



**'YAMS WHAT AM' . . .** That's what Goody Levitan, USES office stenographer, said as she measured the 'champion yam' brought to the Torrance Herald office. She holds a ruler to the winner grown by Oscar Hogberg and in her hand a normal yam. The other, middle sized, yam is the champion for last week grown by Torrance firemen in their garden here. (Torrance Herald photo)

## TORRANCE ARMY HOSPITAL USE AS COUNTY BRANCH UNIT TO BE INVESTIGATED

Torrance Army hospital has been suggested to the County Board of Supervisors as ideally situated to become one of the several branches of the Los Angeles County General hospital now being proposed, it was revealed here this week.

Joined by city officials and civic leaders, Torrance Lions club has urged the county that the hospital should be taken over by the county as soon as it no longer serves the purpose of the United States Army.

Supervisor R. V. Darby is expected to view the quarters in the near future with the view of establishing the army hospital as a county branch unit.

The board of supervisors last week ordered a study of the proposal to establish branches of the Los Angeles County General hospital at strategic points in unincorporated territory throughout the county.

Supervisor Roger W. Jessup made the suggestion as the board was called on to approve an \$80 bill presented by a private ambulance service, Nov. 13. The bill was for a 90-mile round trip in connection with an accident which occurred in San Fernando Valley.

It was pointed out that the branch hospitals not only could serve in an emergency manner but could relieve the overcrowded conditions in the main hospital. Likewise the county facilities in outlying districts would materially solve the transportation problems of many patients, especially indigents who find it difficult to travel to the general hospital from distant points.

The Torrance Army hospital is located in an unincorporated area, and while its buildings are considered as having a life of five years, they are good for 20 years, it is said.

The Army already has indicated that the hospital will be abandoned some time next year. While an effort to have it made a veterans facility has been undertaken, it is not anticipated that this will be accomplished in time to assure continuous operation of the hospital.

**Fern Avenue School Contract Is Awarded**

Contract for the construction of one four-unit classroom building at the Fern Avenue school, 1314 Fern ave., in Torrance, was granted the DeCamp-Hudson Company, Ltd., with its bid of \$46,700, according to the Los Angeles City Board of Education. The architectural section of the school board was authorized to prepare drawings and specifications for the construction of a new classroom building at the Dominguez School, at 21250 Santa Fe ave., for an estimated cost of \$71,000, by the Los Angeles City Board of Education.

**WALTERIA CHRISTMAS**  
Walteria Civic Association was allowed \$75 by the City Council Tuesday night to be used in buying candy, toys and other items to be used at the annual Walteria Christmas party.

## Super Giant Yam Tops Firemen's 'Yam What Am'

Torrance City Firemen went down in defeat as "Yam Champs" as soon as the Torrance Herald of Nov. 15 hit the street.

Laying in wait for someone to present a champion yam was Oscar Hogberg, 21401 So. Vermont ave., a gardener at the Torrance Memorial hospital. The firemen did and then Hogberg came through with his product. Brought to the Herald office, it weighed nine and one-fourth pounds. It measures 25 inches in circumference and is 12 inches in length.

Fireman Robert Moffitt broke down completely when confronted with Hogberg's potato, and withdrew from the "Battle of the Yams" with no statement to make.

Hogberg said the credit for producing the "Champ Yam" went to Mrs. Hogberg who had been nursing it along just waiting for someone to make a claim.

The yam which now has been declared "am not" weighed four and one-half pounds, measuring 10 inches in length and nearly 18 inches in circumference.

## Bus Service To Redondo Is Supported

Torrance Chamber of Commerce has asked the State Railroad Commission to approve any application for certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide bus service between Redondo Beach and Torrance, on condition the service is sufficiently frequent and the fare commensurate with the comparatively short distances involved.

Sunset Stages are believed preparing to install a line to Torrance from Redondo Beach, and the operators have asked for support from this community.

Torrance Municipal Bus lines long have planned a Redondo Beach line, it has been pointed out, and Charles F. Koors, whose attempt to purchase the lines is subject of a lawsuit now pending, also has stated that he intends establishing service to Redondo Beach.

If Sunset Stages is granted a permit to operate to Torrance, it will not prevent the city from running a parallel line, as a municipality can operate bus lines to any point as long as it can show that it is for the convenience of residents of the municipality.

Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the chamber, addressed a letter to the railroad commission endorsing Redondo Beach-Torrance service, and copies of the letter were forwarded to the City Council.

The city last week decided to appeal the decision of the Superior court ordering Torrance to comply with act 5203 in the sale of the bus line to Koors. This act requires a vote of the people on sales of "public utilities." The city alleges the bus line is not a "public utility" but merely "personal property."

## Child Care Centers Here Combined

Due to lowered enrollment, the Los Angeles City Board of Education Monday night recommended the closing of three child care centers, leaving 87 such projects in operation.

To be affected will be the 102nd street center, at 1916 E. 102nd st.; Harbor Hills center, at 347 Harbor Hills, Leimitt; and the Gardena Child Care Center, at 804 W. 163th pl., Gardena.

It was further recommended that effective Dec. 1, the Torrance-Lomita Child Care Center, at 1951 Santa Fe ave., Torrance, be moved into the government building at the Torrance Elementary School, at 2001 Martina ave., which is alleged to be most accessible to most of the parents.

**THEFT REPORTED**

Carl Miller, employee of Columbia Steel, reported to police Nov. 20 that his car had been broken into while parked in the lot across from where he worked. Miller explained that he had discovered the theft between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. He said that \$25 in cash plus a spotlight had been taken.

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## ARGUMENT OVER GENERAL PETROLEUM DELAYS FORMING NORTH TORRANCE WATER PLAN

A group of North Torrance residents who are seeking to have General Petroleum Corporation's vast holdings between 190th and 205th st. included in Municipal Water District No. 2 succeeded Tuesday night in delaying the formation of the district for at least 90 days, perhaps six months.

## Water District Election Set For Jan. 15

Residents of Walteria and Southwest Torrance will vote on Jan. 15 on the formation of Municipal Water District No. 1, the City Council decided Tuesday night.

The council accepted the certificate of sufficiency of signatures on the petitions calling for formation of the district, signed by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, and adopted Ordinance 365 for its first reading.

Also, the council appointed the water engineering firm of Taylor & Taylor to continue on the engineering work incident to forming the district, for a fee of 6 percent of the total cost of the project.

## Planning Body Will Study Bond Issue

The various propositions of the public buildings and improvement bond issue must be approved by the City Planning Commission before they can be brought before the City Council to advise given to the City Council.

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett said that he had received from O'Melveny & Myers, attorneys retained to prepare the bond issue for the ballot, the advice that the council approval of the bond issue provisions is not sufficient to permit grouping them and submitting them as one proposition.

Bartlett said that the firm had advised that the whole program must be adopted as a "city plan" both by the planning body and the council, and while this procedure will entail some delay, it is expected that the advice will be followed.

Contemplated are some \$1,400,000 worth of buildings and improvements.

They include the proposed new fire station, police station, ball park stadium, recreation buildings for central Torrance and Walteria and other improvements.

Considerable street and alley work also is planned.

A conference will be called in the near future between the City Council and the planning commission to consider the proposals.

## Supervisors Seeking Vets Housing Fund

The Board of Supervisors has gone on record in favor of state funds to provide construction costs for temporary housing for war veterans and their families and others in distress.

Action was taken on a resolution presented by Supervisor Leonard J. Roach, who had just returned from a trip to Washington where he conferred with federal authorities on the local housing situation.

Roach's resolution called for a grant or loan from the state which would be repaid by rents and income derived from the project.

It was also provided in the resolution that a meeting of federal, state, county and city agencies interested in housing problems be called to determine the proper authority or agency to operate these temporary housing projects.

It was further directed that copies of the resolution be sent to the governor, to members of the California legislature, congressional representatives from Los Angeles county, official housing agencies in this area, federal, state and local.

**AT DESERT RESORT**  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Jackson, of 1442 Engracia ave., have returned from an enjoyable week-end at 29 Palms.

## Aviation Commission Requested

At the request of Torrance Chamber of Commerce, the City Council will appoint a "Torrance Aviation Commission" of air minded citizens of the community to look after its airport and aviation interests.

A letter from Reed Parkin, president of the Chamber, was read Tuesday night stating that the chamber board of directors had that evening voted to request the formation of the aviation commission.

Parkin's letter declared that the interests of the city in the Torrance Army airport and other prospective airports demanded the attention of a specialized group of air minded men.

Mayor W. H. Tolson suggested that the council meet with the chamber directors soon to decide on the personnel of the commission, and such a meeting will be held in the near future.

## Only Slight Increase In Victory Chest

Only slight increases in Torrance collections for the Victory Chest were registered this week, as Chairman George L. Johnson Tuesday reported a total of \$12,854 for 31 percent of the \$41,000 quota which has been assigned as the Torrance share in the current \$8,042,373 campaign.

Workers in the residential division, headed by Reverend B. H. Linfelter, are continuing their solicitations in an attempt to bring in contributions from every Torrance resident. Volunteers have now brought in funds totaling 127 percent of the amount being asked from the residential district.

Seal Chairman Johnson, "Residential volunteers have done an excellent job, and we are all proud of them. However, the outstanding shortages in the district are in special gifts, and particularly in group plan. What we need is more hard work from the volunteers, and more generous, wholehearted cooperation from those on the giving end."

Funds collected in this campaign return to Torrance residents directly through the Torrance Service Center, and the 85 Community Chest health, welfare, and youth guidance agencies, and indirectly through agencies serving our men still in uniform all over the world.

Contributions in any amounts are being accepted at the local headquarters in the Torrance Service Center, 1339 Post ave.

## Inspection Of Navy Base To Be Monday

An informal but official inspection of the United States Navy Material Redistribution Center in Torrance will be conducted Monday at 10 a. m., with a small group of civic leaders participating, according to Lt. Comdr. Frederick E. Drake Jr. (SC) USNR, officer in charge at the base.

Invited will be Mayor W. H. Tolson and members of the official family of Torrance, Postmaster C. Earl Conner, President Reed H. Parkin, of the Chamber of Commerce, Blaine Walker, secretary, and Grover C. Whyte, publisher and F. S. Selover, city editor of the Torrance Herald.

They will be greeted by Commander Drake and members of his staff who will conduct them on an inspection of the vast 93-acre navy plant.

Two warehouses already have been completed and turned over to the Navy by P. J. Walker Co., contractors, and more than 200 carloads of material already is in storage at the plant. The cafeteria building has been completed and one heavy material and one regular warehouse remain to be finished.

There are more than 150 civilian employees on the base, including a fire department of 12 men and 21 guards. The civilian employees will be increased as the material received increases, it was said.

Commander Drake's staff of 10 officers now is complete, and he announced the replacement of Lt. Comdr. J. P. Moran by Lieut. Edwin G. Hansen, as executive officer.

## DOWNTOWN DISTRICT LOT CLEANUP, SETBACK REMOVAL SUBJECT OF MASS MEETING

Elimination of waste paper and other rubbish on the streets, alleys, and vacant lots in the business section of Torrance, as well as removal of the present ten foot set-back building restriction in the retail C-1 and C-2 zones, will be the topic of general discussion at a meeting to be held early in December.

The decision to hold a general conference, tentatively set for Dec. 4 at the City Hall, was reached Tuesday evening at a meeting of the City Planning Commission and which the officers and directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce attended in a body to urge the elimination of the building setback on alleys in the business section. It was during this discussion that the deplorable condition of the streets, alleys, and vacant lots in the business section, was brought up. We used to pride ourselves on the clean streets and alleys, but we have nothing to boast about now, commented one Chamber director.

Spokesman for the Chamber pointed out that if property owners were permitted to build to the alley line, it would eliminate the areas where rubbish now accumulates and is blown all over the business section. Members of the planning commission pointed out that not all the buildings would extend to the alley line and some areas in the rear of stores would still exist. The suggestion was then made that an ordinance be adopted prohibiting the placing of any rubbish in the alleys or at the rear of buildings in the commercial district. This would require occupants of store buildings to provide facilities for retaining waste products inside their buildings until picked up by the city's trucks.

As this plan would call for the cooperation of all downtown business houses, Chairman Tom McGuire of the Planning Commission suggested that a general meeting of all downtown merchants, property owners, Chamber directors, and members of the Planning Commission be held, which suggestion was approved by all present at the Tuesday evening meeting. It is also planned to have a representative of the County Regional Planning Commission present at the December meeting, for advice on the elimination of the alley setback.

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## R. T. McCallum War Finance Chairman Here

Robert T. McCallum, local businessman, has accepted the chairmanship of the Torrance War Finance Committee, succeeding Hillman R. Lee who has resigned due to press of business.

McCallum is taking over the 8th War Loan drive, known as the Victory Bond drive, as it enters its final stages with only one fourth of the Torrance quota subscribed.

According to figures released yesterday by the postoffice, the Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America the total bond purchases to date in the 8th war loan drive are as follows:

Individuals, \$91,030 against a quota of \$76,000.

Corporations, \$49,000 against a quota of \$30,000.

National Supply Co. reported monthly deductions of approximately \$20,000 from employees, to be added to this total. It is an independent bond issuing agency.

Columbia Steel Co. runs its purchases through the postoffice, it was pointed out, and no breakdown on this figure was available.

McCallum announced that he would rally his committee to the drive at once, and would endeavor to put Torrance over the top in the 8th drive within the next two weeks.

## Taxi Cab Fee Of \$25 Each Is Proposed

Taxi cabs will be required to pay \$25 each annual license under the new ordinance being prepared by City Attorney J. E. McCall, if the recommendations of Chief of Police John Stroth are approved.

McCall said that the ordinance is ready except for fixing of the license fees and he declared that Stroth had recommended \$25 for each cab per year.

Members of the council, however, decided to hold over the adoption of the ordinance pending a conference with Stroth to determine the reason for his recommendation.

Meanwhile, the Yellow Cab Co. of Torrance was granted a permit to erect a temporary office building on its property in the 1600 block on Cabrillo ave., on the promise that within 60 days it will take out a permit for a permanent structure in keeping with the fire zone requirements for that district. While they asked for 60 days, the council granted 90 days in which to take out the permit.

## DON TOWNSEND

Pfc. Don Townsend writes from Sendia, Japan to his mother, Mrs. Billie Townsend, of 2203 Gramercy ave., "Each day it rains more than the day before." Overseas 26 months, Don participated in the Luzon campaign, in the initial landing on D-Day and has served on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Britain and other major Pacific battles.

## Peremptory Writ Served On Council

Copies of the peremptory writ of mandate commanding the City Council of Torrance to proceed according to Act 5203, Deering's General Laws, in sale of the municipal bus lines have been served on the members of the council.

The council has been directed to appear in department No. 34, the Superior court, on Nov. 28 to show how it had complied with the writ.

The appearance of the council will consist of filing of notice of appeal from the decision of the court. Such action was ordered by a majority vote of the City Council on Nov. 13.

The case will be carried to the highest courts, due to the fact that it is "making law" in California, city officials said.

The defense to the action is that the bus department is not a "public utility" but merely consists of "personal property."

While the Superior court holds that the bus line is a public utility, the higher courts will have an opportunity to pass on the dispute, under the appeal.

It was indicated that additional legal aid will be given to City Attorney J. E. McCall on the case, due to the fact that he is going to Washington and due to the additional fact that the case is of sufficient importance to warrant additional counsel.

## Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Am moving to Alaska. Will my No. 18 coupon be good for anything up there? Answer: You bet. Snowshoes.