

Letters From Famous Americans

Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States, was lieutenant general and commander of the Armies of the United States when he wrote the letter below to Maj. Gen. Edward O. Ord, commander of the Army of the James, on March 24, 1865. Grant accepted Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox just 16 days later on April 9. April was also the month of Grant's birth (April 27, 1822) and the beginning of the Civil War (April 12, 1861). Grant died July 23, 1885. In the letter, he tells Ord of the dispatch of gunboats up the Chickahominy River at the time Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan's cavalry was crossing to rejoin Grant for the last campaign.

Head Quarters Armies of the United States,
City Point, Va. Feb. 27 1865

Maj. Gen. Ord
I spoke to Commodore Radford about sending gunboats up the Chickahominy when Sheridan was about to cross. I believe he will see all the preparations to do so. It can have an special protecting advantage to have the Navy go up as they cannot ascend to the point of crossing but it may be desirable to make a reconnaissance up there to see what is going on and whilst the troops are crossing it will be safe to make it. Sheridan will encamp tomorrow night on the Chickahominy. Please send this to Adm. Porter.

U. S. Grant
Lt. Gen.

TEXT: "I spoke to Commodore Radford about sending gunboats up the Chickahominy when Sheridan started to cross. I believe he made all the preparations to do so. It can have an special protecting advantage to have the Navy go up as they cannot ascend to the point of crossing but it may be desirable to make a reconnaissance up there to see what is going on and whilst the troops are crossing it will be safe to make it. Sheridan will encamp tomorrow night on the Chickahominy. Please send this to Adm. Porter."

From the Charles G. Slack Collection, Marietta College, Marietta, O.



J. PARKE MONTAGUE Services on Tuesday

Businessman, Civic Leader Rites Slated

James Parke Montague, 52 prominent Torrance businessman and civic leader, died Friday in Long Beach. He was active for many years in Torrance Plumbing, one of the city's oldest continuing business firms.

Mr. Montague was born in Tonopah, Nev., on March 9, 1913 and came to Torrance in 1929. He was graduated from Torrance High School where he was active in helping form the first Kiwanis club-sponsored Key Club at the school. He also attained the rank of Eagle Scout during his school year.

He was married to Margaret Virginia Bell in Torrance on Aug. 17, 1940. He served with the U. S. Navy during World War II and was aboard the USS Iowa in Tokyo Bay when the armistice was signed.

Mr. Montague received a degree in business administration from the University of Southern California. He was a member of the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion and was past president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club. He was active for many years in boys work and was instrumental in the operation of the Kiwanis Club's "Kids' Day" program for several years.

He is survived by his widow, Virginia; his mother, Addie Parks, and his stepfather, Fay L. Parks; two brothers, Ralph Montague of Torrance and Charles W. Montague of San Fernando; four nephews, and two nieces.

Funds Voted For Carson Area Street

The Board of Supervisors on recommendation of Chairman Burton W. Chace has allocated \$2,300 to improve a portion of 213th Street near Wilmington Avenue.

The work will consist of extending the pavement along the north side of 213th to join with new curbs and gutters recently installed by private developer.

When completed, the project will provide better operational efficiency along this section of county road, Chace said.

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School Building Program May Collapse, Hull Says

Torrance's school building program is on the verge of total collapse, Superintendent J. H. Hull told area church leaders at a luncheon meeting this week. And the spectre of double sessions is just beyond, he added.

"Two out of every three voters who go to the polls Feb. 8 will have to vote 'Yes' on school bonds if Torrance intends to keep its school building program from collapsing completely," he said.

Speaking before a meeting of the Torrance Ministerial Association, Dr. Hull explained the state law requiring a two-thirds majority needed to approve the bond proposal. He also told them that school enrollment is increasing at the rate of 1,500 youngsters a year.

"WE'VE RUN out of classrooms," he said. "Students are studying in cafeterias, classes are being squeezed into music rooms and other cubbyholes, and we even have a music class being conducted on a custodian's compound," the superintendent said.

And the situation is not going to improve with the city's spiraling population gains, he indicated. He claims it will get worse.

"Since we have no space left to absorb the overflow, we will have to go back on double sessions for the first

time in five years unless we get that two thirds majority in the election," the ministers were told.

"WE'RE NOT asking anything new," he pointed out. "All we're asking is that the voters enable us to take advantage of funds legally available for school construction. We're merely asking them to extend the authority they've granted us all along for another three or four years. It isn't going to boost their tax rate one iota. We're already bonded to capacity, so the tax rate will just stay where it is."

If the voters approve the bond issue, the school district will have two kinds of bond money available for building schools, the superintendent said. As the district pays off old bonded debts it can sell new bonds in the same amount. "This works like a revolving charge account," he explained.

In addition, as the market value of the district grows, the assessed valuation goes up, he pointed out. "It is about one-fourth of the market value of the district," he said.

"THE DISTRICT is allowed to sell bonds equal to one-tenth of the assessed valuation," he explained. "Every time the assessed valuation

increases ten million dollars, the board can sell one million dollars worth of bonds. Last year, assessed valuation increased \$17 million and our bonding capacity increased \$1.7 million."

"By combining our rate of growth and our bond payoff schedule," he stated, "it is possible for the school district to obtain something like three to three and one-half million dollars per year in new building money at our present rate of growth. We will still, however, be bonded only to bonding capacity and the tax rate will remain the same."

"BY SELLING bonds, the board can maintain the present tax rate and spread the cost of buildings over 20 years, just as a homeowner spreads the mortgage payments on his home over a long period of time," he said.

"It is normal to expect a school district that is experiencing growth such as that of Torrance to have a bond election every three or four years. This is routine. However, the voters, and particularly the parents of school children should become sufficiently excited about it to get that two-thirds vote," he concluded, "because a simple majority isn't enough to do the job."

DMV Chief Urges Prompt Action on Tab Renewals

Tom Bright, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, said today that many thousands of vehicle owners will face long lines unless they visit a DMV office now.

Bright directed his warning at three groups:

- those seeking transfers of ownership for vehicles they have purchased;
- new residents applying for California registration;
- vehicle owners who did not receive an official punched-card statement in the mail.

"These persons should take their vehicle registration and ownership documents to a DMV office immediately," Bright said, "to avoid long lines before the February 4 deadline."

He explained that delays may result because each of these transactions require special attention, in contrast to the routine handling of most vehicle registration renewals.

"Persons with renewal cards can obtain quick service," he promised. "These transactions usually can be completed at the window within 30 seconds, not counting time spent in line." But

he said crowded parking lots and offices may delay the motorist with a renewal card as the deadline approaches. Penalty charges are added to fees for renewals made after Feb. 4.

About 11 million renewal statements were mailed last month to California vehicle owners. DMV said a small portion of these failed to reach owners because they had moved and left no forwarding addresses. Other persons did not receive cards because they recently bought vehicles.

Bright said DMV offices will be open Saturday (Jan. 29) from 8 a.m. until noon.

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RECEIVES AWARD . . . Francis D. Tappan (left), assistant to the vice-president, North American Aviation, Inc., is presented an American Cancer Society award by George R. Perkovich Jr., Westchester attorney and district commerce and industry chairman for the society. North American Aviation was given the plaque in recognition of loyal and continuous corporate support to the American Cancer Society from 1949 through 1965.

Scouts to Deliver Flower Gifts to Leaders' Wives

Nearly 2,000 long-stemmed carnations will be delivered individually to a group of "Good Scouts" next Saturday.

The carnations will be delivered personally to the wife of every Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and Explorer advisor in the Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Making the deliveries will be 500 spruced-up Boy Scouts.

The flowers were provided free to the Scouts by a flowers-by-wire service. Each leader's wife will be presented with a carnation and a card of appreciation to a "Good Scout" whose "patience and understanding"

Harbor College Awards Degrees to 169 Grads

Associate in Arts degrees will be awarded to 169 members of the winter graduating class at Harbor College, Dr. Wendell C. Black, college president, has announced.

Dr. Black said the number of graduates represents an increase of about 33 per cent over the winter class of 1965.

No formal graduation ceremony is to be held for the winter graduates, he explained, but the graduates will be invited to return in June and receive their degrees in ceremonies at that time.

Graduates from Torrance include: John Henry Bixby, Claudia Kay Bowers, Mickey Charles Brazil, Harold Paul Drake Pamela Ann Ferrone, Harry Lloyd Fountain Jr., Robert Lee Gunter, Mitchell P. Kunich, Nicholas George Lorentz, Frank Marques, Kenneth Lee Nobles, Joseph Roger Ornelas, and James Edward Pickle.

Lomita residents earning degrees include: Catherine Jane Brink, Sandra S. Kee, James Kryda, Yolanda Ann Lakatos, Kathryn Sue Lloyd, David Lee Loftin, Nancy Rae Loy, Charles Ronald Maye, Dianne Tritica, LeRoy Ellis Wright, and Dorothy Wulf.

Two students from Redondo Beach also will receive degrees. They are Ilene L. Bialecki and Gerald R. Stephens.

The element phosphorus was discovered in 1669.

Jaycees Continue Sale of 'A History of Torrance'

"A History of Torrance," a 154-page book prepared for use in the Torrance schools, currently is being offered for sale to the general public.

The pre-publication sale is being sponsored by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Torrance Unified School District.

Single copies of the book may be ordered for \$3.75 each, including sales tax. Discounts will be given for bulk orders.

The book was prepared by the schools for use as a teaching guide. It includes photographs of the city in its early days, as well as modern scenes. Many of the city's pioneer citizens contributed to the book.

Orders may be placed on a special coupon which can be found in today's editions of the Press-Herald. Copies of the book are available at each of the city's libraries.

(Continued from Page 1)
Purse Snatchers
second teenager stood by Mrs. Palmer told officers. The third youth waited in a car. All three were between 16 and 18 years old, she said.
Mrs. Palmer said her purse contained \$5 in cash and three payroll checks, each for \$52.82. In addition, identification papers and several credit cards were in the purse, she said.
The theft occurred about 8:30 p.m. Thursday on the Carson Street side of the Del Amo Center parking lot.

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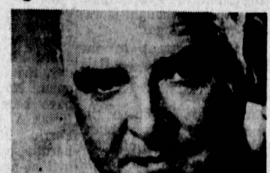
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