

City Labor Will Erect New Adult Recreation Structure!

\$2,000,000 WATER BONDS CARRY 6-1

Center Plans

An adult recreation center, to be housed on the rear lot of the library in the patio, will be constructed by City of Torrance labor with a large portion of the building materials donated by local firms, it was revealed today by a source close to the program.

It is believed that once the bids are rejected, the city maintenance and building department will construct the center at less than half the cost of bids. The city has erected several of its own buildings, including one at El Retiro Park.

Bids for the project were closed at the regular Council meeting, Tuesday evening, but this might only be a formality to comply with the law. In actuality, it is well-known that city officials realized that they could not compete with the rising construction market.

A total of ten bids were received at the Council meeting, all in excess of the original \$7500, earmarked by the Recreation Commission, for the building. The lowest bid was \$11,281, submitted by Walter Witman.

Highest bid for the adult center was submitted by Beckner Construction for \$17,365.75. Other bids included M. E. Dichier, \$14,883; Blair and Dolan, \$12,125; Julian Construction, \$11,600; Samuel Widre and Son, \$12,100; Crown Development Company, \$13,500; and Richard A. Meine, \$11,545.

The City Council members unanimously agreed to refer the bids to City Manager George Stevens.

Mother of Prisoner Gets Letter

Even though Pueblo is still hopeful that Private First Class Daniel Arellano, a captive of the Chinese Communists, is safe, his mother, Mrs. Josephine Gutierrez, is "keeping her fingers crossed."

"I won't believe it until I see him," said Mrs. Gutierrez.

The Torrance Press in an exclusive report in this area on Dec. 27, disclosed that Arellano is still believed to be alive.

Within the past week, Mrs. Gutierrez received a letter from the Department of the Army.

"It's this letter," said Mrs. Gutierrez "which keeps me from getting up my hopes. The Army told me to be careful about that in the letter."

Here is the letter that Mrs. Gutierrez received:

Department of the Army
Office of the Adjutant General
Washington 25, D. C.

Mrs. Josephine Gutierrez
3462 Emerald Street
Torrance, California
Dear Mrs. Gutierrez:

I am writing you concerning your son, Private First Class Daniel Arellano, who was reported missing in action since December 2, 1950 following an engagement with the opposing forces in the Chosin Reservoir area of North Korea.

RECORDS SHOW
The records show that a name believed to be his appears on a list provided by the opposing forces giving the names of

(Continued on Page 2)

Torrance PRESS

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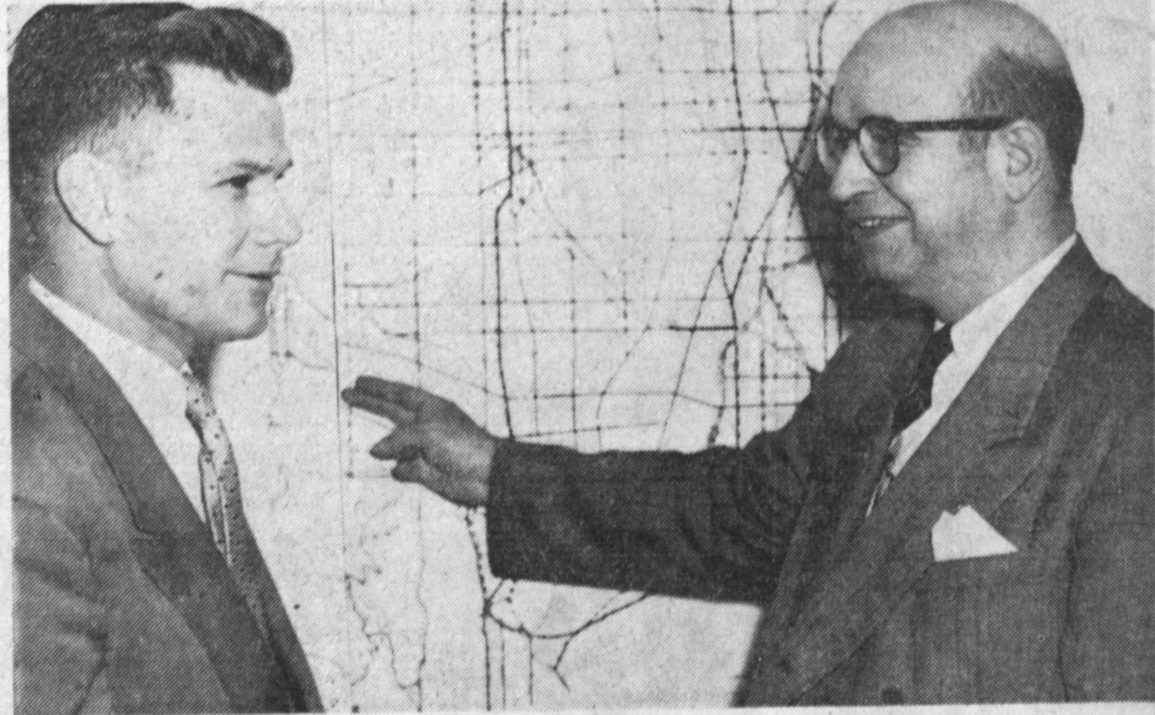
FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE PHONE TORRANCE 1818

THIRD YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., JANUARY 10, 1952

40

5c Per Copy NUMBER 39



Newly-elected Chamber of Commerce President Robert I. Plomert explains city-wide plans he envisions to First vice-president-elect Gerald Eastham. The two men took office without an installation after a Board of Directors election, last Monday afternoon. Both Plomert and Eastham promised to work as a team in putting over a solidified program for

Torrance. Plomert succeeded acting-president Henry W. Creeger who chose not to run for a regular term. Creeger stepped into the presidency's shoes when Pat Tillotson was suddenly called East by his firm. One of Plomert's first actions as President was to appoint a screening committee for the selection of a new Executive Secretary.

—Press photo.

13,500

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER IN TORRANCE AND LOMITA

PHONE TORRANCE 1185-1186

Last Minute Push Deciding Factor

Water bonds which will cost taxpayers \$2,000,000 were overwhelmingly approved by a six to one vote at a special election, this Tuesday. Since The Torrance Press was the only newspaper that gave its unqualified support to the issue, the phones in our office have been kept busy congratulating the Press on the community interest it was able to generate.

In its unqualified support the Torrance Press pointed out:

"While the democratic rights of residents have been ignored by the Ruling Four Councilmen, the answer does not lie in defeating a needed improvement."

Numerous phone calls that have kept the office of this newspaper humming, indicate that residents who voted to support the water bonds on recommendation of the Press, are looking forward to the April election house-cleaning.

If voters are really dissatisfied with the flagrant use of secret meetings, they will have a chance to clean house in the Spring balloting, and the water bond money will be administered by the New City Council.

Real Census

"This election," was the consensus of a large group, "is the only authentic readership survey that has been conducted within Torrance for the past year."

When one medium of communication and only one gives its full support to an issue, and the people follow that recommendation, proof rests in the results.

A study of the water bond election figures is very reassuring and gratifying. There were 1,957 voters who cast their ballots in 31 precincts within Torrance. Of this number, 1,681 voted for the bonds, and 276 were opposed to issue. Since it took a two-thirds vote for a victory,

(Continued on Page 3)

Plant Quiet

Work stoppage at Columbia Steel may soon affect the entire economy of Torrance. Close to 1200 workers have joined a continuous meeting until management rectifies its action in firing two employees, J. J. McNally, Chairman of the Grievance Committee for local 1414 of the CIO United States Steel Workers Union, reported today.

McNally said that last Friday, 13 men were requested to carry out duties as hookers in the rolling mill. They refused claiming that the job was worth more money. As a result, a foreman suspended them.

Men Return

On Saturday, union officials and management straightened the matter out, it was believed. McNally said that Columbia had agreed to return the 13 men to their jobs on Monday of this week.

Frank A. Burns, public relations director for United States Steel, claimed that two of the 13 men had previous records of not wanting to work and were fired on Monday.

McNally said that the records of the two men were no different from the other 11. According to management, workers began to slowly drift off the job on Monday until by dusk, the plant was shut down.

Union Claims

The Union claimed that this statement is erroneous. It was pointed out that Local 1414 called a continuous meeting at noon on Monday after the firing of the two men.

At the request of management, the Union had kept a few helpers around to tend the furnaces and prevent buckling within the steel mill. However, when Columbia continued its adamant stand against compromise, the Union membership voted to pull out all men out of the plant at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

President Plomert Maps Chamber Plan

Annual Torrance Chamber of Commerce elections skyrocketed Robert I. Plomert into the presidency of that organization on Monday afternoon. Plomert is known as the "Goodwill Ambassador of General Petroleum" in Torrance.

Expansion At Airport By Longren

Constructing the whole airplane, rather than just small parts of the plane was being planned by executives of Longren in the near future as they approached Torrance City officials on the possibility of getting a favorable lease on a portion airport, Hampden Wentworth, vice president of the concern, informed the Press in an exclusive interview today.

"We are planning a tentative program of expansion at the airport which will include testing motors and other equipment provided that we can get cooperation from City Hall officials," Wentworth said.

Plomert immediately appointed group to study qualifications of candidates for a new Chamber Executive Secretary. Chairman of the committee is William Zoeller and three members: Henry Creeger, Reed Parkin, and Paul Loranger.

He appointed a budget committee with Dean Sears as chairman and members Jerry Eastham, Fay Park, and C. T. Rippey.

The final group was the annual membership committee consisting of Bob Haggard as chairman and members Don Wagen and Darwin Parrish. Also serving with this group are two ex officio members, J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and Charles Schultz representing the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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'51 Construction Slumps More than Three Million

Reports in the engineering office, this week, showed that the year 1951 was overshadowed by over \$3,000,000 in new building construction over 1950. The grand total for 1951 was \$12,805,814. Grand total for 1950 amounted to \$16,009,783.

1951 got off to a good start, and it looked as if this last year would outdistance 1950—which had had made a good showing already. However, the last three months slowed down considerably. Here is the construction recorded for the month of December:

George N. Cullum, 3411 188th St., private garage, \$600; I. T. Bush, 4312 W. 179th St., store room addition, \$75; W. R. Pearson, 460 Via Los Miradores, dwelling and double garage, \$11,500; Sam Levy, 1953 Carson, remodel store front, \$500.

Resident Addition
James D. Leffler, 3950 Newton St., addition to residence, \$1,200; Rudolph Ramos, 1316 Cordary, redwood fence, \$175; J. P. Spitzel, 1336 Post, remodel show room, \$3,000; George R. Johnson, 23513 Madison, residence and attached garage, \$8,000.

Michael P. Kalzer, 212 Paseo de Gracia, concrete block fence, \$300; Marvin W. Davis, 17218 Ardath, private garage, \$750; five residences and garages by Harlan Cross, Inc., totaling \$91,000. These were to be constructed at the following addresses on Elm: 1723, 1745, 1755, 1727, and 1721.

G. S. Munyer, 24202 Ward, addition to store room, \$400; Earl H. Brooks, 3208 W. 188th St., Dr. Plunkett, contractor, private garage, \$700; Baker Furniture, 1512 Cravens, Gillespie Neon, contractor, neon sign, \$300; H. F. Rope, 211 Camino Del Campo, residence and garage, \$12,600.

Block Fences
The following concrete block fences valued at \$1456 were contracted for by the Paramount

(Continued on Page 3)

LORANGER HOME FROM TRIP EAST

Critical auto shortages due to the partial shutdown of new car production will soon hit Torrance, according to Paul Loranger, local Chevrolet dealer for Torrance and Lomita.

Loranger, his wife, and eighteen year old daughter, Alicia, returned last week, from a two-week trip to Detroit where they were visiting relatives.

"Due to government bungling," said Loranger, more steel has been taken away from the auto industry than is used in the entire defense program."

He pointed out that as a result, the auto industry cannot get enough strategic materials to maintain a full crew. That means that new car quotas to dealers will be greatly slashed.

"While three shifts in the large auto factories is a normal operation, all of the large companies have had to trim their program to one working shift," Loranger said.

He emphasized that as a result of this, unemployment has hit an all time high in Detroit.

"You know," he said, "fortunately, we're not dependent on the auto manufacturing plants for the majority of our jobs in California. It's really played havoc with the people in the East."

Loranger said that while he was in Detroit, an advertisement came over the radio requesting 1,000 men to shovel snow.

"Unemployment was so bad," said Loranger, "that three thousand men showed up, and it took the best efforts of the police department to avoid a riot."

Pilot Hits Power Line

An electrifying experience with two 11,000 volt Edison Power lines near East Long Beach airport while 31-year-old Arthur E. Payne, was piloting his PT-22, didn't even shock him.

Payne who lives at 708 Border Ave., admitted that the incident had quite a sobering effect on him.

"I'm lucky that I wasn't burned to a frazzle," Payne declared. He charged the accident up to carelessness on his part.

"I started a pattern from Torrance airport," said Payne. "I saw a ship on the ground, as if it was ready to take off in the opposite direction. Since the ground directions weren't set, I had no guide. Follow the leader in this case certainly got me into trouble."

For all his troubles, Payne's plane only damaged the wheel pans and had a couple of dents. Payne works for B and M Machine works in Torrance.

LOMITA SOLDIER RETURNS HOME

LOMITA.—Pfc Samuel M. May, son of Mr. and Mrs. George May, of 2340 W. 249th st., is among 3000 officers and men who arrived Monday in Seattle from Korea. They are aboard the transports Pvt. Sadao Munemori and Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, the army reported.

May was graduated in 1950 from Torrance high school and has been in the army one and one-half years, of which nine months were spent in combat, Mrs. May said. He served with the 25th Infantry Division.

The 20-year-old Lomitan has a twin brother in the service, Corp. Ross R. May, attached to the air force base in Wichita, Kans.

In addition, he has another brother in the service, Corp. Charles W. May, 27, a brother James in Occidental college, a sister Martha Helen at Narbonne High school and two small brothers, John, 12, and George, 8.

The family has lived for around 20 years in Lomita, where the father is a carpenter.

Educators Meet at Ding How

Suggestions for a bond brochure and Social Studies in the Curriculum are the two topics for discussion by the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee when the group meets in a regular monthly meeting at the Ding How Cafe, 1652 Cabrillo, next Monday at noon.

Grace Wright, Board of Education member, will serve as moderator. Members are requested to make reservations by postcard or by telephoning Superintendent J. H. Hull's secretary at Torrance 2111 no later than today.



Among nine top supervisors of the Engineering-Construction Department of General Petroleum Corporation who are congratulating each other on receiving two "Million Hour" accident prevention awards from the American Petroleum Institute is B. C. McCoy, Superintendent of the Torrance Plant.



Postmaster Clara Connor signs up Mrs. Chas. Rickabaugh, Jr. for the current March of Dimes campaign as a fund raiser for the charitable organization, Polio made Mrs. Rickabaugh a widow when her husband died in the Los Angeles County General Hospital on Nov. 15. Mrs. Rickabaugh is the mother of the five

children appearing in this picture. Her sixth child, Carl, 11, was visiting a girl friend at the time the picture was snapped. Reading left to right in the picture are Cherie, 7; Catherine, 8; Mrs. Clara Connor; Mrs. Charles Rickabaugh; Chloe, 9—holding her baby sister Charlotte—one month old; and Hugh, 3.