

SALE OF MUNICIPAL BUSES IN ESCROW AS COURT MOVE RUMORED TO STOP TRANSFER

Sale of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines to Charles F. Koors and his company for \$65,000 was placed in escrow this week as municipal ownership advocates were reported preparing to file a restraining action in Superior Court to stop the transaction.

The Torrance City Council, by a 3 to 2 vote, agreed to the sale of the lines at its July 24 meeting, the majority agreeing that proper operation of the lines under municipal ownership is impossible.

The transaction cannot be completed until a hearing before the Railroad Commission, where Koors' attorneys, assisted by the City Council, are seeking a certificate of public convenience and necessity to operate the lines now being used and to provide for future expansion.

Opponents of the sale are reported to have organized the Municipal Ownership League of Torrance and are investigating the possibility of a court action to prevent the sale.

Among members of the league are A. L. Elder, James O'Toole, J. Hughes, G. F. Billingsley and N. J. Mortenson.

Mortenson and Billingsley said that the league feels that action of the City Council is not in the best interests of the people, and that the majority of the people want the lines municipally operated. They criticized Mayor W. H. Tolson for not allowing public debate before the sale and declared that the whole subject should be opened up for thorough survey.

This is the second offer of Koors to buy the lines, proffering \$20,000 some six months ago when Councilmen C. M. Gilbert, N. H. Cucci and G. V. Powell opposed it. Powell said he was for the sale at the right price. Mayor Tolson and Councilman J. E. Hitchcock voted for the sale.

This time, Councilman Gilbert swung over to Mayor Tolson and Councilman Hitchcock, with Councilmen Cucci and Powell opposing.

Reaction to the sale of the bus lines, aside from that of the municipal ownership advocates, has been favorable, a survey reveals.

Business men of the community are practically unanimous in favor of the sale, feeling that private development of the transportation system will aid the growth of Torrance and the shopping district by giving more substantial service and covering a larger area.

Koors has promised to serve each section of Torrance, and to connect with his other lines serving San Pedro, Wilmington, Compton, South and East Los Angeles, Redondo Beach, Long Beach, Hawthorne and other nearby communities.

Home owners and other taxpayers declare that it is good business to get rid of the line now before it becomes a financial headache after the war and when the equipment again wears out.

It is pointed out that Koors' ownership will keep equipment in first class shape, replacing buses as they become too old or out-moded. Included in the company of which Koors is vice president is a manufacturer of bus equipment.

Fred Miller Wins Backstroke Swim Contest

Despite wounds sustained on New Guinea in November, 1944, T/4 Fred Miller showed that he can still win swimming contests. The 20-year-old son of Mrs. Anna L. Miller, 938 1/2 W. 74th st., Los Angeles, and Fred Miller, 1218 El Prado, recently won the 100-foot backstroke (open) contest at Bushnell General Hospital, Utah, for wounded veterans. He did the distance in 24 seconds.

Miller was one of a score of Army veterans — some hobbling on one leg, others in wheelchairs — who convinced several hundred spectators that, despite their handicaps they'll do all right in civilian life.

The former Torrance High School student was "quite a swimmer when he was a kid," his father said. "He was always running down to the ocean and diving off the pier."

He entered the Army March 25, 1943, and was in the South Pacific from October, 1943, to November, 1944, when he was wounded. He holds the Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Cluster and "a lot of other decorations," his father said. He was wounded in several places, his father said — cheek, leg and arm.

Events at the Utah Hospital included table tennis, volleyball, golf ball driving, bicycle riding and horseshoe pitching. Among winners was Pfc. Andy Gluschenko of Redondo Beach, who is a leg amputee. He won the 100-foot free style contest in 23.2 seconds.



GRADUATES . . . Thomas Frank Nuckles, A.O.M., 3/c, was graduated July 21 from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and received his air crewman's wings. Following a 20-days' leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nuckles of 2347 Adlington ave., he will leave for San Diego.

Torrance Bus Purchasers in Big Combine

A battle of the giants in the transportation industry within Los Angeles County is seen in the purchase for \$65,000 of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines by the Southern Cities Transit Lines and other transactions.

This follows acquisition by the same firm of the Highland Transportation Company's bus systems in Compton and San Pedro and a small system of Gardena.

The Southern Cities Company is reported to be backed by the Crown Coach and Body Works, a subsidiary of Transit Busses, Inc., owned by the Ford Motor Co.

The frankly admitted objective of Charles F. Koors, its manager, is to acquire the South Los Angeles Transportation Co., and other lines, thus making his combination second only in the company's system.

The Los Angeles Transit lines, which recently acquired the Los Angeles Railway Co. holdings, is owned by the American City Lines, Inc., which in turn is owned by National City Lines, Inc. of New York.

Stockholders in the National City Lines, real owners of the Los Angeles Transit Lines, include Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., General American Aero-coach Co., General Motors Corporation, Phillips Petroleum Co. and the Federal Engineering Corp., a subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of California, and E. Roy Fitzgerald and his four brothers.

So far as can be ascertained, the venerable Lang Transportation Company of Long Beach is not involved in any of the maneuvering which marks keen interest of eastern capital in post-war transportation prosperity in Los Angeles County.

Fed. Housing Regulations Get New Modification, But Lumber Scarce

The Federal Housing Administration is liberalizing building programs, but it will not do Mr. John Q. Citizen any good for some time to come for there is no lumber to fill orders.

A. H. Silligo and Charles V. Jones, owners of Torrance Lumber Co., said that they have received word from the lumber mills that they cannot get more than 2 by 4s, and little other material.

"The Army and Navy buyers are at the mills and they are taking 95 per cent of the cut," Silligo said.

The material is being shipped to rebuild damaged wharves, warehouses and other facilities needed to prosecute the war in the Pacific. While the Army and Navy will use some Philippine mahogany, this is difficult because the saw mills are damaged, it was said.

The following announcement of the liberalizing of housing regulations was sent out by the FHA last week:

CONNER REPORTS PHENOMENAL SUCCESS IN DRIVE TO RAISE VETS MEMORIAL HALL FUND

Postmaster C. Earl Conner, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Torrance Post 3251, reports phenomenal success in the fund raising campaign to erect a living memorial for the Veterans of the Torrance area.

Commander Conner pointed out that the campaign was being divided into three distinct phases: Industrial, commercial and residential.

Plans are now being laid to canvass the Torrance area industries, and the post auxiliary has volunteered to canvass the residential sections in the near future.

In reporting on the success of the campaign to date, Conner stated that the merchants have demonstrated a keen interest in the program generally, and the enthusiasm with which the plan has been greeted insures the ultimate success of the memorial.

"Not one dissenting opinion has been encountered," stated Conner.

"It is only right and proper that the people working and living in our midst underwrite a small but proportionate share of the beautiful and practical memorial planned for our heroes. They have kept the enemy virtually at arms length from the shores of Southern California, what less can we do than grant their request that this area give them the opportunity to have and enjoy a useful center."

Conner stressed that this Center will be available to all veterans, be they V.F.W., American Legion, Spanish American, or not members of any organization. The men and women remaining in the service in the years to come will also be handicapped from this center. A service officer will be on duty 24 hours a day, to tend the wants and needs of all veterans, their families and dependents. Processing claims, emergency loans, home loans, farm loans, business loans, personal loans, hospitalization, pensions, insurance, vocational training, family welfare, and general rehabilitation, will all be planned and effected by trained officers who are sympathetic with all of the problems of a returning hero or heroine.

"The veterans are not asking for a center on a silver platter," he said.

"As a matter of fact they will not accept 'something for nothing.' The quota assigned the Torrance area is merely to permit the success of the plan and to carry the initial financing of the program. The veterans will defray approximately 75 percent of the cost of the site and the memorial building, through well-planned commercial activities and diversified programs. We only pray that we will be able to hand over the key to the center before the majority of our boys and girls are released from the armed forces, to take their place in the community once again."

"A canvass was made of the men and women in the service, and those already returned, to determine exactly what we of Torrance and environs could do to show our gratitude and appreciation for their service in our behalf. Do you want a monument? Do you want a football field? Without exception the general reaction appeared to be:

(Continued on Page 4)

Cpl. Don Meyer, Local Hero, Is Now Civilian

Cpl. Don Meyer, Torrance hero who escaped a sinking Japanese prison-ship transport with five



other American soldiers, made his way through China to friendly lines and furnished much of the intelligence needed in the rescue of Luzon, is now a civilian.

Meyer, after his 90-day leave following return to this country, was sent to a U. S. Army refrigeration school at Camp Lee, Va., which he completed recently. He was discharged from the Army on July 22. He holds the Presidential Citation and the Order of the Purple Heart among other awards for his heroism and escape which followed several years imprisonment by the Japs on Luzon.

Meyer is entering the commercial refrigeration field.

Doak Army-Navy 'E' Presentation On August 8

The Army-Navy "E" Award for high achievement in war production will be presented to the men and women of the Doak Aircraft Company, Inc., Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 4:30 P.M., at the aircraft plant in Torrance.

Presentation of the "E" flag to be flown over the factory will be made by Colonel Stephen R. Barker, Army Air Force Plant Representative at the Douglas Aircraft Company, Inc., Santa Monica. Rear Admiral E. M. Pace, Jr., Bureau of Aeronautics general representative, Western District, will award the "E" label pins to be worn by employees. Music for the program will be provided by the Santa Ana Army Air Base Band, directed by Lt. Frank E. Kirby, and the Doak Aircraft Chorale. Raising the flag will be a color guard composed of Doak Aircraft employees honorably discharged from the armed forces.

Torrance Army Man Killed In Street Accident

A veteran of 26 years of Army service in two World Wars, Pvt. Hally Summers, 46, died at the Torrance Army Hospital Friday, after being struck down by a car in front of the hospital. He suffered a basal skull fracture.

Pvt. Summers, a member of the hospital garrison here for eight months, was walking back to his post from Torrance when a car driven by William J. Ross, Los Angeles, hit him as he started across the street to enter the grounds. The accident happened shortly after midnight.

Summers was taken to the Army Hospital operating room. He died after lingering for several hours. Ross was not held. Summers has a son overseas with the Navy, Richard Summers, S 1/c. The victim's body was removed to Moreland's Mortuary, Compton, for the inquest and for funeral arrangements.

CHAMPIONSHIP BASEBALL TOURNAMENT OPENING IN TORRANCE SATURDAY NIGHT

"Play Ball!" Saturday night at 8 o'clock will see the first teams take to the playing field in Torrance Ball Park in the opener of the Southern California Baseball championship tournament.

Sixteen top teams of Southern California are entered in the tournament which will continue nightly from August 4 probably for 31 days.

The opener, chosen by drawing, will be played by the Iron Workers of Los Angeles against Pittsburgh Pirate Juniors.

Preparations are being made by the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, Torrance, and the Southern California Baseball Association, co-sponsors, to handle huge crowds expected to witness the tournament games.

The balance of the schedule for the first round is:

Sunday, August 5: Long Beach Elites vs. Bondy's All Stars.

Monday, August 6: Sky Lane Cafe vs. Torrance Athletic Club.

Tuesday, August 7: Rosebell Plumbers vs. A.F. of L., Long Beach.

Wednesday, August 8: Signal Oil vs. Standard Oil of El Segundo.

Thursday, August 9: Ex-Legion Chicks vs. Arcadia.

Friday, August 10: Pacific Clay Products vs. Paramount Studio Cubs.

Saturday, August 11: Pacific Pipe Lines vs. North American Aircraft.

Starting the second round on August 12 will be the winner of the first game against the winner of the second game, and August 13 will see the losers of those two teams in the first elimination game.

The tournament will continue until 15 teams have been eliminated and a championship team selected.

Officials will be selected from Southern California Baseball Association.

Dale Riley, city recreation superintendent, is coordinator and members of the American Legion post are filling out various positions in management of the tournament.

MASS MEETING CALLED TUESDAY TO DISTRIBUTE PETITIONS TO FORM FIFTH CLASS CITY AND SEPARATE SCHOOLS

Acting on the advice of County Counsel J. H. O'Connor to City Attorney John E. McCall, Torrance Parents' Association is preparing petitions to call an election to change the status of Torrance from a Sixth Class City to a Fifth Class City, under provisions of Act 5226, thus automatically forming a separate school district in Torrance.



Torrance Soon May Be on U. S. Weather Map

Torrance soon will be on the weather map of the Pacific Coast if efforts of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the City of Torrance are successful.

Blaine Walker, executive secretary, is contacting Floyd Young, official of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Los Angeles, relative to establishment of an official rain and temperature gauge in the city, and he reports that the effort is meeting with success.

When the official bureau is established, Torrance will be on the daily weather report of the weather bureau published in newspapers throughout the state, and the cooler temperature of the community will become more widely known.

Location of the proposed weather bureau installation will be decided by the weather bureau.

Woman to Face Child Neglect Charge Friday

Mrs. Margie Frechette, 23, will appear before Justice of the Peace Frank R. Carrell at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow to answer charges of child neglect filed by the State Commission for Protection of Children and Animals as a result of discovery of the alleged fact that she was living in an automobile with her three children, ages 7 months, 20 months and three years.

The children are Freddie, 3 years; Mike, 20 months; and Stevie Frechette, 7 months. Mrs. Frechette, found with the children the night of July 22 on a Torrance side street, was taken home by Mrs. Evola Melton, 18088 Gramercy place, Torrance. She left next morning in search of a house but did not return.

Sunday, while being sought, she telephoned Gardena police department to inquire what action would be taken against two men who assertedly attempted to attack her sister, Mrs. Jean Wycoff, 20, of 16883 S. Vermont ave., Gardena.

Chief Field traced the call and made the arrest.

Mrs. Frechette said she had been living with a member of her family after her husband, Rene Frechette, 26, joined the Merchant Marine two months ago and went to sea. She said she was ejected from the house and that she had been living in the car with her three small children.

On Friday, when the fifth of the week for Bohn, the lads fought tooth and toenail from the first inning to the last. It was a regular knock down and drag out affair with neither team more than two runs apart for the first seven innings.

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Bohn Aluminum Winner of Local Softball Title

By virtue of an 8 to 7 victory over Dow Chemical last Friday, Bohn Aluminum became 1945 champions of the Torrance Industrial Softball League. Winner of both the first and second halves, after two four-way ties, Bohn was able to demonstrate undisputed right to the crown.

The game Friday was a fitting finale for any league as for the Bohn boys, it was their fifth straight night of tough championship play.

In the playoff, of the first half, Bohn defeated Doak 7 to 4; and the following night, Thursday, in entering the finals of the second half Bohn promptly defeated Doak again 3 to 0. Dow Chemical won over Goodyear Rubber, and Bohn on Friday night came back for its 8 to 7 win over Dow.

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Smoking Zones Established At Shell Plant

Smoking zones are being set up at Shell Chemical Co.'s plant in Torrance together with an intricate alarm system, company officials said.

The booths are being placed around the plant, but the alarm will cause all tobacco to be extinguished at any time when there is danger of fire or explosion.

The question of smoking privileges caused a shut down at the butadiene plant recently following the discharge of approximately 100 men for smoking.

The matter went to the U. S. Conciliation Service for adjudication and the referee decided in favor of establishment of the smoking booths with allowances of time morning and afternoon for smoking.

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Ask the Professor
(By H. F. Noaks)

Dear Professor: I'm fed up with the way men are running things. Governments, the world over, are in a mess. Women should take over. I've a good notion to start a crusade to put women in charge of every country. What should be my first step?

Answer: Organize a League of Nations.

City Charter Adoption Methods Are Revealed by Torrance Officials

Methods of adoption of City Charters by cities of the Sixth Class, considered as one means by which Torrance could form its own school district and divorce the schools from Los Angeles city control, have been revealed through the efforts of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and City Attorney J. E. McCall.

A city charter movement separate from the school withdrawal contest of the Torrance Parents' Association is reported to be under way, but the school problem will be solved within a few months, it is announced elsewhere in this edition of the Torrance Herald, by an election to form a Fifth Class City in Torrance without a charter.

The methods of adoption of City Charters follow:

1. City must have more than 3500 inhabitants as shown by the last United States census.

2. Election to choose freeholders may be called (a) by two-thirds vote of City Council, or (b) on presentation of petition signed by 15 per cent of registered voters of city.

Note — If petition, election must be called not less than

30 nor more than 60 days from date of filing.

3. Fifteen freeholders frame the charter.

4. Candidates for office of freeholder are nominated (a) in manner provided for nomination for officers of city, or (b) by petition in manner provided by general laws for nomination of candidates for public offices at general elections.

5. Freeholders may be elected at general or special election.

6. At the election the electors vote first upon the question, "Shall a board of freeholders be elected to frame a proposed new charter?" and second, on candidates for office of freeholder.

7. If majority vote "Yes" on the question, the 15 candidates who receive the highest number of votes organize as a board of freeholders. If less than a majority vote "Yes" on the question, no freeholders are elected.

8. The charter must be prepared and proposed within one year after the result of the freeholders election is declared.

9. The charter must be signed

(Continued on Page 4)

New Motor Coach Repair Shop Here

Alterations to Motor Coach Repair Shop of the Pacific Electric Railway Company at 2315 Dominguez st. will amount to \$15,000, according to a building permit taken out this week.

Pacific Smelting Company, 2219 Western ave., has a permit for a storage gasoline tank, which will cost \$150.

Jessie Combs, owner, 2626 N. Oak st. took out a permit to build a four room dwelling at 26013 N. Royal blvd. to cost \$1995.