revealed with the release of letters from Senator Sheridan Downey and Representative Cecil R. King.

Addressed to Reed H. Parkin, president, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, a letter from Senator Downey dated March 6, praises the presentation of the Torrance chamber on behalf of a Navy academy for Torrance.

"I want to extend to you and your chamber my compliments on the excellence of your presentation," the senator said. "I am, of course, keenly interested in such a proposal to locate an academy in the State of California, and I appreciate having this material you have sent me."

"Again, thank you for your courtesy, and I hope that I may have the pleasure of hearing further from the City of Torrance whenever I may be of service or assistance."

In a letter to Secretary Lewis, who prepared the proposal, Representative King said in part: "I have long since been actively interested in such a proposal for both the Naval and Military academies for our West Coast, and there are several bills before the Naval and Military Affairs committees of the Congress for such academies for our West Coast; however, some time back I determined there

(Continued on Page 3)

A letter received from his commanding officer by his wife, Mrs. Judy Isbell, read that on April 5, "Gerald was piloting a P-38 on a photographic reconnaissance mission to Radovljica, Yugoslavia. His ship was last seen when it took off from the base, at which time it appeared to be under control and flying normally. However, he failed to meet the other planes who were to give him cover. Although a careful search was made of the route he was to take, no further information has been forthcoming."

"Your husband's personal possessions have been assembled and will be sent to the Effects Bureau, Kansas City, Mo., from which point they will be forwarded to the designated beneficiary."

"Much of the credit for the many successes we have had during the past months is due to the courage and ability of men like Gerald. I earnestly hope that we shall hear of his safely very shortly. Should there be any change in his status, you will be notified by the War Department. Your husband has been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious service."

Man Burned As Heater Ignites Casing-head Gas

H. W. Field, of 23634 Narbonne ave., was burned about the face when a gas heater at 2163 237th st., exploded as he was cleaning a floor with casing-head gasoline.

The fumes from the casing-head reached the pilot light of the heater, and resulted in a call to the Torrance fire department. The place is owned by J. C. Riley.

Federal Auto Use Tax Stamps On Sale June 9

Federal auto use tax stamps costing \$5 will go on sale in Torrance post office on Saturday, June 9, according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner. The stamps must be attached to the windshields of all automobiles by July 1.

Torrance post office sells each year some 7,500 of the stamps, and a larger sale this year is anticipated, it was said.

\$5,000,000 in New Building Under Way Here

Under construction in Torrance at the present time is approximately \$5,000,000 worth of work employing more than 1000 men, according to a survey of local improvement.

General Petroleum Corporation is making rapid headway on its new \$3,060,000 addition to the Torrance refinery, announced last week in the Torrance Herald.

Progress is being made on the new U. S. Navy Material Redistribution Center, costing some \$1,800,000 on the initial contract.

Three store buildings are under way or about to be started, one being the new restaurant building of Herbert C. Allen, on Cravens between El Prado and Post ave., to cost \$10,000.

The second is the new building of C. Earl Conner, at Cravens ave. and Gramercy ave., to cost \$10,000 and to house the new office of the United States Employment Service. A Class 3, brick-office structure, the building is being constructed by C. B. Bagnall.

Another store building is being built by K. R. Ruffell at 1276 Sartori ave., costing \$6000, and an extension of Doak Aircraft costing \$18,000.

Other work authorized by the city building department which has sent permits for the year up to \$3,396,570 compared with \$227,115 for the same period of last year is as follows:

T. H. Wright, 1803 W. 100th st.; \$2500, green house.

M. & M Transfer, 1617 Border ave.; \$5000, repairing for office.

Earl Radford, 3440 Emerald; \$750, poultry house.

William J. Elliot, 1809 222nd st.; \$2000, frame house.

O. E. Fossum, 1621 Cota ave.; \$300, addition.

L. A. Board of Education, 2090 Redondo Beach blvd.; \$2500, frame lath house.

Torrance Brass Foundry, 1825 W. 23rd st.; \$5000, foundry waste house and machine shop.

Willis W. Wilmer, 1327 Fern ave.; \$35, chicken house.

Sierra Oil Company, 3775 Garret st.; \$5000, steel oil derrick.

Chamber Honors Harry B. Lewis With Dinner

Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce said "Good-bye and good luck" to Harry B. Lewis, retiring executive secretary, at an informal dinner at the Jonathan Club, Los Angeles, Monday evening.

They were the guests of Reed H. Parkin, Chamber president, who arranged the party in honor of Lewis. Attending were: James L. Lynch, George W. Chapman, Philip Van Dyke, Hillman R. Lee, I. Washer, all directors; and Mayor William H. Tolson, Robert Plomert, and Grover C. Whyte, who also were guests of President Parkin.

Lewis' resignation as executive secretary becomes effective June 8. He plans to leave this week to join his family at Amarillo, Texas, and will return to Torrance about June 13. While Lewis has not announced his plans for the future, he indicated he would take a brief rest before returning to work.

Negotiations with a number of prospects for the Chamber secretaryship are now in progress, but no definite decision has been reached, according to President Parkin.

Six Pay \$100 Fines for Driving While Intoxicated

Driving while intoxicated cost six persons \$600 in City Court recently, records of Judge Otto B. Willett showed yesterday.

Paying fines of \$100 each were Pauline Parrish, Jesus Chavez, R. J. DeNol, R. L. Epperson, O. E. Crain and J. Mora.

PAVING OF CRENSHAW BLVD. FROM CARSON TO SEPULVEDA IS AUTHORIZED BY COUNCIL

Crenshaw blvd. from Carson st. to Sepulveda blvd., will be paved by the city to a 22 foot width at once, it was decided by the City Council, Tuesday night.

Acting on the request of Lieut. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake Jr., (s.c.) U. S. N. R., commanding officer of the new Navy Material Redistribution Center being constructed on a 91-acre tract east of Crenshaw and south of Jefferson st., the council appropriated \$3253 for materials for a rock and oil surface for the boulevard.

Lt. Stewart Local Athlete, Reported Dead

Word was received this week from the U. S. War Department, that Lieut. William Stewart, husband of the former Jean Hathaway.



way of Lomita, is officially reported as killed in action on Feb. 25, 1944. At that time, the War Department had announced that he was reported "missing in action."

Mrs. Stewart is residing with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Hathaway, 25606 Pennsylvania ave., Lomita.

A graduate of Torrance High school in June, 1939, Lieutenant Stewart had distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete while a student at Torrance High school, winning the Marine League high jump record of 6 ft. 7 1/2 inches in March, 1941. Competing in an invitational meet at Provo, Utah, in April, 1941, he established a new world record when the Torrance youth crossed the bar at 6 feet 10 3/8 inches on the first jump, cracking the previous world record of 6 feet 9 3/4 inches held jointly by Dave Albritton and Mel Walker of Ohio State. This new title was held by Stewart brief-

ly, however, for only two hours afterward on the same date his new record was broken by Les Steers of Oregon, who made the high jump of 6 feet 10 25/32 inches to better Stewart's mark.

In June, 1941, Stewart won national prominence when he won both the Junior and senior high jumping championships in the National A. U. at Philadelphia. He leaped 6 feet 8 3/8 inches to win the junior champion.

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Local WAC Is Missing In Africa

The first WAC from this district to be reported as missing in service in World War II is Pvt. Tony Pearl Roomsburg, 25, well known in Torrance and Lomita, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Roomsburg, 2259 289th st.

She was one of 18 WACS flying in an Army transport plane which was lost May 30 flying the 766-mile distance from Accra, on the Gold Coast of British West Africa, to Roberts Field, Liberia.

The plane was last reported over Takoradi, British West Africa, 150 miles west of the take-off point. Aircraft and surface vessels are searching for it over a wide area of the French Ivory Coast.

The WACS had been stationed at the Air Transport Command base at Accra since last October. They were being sent on a new assignment.

Mrs. Roomsburg received word from the War Department on June 5 stating that her daughter was reported missing in action May 30 in Central Africa.

Private Roomsburg went overseas in October, 1944, and was a graduate of Narbonne High school. She graduated from the Arizona State Teacher College in 1941.

These propositions were submitted to the council, one for asphalt pavement two inches thick 22 feet wide on a 32-foot decomposed granite base, costing \$16,000, and the other a one-inch surface costing about \$8400.

The total pavement will be approximately 3400 feet long, and the area involved has been in bad need of improvement for years.

Meanwhile, rapid progress is being made by P. J. Walker Co., contractors, on construction of the new material redistribution center for the Navy.

The foundations for two of the giant 202 by 602 foot warehouses have been completed, and foundations for the remaining two warehouses are nearly completed. Likewise, the cement work for the new administration building has been completed, and other units of the work are being made ready for structural steel work.

The temporary office has been tripled in size by moving in of old barracks buildings from a former Compton army post.

It is expected that the big plant, which will entail the eventual expenditure of some \$5,000,000, will be in operation early in September.

Damaged or outmoded material from U. S. Navy units in the Pacific area will be brought to the Torrance Navy plant for repair and reissuing, or for sale in event they are obsolete.

The whole 91-acre tract will be taken up with open or covered storage. The plant will employ about 350 civil service men and women.

The War Production Board's action in raising the ceiling on nonpriority building puts the war-time builder in the same category as a hunter: If you can find your game you can shoot it.

This was revealed in Torrance during the past week as a rush was made on lumber and material yards, to the disappointment of hundreds who found no material there.

Charles Jones, Torrance Lumber Co., said he could see no sign of immediate relief from the situation. Builders have the okay to go ahead, but no material is available.

Anticipated rush to build or remodel homes, stores, and other structures under newly liberalized War Production Board rules may lead to headaches unless would-be builders use foresight, it was predicted by local WPB officials.

The observation came as WPB announced amendment of Order L-41, basic regulation restricting war-time building, to raise the amount of construction that may be done without WPB permission.

The former ceiling of \$200 was raised to \$1000 for a one-family house.

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Leg Broken When Motorcycle Hit By Automobile

George Williams, who resides in Gardena and is employed by National Supply Co., received a broken left leg Wednesday at 11 p.m. when the motorcycle which he was riding, assertedly without lights, was hit by an automobile driven by Harold Hodges, of 1630 182nd st.

Hodges was driving south on Western ave. and turning into Bohn Aluminum Co. parking lot when his car struck Williams' motorcycle, according to police.

Williams was taken to Torrance Memorial hospital by Stone & Myers ambulance.