

Gas Users Face 18% Hike in Local Rates

Gas users in Torrance can expect an increase of around 71 cents a month in their gas bills if the proposed increase requested by Southern California Gas Company is granted by the Public Utilities Commission.

P. W. Walters, gas company division manager, stated yesterday that the proposed overall average increase for the general service customer, under rate schedules applicable here, would amount to about 18%. On a yearly basis, this would add about \$8.50 on the average to the bills of some 7850 customers in Torrance. The average monthly increase, thus, would be about 71 cents or about three cents a day.

Act To Buy Four New Torrance School Sites

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Three Men Held On Sex Charges

One man is scheduled to appear before City Judge Otto B. Willett on charges of child molesting and two others were held to answer to statutory rape charges in the city court last week.

Held to answer charges of statutory rape involving a 12-year-old Torrance girl was a 37-year-old Lomita father who appeared before City Judge Otto B. Willett last week.

To be arraigned in Long Beach Superior Court September 8 is Robert D. Crean, of 25217 Pennsylvania avenue. He was arrested recently after the mother of the young girl signed a complaint for Torrance police. Detective Sergeant Percy Bennett made the arrest.

Also held for arraignment at the same time was 19-year-old Robert Lopez, a sailor stationed with the U. S. Navy at Terminal Island. He was arrested near Perry School August 14 by Officers Larry Benton and Bob Lewis when he was found nude with a 15-year-old Lomita girl. He was released on \$500 bail and immediately apprehended by the Navy on charge of being AWOL. He will make his plea to one count of statutory rape on September 6. Meanwhile Frank Sciarrotta,

'Urban Bill Not Dead'; Thomas

The rumor that the controversial Assembly Bill 3217, the urban service bill, was "dead" for at least another two years, was spiked here this week by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

Hearings by an Assembly interim committee, of which Thomas is a member, are scheduled to start in about two weeks at the state building in downtown Los Angeles.

A sigh of relief was heaved in Lomita and other nearby counties areas when the proposal was blocked in the Senate at the last session and most of the citizenry thought that the bill, which may raise Lomita taxes up to \$1 per \$100 of assessed valuation, was dead for at least two years.

Not so, says Thomas. The measure is a revenue type and could be passed next March when the Legislature holds its budget session.

Furthermore, the Assembly committee must finish its investigation and make its report by March 15—in time for the possible passage.

The port assemblyman said that in his opinion all of Lomita would be classified as "urban property" under the measure. This would subject all local

(Continued on Page 2)

Says Midget Plane Pilot

Didn't Win Too Much But We Learned a Lot

Midget Racer Pilot Bob Fieger was back from the National Air Races this week, a little richer and a lot wiser.

"We didn't set any money-winning records," said the Torrance Municipal Airport flight instructor, "but we sure learned a lot."

The "we" he spoke of included Paul Schupp, North American Aviation designer, who built the pint-sized "Mr. Zip," which Fieger flew in the races in Detroit during the past weekend.

"Mr. Zip" chalked up the fastest qualifying time in history for any ship entering the races for the first time. Three years ago the time would have won the race. "Times have changed," said the local flying instructor. Fieger, owner-operator of the Eagle Aviation Service at the local flight strip, said the ship's qualifying speed of 176.96 m.p.h. earned the plane's backers enough money to pay for the trip, an engine overhaul and "a little left over." The races was eliminated in the semifinals of the four days of midget racing, during the air races.

"We're going back next year and will be giving those other fly boys a real race for their

(Continued on Page 2)



MOVIE STARS FROM JAPAN... Umeji Tsukioka, 27, (left) and her sister, Shiki, 24, both motion picture stars in Japan, made a personal appearance at the Grand Theatre Tuesday night following the showing of two pictures in which they starred. (Herald photo).

Sister Japanese Movie Queens Praise America

Two of Japan's loveliest movie stars visited Torrance this week and handed out compliments as graciously as they accepted them.

Making a personal appearance following the showing of two films at the Grand Theatre Tuesday night, in which each was the star, were the Tsukioka sisters, Umeji, 27, and Shiki, 24.

The two movie favorites of the Orient are making a six-week personal appearance tour in the United States.

"What have you found about your trip 'that you like the most'?" we asked the girls.

"The United States," was their reply.

"What don't you like about your trip?" we asked again.

"Leaving the United States."

Of 19th Division: Former School Head Nominated Kiwanis Leader

Nominated as the sole candidate for Lt. Governor of the 19th Division of the California-Nevada District of Kiwanis Clubs Monday night was Dr. Howard A. Wood, past president of the Torrance service club.

Dr. Wood, also a past president of the Torrance Board of Education, is virtually assured of election since the clubs in the district usually accept the recommendation of the nominating caucus and consider the nominations closed.

He was nominated by Parke Montague, president of the Torrance club, and Mayor Bob L. Haggard, a past president of the Torrance club at a meeting of the clubs comprising the 19th Division held in Inglewood. The elections will be held in San Diego in October during the California-Nevada District Convention.

Dr. Wood would be next in line to head the 19th District which is comprised of Kiwanis clubs from Torrance, Lomita, San Pedro, Wilmington, Hermosa Beach, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, South West Los Angeles, and Westchester.

'Buy 'Em or Condem 'Em' Board Says

Authority to start acquiring the title to four proposed school sites for new elementary schools was granted to district officials Tuesday night by the Board of Education.

A recent "hardship" grant from the federal government for \$132,000 will be used to purchase the new sites, according to district officials.

"We had better buy the sites now, when we can get them for a song instead of waiting until we need them and have to pay a whole symphony for them," said Judge John A. Shidler, board president.

Commenting on the Deitrick site on which a new school for the Kettler Knolls section will eventually be constructed, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, stated that the district expects to gain title to the land within the next 30 days. The site is located west of Arlington avenue between 235th and 238th streets.

Locations for the four proposed elementary schools which the district will act to acquire are as follows:

- Two in North Torrance: 1. Between Yukon avenue and Glenburn avenue between 171st and 168th streets. 2. Northwest corner of 178th street and Arlington avenue.
 - Two in South Torrance: 1. West of Hawthorne boulevard by 130 feet between 230th street and what would be Lomita boulevard if it were cut through. Ocean avenue would be the western boundary. 2. On the Western ranch property south of Pacific Coast and east of the proposed extension of Crenshaw boulevard.
- The board granted authority to district officials to contact owners of the land regarding purchase price and if replies are not reasonably prompt, to proceed with condemnation proceedings for the new sites.

Escobar Plea Due Today in Superior Court

Arraignment of 19-year-old Tony Escobar on charge of attempted robbery and escaping custody scheduled for last Monday morning in the Long Beach Superior Court was postponed until today according to Attorney Charles E. Mewborn, who is representing Escobar.

Mewborn said the postponement was made when the district attorney assigned to the case asked for more time to study the charges. The district attorney said he had been out of town and had not become acquainted with the case.

Escobar will be arraigned this morning in Department A of the Long Beach Superior Court. Judge Thomas Malby will hear his plea.

He is charged with attempting to hold up a service station at Pacific Coast Highway and Hawthorne boulevard late Saturday night, July 21, and a few hours later leaping the booking counter and escaping from the Torrance jail. He was recaptured after a week's freedom.

Any interested citizen is invited to attend either or both nights of the hearing. The \$962,402 figure includes the operating budget and the public improvement fund and capital outlay funds, Stevens said.

LOOK, NO WHEELS!... After watching the ball game at the Torrance City Park Tuesday night, Garvis Bureson, 21320 South Western avenue, dropped his pickup truck into gear, gave it the gas, and went nowhere. Stepping out to investigate the trouble he discovered the revolting development pictured above. Both rear wheels had been stolen and the truck left up on the jack. (Herald photo).

Chest Goal Up 24 Per Cent Over Last Year

Torrance Community Chest leaders Tuesday set their sights on a tentative goal of \$29,110 for the city's 1951-52 Red Feather campaign.

This figure, nearly a 24 per cent increase over last year, will be sent to Area Chairman Noble White as Torrance's suggested part of the overall harbor area quota.

The city campaign, directed by Chairman Jack Dabbs, will be called on for \$12,020. The remainder of the amount will come under the major commerce and industry division, which is handled on an area-wide basis.

Funds raised by the major commerce and industry division, which handles solicitations in the largest business, are credited to the area in which they are raised.

Torrance leaders voted to set the city quota nearly 16 per cent higher than last year. The campaign in 1950 raised \$10,158. This year \$1832 more will be needed.

Chairman Dabbs seemed confident that Torrance would meet the increased goal. His sentiments were echoed by his volunteer staff.

Biggest increase for this year will fall in the commerce and industry unit, chairmanned by Sam Levy. This unit had its quota increased \$929 from last year's production of \$4281 to a tentative \$5210.

Also receiving a substantial increase in the tentative quota was the Public Employees Division. Last year this unit raised \$1065. This year it will be called on for \$1480.

Other tentative unit quotas are: residential, \$2170; business, \$1435; advance gifts, \$1725.

This year the Los Angeles area campaign is being called upon to raise extra funds for the United Defense Fund, which supplies money for the USO and other needs brought about by the Korean war.

The Torrance quota was tentatively determined by Dabbs, Levy, Robert Haggard, Dean Sears, Paul Diamond, Don Armstrong and George Stevens. Absent from the meeting, held at the Community Chest Service Center at 1103 Sartori avenue, were Mrs. B. T. Whitney, Dr. J. H. Hull and Dick Miller, all chairmen of Chest campaign committee.

Another Member Joins Van Dyck's Youth Band

James Van Dyck, director of the Torrance Area Youth Band, is really tootin' his horn this week.

The tune he's playing is "Yes Sir, That's My Baby."

She, Rebecca Laraine, weighed in at 7 pounds, 14 ounces on August 16 at the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The band director and his wife, Virginia, have three other future horn tooters, Ronald 6, Deborah 4 and Teresa 2.

Pacific Hills Street Light Drive Stalled

A current drive for street lights in the large Pacific Hills area is stalled through an apparent lack of interest in the project, according to Mrs. Don Menger, secretary of the Home Owners Association.

Price of the installation will run about \$15 per lot in the 430-home district, it has been estimated. Nearly 100 per cent participation by the residents is needed.

Home owners who have not been contacted are asked to call Mrs. Menger at Lomita 153-J to get the campaign rolling again. "I believe that the majority of the residents want the street lights," she stated.

Next meeting of the active civic group will take place Sept.

Police Captain 'Fair' After Major Surgery

Reported in "fair" condition yesterday at a Long Beach hospital following a major operation was Frank J. Schumacher, 57-year-old Torrance police captain.

Captain Schumacher underwent surgery at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach Tuesday. He was on the operating table for five hours, members of the Torrance police were told. The captain lives at 1313 Cota avenue.

Youngsters' Rides Will Be Featured

Rides for the youngsters will be featured Aug. 25 and 26 at Ayalon-Sepulveda Park, 23410 Catskill avenue, during the area's community carnival. The amusements will be open Aug. 25 from 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Aug. 26 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



BIG PUSH... Soldiers in Torrance's 578th Engineer Battalion push multi-toned Bailey bridge across Japanese canal and into place during 40th Infantry Division field maneuvers on Japan's Honshu Island. The outfit constructed bridge recently while on three-day bivouac. Man at extreme left is a sergeant—no doubt! (U. S. Army photo).