



V.F.W. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER . . . Richard H. Newhall, California Department commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, left, was among the participants in the initiation of 38 veterans into Post 3251 in the Civic Auditorium Monday night. He was assisted by Charles P. Ash, senior vice commander, right. Commander C. Earl Conner of the local post, center, was in charge of the affair. (Photo by Bill Husbands.)

TORRANCE AIRPORT PUT ON SURPLUS LIST; CITY WIRES TO PROTECT ITS INTEREST

The War department announced last week that Zamperini field, officially known as Lomita Flight Strip, has been placed on the surplus list, and the City of Torrance immediately put its "hold" on the property.

Thus, with the assurance of the Weston ranch interests that they no longer are interested in securing the property, Torrance has had the way opened to it to take advantage of the hundreds of thousands of dollars which the government has spent in developing the field into one of the finest in Southern California and provide the municipality and the whole district with much needed airport facilities.

Rep. Cecil R. King notified Mayor W. H. Tolson of the availability of the airport to the city, on Sept. 13, and the mayor in turn immediately wired King that "the City of Torrance is vitally interested in securing the Lomita Flight Strip as a Torrance municipal airport," and asking him to protect "our interests in this undertaking."

Ben Weston, of the Weston ranch interests, who received some \$380,000 from the government in payment for the 470-acre airport, recently told a conference of three members of the City Council that he has absolutely no interest in future operation of the field, and promised that he would so inform the council by letter in order to protect Torrance's rights to the property. It is understood that the government, in disposing of the land put on the surplus list, first gives the former owner the right to buy it back; second gives the municipality in which the property is located a chance to obtain the land, and third puts it up to bids of private interests.

It is felt that Torrance can take the property over as a municipality, and then lease the port to an operating agency, thus enabling the city to have airport facilities without the expense of operation. A number of private firms have made offers regarding the airport, but the city's policy has had to await the formal word of the War department regarding its intentions, and likewise that of the Weston interests, before acting.

It is reported that the airport is the only one available for private flying in southern Los Angeles county, and that it will be popular with fliers even in other sections of the county due to the crowded conditions in the big airports. The larger fields cannot permit private flying due to the possible interference with major air line and military operation. It is pointed out.

Torrance's airport possibilities run into the "big money" being located on a major highway and two other important roads, and offering expansion possibilities, in addition to the runways, radio beacons, hangars and administration buildings for such facilities as a club house, "sky room" restaurant, motor courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, swimming pool, baseball diamond, and other recreational attractions which go to make up a modern community "air park."

Carl Akins Charged With Manslaughter

Carl Akins, driver of the car in which R. F. Mesicall met his death last Sept. 7, was arraigned in Superior Court last Friday on a charge of manslaughter under a complaint signed by Police Chief John Stroth.

Akins, who sustained injuries in the accident that resulted in Mesicall's death, was released on a reduced bail secured by his attorney, Albert Isen. Preliminary hearing has been set for Sept. 21.

CITY WINS FIRST ROUND IN BUS SUIT

Torrance City Council scored a victory in the first round of the Superior court contest brought by W. J. Hughes, a taxpayer, to force the city to proceed in the sale of the municipal bus lines in accordance with Act 5203, in Department 34 of the court, Los Angeles, yesterday.

Judge Samuel Vickers sustained the demurrer of the city, filed by City Attorney J. E. McCall, and gave Hughes 10 days to file an amended petition.

The City of Torrance voted on July 24 to sell the municipal bus lines to Charles F. Koors and his interests for \$85,000, plus inventory of stocks and tools.

Hughes and taxpayer interests which he represents sought to have the council present the issue to the people under the provisions of Act 5203.

Failing, Hughes filed a petition for a writ of mandate to compel the council to act in accordance with the law as set forth in Act 5203, and the alternative writ was signed and served Sept. 11. The act would require the council to place the sale of the bus lines before the people, for vote, and then to sell to the highest bidder.

The hearing on McCall's demurrer to the writ and order to show cause started Monday and was continued to Wednesday. McCall contended that the demurrer should be sustained maintaining the petition stated no cause of action, and the court agreed. The city attorney argued that since the bus lines were acquired by a vote of the council they could be sold by a vote of the council, even though it was by a 3 to 2 majority.

R. A. Newton, Taken on Guam, Is Released

Cpl. Robert A. Newton, U. S. M. C., 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Newton, of 2171 1/2 Torrance blvd., has been released from a Japanese prison camp where he had been interned for almost four years.

A telegram to his parents, received from the War Dept. Tuesday stated: "We are pleased to inform you of the liberation from Japanese custody of your son. His physical condition is fair. The message further directed them on the procedure in sending a direct message to the liberated man."

Taken prisoner at Guam in December, 1941, when his ship was en route from a China voyage, the young Marine was the first of the American prisoners taken. Through first hand information received from recently liberated prisoners, nearby cities, his parents learned that Zentsu Camp on the Island of Shikoku, enjoyed the reputation of being the best of all Japanese prison centers. They had received five written messages from their son during the past four years and listened to a broadcast in which he participated.

Zamperini Welcome Plans Awaiting Word of Arrival on American Soil

While the family of Lt. Louis Zamperini this week awaited word of his arrival on the North American continent, the famous long-distance runner and flyer was made the subject of nationwide publicity extending from factual data to dramatized radio fiction.

Meanwhile, Torrance is standing "on edge" and sharing the family anxiety, awaiting additional word of the Olympic hero, long a Japanese war prisoner, that he might be properly greeted and honored.

Among the festive gatherings which the community is arranging is one for all returned heroes, members of the Order of the Purple Heart and other veterans who have returned from service in the armed forces, in which Lieutenant Zamperini will hold the center of interest.

It will be a "Victory Party" for Torrance, according to Capt. R. L. Lewellen, who has been delegated by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini to represent their interests in any affairs of the kind, and who likewise has been given the unofficial "go ahead" of the City of Torrance and veterans' groups in arranging the celebration.

Every returned veteran will be a guest of the community at the affair which will include a dance in the civic auditorium. What additional plans are to

RECREATION COMMISSION REVAMPING PROPOSED TO COINCIDE WITH STATE PLAN

Revamping of the Torrance Recreation Commission to comply with the model setup of the California Youth Authority is being considered. It was announced here this week.

A meeting will be held in Torrance City Hall on Oct. 2, between Torrance officials and representatives of the state youth authority at which time a model ordinance will be presented which will provide for expenditure of recreational funds to the best advantage of both youngsters and adults of the community, it was said.

George P. Thatcher, member of the recreation commission, and Councilman C. M. Gilbert, chairman, are arranging for the meeting, and an effort will be made to make the recreation body one of the most active of city commissions.

The ordinance, if adopted, would automatically terminate the present commission and would call for appointment of a body of five persons able and willing to give their time to carry out the work, it was declared.

The recent survey of Torrance recreation needs made by Major George Braden, western representative of the National Playground Association, will have some bearing on reorganization of the Torrance recreation department, according to Thatcher. It is hoped that the revamped department can be put in operation in time to consider the long-range recreation building program being proposed by the City Council at this time.

Three new buildings are proposed, one in Waverly park, one in Torrance city park, and another in a down town location. It is expected that the proposals will be placed before the people in the form of a bond issue.

Travel to Grid Games Allowed; Here's Schedule

With lifting of travel restrictions, the Marine League football fans are looking forward to "old times" during the coming football season which opens on Thursday, Oct. 4.

Students will be permitted to travel to other schools in the league, it was announced, but some of the schools have restrictions against noise makers, decorations on cars and other fanfare. Schools will check student loads, and the students will be permitted to leave in time to get to the games without unnecessary hurry.

All games will start at 2:45 p. m.

The Marine League schedule for football is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 4: San Pedro at Torrance; Gardena at Banning; Narbonne, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 11: Banning at San Pedro; Torrance at Narbonne; Gardena, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 18: San Pedro at Gardena; Narbonne at Banning; Torrance, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 26: Banning at Torrance; Gardena at Narbonne; San Pedro, bye.

Friday, Nov. 2: Narbonne at San Pedro; Torrance at Gardena; Banning, bye.

Friday, Nov. 9: Narbonne at Torrance; Banning at Gardena; San Pedro, bye.

Friday, Nov. 16: Torrance at Banning; San Pedro at Narbonne; Gardena, bye.

Wednesday, Nov. 21: Gardena at San Pedro.

Education Board Offices Numbered; Local Residents May Seek Election

By drawing lots members of the Board of Education selected the number of the office they will hold on the board under provisions of a new section of the State Education Code.

Under the new method each position will be designated by a number and candidates for board offices will have to indicate the number of the office for which they seek election.

In the past candidates have run for offices "at large," the winners being picked by the largest number of votes. The board members and the numbers they drew are: Mrs. Ellen B. Allen, No. 1; Maynard J. Toll, No. 2; Lawrence L. Larabee, No. 3; J. Paul Elliott, No. 4; Gertrude H. Rounsaville, No. 5; Roy J. Becker, No. 6; and Mrs. Marie Adams, No. 7.

No Torrance Students Among U. C. Graduates

The summer, 1945, list of graduates of University of California was published by the U. C. public information bureau on Sept. 11, 1945, and again no Torrance name could be found among the graduates.

This is the third list, two summer and one winter, which failed to show a Torrance student graduating.

Among the grads and those receiving higher degrees, almost every other community is represented.

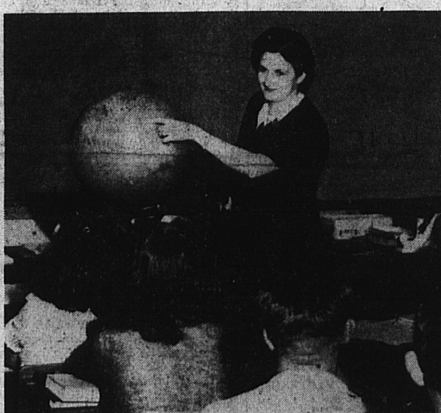
Efforts of the Torrance Parents' Association, in its campaign to have Torrance schools withdrawn from the Los Angeles city school system, to secure from the university the scholarship rating of Torrance high school has failed. They are confidential, it was said, and not available for comparison as to the scholastic standing of one high school against another.

The standings are released in code only to the high school principals, and each principal knows only his own code number, and knows only how his school stands. He does not know who stands above him, nor below him, it was reported. Therefore the only way Torrance parents can know how the schools stand is by watching the lists of various university graduates, and noting the absence from the list of Torrance names, it was pointed out.

Messages in support of the Rolling Hills site are pouring in from influential citizens from Wilmington, San Pedro, Harbor City, Lomita, Torrance, Redondo, Rolling Hills, Miraflores and Palos Verdes. They include pledges of support for the Rolling Hills site from Chambers of Commerce and newspaper editors, reporters, columnists and many others.

AUTO THIEF

T. M. Wade, 2019 Gramercy ave., reported to police the theft of his car, a 1935 Ford, Sept. 16.



FORMER SANTA TOMAS INTERNEE TEACHES HERE . . . Mr. Geraldine Pearce points out the Santa Tomas prison camp to his pupils at Narbonne high school. Photo for the Lomita News by Sgt. Robert C. Wilton. Marine combat photographer who has taken many pictures of the ill-famed prison camp after the internees were liberated.

Local Teacher, Who Endured Santa Tomas, Says U.C.L.A.-Graduate Jap Official Expected to Return

By John P. Stripling

Mrs. Geraldine Pearce, a new teacher found at Narbonne High, has been with her through all these experiences, she said.

There are many interesting highlights of her imprisonment, one of which happened during an inspection by Japanese officials.

"These Japs were dressed like New Yorkers on an Easter parade," she said, "and I noticed one in particular because of his class ring. U. C. L. A. was the school. He noticed me looking at it and asked if I were from Los Angeles."

"I answered that I was, also that I had lived in Washington. He was quite familiar with both California and Washington, pointing out, many places he had been, and people known. He asked me if I would be glad when the war was over. I, of course, replied in the affirmative. I will too, he replied, for then I can go back home. I asked if his home was in Japan, and he answered, 'no, my home is in Los Angeles, that's where I was born and raised.'"

Another incident occurred at night when the women's quarters were alerted for search. "The little Jap captain told us he was searching for a short wave radio. This brought terror to my heart as my husband had been aiding in the construction of a set."

Her husband, Ronny Pearce, was found in Shanghai, Mrs. Pearce said, "and I noticed one in particular because of his class ring. U. C. L. A. was the school. He noticed me looking at it and asked if I were from Los Angeles."

In 1937, during the infamous Jap incident in Shanghai, Mrs. Pearce found herself in the midst of air raids and troop skirmishes, later being evacuated along with other women and children from the so-called "Shanghai Bloody Saturday."

Upon arriving in Manila, this courageous young woman was just in time to witness the most severe earthquake in the history of Manila and to quote her, "I thought I had stood it all, but," and here she appeared to live it all again, "if I had known then what was in store for my husband and I, and the children that were to starve to death in that Jap prison camp—I'm sure I would have given up."

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TORRANCE SCHOOL STUDENTS VOTE 2 TO 1 IN FAVOR OF SWIMMING POOL OVER RINK

School children of Torrance want a swimming pool, two to one over a skating rink, it was revealed last week in a plebiscite conducted at the several schools under the direction of Harold E. Perry, Torrance high school principal, at the suggestion of the Torrance Herald.

Rolling Hills College Site Gaining Favor

Petitions being circulated by local club men and women among members of 60 to 80 area civic and social organizations are encountering enthusiasm for the Rancho Palos Verdes site as a location for the proposed Los Angeles Junior college for the harbor district, according to Dr. Harold L. Snow.

Large numbers of civic minded leaders from towns and cities in the entire area to be served by the harbor junior college have pledged their active support to the movement requesting the Los Angeles School Board to place the school on the bill, and to make use of the \$60,000 loan fund for needy students.

Messages in support of the Rolling Hills site are pouring in from influential citizens from Wilmington, San Pedro, Harbor City, Lomita, Torrance, Redondo, Rolling Hills, Miraflores and Palos Verdes. They include pledges of support for the Rolling Hills site from Chambers of Commerce and newspaper editors, reporters, columnists and many others.

To determine the opinion of the students of Torrance schools on the issue, the high school sent out speakers for both sides of the topic, for the swimming pool and for the skating rink. The members of the leadership class of Torrance high school presented arguments for both forms of recreation to the two elementary schools and the high school.

Jeannette Farquhar and Ralph Jakubowski talked to the students of Torrance and Fern avenue elementary schools. Those who spoke before the high school students are: Jean Reynolds, Barbara Tossas, Myrna Fossum, Burna Morris, Wanda Moore, Jeannette Farquhar, Mary Tibbitts, Frank Dominguez, LeRoy Wright, Bill McLead, Jim Standifer, LeRoy Schwenk, and Bill Johnson.

Those students presented in favor of the swimming pool the facts that the pool could be used by people of all ages; cost of travel to the beach would be eliminated; the Army and Torrance hospitals could use the pool in treating paralysis victims; swimming classes from the high school could use it, and competitive sports in this field including water polo could be encouraged. Swimming is healthful for all and exercises all muscles of the body, it was pointed out.

On the side of the skating rink, such points as the cost of building and upkeep would be less and thus the cost of admission would be correspondingly less; that skating classes could be arranged; that dancing on skates is fun; that skating teaches the different virtues of schools and that skating builds leg muscles which are beneficial in all sports.

Stroh, Willett Authorized to Attend Parley

Chief of Police John Stroth and City Judge Otto Willett have the authority of the City Council to attend the coming convention of the California Peace Officers Association.

The affair will be held in Salinas on Oct. 8, 9, and 10, and the expenses of the pair of officials are to be paid from city funds.

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

"Dear Professor: Why don't telephone companies use men switchboard operators?"

Answer: They can't, under the bells system.

