

UNIFICATION OF SCHOOLS, NEEDED TO LOWER COSTS, DUE TO GROWTH, SAYS WOOD

(Continued from Page 1-A)

will raise approximately \$2,500,000 for the Alondra park campus of the college.

Torrance must retire the balance of the bonds sold by Los Angeles, amounting to \$31,981.07 including interest for this year on elementary bonds, calling for a .0952 rate, and \$15,688.19 on the high school, calling for a .0467 rate, and this must continue until the bonds are retired.

"The school rate seems high," Dr. Wood said, "when all three districts and the bonds are taken into consideration." The rate is \$3.0364.

"However, Torrance City Board of Education has control of but \$1.40 of this rate at the present time, and this reverts back to 90 cents at the end of the year. Unification will mean that the high school rate comes under Torrance Board's jurisdiction and control next year, and the statutory high school rate is 75 cents per \$100.

Assessed valuation figures, plus the very low delinquency rate in tax collection, indicate that Torrance elementary schools will receive approximately \$470,000 this year, on the basis of the assessed valuation of \$53,593,570, although the schools can levy upon only 90 percent of that figure.

The high school tax will produce approximately \$300,000 in Torrance, considering that the delinquency is less than one-half of one percent, it is pointed out.

Tax experts declare that since, on the basis of an estimated 2,700 pupils from kindergarten through high school the combined tax proceeds of some \$770,000 represents a per-pupil cost per year of some \$289, without taking the bonds into consideration, a material decrease in the rate will be possible when unification is accomplished next year.

On the basis of a 2,000 elementary enrollment, the aver-

age cost this year would be \$205 per pupil; on the basis of a 700 high school enrollment, the average high school cost would be \$428 per pupil, based on the assessed valuation and tax figures quoted in the preceding paragraph.

In Los Angeles County last year the average elementary per pupil current expense cost was \$144, some districts quoted being Lawndale, \$86.61; Redondo (elementary) \$119.21; San Marino, \$176.44 and the highest being Beverly Hills, \$219.98.

The average per pupil current expense high school cost in Los Angeles County last year was \$225, with El Monte being low with \$168.60; Covina \$204; Alhambra, \$200; and Beverly Hills again high with \$291.

While Torrance is experiencing tremendous residential growth, meaning more children and more schools necessary, it is anticipated that unification will mean a considerable lowering of costs to the taxpayers. The high per pupil cost for Torrance High School this year is due largely to the fact that Redondo had to reequip the high school, but Redondo will be compensated for much of this expense when it receives its State a.d.a. funds next year.

Industrial growth will add much to the Torrance assessed valuation next year, but while each new home adds about \$1,500 to the assessed valuation of Torrance, the tax revenue from each home would produce only \$45 for schools (even at this year's high rate) while the cost of an average sixth-grader of a school child per home would mean that the schools must spend \$135 (based on the county's average figure last year).

"If taxpayers are to realize the savings to which they are entitled in education, and at the same time build the school district which has been visualized, unification of the schools in January is the only answer," Dr. Wood said.



SINGING SCHOOL KIDS . . . Youngsters from Perry School line up in front of the bus in which they traveled to school last week to serenade with Christmas carols. The 60 children of North Torrance were taught to sing the carols on their way to and from Perry School by Raymond Clark, bus driver, shown at right. (Torrance Herald Photo).



Selected as the Queen of the 59th Annual Tournament of Roses is lovely Virginia Goodhue. Queen Virginia was selected from 3200 candidates attending Pasadena's two City Colleges to represent the Tournament at many world famous events taking place in Pasadena this year.

HOME VISITING TEACHER PUT ON FULL TIME BASIS

Employment of Mrs. Ethel M. Lewis as a full time home visiting teacher at the minimum salary rate of \$2,700 a year was authorized by the Torrance City Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday night.

Mrs. Lewis for three months has been employed on an hourly rate while it was determined whether or not she had a sufficient number of pupils enrolled to make it a full time assignment. The new salary rate will become effective Dec. 7, 1947.

FOREIGN STUDENTS

Foreign students on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California total 222 this semester, an increase of 78 over last fall.

INSECTICIDE LABORATORY

Contracts for a new insecticide laboratory to cost some \$452,000 have been let by the University of California for its Riverside campus.

SINGING BUS DRIVER KEEPS TOTS OCCUPIED

A singing bus driver and his busful of 60 singing pupils made Torrance streets ring with Christmas carols last week.

Housewives would pop incredulous faces from their windwows as the Perry School bus, driven by Raymond L. Clark, 17240 Yukon avenue, rolled by and strains of "The First Noel" and "Joy to the World" reached their ears.

"I started the kids singing the carols about three weeks ago," Clark explained, obviously proud of his group of first to sixth graders which he picks up in North Torrance, every school day.

Clark had the words to favorite Christmas carols printed by the Perry School mimeograph and distributed to the children in the bus. It wasn't long before they could start and finish any carol on the books, he said.

Last week the carolers visited Fern Avenue school for a Christmas serenade. Asked how he kept his passengers in such good order, Clark told the secret as bus driver, singing teacher and pal to the students.

"Every month we hold a big contest," he said, "in which the boys vie against the girls to see which group will be chosen for the best conduct and orderliness in entering and leaving the bus."

"So far the boys and girls have each won once," Clark commented, loading up the bus again which manages to provide safety and fun for all its small passengers.



WRITES CONDUCTED FOR MRS. WRIGHT, W.C.T.U. LEADER

Funeral services for Mrs. Clara Parrish Wright, 86, Woman's Christian Temperance Union leader and former secretary of the organization, who died Tuesday, were held Thursday noon at the chapel of the pines. Cremation followed.

Surviving the temperance leader are her two sons, Owen P. Wright, 9914 Baring Cross street, and Barnes S. Wright, of Palos Verdes.

REDONDO BEACH BLVD. CONSIDERED AS STATE HIGHWAY

Improvement of Redondo Beach boulevard as a State highway is under consideration by State highway officials and the Redondo Beach City Council.

Mayor Charles Wortham indicated today that with voluntary relinquishment by property owners of an additional 20 feet along the highway and the expenditure of \$19,000 of funds already allocated to Redondo Beach, the project can be undertaken shortly after the first of the year. Total cost of the improvement, exclusive of rights of way is estimated at \$619,000.

PEARLS

The oysters which are most likely to contain pearls are those with shells that are irregular in shape, stunted, honey-combed by boring parasites, or covered with abnormal growths.

HONKER GEESSE ARRIVE

Large numbers of honker geese have arrived in Plumas County this week from Indian Valley and the prospects for shooting in the coming season are good.

Farms and homes may be financed by California veterans

through the State Department of Veterans Affairs - up to \$7,500 for a home or \$13,500 for a farm.

'LITTLE GIRL'S DREAM' PLAYHOUSE BUILT HERE

Built of redwood, painted white with red trim and "exactly like a real house," a little girl's dream house 10 by 12 feet has been completed by Mack Hedgecock, 20529 Elliott avenue, and a neighbor, Harry Fulks, 20618 Elliot avenue.

The four-room miniature house is a replica of a real home from the gold lock on the front door to a kitchen sink with running water. It is wired and installed with electric lights, has glass windows, window blinds, base boards made to scale, and floors of hard yellow pine.

Hedgecock and Fulks spent more than 700 man hours working on the playhouse, beginning construction in late October. Curtains in the kitchen and pink and blue bedrooms were made by Mrs. Fulks, while her daughter, Mrs. Al Bennett, 21625 Elliott avenue, made draperies and cushions for a built-in circular couch in the living room. "I got the idea for the play-

house from seeing children playing in the street," Hedgecock said. "It seemed to me that it would be a wonderful thing to keep kids off the street with a playhouse like this one in their backyard."

"Yes, we plan to build more of the houses," Hedgecock said. "but we're offering this one for sale now in hopes that it will make some little girl a wonderful Christmas present."

The kitchen includes a built-in breakfast nook with table and benches. Inlaid linoleum lines the floor and shelves near the sink, which is installed below a mirrored cupboard.

The living room, 82" by 72", is large enough to accommodate a single bed, Hedgecock said. The two bedrooms are separated by a tiny bathroom, complete with frosted glass window. The little white house with its bright green roof can be seen now on a lot next door to the Fulks' home.

TORRANCE HERALD				December 25, 1947				E-A				
STAR GAZER												
By CLAY R. POLLAN												
To develop message for Saturday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.												
ARIES Mar. 22 Apr. 20	1 Be 2 Tendency 3 Not 4 Curb 5 The 6 A 7 To 8 Discreet 9 Don't 10 Impulse 11 If 12 Arguments	40 Finances 41 Luck 42 A 43 Kettle 44 Heart 45 Act 46 In 47 Interest 48 Postpone 49 Fears 50 Isail 51 On	LIBRA Sept. 23 Oct. 23	26-27-33-35 43-50-62	SCORPIO Oct. 24 Nov. 22	13-21-30-37 52-59	SAGITTARIUS Nov. 23 Dec. 22	11-14-29-40 46-64-73	CAPRICORN Dec. 23 Jan. 20	12-15-18-32 36-38	AQUARIUS Jan. 21 Feb. 19	4-5-10-24 31-42-74
TAURUS Apr. 21 May 21	16 Find 17 Good 18 Prove 19 Time 20 Fast 21 To 22 Opportunity 23 To 24 The 25 Calls 26 Watch 27 Expenses 28 Sociability 29 Concerns 30 Work 31 Have 32 Intermarriage 33 Left 34 Confide 35 The 36 And 37 And 38 Regrettable 39 For	52 Regular 53 Unfavorable 54 Beware 55 Impulse 56 Income 57 Of 58 Rivalry 59 Routine 60 Questionable 61 Fear 62 Over 63 Far 64 Sining 65 Reform 66 May 67 Things 68 Reception 69 Work 70 Cool 71 Emotional 72 May 73 Papers 74 Fine 75 Persons 76 Material 77 Troubles 78 Develop	PISCES Feb. 20 Mar. 21	54-57-68-69 71-77	Good Neutral Adverse							

Our greeting to you is short, simple but sincere.

Merry Christmas—
Happy New Year.

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