## EDITORIALS

#### Re-elected on Record

Re-elected on Kecord

Re-election of Paul D. Loranger as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce was indicated because of his outstanding record during the last year. Men of Mr. Loranger's stature are needed for important community positions, although service of this type often imposes unfair additional responsibility on already busy men.

Civic leaders long experienced in Chamber of Commerce affairs succeeded in convincing Mr. Loranger that his ability and experience are needed during 1955, a year that might well be one of the most important and progressive in the history of Torrance. His acceptance of a second term was reluctant and came only after a pledge from the directors that they would assist him in every way.

There is no more important organization in Torrance than the Chamber of Commerce. It should co-ordinate and help guide every activity intended to improve or enhance every worthwhile civic asset this great community enjoys. Sound leadership is a must and Torrance has it in Mr. Loranger for another year.

Loranger for another year.

#### Ben Franklin, American

Printing week, January 16-22, sponsored by the Printing Industry of America and allied typographical organizations, is appropriately timed to usher in the birthday of Benjamin Franklin. Its special purpose is: "to bring more forcibly to the youth of America in the nation's schools the

forcibly to the youth of America in the nation's schools the democratic principles and wisdom of Benjamin Franklin."
Franklin will always be one of the most popular of Americans, largely because he exemplified individualism—a philosophy particularly appealing to the minds and hearts of our people. He was the spiritual ancestor of a whole line of horse-sense philosophers such as Mark Twain and Will Rogers. Franklin was always ready with commonsense answers to all sorts of problems. And everybody loved him for it.

answers to all sorts of problems. And everybody loved him for it.

They loved him all the more because he did not always practice what he preached. He was no goody-goody stuffed shirt sitting in an ivory tower. He was sometimes lazy, proud, impatient, and loved a good drink, good food, and a good time. That made him one of the boys, even as you and I.

Perhaps more than any other person, Ben Franklin was responsible for the establishment of our United States of America. His eloquent voice kindled the fires of independence that finally crystalized into the new democratic republic.

Always the champion of freedom and of the rights of underprivileged, Franklin's utterances were leavened

the underprivileged, Franklin's utterances were leavened with fairness, impartiality and commonsense.

They say that Ben Franklin died in 1790, but he is more alive today than ever. If you stroll through your own community, you will pass one of the finest public schools named in his honor. Not far ayay, a public library reminds us that Franklin established the first public library in America. The nearby fire-station brings to mind the first volunteer fire company which Ben Franklin organized and equipped. When we put on our bifocals (which Franklin invented) and read the Torrance Herald, we offer silent tribute to Franklin, the master printer and pioneer newspaper publisher, our wisest down-to-earth philosopher, and paper publisher, our wisest down-to-earth philosopher, and foremost all-round American.

## THE MAIL BOX

#### Laundry Beats Mud

Editor Torrance Herald,

regarding a man who was up-set by clothes on lines. At first my attitude was amuse-ment, however, in the mean-time. I have come to the con-clusion that a disappointment in the property you have pur-chased can be a very real thing.

chased can be withing.

Perhaps you will let me relate my disappointment. One year ago this month we received the keys to our new home. No two people were ever more proud or happy. While making arrangements to buy our home it was explained to us that there would be an elementary school

ments to buy our home it was explained to us that there would be an elementary school built on the large field behind us.

During the year we have spent much on putting every improvement into our home. Most week ends we also spent in hard labor putting in flower beds, lawns, etc. Suddenly a few weeks ago, heavy equipment came into the field and they began piling up dirt to our amazement. The mud well behind our house is now '12 feet high and still climbing. When you stand in our yard now, instead of a view of the hills, you are standing in a hole. Can you imagine what this has done to the value of our home?

This though is not the

this has done to the value of our home?
This, though, is not the worst. During the rain the most of the worst. During the rain the mud from this embankment poured down through our lawns. We and three of our neighbors have literally become the gutter for this horrible mound that has already destroyed the value of our property. Four back yards are completely destroyed. Mine is covered with four inches of mud. The water rushed through so hard at one point that the brick planters were actually undermined. The rose

What can people do when a year's expense and labor are washed away—all because someone needed a place to get rid of dirt? We in Ellinwood are a group of new home owners who felt Torrance would be an ideal community to live in. I'm wondering if we

MRS. CHARLES D. PEEBLES 4938 Pacific Coast Hwy.

#### 'We Want Barricades'

Editor, Torrance Herald:

We Want Darricaces
Editor, Torrance Herald:
The Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. wishes to correct the misapprehension that the association is not representative of the residents of Hollywood Riviera; and particularly that the association's resolution in favor of maintaining the barricades between Hollywood Riviera and Palos Verdes does not represent the majority opinion in Hollywood Riviera.

Please be advised that membership in the association is open to any resident, that dues are \$2 per year per couple, and that the barricade question was advertised before the November meeting in newspapers and by a sound truck which covered the entire area, And please be advised that over 120 residents of Hollywood Riviera attended the November meeting, that all persons present at the meeting were permitted to vote, and that only 7 out of over 120 voted against the resolution that the barricades should be maintained.

Until or unless some organization of Hollywood Riviera residents, with a membership as large as the Hollywood Riviera residents, with a membership as large as the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Assn. passes a resolution against main

Indian Rope Trick



## AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

As we enter the new year, it is the opinion of this reporter—that—the Number 1 problem facing the 84th Congress, the White House and the nation is . . . . the 942 Americans still known to be in Community. Chinese prisons 

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold is opening me gotiations this week in Pelping with China's premier, Chou En-lai, for the specific release of 11 U.S. airmen, recently sentenced by Communist China on phony charges of "espionage." We believe that progress will be made, and in all probability China will blackmail us for their release, just as other Communist countries have done in the past. China holds several "blackmail-cards" . her \$130,000,000 frozen assets in the U.S. . the 35 Chinese students denied exit permits . . certain strategic materials purchased by China before the Korean war, but not delivered, etc. . . and most important, a seat in the UN and the present psychological propagnda effect of Communist China's stand against powerful U.S. among millions in Indo-China. Formosa and Southeast Asia, who are more easily "persuaded" by such a show of power than by U.S. propagnada.

Be as it may, this United Nations appeal for the release

ganda.

Be as it may, this United
Nations appeal for the release
of only 11 Americans (to say
nothing of the other two U.S.
civilians sentenced), without
taking into account the 942
other American prisoners, is
contrary to the spirit of the
UN charter and a flagrant in-

a minority of the residents wish the barricades to remain.

Because of the fact that you have published statements that only a minority of Hollywood Riviera residents wish the barricades to remain. We respectfully request that you print this letter in its entirety.

Hollywood Riviera Homeown

GENE VOORHEES Corr. Secy., Pro Tem Hollywood Riviera

By JOHN MORLEY
justice to the American prisoners involved. The Department of Defense informed the
press in Korea, from week to
week, during and after the
armistice, which I covered
at Panmunjom, July 27, 1953,
that "several thousand U.S.
prisoners were still unaccounted for and known to be alive."
This list was "revised" several

times downward from 1000 to 134.

A A A

UN Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge has been using the 942 figure in several protests before the UN without results. The Department of Defense has never denied the existence of "additional Prisoners".

but apparently nothing concrete has been accomplished toward their release since the Korean armistice in July, 1963.

Red China's Chou has already informed Hammarskjold: "There is no justification at all for the United Nations to interfere... and no amount of clamor on the part of the U.S. can shake China's own soverign rights." These sare bargaining words, not a rejection. If Chou had no intention of bargaining, he could have sentenced or executed these U.S. airmen, with out comment from Pelping. It is apparent that Chou is going to barter for these prisoners and probably, from time to time, about other prisoners known to be in Chinese prisons.

A A A

In Korea we heard such names as Lieutenant Harold Holmes of Provo, Ulah—rivate Ez A, Davis, Marion, Indiana... Corporal Robert Fleeher, Manchester, New Hampshire... Private Anselmo Zamara, New Braunfels, Texas, etc., from Defense Department list of "several thousand" unaccounted for prisoners. What happened to this more than the parameter of the American uniform to fight in a war sanctioned by America, even before the UN acted on June 27, 1850. 

These people want the United Nations to act in behalf of out American prisoners. The UN can if it will ... but until this protest on the 11 U.S. airmen, the UN refused to take any action, Most of the members of the UN are talking about trade with Red China and getting rid of Chiang Kai-shek on Formosa. Trade and U.S. prisoners evidently don't mix. Hence the soft pedaling on the U.S. prisoners errors. Clement Attlee came back from Peiping with glowing reports of "progress in China" and future trade.

\* \* \*



Are you a safe driver? Then you're invited to join 1,800,000 motorists who PAY LESS for their insurance and GET MORE, through the Farmers Insurance Group.

And - if you can say this: I HAVE NOT REPORTED A CLAIM ON MY CAR FOR THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- then you will receive an additional 10% Discon your entire auto insurance premium.

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP 2516 Torrance Blvd. FA 8-1066

# Council Facing Major Decision On Offers to Annex Hills Area

What immediate effect build the annexation of near-7000 acres to the City of orrance have upon the tax-

payers?
This is the \$64 question which-city-fathers and officials must canswer before they can nod approval to or turn thumbs down on the gigantic proposal recently made by noiders of land in the Palos Verdes Hills.

Noticers of land in the Paus Verdes Hills.

Perhaps in no other time in the brief history of this city have the elected members of the council had such a decision to make—a decision that virtually could make Torrance "the" city in Southern California, or an unwield, yo cotopus-like community, too big for its proverbial britches.

☆ ☆ **☆** 

Offered for annexation to Torrance by the owners of the vast holdings, the Rancho Palos Verdes Corp. the Capitol Co., a subsidiary of the Bank of America, and the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. is, all of the uninhabited property in the Palos Verdes Hills-Sections of Rolling Hills, Miraleste, Palos Verdes Estates, and the outlying residential areas along the various Palos Verdes drives, and the protuguese Bend area are not included in the annexation.

Only residential property

not included in the annexation.

Only residential property which has been considered is the Portuguese Bend Club grea. an exclusive beach community of 88 homes and a private club house. Ho me shere are built on property leased from the Rancho Palos Veders Corp.

Inclusion of this property into city limits of Torrance would make Torrance a city of nearly 30 square miles, much greater in area than Long Beach, Pasadena, Santa Monica or the other "big" cities.

X X X

On the "lone-range" pic-

cities.

\*\* \* \* \* \*

On the "long-range" picture, most civic authorities are agreed that the hill property would be a considerable asset to, Torrance. It would give the city a fine, suburban residential area, and allow expansion of the city's facilities to the Pacific Ocean.

It would put Torrance in the top bracket as a nice place to live, and would help to attract more mercantile and business establishments to the Bay area.

But what will the immediate effect have on the tax payers of this city?

Although no precise dollars-and-cents figures can be presented until surveys being conducted by the Rancho Palos Verdes Corp, are complete, certain facts pertaining to any annexation are evident.

The corporation is planning a considerable residential and

habited territory, the brush and grass-covered hills offer a constant threat of fire. Any little blaze not receiving immediate action by proper fire-fighting equipment could spread into a major, conflagration within minutes.

Once burning, a fire could easily move into the large residential areas which virtually encompass the vacant property.

Now protected by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the land is considered valuable watershed area and the vegetative growth prevents the winter rains from bringing the soil down onto the roads of Lomita and south Torrance.

Fire Chief J. J. Benner, who favors the samexation from said that "any annexation means an immediate drain on my department.

Bricklief J. Benner, who favors the samexation from the "elong-range viewpoint." has said that "any annexation means an immediate drain on my department.

Promother of the receiving immediate drain on my department would be required to have particulated to the proposed of the proposed of

ate drain on my department.

"From the minute the council approves adding any territory to Torrance, my department must extend fire protection to that area—vacant land or inhabited property," Benner said.

A A A

The problem here, it seems, is that the removal of any fire-fighting equipment from the city to the hill area could present a problem for protection of the present homes within the city.

Dispatchers for the County Fire Department now sen of fire trucks from Rolling Hills, Miraleste, and Lomita into the area as soon as report of any fire is received.

This "first alarm assignment," as they call it, also includes the rolling of a small pick-up fire truck, and four fire engines to "cover" the stations which are taking care of the fire.

The County Fire Department no every fire alarm in the present county hill area than is available in all fire stations of the City of Torrance.

Once brought into the city, the county could not roll fire equipment into the area unless a major fire threatened the inhabited areas.

4 4 4

So it boils down to this:
Will the homeowners and industrial firms of Torrance be left with less than a minimum of fire protection if fire trucks are pulled into the hilly area, should annexation be approved by the city, and should a fire start in the brushy hills?

Mutual ald agreements, contracts made between this city and there, and this city and the county, provide that other agencies will furnish fire equipment in the event of a large fire. A major conflagration in the new Torrance area would, of course, be a disaster, and county equipment would assist under the Mutual Ald pact.

But, Deputy County Fire Chief John Duncan sald that all mutual ald agreements are mere stipulations that if equipment is available, it will be furnished to other jurisdictions.

"The Mutual Ald programis much neglected," Duncan is much neglected," Duncan

be furnished to other jurisdictions.

"The Mutual Ald program is much neglected," Duncan said. "Every time a city has a fire it cannot and should not expect the taxpayers of other agencies to provide fire protection for them. Mutual aid is for disaster situations."

County fire equipment and personnel are supported by taxpayers residing in the fire protection districts, and not by the public at large.

Purchase of addittonal fire equipment, suitably equipped with large water tanks and other specialized brush fire-

righting equipment, probably would be necessary to augment the Torrance Fire Department, should the area be annexed, Additional personnel to man this equipment also would be a necessity.

\* \* \*

W H H

Until revenue from the new
area is forthcoming, until
homes are constructed and
on the tax rolls, the area
could be a drain on the bankroll and the facilities of the
City of Torrance.
City fathers now must decide whether the future of
Torrance will be brighter with
the addition of nearly 10
square miles of choice land,
or whether the new area
would seriously drain the life
blood out of every Torrance
department, giving Torrance
a "property poor" reputation
throughout the country.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

### Torrance Herald



KING WILLIAMS, Publish GLENN W. PFEIL, General Mgr.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates:
By Carrier, 30c a Month.
Mail Subscriptions \$3.60 per
year, Circulation office FAirfax 8-4004.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
AFFILIATE MEMBER



Stop **Spending** 

START SAVING NOW FOR THE FUTURES

\* YOUR ACCOUNT IS INSURED TO \$10,000. ACCOUNTS OPENED BY THE 10th OF ANY MONTH

EARN FROM THE 1st.

\* SAVE CONVENIENTLY BY MAIL.



(ESTABLISH

**Donatio** Hospita Past \$20

Three cont Torrance Me fund helped ji lected in the 000, hospital to d this week. A \$1750 c the Chamber board of direct ed this week ger, president. Donation of 114 of the Urs Fis of Amerl Geneva Steel H. H. Cook, union Union ing funds we George Brows we' Parris, a Warren Ha of the Lions of

Warren Har of the Lions ( check for \$10 marking the by a service

Bowl P Confe Count

Meetings be of the Pacific representatives are under wa pose of aequit the bowl site, at a recent Civic Auditori A proposed Verdes Dr. Western Ave., ed by Samuel Verdes Estate heads the site heads the site heads the site of the power of the Membership owl Assn. I to to nearly it a report made president of ti Others who recent meetin,

Planne Trailer

On 22

An applicate the St., between Aves