

# IMPROVED MAIL SERVICE IN CITY INCLUDES NEW RURAL ROUTE FOR NORTH TORRANCE

Long sought and greatly needed changes and improvements in the Torrance postoffice service have been approved by the postoffice Department in Washington, D. C. It was announced this week by C. Earl Conner, Torrance postmaster.

Important among the changes, to be effective Oct. 1, 1947, are the extensions of delivery service to a number of new housing projects, and delivery service extended to portions of North Torrance.

The North Torrance service, formerly handled through the Redondo Beach postoffice, will include rural service from Westside, a westerly on 190th st., Arlington ave., north to 174th st., west to Prairie ave., including service on Yukon ave., south to Skidman drive, west to Bailey drive, south to 182nd st., east to the Coasta dairy, near Crenshaw rd., returning west to Prairie, south to 190th st., and west to Hawthorne blvd., where it will include rural route No. 1. Service in addition to this route will be added as necessary, it was said.

This leaves most of the territory east of Arlington ave. and north of 174th st., and Hawthorne blvd. itself, to service by the Gardena and Redondo Beach offices, it was pointed out.

Residents in the area affected by the new Torrance rural route are being requested to notify their correspondents that after October 1 their mail will be addressed to "Torrance, Calif.," instead of Redondo Beach and Gardena.

Other improvements to be effective Oct. 1, according to Postmaster Conner, are:

- All territory north of Carson st. to Torrance blvd. and between Crenshaw blvd. and Greenwood ave., will be served by city carrier delivery. Part of this district will be by foot carrier and a portion by city mounted carrier.
- The Pueblo tract, that portion of the Shoestring strip not served by city carrier, the Hammett tract, Berendo st., new homes at Moneta and 214th st., Carson st. from Normandie to Avalon, 220th from Avalon to Vermont plus a number of additional districts will be served by the city mounted delivery service.

Postmaster Conner said: "The approval by the Department of the changes to become effective Oct. 1, will be greatly appreciated by a great majority."

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## Post Office In North Torrance Is Sought As Moneta Station Closing

North Torrance residents, having won half of their battle to get the United States mail through the Torrance postoffice and thus speed from two to four days delivery of local mail, are seeking a contract or branch postoffice, it was revealed this week.

The movement, under way for some time, gained new strength when it was announced that the Moneta postoffice may be closed and facilities moved to a point at 15051 So. Arlington ave.

The Moneta office had many patrons from North Torrance, and removal of that office would mean that they would have to travel miles to get to a post-office.

In the efforts to establish a Torrance rural route in North Torrance to take the place of the Gardena and Redondo Beach rural routes, the need for a post-office was stressed.

Redondo Beach's rural route is being virtually abandoned in North Torrance in favor of a Torrance rural route. Little change is made in the Gardena service.

Gardena Postmaster James H. Gates was ordered recently to transfer the Moneta station to 15051 Arlington ave. The Moneta station has been in his jurisdiction, but in view of the establishment of a Torrance rural route in North Torrance, Postmaster C. Earl Conner, of the Torrance office, said that the request of residents for a branch or contract station in North Torrance will be given every consideration.

The transfer may completely end postal service at Moneta, which for half a century had an independent office of its own. Opening near the end of the last century, the Moneta postoffice was an independent station until 1944. As expansion of the Gardena office gradually reduced the duties of the one in Moneta, Postmaster Sid Horrell, after discussing the matter with residents of the area, finally decided to classify the station as a postoffice as good service, and an application for a merger with the Gardena office was approved.

One factor in the department's recent decision to make further reduction to contract status, Gates revealed, was the boost in rent of the present Moneta quarters early this year, from \$27.75 a month to \$75 a month. Following the offer of a West-

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## .3904 Cent Cut In County Tax Rate Ordered

Thousands of taxpayers, whose assessed valuations were not increased by the County Assessor this year, should receive substantial decreases in their tax bills next October.

This should be brought about by the fact that the County tax rate will be cut approximately .3904 on each \$100 assessed valuation.

The County tax rate as submitted to the Board of Supervisors at its regular session on Tuesday by County Auditor Joe Lowery, for the year 1947-48, will be \$1.4987 on each \$100 assessed valuation.

"When I was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors," said Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, "I stated publicly that I would espouse the reduction of taxes insofar as it is compatible with public service and needs, and I am happy to join my colleagues in fulfilling such a pledge for the current fiscal year, 1947-48."

The County Flood Control District rate was cut .0307 cents to .1975, and the public library rate .0005 cents to .0995 cents. The county road fund remains the same at .02 cents.

## Nearby Cities Cut Tax Rate For Municipal Purposes; Gardena Same

Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach are reducing their city tax rates, while Gardena's will remain the same this year, a survey of the nearby districts shows.

The Torrance general rate remains the same, at 99 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, however, and the total is increased 18 cents by the pension fund need.

Hermosa Beach followed in line with the general trend toward local tax reductions as the City Council took preliminary steps toward lowering the city tax rate. By introducing an ordinance setting the rate at \$1.26 for the fiscal year 1947-48, the council thus reduced the current rate 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Of this tax 35 cents will go into the general fund, 15 cents to the music, parks and advertising coffers, 3 cents to pay off bonds for the municipal plant, 7 cents for redemption of sewer bonds, and 5 cents to pay for the new fire equipment, as ordered by the voters at a recent election.

The council also adopted next year's budget, setting estimated total revenues at \$147,917, including police court fines, business licenses and permits of all types, in addition to the tax revenues. This figure is expected to be \$64,334, based on the 95-cent rate for a total assessed valuation of \$7,128,515, less 5 percent to be chalked off for delinquency.

By introducing a city ordinance, Redondo Beach city councilmen took the first step toward reduction of the city tax rate from last year's levy of \$1.80 per \$100 assessed valuation to a new figure of \$1.70—a 10-cent saving on each \$100.

Mrs. Bernice Venable, chairman of the finance committee, said that the 20-cent library tax will continue this year in order to build up a sufficient surplus so the new building in the north district may be constructed.

Gardena's tax rate will stay at 80 cents this year.

Deciding that extra revenue from the higher assessed valuation

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WE TRAIN THEM, OTHERS TAKE THEM . . . Because of poor pay here, several officers have left the Torrance police force and seven have taken examinations for better jobs elsewhere. Half of the officers pictured here, in the recent graduating class of the F. B. I. school held in Torrance over a period of 20 weeks have left or may leave. In uniform: Sgt. Percy Bennett, Capt. Frank Schumacher, T. Deal, who took the California Highway Patrol examination; Capt. Ernest Ashton; Carmel Cook, who took the patrol examination; Willard Barnett, now with the California on the Los Angeles Police department; Alex Thompson; Willard Porter; Larry Benton, fonia Highway Patrol; John Maestri, who took the patrol test; Henry Porter; Jess Holmes, who took the state test; Sgt. William Evans, Capt. G. M. Calder, deceased; Jess Holmes, who took the state test; Swayne Johnson, who took the state examination. In the foreground are F. B. I. agents Skousen, Gouge, Chief of Police John H. Stroh, F. B. I. agents Sullivan and Smith. (Torrance Herald Photo)

## Labor Day To Be Marked Here By Big Celebration

The Labor day holiday in Torrance, Monday Sept. 1, will be observed with the usual closing of stores, banks, public offices and public utility offices.

Torrance postoffice, in line with the federal policy, will close, and there will be no distribution of mail.

The Torrance Herald office will be closed, and due to the summer schedule of Saturday holidays, advertisers and others wishing to assure publication of notices are asked to have them in the office Friday, if possible.

In Torrance the Labor day holiday will be marked with an all-day picnic in Torrance ball park, sponsored by the Lions club and the Moose lodge.

In the evening a Donkey Basketball game will feature the day's celebration, with leading citizens riding "Missouri mules" in a new crazy game. Proceeds will go to charity funds of the Lions and the Moose lodge.

## TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL TO START CLASSES SEPTEMBER 12; REGISTRATION UNDER WAY

Registration for the fall semester is being completed this week at Torrance high school. Miss Harriet Hardy, dean of girls and head counselor has been busy for several weeks programing students. Much to her surprise, the new courses being offered at Torrance this fall are proving most popular. Public speaking,

will be stressed during the third and fourth quarters, as it is used most during this period.

It is felt that if all the students were aware that a new course was being offered in photography, most of them would be making application for this class. The photography class is being taught from the same approach as it is generally taught in trade schools. By the time a student completes this course, he will have a general understanding of the photographic field and will be capable of taking and developing his own pictures.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 2 and 3, the counselor's office at the high school will be open to accommodate any students who have not completed their preliminary enrollment. This is for students who could

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## 30 Days Research Needed For City Retirement Fund Rate Analysis

It will require at least 30 days to compute the earnings of city workers eligible for retirement under the new State Employees Retirement System adopted by the City Council effective July 1, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

The Council has authorized two additional clerks to make the computation which must review the pay received by workers on daily wages for each hour and month for 25 years; or for salary workers on a quarterly, half-month or monthly basis for the same period. This review is to arrive at a wage-deduction rate which will be charged to city employees who participate in the pension plan.

Many employees will be eligible for retirement after they have made one contribution to the plan, probably about Sept. 30, it was said. Those who re-

## Low Wage Rate For Torrance Police Accounts For 60 Per Cent Turnover

Office workers in the Torrance City Hall receive more pay per hour than starting members of the Torrance police force, investigation by the Torrance Herald revealed this week.

As a result patrolmen on the Torrance Police force regard their positions as a means to an end, the end being better paid police jobs elsewhere.

This attitude can be seen in the rate of turn-over in the force during the past year and one-half. Seven men have already quit the Torrance police department to get more money elsewhere. Six more have taken Civil Service examinations for the California Highway patrol.

Those who have quit the department for more money in similar work elsewhere, include Adrian Thornberry, who went to the Los Angeles Police department; Willard Barnett, California Highway patrol; Bob Cosullo, Sheriff's office; C. C. Tolson, private business; Al Hill, private business; Gene Garner, state correctional officer.

Torrance police officers who have taken the Civil Service test for appointment to the California Highway patrol are: J. W. Johnson, Roy Sullivan, Swayne Johnson, John Maestri, Carmel Cook and Lawrence Benton.

According to the Civil Service Commission there are only six applicants for police jobs on the waiting list.

Although the policeman starting out on the Torrance force is paid \$220 per month, the sal-

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## CITY PAYING 75 PERCENT OF MUNICIPAL AIRPORT INCOME FOR MANAGEMENT

E. Y. Tarkington's commissions to manage Torrance Municipal Airport were increased from 15 per cent of the gross income to 75 per cent by the City Council Tuesday night.

The agreement was amended with the understanding that gasoline and oil sales are exempted and that Tarkington pay all expenses, as was provided in the previous agreement entered into originally on May 28.

The effective date of the agreement also was amended to read as of August 4, 1947.

Regular weekly accounts are filed by Tarkington with the City Clerk's office, and he is paid his commissions as they are filed.

The city receives two cents per gallon commission on all sales of gasoline up to 5,000 gallons a month; two and one-half cents a gallon on sales from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons, and three cents above 10,000. The sales, however, do not exceed 5,000 a month at this time.

Tarkington took over the airport on a temporary agreement when right-of-entry to the airport was granted the city on May 28, and later as the War Assets Administration turned complete ownership of the airport over to the city the agreement was made permanent, but subject to cancellation under certain conditions.

The only explanation given by the Council for increasing Tarkington's commissions to 75 per cent was that "Mr. Tarkington is to pay all expenses, including labor, from the 75 per cent." He had been doing that under the previous agreement, although it was not stipulated in the contract.

According to records of the Clerk's office, his earnings since taking over the airport have been as follows:

A net profit of \$1,296.62 has been taken in by the City of Torrance since the initial airport contract went into effect May 28.

From May 28 to Aug. 4, at which time the second contract was placed in effect, a total of \$184.50 was paid the manager on a commission basis of 15 percent on gross receipts amounting to \$1,230 from Aug. 4 to Aug. 26 under the new arrangement whereby 75 percent commission is paid, \$847.50 went to the manager, leaving the city \$382.50.

Sale of gasoline at the airport over the same period netted the city \$127.

Meanwhile, Capt. George Batchelor, of Hermosa Beach, has six big planes on the field which must soon be moved unless hangar space is provided for them, he said.

Capt. Batchelor, in attendance at the Council meeting, declared that he will have to operate from another airport where shelter is available unless he can secure space before the rainy season starts.

He owns four DC-3 28-passenger and cargo planes, has another on lease, and one UC-78, five plane plane.

Capt. Batchelor has contracts with the California Air Freight Forwarders, the Los Angeles Hockey club and other firms for carrying passengers, merchandise and perishable food across the country. He employs 14 men now, all veterans except two, and said that he will have 50 men on his payroll by January 1, if a proper operating setup can be secured.

No indication was given by the City as to whether or not his hangar needs can be cared for.

## State To Make Hawthorne Blvd., 174th St. Primary Highways Soon

The California Highway department on Jan. 1 will take over complete control of two Torrance thoroughfares, 174th st. and Hawthorne blvd., according to word received by City Engineer C. M. Jain.

Both 174th st. and Hawthorne blvd. have been called as primary state highways, and the city has been receiving state funds for their maintenance.

However, after they become primary highways they will be subject to complete state control.

It is the plan of the State Highway department to widen Hawthorne blvd. to 100 feet, in rights-of-way to that end now are being secured. They range at this time from 60 feet to 100 feet, through Torrance, according to Jain.

A 100-foot boulevard is planned for 174th st., which is the extension of Artesia blvd. The projected straight across-to

| Weather Record |         |         |
|----------------|---------|---------|
|                | Maximum | Minimum |
| Aug. 20        | 74      | 57      |
| 21             | 77      | 53      |
| 22             | 77      | 53      |
| 23             | 74      | 47      |
| 24             | 78      | 59      |
| 25             | 78      | 59      |
| 26             | 74      | 59      |

## Catholic Church Buys Lots For Faculty Housing

Purchase of two vacant lots at the corner of Cota ave. and Manuel ave. for the purpose of building a convent, was announced this week by Rev. P. G. McGuinness, pastor of the Holy Family Catholic church.

Originally the church planned to construct the convent on its vacant lot in the same block on the north side of McKinley Ina. It was decided later, however, that the contemplated two-story building will require a larger space.

The building will house a faculty of nine teaching sisters for the Catholic parochial school which will be built on Carson st. between Acacia ave. and Madrid ave in the near future.

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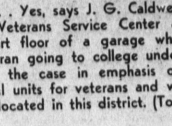
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HOUSING FOR VETERANS? . . . Yes, says J. G. Caldwell, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center as he surveys the mattress on the dirt floor of a garage which is serving as a "home" for a veteran going to college under the G.I. bill. Caldwell pointed out the case in emphasis of the crying need for additional rental units for veterans and workers in Torrance. The "quarters" are located in this district. (Torrance Herald photo).