

City Council Orders One-Cent Property Tax Cut

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IN THE GREATER TORRANCE AREA

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

IN THE HERALD TODAY

Ann Lenders . . . 9 Obituaries . . . 3
Comics . . . 15 Society . . . 9-11
Churches . . . 18-19 Sports . . . 13
Crossword . . . 26 Star Gazer . . . 26
Legals Ads . . . 26 Want Ads . . . 27-31

44th Year—No. 67

10¢ Per Copy

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1958

32 PAGES

BOYS ADMIT KIDNAP TALE HOAX

A Penny for your Thoughts

What are your thoughts on the trucker's strike?

This was the question the HERALD photographer asked six persons he met on the streets of Torrance. Some of the answers came from working truck drivers, and pro or con, here are their thoughts on the subject.

Ray Smith, 1601 W. 166th St. bricklayer:
"I don't think any strike should be general. It is all right for unions to fight for their rights, and even shut down operations in the area where the trouble is centered."

Bill Wedster, 13607 Benfield, Norwalk, truck driver:
"I am in favor of strikes when they are necessary. Sure, I've been hurt financially when I was off any length of time during strikes in the past, but as a heavy rig driver I have sure benefited by organization in my line of work."

Mrs. John Perkins, 21315 Palos Verdes, Torrance, housewife:
"I am afraid strikes cause more harm than they do good. A long strike hurts our paychecks and makes shopping more difficult and prices higher."

Jack Stevens, Compton, automobile salesman:
"I am against all strikes, but then again I guess it takes a threat of this kind to keep things in line. I guess I didn't make a definite answer, I'm sort of in the middle on this question."

Jim Summerfield, Maywood, construction steel truck driver:
"I am in favor of strikes if it takes that long to keep things right for the working man. Yes, I favor them and believe in them."

Harry Bogert, District 11, Torrance:
"I don't live in Torrance. I visited last Sunday and saw the trucks from Chicago and Oakland are not coming through.
A novelty store manager said that items he normally receives from Chicago and Los Angeles were not available. He said he was going to have to find a source of supply locally, for instance, cosmetics

Law Due On Tax Tuesday

A one-cent reduction in the city's tax rate for the current fiscal year was ordered this week by a majority vote of the city council.
Voting 5-2, the council ordered the cut after City Manager George Stevens informed them that the final assessed valuation figures would be received by the city Monday. He said the ordinance setting the tax rate must be adopted the following day.
The reduction will drop the total tax rate of the city to \$1214 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

VOTING AGAINST the proposal to cut back the rate were Councilmen George Bradford and Willis G. Blount. Bradford said the city needed the revenue, and that the penny reduction would not greatly alter anyone's tax bill.
The council previously had discussed longevily benefits for municipal employees and a two per cent wage hike next Jan. 1. Stevens said the reduced rate would still permit these proposed salary increases.

IN ANOTHER action, the council added more than 250 parcels of land to the list for posting prior to clearing the weed-grown areas public nuisances. The weed abatement program is a continuing project of the city and private contractors are clearing the properties around the city. Costs will be added to the property owners tax assessment next year.

Plucky Girl Cited For Aiding Arrest

Police today were crediting the courage of a young telephone operator for the capture of a man described as a "highly dangerous sex criminal."
Arrest of Royal Alan Coleburn, 29, of Lawndale, was made after the girl, an information operator, received a late telephone call from a man over two weeks ago. She kept the caller talking while the supervisor traced the call, police said.
Torrance police were notified when the call was traced to a telephone booth in the city. Prepending interest in the proposals of the caller, the information operator



TAKES OWN MEDICINE . . . Judge Donald Armstrong, Torrance Municipal court judge, is pictured taking a driving test in the National Transit Casualty Company's Safe-T-Coach last Monday. Judge Armstrong let minor traffic violators in his court take this test and suspended sentences. Safety Engineer Joe Prutzmann (left) operates the reflex recording machine. (Herald Photo)

Traffic Offenders Get Test on Driving Skills

Minor traffic violators were sentenced to driver fitness tests and given suspended fines when they appeared before Judge Donald Armstrong's Municipal court last Monday.
The judge gave 12 persons cited into his court on traffic infractions the suspensions on condition they take tests being given in a traffic Safe-T-Coach outside the courtroom on Cravens Ave. All cooperated and seriously went through the tests.
Tests were made on front and rear visual machines with a headlight glare device for testing the driver's reaction to these conditions. The main unit recorded reflex actions of the driver while sitting behind an actual steering wheel and applying a braking pedal when a scope indicated the need.
The Safe-T-Coach was operated by the National Transit Casualty Co. and was here under the sponsorship of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines. The original purpose of the visit was to test the driving abilities of city employees and any others who wished to check their driving score.
Judge Armstrong took advantage of the mobile testing laboratory being in the area and used a program of education in lieu of penalization for his court agenda.
Temperature Rise increases pool use
A five to 10 degree increase in temperature increases business at the Municipal Plunge, 3331 Torrance Blvd., more than 20 per cent.
From an average use of the pool by 700 or 800 persons, on the first "hot" day last week the attendance shot up to 1010, dropped on the next day which was slightly cooler, and then with an increase in heat again went to 1175 persons.

City Now Eighth In Assessed Value

Torrance has jumped two notches in rankings of Los Angeles County cities in assessed valuation, according to a study released this week by the Chamber of Commerce.
With a \$25 million increase in valuations here, to bring the total to about \$169 million, Torrance outstrips by far all other cities in the southwest county area. It moved from 10th to 8th in the county, closest to Torrance in the general area is El Segundo with a valuation of \$138 million.
Cities leading Torrance on the list include Los Angeles, Long Beach, Burbank, Pomona, Vernon, Glendale, and Santa Monica in that order.
Ranked behind Torrance are Beverly Hills, El Segundo and Inglewood.
Redondo Beach ranks 26th, Manhattan Beach 37th, and Hermosa Beach 46th.

Flaws in Tale Officers Spot

A kidnaping scare which had Southland police forces alerted early yesterday was labeled a hoax later by investigators of the Torrance police department.
Two boys who claimed they were grabbed by "a mysterious man" in a black auto admitted to police after lengthy questioning that they were responsible for the whole affair.
The two boys, both 12, were found in a field near 182nd St. and Hawthorne Ave. about dawn yesterday. They were bound hand and foot, and one had a cloth gag in his mouth.
Fisher separated the boys for questioning after spotting what they called "flaws in the stories told by the two. Under separate interrogation, major discrepancies were noted, and when the boys were faced with the errors, they broke down."
POLICE SAID they told a story of having been forced into a car Tuesday night. They said they were driven to the North Torrance location from their home in south Torrance, bound by the cords and cloth strips, and dumped out. Juvenile Officer Gus Reilwich and Detective Mickey

Steak Fry Set For City's New School Teachers

More than 200 teachers new to the Torrance Unified School District will be welcomed at a steak fry here Sept. 4.
The annual event will be held at Torrance Park under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants Assn. of the city.

IN CHICAGO

Moose Lodge Cited

Torrance Moose Lodge No. 765 was awarded a special certificate of merit in the Moose International Community Service Awards competition in Chicago Tuesday.
Announcement of the award for outstanding civic affairs work during the past year by the Torrance lodge was made at the 70th annual International Moose convention now being held in Chicago.
Joseph Platt, civic affairs chairman of the Torrance lodge, was also awarded a framed scroll for heading an outstanding nine project award winning program of community service in Torrance.
Official presentation of the award will be made at ceremonies to be held in the local lodge in the near future, according to Carl A. Weis, director of civic affairs for the Moose fraternity.

IN ANNOUNCING the award to Torrance lodge, Weis told the assembled delegates that Moose lodges in the United States and Canada have contributed more than five million dollars and more than one million man-hours of volunteer labor in service to their respective communities during the past year.
Winners for first place awards include Berwyn, Ill., Richmond, Calif., and Sidney, N. Y. Second place awards were presented to San Francisco, Rome, N.Y., and Pittsburg, Calif. Third place awards were given to Macon, Ga., Adrian, Mich., and Ocean Beach, Calif.



INTERESTING NUMBER . . . Vicki Hoffman, 15, is pictured during "The House of the Snake," one of the featured acts in the Torrance Recreation Department's Open House at the Civic Auditorium tonight and tomorrow night. Vicki is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hoffman of Redondo Beach. (Herald Photo)

Director Says Open House Show's 'Better Than Ever'

"Better than last year's and that was good."
This description was applied by Vernon Clary to the Recreation Department's annual show at the Civic Auditorium at 8 p.m. tonight and Friday.
"It will be the best show with no admission charge, you ever saw," he declared.
THE YOUNG director of the performance field that shows has a best field at each of the various recreation areas and the best acts selected for the Recreation Department's Open House at the Auditorium.
"This culminates the Recreation Department's season," he explained. "In looking around at the back of the auditorium, the arts, crafts, and other work of those in the various areas will be displayed. The show will open at 8 p.m. Friday and will be open all day Friday."
THEME OF THE exhibit, he said, is "County Fair."
The evening program hinges on the theme of two young couples on a "visit to the midway" of the county fair. Acts include tumbling, juggling, singing, and dancing.
"We have even a snake dance," Clary said above the blare of music and the noise of some young and nervous spectators preparing for refreshments.
RELATION personnel, largely teachers working in the recreation areas, including one headed by Jim Davidson, make up the "jazzy combo" to play out the affair.
"Our trombonist was formerly with the Bob Crosby Orchestra," Clary confided, "and another player comes from a large eastern orchestra."
A professional juggler, Paul

MERCHANTS WATCH AND WAIT

Truck Strike Shortages Appear

Retail merchants in Torrance are warily watching truck strike developments that week-end trying to determine the effect on their own particular businesses, a HERALD survey revealed.
One drug store manager advised that sundry articles he receives from Chicago and Oakland are not coming through for another week.
A novelty store manager said that items he normally receives from Chicago and Los Angeles were not available. He said he was going to have to find a source of supply locally, for instance, cosmetics
surreal with the quality work he has received from a supplier in the Bay area.
A CAFE which caters to through truck drivers reports a sharp decline in business.
A clothing store operator said that he received a shipment of trousers from the east last week but that these were in transit when the strike was called. He said he had several other orders which were over-due. He had no word on them.
THE NEWS early this week that shipments from Hawaii would not be disrupted by