

'Spenders' Get Blame for Taxes

Your Complete Community Newspaper
Every Sunday and Thursday



Greatest Circulation By Far
Only Audited Mass
Coverage of Torrance

Torrance Herald

Serving Greater Torrance — Capital City of the Great Southwest

New Hiring Quiz
For Educators?
(Hoppe, Page 28)

50th Year — No. 77



OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE. — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1963

10c Per Copy 60 PAGES

CITY ORDERS POLICE SURVEY

A Penny for your Thoughts

The Pennies Photographer asked several tax-minded citizens of Torrance, "What is your position on the proposed tax cut bill which is now in the House of Representatives?"

Mrs. William Burchfield, 24017 Huber Ave.:
"I think the idea of a tax cut is a good one. But, with the world situation as it is now, costs of defense and foreign aid make it very unlikely this year. I don't think it will make too much difference on the average income."

Jim Fryback, 1502 W. 221st St.:
"I think it is a step in the right direction if the Administration also cuts government spending. The individual family could not live the same way the government does. A tax cut could be very effective under those conditions."

Mrs. Douglas Nelson, 4826 Mayor Dr.:
"I assume the President is trying to spur our economy with a tax cut, but I don't think the size of the proposed cut would help much. At six per cent, you couldn't do much with what you saved. I think a larger cut would help more."

E. H. Peterson, 3313 Sonoma Ave.:
"I'm in favor of the tax decrease only if the government's spending is also cut. Private business or families could not operate in the same way the government is now operating, and I hope the conditions limiting the budget next year are adopted."

Mrs. Ralph Gansemmer, 5605 Edgemere Dr.:
"Even though it is small, the tax cut would be good for the economy. Any tax cut is a step in the right direction, and it would mean that much less for the government to throw away on foreign aid."

Zone, Zone Who's Got The Zone?

Confusion seemed to be king in the City Council chambers Tuesday evening before councilmen untangled some legal problems on two public hearings. The hearings, both over proposed R-3 zoning, brought residents of the affected areas to the meeting in such numbers that standing room only was the order of the day.

Residents of the Waleria area of the city crowded into the chambers protesting R-3 zoning requested by Albert Levitt for apartment developments on Mesa Street. Levitt, who told the council that "slow, steady encouragement of apartments has caused the lovely rural atmosphere of Waleria to deteriorate," offered to withdraw his petition.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer ruled that the petition could not be withdrawn in answer to a question from councilman J. A. Beasley. Beasley asked if such a withdrawal could be accomplished without the usual six-months waiting period for another petition.

Traian Braicu spoke for the Waleria residents protesting the petition and told the council that Waleria "does not want R-3 on the hillside." The council voted 7-0 to concur with the Planning Commission and deny the petition.

AFTER A brief recess to clear the air, the council took up a petition from the Planning Commission for a change of zone from R-3 to R-1 on west 230th Street from Crenshaw Boulevard to Greenwood Avenue.

Residents had bought the property as R-3 and when one owner had attempted to build units on the lot, the city told him the property was R-1. Planning Director Charles Shartle told the council that the zoning in the area was a mystery.

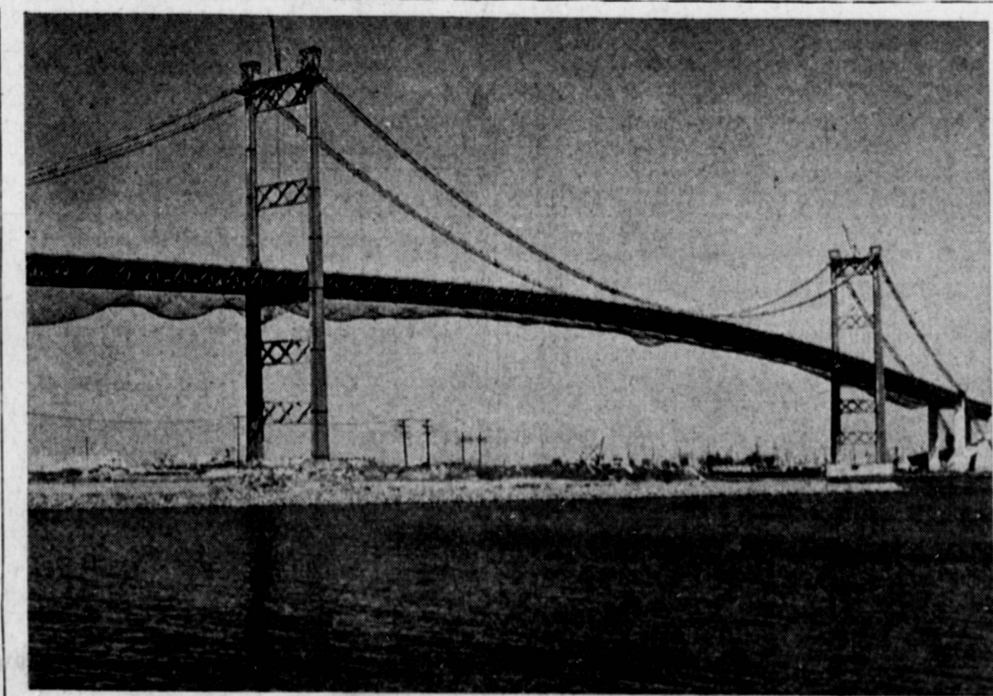
Apparently, the council rezoned the area at the same time as the Marble Estate was rezoned—without, as George Vico said, knowing they were rezoning the area.

THE COUNCIL, in an attempt to permit R-3 with precise plan requirements, first moved to leave the zoning R-3 and require precise plans for all developments. Remelmeyer, however, ruled the motion was illegal since no controls may be placed on existing zoning.

The council finally decided to accept Remelmeyer's suggestion and rezone the property R-1—for the time being. After concurring with the Planning Commission, the council voted to instruct the Planning Commission to institute hearings for a rezoning back to R-3 with precise plans required "as soon as it is legally possible."

Another recess cleared the air again, and the council resumed a routine agenda.

IN OTHER planning matters, the council:
• Approved a zone change from R-1 to R-2 for property between 182nd and 186th Streets and between Hawthorne Avenue and the rear property line on Amie Avenue, with RR-3 zoning for frontage on 182nd Street;
• Approved a variance for a 40-unit apartment at 239th Street.



DEDICATION SATURDAY . . . The new Vincent Thomas Bridge spanning the main channel of Los Angeles Harbor in San Pedro will be dedicated Saturday morning as one of the highlights of the annual Fishermen's Fiesta in the port city. Named for Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, longtime representative of the Harbor Area in Sacramento, the bridge is the third largest in California and the first of its type in the Southland. Opening of the structure to traffic is scheduled for the middle of November.

AT PUBLISHERS MEETING Spenders Cause Tax Hikes, Watson Says

His policy of operating in the full glare of the public spotlight will eventually "put a brake on taxes," County Assessor Philip E. Watson told newspaper editors and publishers Tuesday.

Addressing a meeting of the controlled circulation section of the California Newspaper Publishers Assn., Watson said taxpayers had been confused and that higher taxes resulted from the previous policy of shrouding the operations of the assessor's office in secrecy.

"When I took office last December," Watson said, "I was advised to be anonymous. The theory was that if the taxpayer couldn't find out who did what, he would never be able to make an effective protest."

WATSON POINTED out that he has taken exactly the opposite course. "I want everyone to know exactly what the assessor's department is doing," he said. "If a taxpayer has a quarrel with the value of his property, I want him to protest."

Watson pointed out at the same time, however, that he did not intend to take the blame for higher taxes, saying his office had nothing to do with the amount of taxes.

"Your tax bill is determined by the amount of money the spending agencies—the Board of Supervisors, City Council, schools, and so forth—vote to spend."

COMMUNITY newspapers represented at the meeting were congratulated by Watson for their cooperation in helping to explain to the public that the assessor's only function is to evaluate all taxable property in the county equally and equitably.

ed a number of reforms he had instituted, all aimed at greater fairness for all property owners:
1. Announcing that he would assess all property at 25 per cent of market value.
2. An end to piece-meal re-appraisal whereby one-fifth of the property owners of the county each year bore the brunt of increased tax spending.
3. The opening of all office records to the inspection of property owners.
4. Institution of a file-by-mail procedure for property statements of veterans, landlords, and businesses.
5. A post-audit program of business statements that already has added \$33 million to the assessment roll.
6. Reorganization of his department to up-date methods and policies.

WATSON SAID although the public may not understand why and how taxes continue to increase "the spending agencies understand very well." He said they would like to blame the assessor, as they have in the past, but told the newsmen that it wouldn't work with him.

THE PROGRAM is aimed at making certain every group of taxpayers is treated alike, he said. The recent announcement that business personal property ratio would be cut to bring it into line at 25 per cent is part of that program, he said.

Watson said he had hoped to make the business property ratio cut over a period of three or four years.

"However, County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy has advised us that all property must be assessed at the same ratio. Consequently, we had no choice but to make the adjustment immediately," he told the newspaper executives.

HE LABELED as "scare talk," reports that homeowners would be hit harder. He said the estimated \$600 million reduction in business assessments would be offset by \$300 million in new construction.

Councilmen Vote to Get Expert Help

City councilmen voted Tuesday evening to hire a full-time "expert" in police administration to conduct a study of the Torrance Police Department. The action followed last Thursday's meeting with Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess and the council's police and fire committee.

Victor Benstead, chairman of the committee, asked the council to approve a part-time man from the sheriff's department, but other councilmen asked for a full-time man.

City Manager Wade Peebles, who will now negotiate with the sheriff's office for the final arrangements, told The HERALD yesterday whether one man or several would be assigned to the local department had not been decided.

PEEBLES indicated as many as three men may be involved in the study of administration and organization in the police department. Pitchess gave similar impressions after last Thursday's meeting.

During debate on the motion Tuesday, Ross Sciarrotta told Benstead a full time man should be hired "because we want this cleared and cleared in a hurry." Councilman George Vico asked hurriedly, "What's there to clear?"

Vico had told The HERALD following Thursday's huddle with Pitchess there was nothing wrong with the department. He also said events which began with mass picketing and ended with the arrest of three officers on felony charges last July had all come together and "made things look bad." He also said the department deserved, and would receive "100 per cent support from the council."

MAYOR ALBERT ISEN, irritated at implications that something was wrong with the local department, barked, "This is an efficiency study and nothing else."

Peebles will negotiate the duties and other arrangements with Pitchess before any studies of the police department are begun.

Earlier in the evening, the council voted to refer the new (Continued on Page 2)

WHEW!

Think it was hot yesterday?

You're right. Temperatures at Torrance Municipal Airport reached a maximum of 93 degrees during the middle of the day, sending residents in search of cooling aids.

Los Angeles recorded a high of 107, hottest Sept. 25 in the city's history. The previous high, 101, was recorded in 1883.

City Awards Two Street Contracts

Contracts for the improvement of 190th Street between Hawthorne Avenue and Crenshaw Boulevard and Ocean Avenue from 228th Street to the Waleria Retention Basin, have been awarded by the City Council.

Hadd Contracting Co. was awarded the contract for 190th Street on a low bid of \$74,480.10. K. E. C. Co. will do the work on Ocean Avenue at a cost of \$99,755.11.

Both projects are scheduled to begin at once.

Guenser Park Dedication Set

Officials of the city will join with the Guenser Park Homeowners Assn. Sunday at 2 p.m. for the dedication of the city's newest park. Guenser Park is located on Gramercy Place between 179th and 180th Streets.

A picnic will follow the dedication ceremonies. Gramercy Place will be closed to traffic between noon and 8 p.m. Sunday from 179th to 180th Street

Literature Forum May Be Slated

Torrance may have a forum on "Decent Literature" if a recommendation by the city attorney is adopted. The recommendation will be made to the Youth Welfare Commission by Stanley E. Remelmeyer.

If the plan is adopted, the forum would follow by six months the trial of Mrs. Nathan Isaacs, a liquor store owner accused of selling a magazine containing photographs of nude women "in highly suggestive and revealing poses."

Mrs. Isaacs was found innocent of the charge, but the jury ruled the magazine was obscene.

Remelmeyer said such a forum would discuss a lack of legislation in this area. Principal speakers, according to Remelmeyer, would be Assemblymen Charles Chapel of Inglewood and E. Richard Barnes from San Diego.

Stranger in Town Finds A Spot of Hospitality

You just never know where a chance meeting will lead.

Take, as an example, the experience that befell Clare O. Leatherman recently as he was returning from Los Angeles on a Torrance bus.

A stranger on the bus was inquiring of passengers if any of them knew where Alaska Street was located in Torrance.

When he got to Leatherman, the neatly dressed man found his answer. And he learned, too, that Leatherman thought it too far from the bus stop to walk, so both wound up in the Leatherman car when they got to Torrance and headed for Alaska Street

where the visitor called on a firm there.

His business completed, the visitor was taken to the Leatherman home at 912 Cota Ave. (as it has been since Torrance was a town of a few hundred people) to meet Mrs. Leatherman.

"First thing you know, all three of us are at Disneyland," Leatherman recalled this week. "We all had a wonderful time," he said.

It's all a memory, barely a month old now, but Leatherman, who retired after many years employment with the Pacific Electric Shops here, has a memento of his kindness to a stranger.

His visitor wrote this week that "it was a real great pleasure for me to have spent a few moments in your happy company on August 20th."

Home again, Leatherman's visitor wrote that "I have once again got busy in my routine business matters, but whenever I think of your country and Disneyland, I will always cherish your hospitality and good company."

It is a simple letter of thanks written on the letterhead of the Oragno Chemical Industries, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, India.

Signing it was B. S. Kapoor, the firm's general manager.

HERALD PHONE NUMBERS
NEWS FA 8-4000
SOCIETY FA 8-5164
CLASSIFIED FA 8-4000
(Ask for Ad-Taxer)
For Home Delivery
Phone FAifax 8-4000

Inside The Herald

AFTER HOURS	28
AMUSEMENTS	18-19
ARMED FORCES	12
BEEBE	36
BOOKS	28
ROYCE BRIER	28
CHURCH CALENDAR	38
CHURCH NEWS	38
CLOSER LOOK	24
EDITORIALS	28
ENTERTAINMENT	18-19
ART HORPE	28
KNOW YOUR TRAFFIC	32
ANN LANDERS	16
LEGAL NOTICES	44
REG MANNING	28
COUNT MARCO	43
JOHN MORLEY	28
O'FLAHERTY	33
MORNING REPORT	28
OBITUARIES	2
SOCIETY	41-42
PUBLIC NOTICES	44
SCOUT NEWS	30
SPORTS	15-17
STAR GAZER	18
WANT ADS	44-52
MARY WISE	35