

City Approves Storm Channel Work, Bids Ready

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Torrance Herald

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DOMINGUEZ NIXES WATER OFFER

\$40,000 Bid Is Rejected

A proposed offer to sell the stock and assets of Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 3 for \$40,000 has been turned down by Dominguez Water Co. directors, the city council was informed this week.

Councilman J. A. Beasley, quoting from a copy of a letter sent to a representative of the Narbonne firm by T. V. Tallon, vice president and general manager of Dominguez, told the councilmen that the Dominguez board had voted against purchasing the Torrance firm and had expressed doubt that it would be interested in the water company in the future.

NARBONNE Ranch Water Co. No. 3, which comprises much of the city of Torrance east of Crenshaw and south of Sepulveda Blvd., has been the subject of official criticism lately because of the inadequate water volume and pressure it is able to deliver with its antiquated system. Several months ago the city council declared the area served by the company a "hazard area" and placed a ban on any construction which involved water service.

THE CITY is proceeding with plans to form an assessment district in the area and install a new water distribution system to be paid for by property owners of the area. In other action, the city council granted a modified pay adjustment for about 20 percent of the employes on top of a previously approved 5 percent across-the-board pay hike. The employes effected by this week's action are those who were shown by survey to be at variance with the salary ranges of comparable cities.

OPPOSITION to the adjustments was voiced by Mayor Albert Isen, Councilman Victor Benstead and Nick Drale. The three voted against the motion to alleviate the inequities on the grounds that it was discriminatory. Requests of the fire and police officers of a 10 percent pay hike and extra pay for longevity based on a 5, 12 and 19-year service scale was received without action by the council during a public hearing on the budget.

AS PRESENTED to the council Tuesday in a preliminary form, the budget numbered 183 pages, and would increase taxes a total of 7.4 cents to pay for a balanced budget of \$4,433,304. The current budget, which will be completed next Tuesday, totalled \$4,043,946. The council was scheduled to meet again last evening to work further on the budget. It must be adopted next Tuesday night. A crackdown on fireworks booths by service clubs and other non-profit organizations (Continued on Page 2)

Channel Bids Due Tomorrow

Plans and specifications for improvement and widening of Dominguez Channel between Gramercy Pl. and Redondo Beach Blvd. were approved by Torrance City Council Tuesday night. Bids will be opened by Flood Control engineers tomorrow morning.

Third in a series which will ultimately provide flood control by means of a concrete-lined fully improved channel from 120th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. to Vermont Ave. and 174th St., the project would widen the channel to a width of 75 feet and depth of 18 feet.

In the event satisfactory bids are received tomorrow, the contract will probably be awarded within 30 days, according to County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Currently under construction is a section of the channel located between Denker Ave. and Gramercy Pl. First unit was completed in an alignment south of and parallel to Artesia Blvd. 18 months ago.

U.S. Steel Schedules Vacations

Torrance Works of United States Steel's Columbia-Geneva Steel Div. will be shut down for a vacation period, July 12 through July 25, 1959, with the mill's open hearth department remaining on vacation through Aug. 1, 1959, it was announced today.

With the exception of minimum crews in the maintenance, shipping, and industrial relations departments, all wage, salaried, and management employes will take their annual vacations at this time. The 22-inch rolling mill is scheduled to close down at midnight, July 10, and resume operations at 8 a.m. July 27; the 12-inch rolling mill will close down at midnight, July 11, and start up at 8 a.m. July 28; and the open hearth department will be down from midnight, July 12, to 12:01 a.m., Aug. 2. The Torrance mill has a total employment of about 800 persons.

A Penny for your Thoughts

There has been a lot of discussion recently about whether a "Mafia" really exists, and Governor Brown last week called it a "myth." What do you think about the so-called "Mafia"?

That was the question the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their pictures and answers appear below.

Eleanor Parker, 21534 E. 220th, receptionist: "I wouldn't be surprised if it really did exist. Many true cases on television seem strange, and yet they are real. So the existence of a 'Mafia' also could be real."

Ralph Allen, 20909 La Salle St., foreman at Northrop: "I wouldn't know. The ordinary man in the street wouldn't have any information about that sort of thing."

James Davis, 2452 W. 227th St., real estate appraiser: "That's an ancient organization. It does exist — it has for generations. It was brought to this country from Sicily and exists in the United States today."

Glyn Boyce, 1023 Felbar Ave., police officer: "I believe it does exist, although it hasn't developed on the west coast on the same scale that it has on the east coast. If this area of law enforcement is neglected, it could develop into a large problem."

Charlton Mewborn, 2211 Torrance Blvd., lawyer: "I would say Governor Brown probably has more accurate information than I do, and I have a high regard for his integrity and background. I would go along with the governor and call it a 'myth.'"

NTCIA to Meet Next on July 9

The July meeting of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. will be postponed one week to July 9, it was announced here yesterday by Mrs. Phillip Clark, president. NTCIA members normally meet on the first Thursday of each month, she said. The meeting on July 9 will be at McMaster Park hall, 174th and Yukon Ave.

School's Out

Crossing Guard Hailed by Kids

"Hi, Betty, can I push the button?" was the greeting the school crossing guard got from a swarm of youngsters who halted as they reached the curb at 234th and Figueroa streets.

Betty is Mrs. Conkle, who has been shepherding her flock of 232nd St. school children across the busy intersection for the past five years and the button controls the traffic signal lights at the crossing. This Friday, the last day of school, was for many of the youngsters who were graduating, the last time they would meet their friend Betty, who had become part of their grade school lives.

There were gifts of candy and flowers for Betty and tears in the eyes of many of the children — those who had learned to love their guard. As Mrs. Conkle stooped to receive flowers from one six-year-old the tiny student threw her arms around the guard's neck and hugged her, reluctant to leave.

MRS. CONKLE, who lives at 1241 Island St., has been a school crossing guard for the past 16 years, five of them at the 232nd Street School, where her duties of the day are varied. Besides conveying her "kids" across busy Figueroa she takes time to listen to the problems, or achievements, of her little friends — sometimes wiping away tears, or bandaging a skinned knee. She is their school work critic, praising their efforts in drawing pictures and explaining some problem in the basic three R's.

BETTY is always firm with her charges and teaches them to wait on the curb until she blows her whistle for them to proceed across the intersection. She has pulled two children from the path of speeding automobiles, and during heavy fogs has had to set flares in the crosswalk in order to get the children safely to school. Many of the truck drivers and passing motorists wave to her in passing and join the school children in calling out "Hi, Betty!"

Tickets for Saturday night's dance may be obtained at the door.

Police to Auction Recovered Bicycles

Bicycles picked up by police during the past six months and remaining unclaimed will be sold at auction Saturday morning, July 11, it was announced here yesterday by Chief Percy G. Bennett. Retired Chief Willard "Pop" Haslam has agreed to conduct the sale.



TEARFUL GOODBYE . . . Kids who look up to Mrs. Betty Conkle to get them safely across Figueroa St. at 234th each day on their way to and from school, gather around her to bid her farewell as school ended Friday. Candy, flowers, and damp eyes were the order of the day as the kids surprised the crossing guard with a farewell salute. (Herald photo)

Torrance Memorial

Hospital in 35th Year Of Community Service

It was in 1921 when Jared Sidney Torrance, founder of the city bearing his name and a man of unusual broad vision, endowed a trust which would provide the city with its first hospital, and in 1924 Torrance Memorial Hospital was constructed.

It was opened the following year, 1925, with 25 beds, a hospital dedicated to the benefits of the citizens and not to profit.

SINCE ITS early beginning, the hospital has expanded and advanced with modern medical skills and equipment to be-

come one of the finest community hospitals in the area. The hospital, as it enters its 35th year, is making full use of a modern new surgical and maternity wing, and work to strengthen the center portion of the original structure to make it conform rigidly with state standards is scheduled to get under way in a few weeks.

Car Club Yosemite Run Ends

A small crowd saw Tom Eisenman turn his No. 4 DeVon Motors Plymouth entry in the Sixth Annual Youth Safety Run into the Torrance Armory driveway Tuesday night at 7:38. Eisenman cut his ignition as he got the flag from Al Jackson, Torrance Police Dept. coordinator, as the first returning driver in the 466.2 mile trip. Winners will be announced next Monday.

Both Eisenman and his relief driver, Jack Pina, are from Bell Gardens; and their observer, who rode with them, Chuck Chirco, is a member of the Tartar Car Club. Thirty-one competing cars took off from Torrance early Sunday morning and drove through grueling temperatures in excess of 100 degrees to Yosemite Park where they departed at dawn Tuesday with their last refueling stop at Ojai.

For the first time, the event, sponsored by the Police Advisory Council for Car Clubs, the McMillan Petroleum Corp. and Southern California automobile dealers from 20 cities who furnished 1959 cars of the entries, will be judged on both miles per gallon and on a ton-mile basis.

The HERALD revisited the pioneer Torrance facility this week as the hospital moved firmly into its 35th year of service to the city and surrounding community. For a pictorial report on the community-owned hospital, turn to Page 27.

Four Hurt In Crash

An accident Monday morning at the intersection of Pacific Coast Hwy. and Calle Mayor resulted in injuries to four occupants of the two cars involved.

Admitted to Pacific View Hospital, Hermosa Beach, was Arthur D. Trunkenbolz, 52, of 337 Del Mar, Costa Mesa, who suffered a broken shoulder. Trunkenbolz was a passenger in a car driven by John A. Mortimer, 32, of South Laguna.

Also treated in Pacific Medical Center were Mortimer, his wife, Sally, 27, and son, Brook, 2. Driver of the other car, Clifford I. Davis, Jr., 16, of 21817 Marjorie Ave., was not hurt.

'Play It Safe,' Police Chief Warns Motorists

With summer's second week-end holiday due next week, motorists were advised by Police Chief Percy G. Bennett yesterday to exercise the utmost care and courtesy. "If every motorist would observe common rules of courtesy, there would probably be fewer accidents over the Fourth of July week-end than

during the recent Memorial Day holiday," he said. Some driving tips for those planning to spend the holiday away from home: 1. Have your car checked thoroughly — brakes, lights, horn, tires and mechanical condition. 2. Plan on the unexpected — drive as though only you could prevent accidents.

3. Drive at a safe speed always. 4. If you get drowsy, stop for a cup of coffee, or pull off the roadway and catch 40 winks. 5. When you have one for the road, make it coffee. Following these suggestions may prevent an accident — might even save your life, Bennett pointed out.



GETS FLAG . . . Tom Eisenman, driving Plymouth car No. 4 for DeVon Motors, crosses the finish line at Torrance Armory Tuesday night in finish of Youth Safety Run. Thirty-one young drivers made economy trip from Torrance to Yosemite Park and back. Al Jackson, Torrance police officer and coordinator for the run, checks car in. (Herald photo)