

Discovery of Mistake 'Ups' City's Growth

Two mistakes, one last year and one this year, "gave" Torrance another \$1,500,000 increase in assessed valuation over percentage figures released last week.

Here's how it happened. Last year the county assessor's office punched a few keys too many in adding up Torrance assessed valuation. The figure released first later turned out to be \$1,500,000 too high. This year the same office used that same erroneous figure and subtracted it from the new or 1951-52 assessed valuation.

PERCENTAGE LOW
This indicated the city had increased in worth approximately \$1,800,000 or nearly four per cent. To budget makers, the City of Torrance and the Torrance Unified school district, this four per cent figure was a bit disappointing. Conservative estimates of the city's new wealth was put at six per cent. However, when it was discovered that the erroneous figure of last year had been used and some additional figuring was done using the correct valuation of last year and the correct valuation this year, it was found that the city has actually increased in valuation by approximately \$3,000,000 or an increase of six per cent.

OVER \$54 MILLION
An unofficial estimate by the County Counsel's office sets the new value of Torrance at \$54,304,130. Actually the figure stands to be even slightly higher when the Board of Equalization now in session, releases valuation figures for public utilities. The \$54,000,000 figure above was arrived at by using last year's public utility figure. To this was added the unsecured property valuation of \$2,413,490. The 1951-52 valuation of the city, less the public utilities and unsecured property, is \$49,495,540.



Letters To The Editor

Treasury Official Hopeful That Publicity Campaign Will Spur Defense Bond Purchases

Editor Torrance Herald
Dear Sir:

One of the highlights of the recent successful "Flag City" campaign was the outstanding cooperation given by the Torrance Herald.

The generous and consistent contribution of space to this important Defense Bond activity was a major factor in achievement of the campaign goal. Please convey to your editorial staff our thanks for personal attention to the publicity phase of the project from its inception to its conclusion.

The Treasury Department is hopeful that a substantial increase in systematic regular purchase of Defense Bonds will result from the campaign in which the Herald so wholeheartedly joined.

Most sincerely,
J. B. Messick
State Director

Salvation Army in Need of More Discards To Carry on Rehabilitation Program

Editor Torrance Herald
Dear Sir:

Every year thousands of homeless, broken, discouraged men are admitted to our Salvation Army Social Centers, and in due course of time are completely rehabilitated and sent out to positions in private industry where they again become useful citizens.

We are happy to tell you that the social service center serving this area has brought many men back from the slough of dependency through its work therapy program. We are in urgent and constant need of an adequate inflow of salvage materials with which to sustain our program of social rehabilitation.

We are deeply grateful to you for your splendid cooperation and generous editorial space given to our appeals to the public for salvage materials.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed)
Brigadier R. D. Gifford
Manager

Editor's Note: Local residents with any salvageable discards are urged to call the YMCA, Torrance 1563, to make an appointment for a Salvation Army Red Shield truck to call for the items.

Residents Seek Slough Closing As 3 Boys Die

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his brother to shore and almost drowned in the attempt. His brother's body was not recovered for nearly two hours after the tragedy.

Rescue operations were under the direction of Fire Captain E. Evans of Los Angeles County Engine No. 36. All six of the boys were colored.

AS SIRENS SCREAM
As sirens were screaming to the rescue a mother of a nine-year-old boy who drowned a week ago only a short distance from Monday's tragedy was appealing to the Board of Supervisors to fill or fence the watery death trap.

Appearing at Supervisor Darby's office with Mrs. Dicie Hurst, mother of Larry Dennis, was Mrs. Angeline Waid, 313 West Carson street.

Mrs. Waid presented the first batch of signatures to a petition asking that something be done to decrease the attraction of the slough before any more deaths occurred.

A spokesman in Darby's office said that the problem was complicated legally.

NOT COUNTY-OWNED
"The slough is not county-owned and we have no legal right to fill it. If the condition were man-made we could poling power which we could

Hope Fades For Tax Drop

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to be hired to staff the four new schools.

BALANCE OUT
These two major increased cost items were mostly offset by a decrease in the amount of payments on the school bonds floated by the local district early in its inception.

Thus the teeter-totter of increased expenses and decreased payments leveled off at a point which can be financed under the present tax rate.

enforce to make the owner abate the hazard. Secondly the slough is a natural water basin and a detailed engineering plan would be required to provide a means of handling the water run-off which pours into the slough. We agree that the district is an attraction to all adventure seeking boys but the problem of ridding the nuisance is almost as difficult as it would be to fence the ocean frontage," the county official said. Meanwhile, Mrs. Hurst who lives at 21601 Moneta avenue wished to thank all those persons who sent flowers and financial help following the loss of her son last week.

"Many of the persons who helped remained anonymous. I have no way of knowing who those kind and understanding persons are. But I wish them to know that my husband and I so deeply appreciate all the kindness shown after we lost our son," Mrs. Hurst said.



BEST DRESSED PET . . . Young Marilyn Johnson and Bozo (who is younger still) walked off with the blue ribbon for the best dressed pet at the Torrance Park Pet Parade held last Friday afternoon. The pair also got another ribbon for the funniest dressed classification.—(Herald Photo).

Grass Called Unsuitable for Play Surface

Adherents of turf and grass as a replacement for the black-top surfacing of L. A. elementary schools received a blow last week in the testimony of Gene Marsolf, turf consultant, before the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Playground Surfacing. Marsolf said in part:

"Because of the fact that grass is a growing plant, it cannot withstand the wear that it receives when used as a surfacing element on playgrounds."

"When the plant is broken it is destroyed and the compaction of the earth by the excessive amount of foot traffic causes the earth to be so hardened that it is not possible to sustain growth of this particular substance."

According to Committee Chairman Henry I. McNeil, of Venice, it was the consensus of opinion of the testifying experts that grass also is not suitable because it becomes slippery when wet, large fibers cause tripping hazards, and there is a need to disinfect with strong, poisonous chemicals to halt weed growth.

Army Ousts City Officials Here

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of the 301st Military Government Group, and his staff during the noon hour as they attended the regular Lions Club meeting. Colonel Shepard, who is principal of the Canoga Park High School, spoke to the members of the club on the functions of a military government.

Other guests included City Manager George W. Stevens and Chief of Police John Stroh.

CHAMBER HELPS
Much of the material used by the Army in setting up the problem in Torrance was supplied by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, according to Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the chamber.

Statistical information about the city, maps, and data about industries and the government

Refrigerator Becomes Stove

The family refrigerator was the hottest spot in the Boyd home at 24345 Lucille avenue last week when fire broke out in the motor. Damage was estimated at \$35.

of Torrance were made available by the chamber to give the officers in charge of the problem the information needed to plan the "occupation."

Sign to Be Red, Blue, and Read

Opportunity is usually heard to knock but Donald Manshaw, director of the Adult School of Education, is making certain local residents see it as well.

Okayed by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night was a neon sign to be erected on a conspicuous spot on the High School. The word "Welcome" will be installed in six-inch red neon—blinking. "Opportunity School—Now in Session" will be four inch blue neon.

The new official name of the state-financed adult program is to be called "Torrance Opportunity School."

School Building Program Hit by Lack of Bidding

Due to a lack of construction bids, the Torrance building program of four new schools bogged down Tuesday night.

Because only one bid was received for each project the Board of Education (following state law) had to reject the single bid received on these four schools: The Riviera Elementary School; the Madrona Avenue Elementary School; and the Crenshaw Boulevard Elementary School.

The Board is planning to re-advertise for bids and is revamping the specifications for the job of rehabilitating bungalows for temporary use at the El Nido and Crenshaw schools.

Government contracts recently awarded to several of the contractors engaged in pre-cast concrete construction (the type to be used for the Riviera and Madrona schools) was believed the reason for the lack of competition in the bidding for those two schools.

The Board is going to call for new construction and sewer installation bids on the El Nido and Crenshaw schools but will move the bungalows by district personnel.

The new bids will be opened on July 27 for the El Nido-Crenshaw job while the Riviera-Madrona job will be opened August 30.

Civic Organization To Hear Scout Leader

E. A. "Bud" Green, Boy Scout executive, will discuss the function of Cub Scouts at a regular meeting of the Shoestring Community Association next Tuesday evening, according to H. T. Under, president of the organization. Meetings are held at the Nazarene church at Denker avenue and Carson street.

Landscape Planner In Mystery Move

Some garden enthusiast with a sticky green thumb helped himself to part of the shrubbery planted around the new YMCA building at Carson street and Plaza Del Amo, Casper Clemmer of the city park department told Torrance Police this week.

'Bed-Check Charlie' Saga Told

Local Airmen Meet Near Korea Front

Two old pals have met accidentally near the front in Korea and it is partly through the efforts of one that "Bed-Check Charlie," a troublesome Chinese bombing plane, has been sent to its final Oriental resting place.

The role played by Staff Sergeant Ben Gardiner, 2365 Pacific Coast highway, in the demise of "Charlie" was outlined this week in a letter received by his father, Norman Gardiner, 25843 Lucille street.

Author of the correspondence is Capt. R. L. Whitely, of Walteria and lately of the 5th Air Force Headquarters in Korea, who tells of the accidental meeting of the two old friends at Taegu.

"There he was, big as life—that big, beautiful hunk of a man, your son, Ben." It was the first time that Capt. Whitely had seen a home town friend overseas.



REUNION . . . Capt. Robert L. Whitely, left, and S/Sgt. Ben Gardiner swap tales in Korea.

"Ben was only here one day, then they rushed him up to Seoul to put some 30-caliber machine guns on a training plane." The "guns were to seal the doom of "Charlie," who was persistent in unloading 100-pound bombs every night over the headquarters in Seoul.

"Our jets are too fast and can't touch him. He doesn't do too much damage but he keeps you awake all night. So it's up to Ben to rig the AT-6 ship into a fighter plane.

(Success of the operation was contained last week in a dispatch from the front with the news of the end of "Bed-Check Charlie.")

Capt. Whitely, a flyer, says that he had already put in 50 missions by last Christmas and "expects to do 50 more before long."

Both of the local airmen were sent overseas at about the same time nearly a year ago and expect to get back home together. Sgt. Gardiner, an armament inspector attached to the 5th Air Force Headquarters unit, has his wife, Mary, and small son living in Lomita.

Pair Dumped from Bike When Drive Chain Snaps

Two motorbike riders suffered painful road burns when the drive chain of their cycle broke and locked a wheel at 20th and Western Avenue this week. Taking the spill were Henry W. Crowsley, of 21422 South Denker avenue, and Lakin Ramey, of Redondo Beach.

3 Cars Collide At Refinery Fire

A Rolling Hills man, F. A. Scheibe, 54, of 12 Williamsburg lane, suffered minor injuries last week when three cars piled up in heavy traffic at the entrance to the burning Union Oil Co. refinery. Scheibe was driving a middle car.

Strictly Personal

SEASIDE HEIGHTS

Nelle and Ray Hole are leaving on Sunday to spend a week in Sequoia National Park and other points of interest in the High Sierras. Sounds like a nice way to spend a vacation.

Los Cancioneros, Las Vecinas sponsored choral group, will celebrate its second birthday this week. Birthday cake and coffee will be served to members after the regular business meeting.

Barbara Mabin has been busy this summer attending choral conducting and instructing classes at USC. This instruction is part of the scholarship won by Barbara as a county-wide choral contest earlier this year.

WALTERIA

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Riggs, Park street, returned Sunday from a vacation in Arkansas. They reported that they found several highways closed from the heavy flood waters, but did not have too much difficulty reaching home. Altogether, they reported the trip well worth while, and had a wonderful time.

Little Ray Ward Jr., son of Mrs. Lydia Ward, Adolph street, has had a siege of measles. Get well soon, Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk, Pacific Coast highway, returned Sunday, July 15, from a three day trip to Yucalapa where they visited old friends. Mr. and Mrs. Jay Crawford, former residents on Neece avenue here in Walteria. They reported a very restful trip.

Also taking a trip were Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Gordon and family of the Gordon's Market on Pacific Coast Highway. They spent almost all of last week on a trip to Big Pine in the High Sierras. Jack Brown, Park street, helped take care of the market while the Gordons were vacationing.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson, Ward street have recently returned from a vacation during

which they spent a week at Big Bear. "Bill" is now back on the job—resting up.

Mrs. Marguerite Sanders went on a trip to San Francisco last week where she visited her husband, Gilbert. He is stationed there with the U.S. Navy.

RANCHO-RIVIERA

And of Scouts and Scouting: Boy Scout Troop No. 726 held their second Court of Honor at El Retiro, last Thursday night. It was a very fine meet and many more of our local boys became Tenderfoot Scouts. Also two Oregonians, visitors and nephews of Mr. and Mrs. E. Ryckman, were made honorary members of the troop. They are Gerald Little, 16, and Gordon Little, 12, of Oswego. The troop was presented with its charter that night.

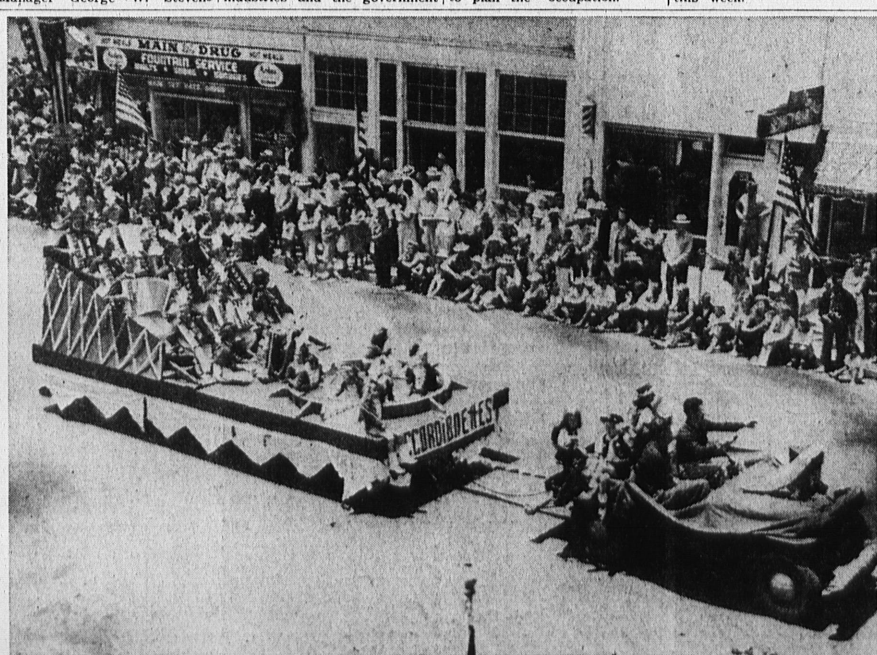
Mr. William Keane, one of our newer residents, of Vanderhill road, received a super special birthday present on July 6. His wife, Gloria, presented him with a 7-pound, 15 oz. baby girl! They named her Erin Therese for her true Irish ancestry.

A belated happy birthday to little Jerry Wilderson of Binde-wald, who was 3 years old July 10th and had a wonderful party to celebrate the event.

Also, July 14th rang merrily to the voices of guests of Dennis Dahlman, now 7, in acknowledging his birthday. Present were Larry and Billy Gunther, Danny Lawson, Eddie Ross, Bobbie Hutton, and others of Vanderhill who just "dropped in" to say Happy Birthday.

Doris Herbst, also of Vanderhill, is still glowing from what she calls her "Remembered Week-end." Free of hubby, four kiddies, dishes, meals, etc., she visited friends in Santa Monica and simply led the life of ease and luxury.

Mrs. Leopold Rock of Vanderhill road has really been ill with bronchial pneumonia. We understand she is recovering now and every one wishes her Godspeed.



BLUE RIBBON WINNERS . . . Strumming as they ride to first prize in the Orange County 47th Annual 4th of July Parade and Celebration are Torrance's own group of Accordionettes from the Betty Thomas Studio. The musical group brought home a blue ribbon trophy for winning first prize in the Independence Day Celebration.—Seth F. Shenton Photo