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## CLEAR-CUT DECISION ON SCHOOL CONTROL QUESTION POSSIBLE UNDER NEW PLAN

Four members of the Torrance City Council have agreed unofficially to write a charter for submission to the voters of Torrance in which the only change in city government provided for would be the establishment of a Torrance Unified School District which, with a Board of Education separately elected by the people, would operate the Torrance schools.

Official action to institute the movement to form a Fifth Class chartered city in this manner will be asked at an early meeting of the council by representatives of the Torrance Parents Association and other interested groups, it was announced.

"We have considered many methods by which the people of Torrance may have an opportunity to voice their choice on the clear-cut issue of who shall operate the Torrance schools," Mrs. Evelyn Carr, P.T.A. chairman, said.

"It seems that this is the only means by which this can be accomplished. We want the people to be able to vote on this issue alone, without clouding the question by other controversial matters. In this way alone can we end the bickering and decide the matter on its merits."

The four members of the City Council who said that they would be much in favor of this method of deciding the issue are: Mayor W. H. Tolson, Councilman N. H. Cucchi, C. M. Gilbert and J. E. Hitchcock.

"I am in favor of every opportunity of giving the people a chance to express themselves on a public issue," Councilman Cucchi said. "I think this is a good way to decide the school control question once and for all."

Under the plan, provisions for operation of the city government of Torrance contained in the charter would be identical with the present Sixth Class City setup, so as to remove the possibility of any opposition other than on the question of formation of a Torrance school district.

"Once we have our charter," Mayor Tolson said, "we can submit amendments to the people to make the necessary changes to meet the needs of our growing city. I would like (Continued on Page 4-A)

## Victory Chest Canvasser Goes Over The Top

**BULLETIN**  
Torrance Victory Chest drive for 1945 lagged behind all other communities of the Los Angeles Area Victory Chest as of yesterday, with only 1.36 percent of its \$41,000 quota subscribed as compared with 46 percent of the total of \$8,042,373 for the area chest. Chairman George Johnson prepared to rally his committees in an intensified effort to build Torrance's total to the area average this week.

First house-to-house major to go over the top in the Torrance Victory Chest campaign is Mrs. Clara C. Farrell, who has reached 126 per cent of her quota and is still going strong. She declares that she has no intention of stopping now, but will continue to solicit until her territory is fully covered.

Mrs. Farrell has the honor also of being the first one hundred per cent major in the entire area covered by the 35 cities and towns affiliated in the Los Angeles Victory Chest. A close second is Mrs. Edith I. White, who has 66 per cent of her quota.

Both women are majors working under Rev. B. H. Lingenfelter, colonel for the residential solicitation.

Torrance returns to date as reported at the Tuesday report luncheon held by Area campaign in the Biltmore Bowl, have reached \$762.00 or 1.86 per cent of the \$41,000 quota. The overall total to date is \$3,855,799 or 46 per cent of the \$8,042,373 goal. Lomita-Harbor City Chest has raised \$901.00 or 33.37 per cent of the \$2,700 quota.

Entertainers at the luncheon were Miss Valaida Snow, negro musician and singer, who was among the hundreds of Americans who were thrown into internment camps in Germany when war was declared. She was accompanied by Gerald Wilson and his 16-piece negro band.

Winners of the prizes in the recent school poster contest were present to receive their awards.

Although the Torrance total as reported to date is still low, large special gifts the donations from the larger concerns which are promised to the community have been promised and will be available shortly to swell the returns, states George L. Johnson, campaign leader.

## VFW To Start Remodeling Of Building

There'll be rusty nails and dirt flying at the corner of Gramercy ave. and Cabrillo ave., Saturday.

Commander C. Earl Conner, of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3251, said that members of the post will do over all, take claw hammers, crow bars and shovels and start tearing down the portions of the old garage building there preparatory to remodeling of the structure into the Torrance Veterans Memorial hall.

Commander Conner issued an appeal for more help for the day, veterans of World War I and World War II, or other wars, he said, as long as they can do a good day's work for a good cause. Refreshments will be served, he declared.

"We're going ahead with our building program," said Commander Conner, "despite the fact that all of the money needed for the big project has not yet been subscribed. We'll have one of the finest Veterans Memorial Buildings in this district, and it will serve as a center for all veterans."

## Benny Rubin To Replace Vernon On Local Show

Benny Rubin, popular stage screen and radio star, will pinch hit for Bobby Vernon at the



BENNY RUBIN

Police and Firemen's show tomorrow night, due to Vernon's sudden illness; it was announced yesterday.

Rubin, a natural master of ceremonies, has been appearing for eight consecutive years at the Pasadena Police show and has just returned to the west coast from an eastern tour of vaudeville.

The police and firemen are very fortunate in obtaining Benny for their show as he is a very able comedian with his many imitations, songs, dance acts and mimicry.

## Spooks, Goblins To March On Halloween Night

All of the fun which belongs traditionally to the night of Oct. 31, will be experienced at the Torrance Civic Auditorium following a big Halloween parade through the city's streets.

Many spooks, goblins, witches, ghosts and other costumed youngsters are expected to participate in this grand parade and following that will be the awarding of prizes at the auditorium. This haunted carnival will feature stunts and acts with many other forms of entertainment promised for the evening.

There will be fun for all ages and the festivities will no doubt be continued to a late hour. Spooks and goblins are expected to wait and even jitter-bug for the amusement of all on this most weird of all occasions.

All those desiring to participate in this parade will appear at the El Prado Park in Torrance at 6:00 p. m. to assemble.

## Navy, Marine Aircraft To Blanket Sky

Navy and Marine aircraft will blanket the sky over Long Beach Navy Day, Saturday (Oct. 27), with a special sky parade. It was announced today by the Eleventh Naval District.

Nearly 300 Navy and Marine aircraft will give an exhibition over the city at approximately 11:30 a. m. in connection with the nationwide observance of Navy Day.

Corsair and Hellcat fighter planes, Avenger torpedo bombers, and Helldiver dive bombers from the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Los Alamitos, Long Beach, and the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, Santa Ana, will participate.

Air Commander for the combined Navy and Marine air armada will be Comdr. F. K. Upham, one of the leading carrier-type airmen. Lieut. Col. W. E. Clasen, USMC, skipper of Air Group II, famous ace, will command the Marine aircraft.

Participating in the air display of the world's most potent and fastest carrier aircraft will be Air Group 98 from Los Alamitos and Marine Air Support Group 46, from El Toro.

Navy and Marine stations throughout the Eleventh Naval District will hold open house on Navy Day.

The public will be admitted for the first time to the facilities of El Toro Air Station (near Santa Ana), the Lighter-than-Air Station, Santa Ana, and Los Alamitos Air Station (near Long Beach).

Blimps which have patrolled the coast during the war and aided in numerous rescues will be on display at the Santa Ana Lighter-than-Air Station between 10 a. m. and 4 p. m. Saturday and exhibition flights will be staged over the area.

The Marine Air Station at El Toro will have open house between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m. Saturday. Eleven types of aircraft, including carrier fighter, dive bomber and torpedo bomber planes will be on display.

Other exhibitions will include ground school work, combat swimming, survival training and parachute packing. A souvenir issue of the station paper will be distributed.

Survival technique, ordnance equipment and eight different types of aircraft will be on display at Los Alamitos Naval Auxiliary Air Station which will admit visitors between 8:30 a. m. and sundown.

## TORRANCE WATER RIGHTS SUIT NAMES 800 PROPERTY OWNERS AS DEFENDANTS

Municipalities, districts, water companies and individual water users in the area of the "West Coast Basin," extending from Inglewood to Long Beach may be called upon to use from 25,000 to 40,000 acre feet of Metropolitan Water District or other imported water as a result of the Superior Court complaint to determine water rights, to quiet title and for an injunction filed yesterday by the City of Torrance, the Palos Verdes Water Co. and the California Water Service Co. against

(Editor's Note — Names of the various defendants in the water rights adjudication lawsuit filed yesterday are to be found on Page 2-B of this edition. If you own a water well, or have an interest in one, you probably will find your name listed among the defendants.)

approximately 800 cities, corporations, companies, individuals and districts.

The action was filed by Kenneth E. Wright, attorney for the plaintiffs, who participated in the Raymond Basin case in Pasadena several years ago.

In four separate causes of action, the complaint reads that "plaintiffs are informed and believe and therefore allege that the aggregate annual draft upon the water in said underground basin by plaintiffs and defendants greatly exceeds, and ever since the year 1920 the aggregate annual draft by plaintiffs and their respective predecessors, and by defendants and their respective predecessors has exceeded the annual supply of water thereto, and that the water in said basin since the year 1920 has been depleted in increasing amounts. That the water levels in said basin, by reason of said overdraft, have lowered in elevation since the year 1920, and are now in places seventy feet below sea level; that said lowered water levels have caused and permitted, and now cause and permit the intrusion of sea water from the Pacific Ocean into portions of the basin-bearing alluvium of said basin and in event said overdraft on said basin continues in the future said basin ultimately will be depleted to such an extent that it will become impracticable for each plaintiff to obtain water therefrom in accordance with its rights aforesaid, and the entire basin will be ruined for beneficial use by reason of the continued intrusion of sea water therein; that by reason thereof

Reed H. Parkin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will preside over the meeting and give an address of welcome. Plomert and Hillman R. Lee, general chairman of the "Torrance Plans Ahead" committee will introduce the speakers.

The dinner will be served by the VFW auxiliary, under the direction of Mrs. Clara Conner, commander.

Hostesses for the affair have been named by Mrs. W. H. Tolson, and they are Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, Mrs. Paul Moore Wheeler, Mrs. Hillman R. Lee and Mrs. Charles V. Jones.

## Penney, Sontag and Newberry To Reopen Stores

Negotiations between the Retail Clerks union of San Pedro and chain store operators which resumed last week were brought to an abrupt halt when Haskell Tidwell entered a Long Beach hospital.

Hillman R. Lee, manager of the J. C. Penney Co. store in Torrance, said that plans had been made to reopen the Penney, Sontag and J. Newberry stores here this week, and that they may possibly be reopened the first of next week.

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OLD IMPERISHABLE . . . The 30-year-old U.S.S. Nevada, shown in official U. S. Navy photographs above, is a veteran of six major European and Pacific campaigns. She suffered a Jap suicide plane hit and blows from five shells but kept right in there fighting. One picture is of the ship itself and the other a shot of the ship's batteries blasting away at the enemy on Okinawa. The Nevada will be open to public inspection on Navy Day, Saturday, Oct. 27, tied up at Pier A, Long Beach harbor.

## \$1,442,637 In Public Improvements Suggested For City Consideration

### Chamber Gets Navy Blimp To Take Pictures

Blaine Walker, executive secretary of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, has been successful in his efforts to secure a blimp to be used in photographing Torrance from the air, he announced this week.

Walker said that the Navy department had informed him that the blimp will be available any time after Navy day, Saturday.

The chamber secretary, himself a retired Pathe newsreel cameraman of considerable fame, has arranged for professional air photographers with special equipment to assist him in taking the pictures.

The shots to be taken include public buildings and parks from the air; the central business section; residential areas; vacant land available or suitable for residential expansion, and one of Torrance beach and the Hollywood Riviera section.

### U. S. Steel In Rejection Of Wage Increase

Benjamin F. Fairless, president of United States Steel Corporation, today announced that Philip Murray, president of the United Steelworkers of America (CIO), had been informed that existing ceiling prices for steel products, together with the government's wage stabilization policy, do not enable United States Steel to grant a wage increase at this time. This was in reply to the Union's demand for a \$2.00 a day general wage increase.

After stating the position of U. S. Steel was delivered to Murray at a meeting held in Pittsburgh today between representatives of the five steel-producing subsidiaries of United States Steel and the Union. These subsidiaries are: Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, National Tube Company, American Steel and Wire Company, Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company and Columbia Steel Company.

The corporation's answer was delivered to Philip Murray, president of both the C. I. O. and the steel workers union.

Murray, declaring the corporation's view was "replete with distortions and absurdities," announced that the union's policy committee would meet on Friday to review the negotiations and "authorize such actions as the situation may require."

### Bond Quota Of Torrance Drive Is \$676,000

Torrance has a quota of \$676,000 to meet in the Victory Loan drive to be launched Oct. 28, according to Hillman R. Lee, manager of the J. C. Penney Co., who is campaign chairman for this 8th war loan drive.

The quota is divided as follows:

Individuals, \$376,000; corporations, \$300,000.

The constant-to-constant network will carry an important message by Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson as the highlight of radio's kickoff program of the Victory Loan from 4:30 to 5 p. m., Pacific Standard Time, next Sunday, Oct. 28.

### Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)



Dear Professor: The doctor told me I'd have to go to the hospital and have my tonsils taken out. Will I be given gas? Answer: No my dear. You'll have to pay for it.

Proposals for needed public works and buildings in Torrance reaching a total of \$1,442,637 in value have been presented to the City Council by A. R. Walker and Associates, architects and engineers engaged by the city, but they face a considerable trimming before they are placed before the people in the contemplated bond issue.

### Army Hospital Command Change Is Announced

Col. Guy O. Owsley yesterday assumed command of Torrance Army hospital, Ninth Service

Planned as a long-range program to provide much employment while at the same time giving the city buildings and improvements required for its growth, the program consists of the following items:

1. Public works, consisting of storm drains, street resurfacing, trunk sewers, alley paving and water lines. Total \$717,300.00.
2. The allotted Torrance share of the Western ave. extension work. Total \$279,400.
3. Public buildings, furnishings and equipment; purchase of land. Total \$446,037.00.

The grand total will be reduced from one third to one half before being submitted to the people, unless by popular demand it is held to a higher figure than anticipated, it was said. The "popular demand" would emanate from people of various districts to benefit from the improvements, although much of the work can be handled by a formation of assessment districts.

Broken down into districts, the public works program proposed calls for the following:

South Torrance, the area between Crenshaw blvd. and the east boundary; Santa Fe and 240th st., storm drain, street resurfacing and trunk sewer, \$77,000.00.

Walteria district, all area west of Crenshaw blvd. and south of Sepulveda blvd., except Hollywood Riviera, trunk sewer line, \$110,000; alley paving, \$28,000.

Hollywood Riviera district, 12-inch water trunk line, \$22,000. Vista Highlands district, all area west of Crenshaw blvd. between Sepulveda and Torrance blvds., north to Maple st., street work, \$68,200.

North Torrance district, all area north of 190th st., sewer trunk line, \$125,000, and street work, total \$192,500.

Central Torrance district, alley paving and street work, \$211,200. One item which faces elimination from the proposed bond issue is that of the Western ave. improvement, the city feeling that this being of much more importance to the City of Los Angeles, to the county and to the state than to Torrance, it should be financed by those agencies.

Public buildings proposed include the following:

Central recreation building, designed to accommodate a swimming pool, \$217,000.

Fire station and training tower, \$55,747.

First unit, ball park stadium, \$35,000.

Police station, converted from old fire station, \$20,650.

Walteria arts, crafts and recreation building, \$21,280.

Walteria fire station, \$8,550.

Boy Scout caretakers lodge, Hollywood Riviera, \$5,000.

Additions, repairs and alterations to library, auditorium and other public buildings, furnishings and equipment, \$48,015.

Quantity won't be arriving here for many months, according to the present outlook.

This was the summation given by Dr. F. A. van Voerden, Consul General of the Netherlands in San Francisco, who visited Los Angeles this week in connection with his Consular province of 11 Western States on his first diplomatic assignment in the United States.

Dr. Van Voerden spoke of quinine, that being another prime product of the Netherlands East Indies which will shortly reappear on world markets after being freed of Japanese control.

Explaining that some 40 per cent of the pre-war rubber production of the Dutch East Indies is still available, Dr. Van Voerden said that when the Japanese went into the islands they destroyed most of the big rubber plantations near military bases but left untouched the smaller native plantings, which consist of relative few acres around homes of the natives. Rubber from these plantings will be available much sooner than that from the commercial groves.