

# CITY TAX RATE UPPED TO \$1.24

## Added Pension System Sought

Torrance taxpayers will find another two cents on their tax bills, as city councilmen added that amount to provide federal social security for municipal employees.

The record-breaking budget of more than \$3,500,000 was approved Tuesday night with the additional two-cent increase bringing the total tax rate to \$1.24, and increase of 5.6 cents over the last year's rate.

The council voted for the tax hike after hearing Jonathan Dummer, a representative of the state, county, and municipal employees union, speak in behalf of the social security program.

**Straw Vote Asked**  
Councilmen also ordered a straw vote to be taken among employees to determine if they would favor the social security program.

If employees vote against joining the supplementary insurance program, the council indicated the tax rate would be cut back to the original figure.

Dummer told the city officials that he believed 90 percent of the employees would favor the city's participation in the federal social security plan.

**Costs Cited**  
The supplementary program is estimated to cost the city from \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year. If the city's 270 miscellaneous employees approve the program by straw ballot, it will take nearly six months to put the plan into action, city officials said.

Thus, according to City Manager George W. Stevens, this year's cost will be less than the yearly figure of approximately \$40,000.

**Pair Attack Man in Auto**  
Two men attacked him, demanding his wallet, as he was sitting in his car, Jeff F. Townsend, 2019 Garner St., Lomita, told sheriff's deputies Sunday.

Townsend said he was seated in his car in front of 2201 Lomita Blvd., when two men came up, started talking to him, and then told him to get out and put his wallet on the ground. When Townsend said he didn't have his wallet with him, the pair threatened to pull a gun. Instead, one of them kicked him in the face and both fled.

## Figures Telling Recreation Cost Given to City

Although the city's per capita expenses for parks would increase for a few years, they should be lower than present levels.

That was the substance of a cost breakdown of the recreation system proposed for Torrance in the Gold Report. The figures were presented last night to the city's Recreation Commission for study.

Primarily because of increases in assessed valuation and higher sales tax revenues, the per capita expenditures would first go up, then go down, according to Robert L. Gold, who drew up the recreation survey.

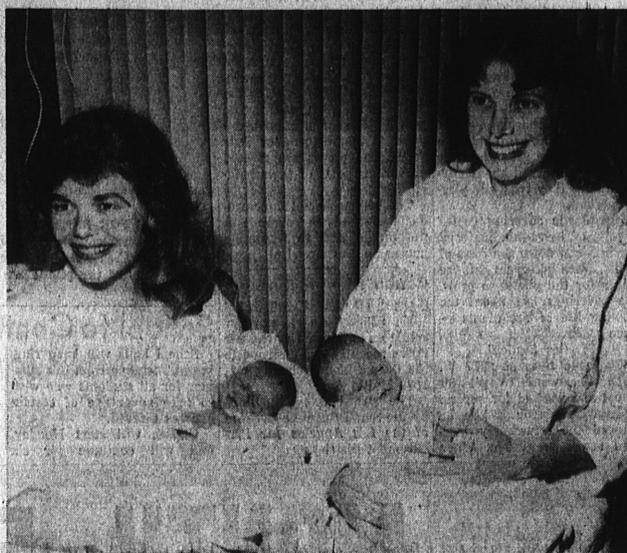
Taxes would rise from the present 33 cents per \$100 valuation to 50 cents by 1959, decline slightly to 45 cents by 1962, and decrease again to 32 cents by 1969, according to the figures presented.

This assumes an increase in population from about 90,000 at present to about 150,000 by 1969 and an increase in assessed valuation from \$125,000,000 to \$300,000,000. It also assumes sales tax revenues of about \$300,000 by 1969.

At the same time, industry would pay a steadily decreasing percentage of the tax bill, as other commercial and residential developments increase. Industry's share would decline from about 60 percent today to about 41 percent by 1969.

Betty Hallmark of Redondo Beach received minor injuries in an accident at Sepulveda Blvd., and Cabrillo Ave., over the weekend.

She was a passenger in an automobile driven by Marc Lord Lavery of South Gate, according to police.



**SAME BIRTHDAYS . . .** Two sisters, Mrs. Charles Hensley, left, and Mrs. James Quider, show off their new children born on the same day. The women gave birth to the babies Saturday. Pamela Jean Hensley was born at 7:41 p.m. and Quintin Brady Quider bowed in at 6:35 a.m. The sisters are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Mitchell, 819 Portola Ave.

## Council Makes First Move To Obtain New Park Sites

Legal descriptions of eight proposed park areas named in the Kroeger park and recreation facilities report are being obtained.

Councilmen Tuesday night ordered the city engineer to prepare the legal descriptions of the areas named by the Park and Recreation committee.

As soon as the legal descriptions are made, an informal appraisal will be sought, councilmen indicated. The move was described as the first step in following recommendations of the Kroeger survey.

In other action, the council upheld the planning commission's approval of Wayne L. Nelson's variance to realign garages on Redondo Beach Blvd.

The 68 apartment garages will face the alley, according to the council's ruling.

Mr. Little, 16706 Cranbrook Ave., objected to the variance, declaring he didn't like the "steam-roller tactics" being used.

The council also rescinded an earlier action and will refund grading permit fees and a grading bond to the builders of the Bishop Montgomery High School.

Councilman Willys G. Blount informed the council that the city engineering department had told construction bidders that fees would be waived for the parochial school.

Blount maintained that if the bidders were given this information by city employees, it was not right to charge the fees.

City Engineer Ronald Bishop

## Five Held on Dope Charge

Five Lomita boys are being held by juvenile authorities on charges of narcotics possession, after the mother of one turned them in.

The mother found a newspaper with about 1/16 pound of marijuana seeds in it in a wrecked truck at her home. She reported the matter to sheriff's deputies who picked up her son and four other boys, all 15 to 17 years old.

According to the boys, a man gave them the package and told them to keep it for him for 24 hours. The youths claimed that they were afraid to meet the man again and hid the seeds in the truck.

## Schools Raided By Juveniles; Trio Arrested

Torrance police have apprehended all three juveniles who created an estimated \$1500 damage in vandalism at two schools over the weekend.

The trio has been released in their parents' custody, awaiting prosecution, juvenile officers reported.

The boys broke into Crenshaw Elementary School, 18620 Crenshaw Blvd., sometime Saturday or Sunday and smashed windows, scattered supplies and flooded the school by turning on a fire hose, police said.

Some \$500 damage to equipment in the North High School radio room was reportedly done by the same group, officers related.

Crenshaw School also was the scene of vandalism on Memorial Day, when juveniles broke into the school and wreaked havoc.

Helping Junior and Susie to let their imaginations run wild is one of the features of a new program at Torrance Parks this summer—"The Imagination Hour."

The program involves Junior's participation in plays suggested by the reading of books—acting out or characterizing the persons, animals, and situations that result from reading a book together.

Started on a part-time experimental basis in February, the program is led by Elsie Pestoff, who has a wide background in both dramatics and writing.

Techniques Used  
In stimulating the imagination programs, the leader uses several techniques:

1. For "breaking the ice," she selects three books widely known to most of the children and the children pick a character from these to act out. Other members of the group try to guess the character.

### IN SPLIT VOTING

## Board Reopens Golf Site Bid

The Board of Supervisors' plans to reopen negotiations for property at 190th and Avalon for use as a county golf course may or may not affect the county's plans to put a huge regional sports center in Torrance.

Officials expressed varying opinions of the effect of the Supervisors' action in voting to reopen negotiations for the 200-acre property at a purchase price of \$1,300,000. The vote was 3 to 1, with Supervisors Burton Chace, John Anson Ford and Warren M. Dorn voting "yes." Supervisor Kenneth Hahn opposed the action.

**Different Types**  
Some recreation officials said they say no reason why construction of a golf course in the Carson area should affect plans for the construction of a regional sports center, involving many different sports—tennis, baseball, basketball, and others—north of Torrance Blvd. on the western city limits. The plans would involve two entirely different types of recreation, they said.

On the other hand, some officials thought that erection of one large park near Torrance might dim the city's chances of having the proposed 132-acre sports center located here. The county development had figured heavily in the recreation survey recently made in Torrance.

Hahn opposed the development of the golf course at 190th and Avalon on the grounds that an appraisal—made by a nationally-known firm, Marshall and Stevens,

and fixing the property value at \$808,000—had been withheld from the Board.

He also said that the Board had not been informed that the property was being used as a dump. Instead, he said, it was represented as being level unimproved land. In addition, the property is subject to flooding and could not be used for residential purposes, he said. Some \$800,000 in improvements on the Dominguez Channel would have to be made before the property could be used, he declared.

**Price Reduced**  
Although Dominguez Estates Co., owners of the property had originally asked \$1,500,000 for the land, Hahn said, the asking price was reduced to \$1,300,000 on Feb. 8, after two lower appraisals—for \$918,000 and \$1,142,000—had been made.

A third appraiser appointed by the county put the value of the land at \$1,300,000 in May, the exact price asked by the owners, Hahn stated.

**Police Hunt Big Dynamite Cache Here**  
Enough dynamite and caps to blast a section of the city into rubble has been stolen from the Great Lakes Carbon Co. dicalite mining operation south of WALTERIA, it was reported late yesterday by Lt. D. C. Cook of the Torrance police department's juvenile bureau.

Lieutenant Cook reported that 20 sticks of dynamite and 75 detonating "caps" had been stolen from the mine sometime between Friday evening and yesterday afternoon.

"We are asking that parents, especially those in the WALTERIA area, question their youngsters about this matter," Cook reported. He said the material is exceedingly dangerous, and that the caps alone could kill a person.

**Janitors Known Hencelorth As 'Custodians'**  
There are no more janitors working for the City of Torrance.

Hencelorth—those who nobly staff the mop and broom brigade will be known as "custodians."

Those who already were known as "custodians" will now be elevated to the position of "head custodian."

The change in classification title was ordered Tuesday night by the city council.

It seems nobody wants to apply for the lowly job of janitor but applicants would not mind the job of custodian.



**EUGENE S. MARTIN**  
... Named Superintendent

## Eugene Martin Promoted by Shell Chemical

Appointment of Eugene S. Martin, 5001 Paseo Del Pavon, as superintendent of Shell Chemical Corporation's synthetic rubber plant at Torrance was announced today by Maarten Voogd, plant manager.

Martin succeeds G. S. Williamson, recently named manager of Shell Chemical's ammonia plant at Shell Point, in the San Francisco Bay area.

Before coming to Torrance in March of 1955 to fill the position of assistant plant superintendent, Martin served as senior technologist of Shell Chemical's manufacturing development department in New York. He joined the Shell Companies as a junior technologist at Shell Oil's Wilmington refinery in 1942 upon graduating from the University of California with a B. S. degree in petroleum engineering.

Born in Oatman, Arizona, the 39 year old industrial leader came to Torrance in 1923. He attended Torrance schools for two years, then moved to Inglewood where his family resided for a number of years.

Martin is married to the former Harriet Taylor of Houston, Texas. They have one son, Timothy, age 18 months.

## Beach Plans Stymied by Property 'Jigsaw Puzzle'

Development of Torrance Beach is being stymied while officials try to put together a jigsaw puzzle, with some of the pieces missing.

The jigsaw puzzle in question is the problem created by the fact that more than 400 people own parts of nine lots sought for beach development. The county now owns nine lots in the area, but needs the other nine lots for parking lots, an additional change room, and walkways from parking lots to the beach.

The county set aside \$250,000 for the development two years ago, but to date, the problems of multiple ownership haven't been solved to give clear title to the lots.

**Land Sold**  
The land in question was sold in 1928 by the Huntington Redondo Development Co., to subdivider Clifford J. Reid. He, in turn, sold fractional interests in the nine lots, amounting to about 1/40th of a lot, and in one case, 1/90th. Much of the land was sold to per-

sons living in the East. When the depression came, the Huntington firm again took over the property, but found itself with only part holdings as a result of the subdivider's action.

In the meantime, many of the 1/40th owners moved to all parts of the world and some died, leaving their property to heirs. In one case, the property was divided among heirs who now own 1/320th of a lot.

**Owners Sought**  
Now the Huntington company is trying to find all of the fractional owners and their heirs in order to get a clear title to the lots so that they can be sold to the county for beach development.

"It's like trying to put a jigsaw puzzle back together," said Edward Callahan, president of Huntington-Redondo. "I thought we could get this straightened out in a year, but it's taken much longer than that. There are many complicated factors involved."

**Plan Suggested**  
County officials suggested

that one way to settle the problem might be to petition to the courts for sale, and divide the sale price among the owners. The missing owners would have their money put in trust for them. Lawyers now are studying the possibility of such an action.

The county has filed condemnation proceedings, but action there is at a standstill.

Plans discussed by the county would include parking lots below ground level, so that the view would not be obstructed. Lots would hold some 700 to 800 cars, according to present plans. The development would probably spur use of the beach.

**Land Used**  
The land now is used by bathers, but legally, no improvements can be placed on it until the title is cleared.

Meanwhile, the money still is available in the budget, but can't be used, according to Richard Newton, field deputy for Supervisor Burton Chace. And officials of the Huntington-Redondo Co., report that they hate jigsaw puzzles.

**SPECIAL**  
End of the Month  
Sale Values  
As Advertised in Today's  
**HERALD**  
will mean a free Hawaiian  
vacation for two through  
the courtesy of the Torrance  
Downtown Merchants.  
All you need to do  
is visit a downtown  
Torrance Store today,  
tomorrow or Saturday.