

# FIRE TRUCK DEAL CRITICISED AT COUNCIL MEET TUESDAY

(Continued from Page 1-A)  
that was still being manufactured; that it had been thoroughly tested and approved by the Board of Fire Underwriters, and that "no other companies would offer a comparable deal" although he admitted he did not talk to representatives of other manufacturers and that none came before the city council with propositions.

**Favors Open Discussion**  
The opinion-by-opinion account of the discussion follows: Attorney Isen opened the subject by giving a statement on the right of free speech being "good for our democracy," declaring "the council should welcome discussion of its official acts." Friends asked him, Isen said, to enter into a study of the purchase of the 1,000-gallon Mack pumper and he agreed to appear because "it is much better to have open and free discussion than rumor and back-alley talk."

"I have looked into the situation and I find the truck is of 1931 or 1932 manufacture, it has been considerably traveled and that the city intends to pay some \$8,600 for it on a rental or lease agreement—\$2,500 the first year and the balance deferred over a two-year period with interest at the rate of six percent on the deferred balance," the attorney continued.

**Quotes Herald Reports**  
"The truck cannot be considered new and it has, I am told, a reasonable replacement value of only between \$5,500 or \$6,000. Brand new equipment of 1939 manufacture could be purchased for around \$9,400," Isen insisted.

Then he quoted briefly from news reports published in The Herald issues of Aug. 17 and Sept. 28, in which the apparatus was described as "the new pumper." However, he said the first report stated that, quoting from The Herald, "altho the Mack equipment is new, the pumper has been used for display purposes at the Mack Truck Company's headquarters in Los Angeles for some time and the city is buying it at considerable reduction from the list price." Isen informed the council and 64 spectators that he drew "two inferences from the news accounts—one that the representative of the paper was misinformed and the articles were in error as to the truck's 'newness' or else erroneous information was given out by the paper for the obvious purpose of misleading the public."

**No Competitive Bidding**  
"Therefore I am not satisfied with the truck transaction and I would like a statement from the council to clarify the situation," the attorney concluded.

Carl Marsteller, unsuccessful candidate for the city council in 1938 and National Supply company clerk, was the next to address the council. He inquired "whether or not the purchase was subject to competitive bidding for like equipment?"

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# Council Adopts Gas Tax Resolutions

Two resolutions, approving accumulation of the quarter-cent gasoline tax monies due the city from the State Highway Commission and expenditures of part of these funds over a two-year period on the maintenance of Hawthorne avenue between Torrance boulevard and Redondo Beach boulevard, were adopted by the city council Tuesday night.

Part of the funds will be allowed to accumulate, City Engineer Leonard Young said, because no definite program of road improvement on state highways in Torrance has been adopted.

from Theodore Hagwood, manager of the Los Angeles branch, stated.

**Press Functions Explained**  
Grover C. Whyte, publisher of The Herald, in answering Attorney Isen's statements concerning this newspaper's reports about the fire truck, declared: "I wish to say that I think Mr. Isen's attitude is very fine and laudable. May I point out, however, that sometimes the press is the only audience the council has at its regular sessions and explain something of the functions of the press?"

"We don't attempt to say that everything that is said here is true—we only say it's true here," he said or it happened. I don't know anything about fire trucks but the things Chief Stroh and the mayor said about the truck were correctly reported.

"In fairness to the council and the mayor," Whyte continued, "it should be remembered Mr. Tolson has been in the truck business all his life. None of you have identified the sources of your information while the city council has given its authority for its statements about the truck."

**Is New to City Anyway**  
Ex-Navy man Prewett asserted that he had given his sources "as reliable" but so far as reporters present could transcribe his statements he made no mention of any particular person or firm as supporting his assertions earlier in the meeting.

"The truck is new so far as we're concerned," Mayor Tolson interjected. "Perhaps in talking to the press we did mention—not only once but frequently—our new truck."

Marsteller returned to the discussion by stating: "I'm wondering why this contract or option to buy the truck was not advertised in the local paper for bids and put on a competitive basis?"

**'Post-Mortem' Held**  
Mayor Tolson replied that "no other company could offer a comparable deal. I didn't talk to any other manufacturers or their agents and none came before the council with propositions."

"I say the city got stung on a second-hand truck," broke in Abel Beech, a local resident who refused to give his name when Mayor Tolson asked him to identify himself to the gathering. "My name doesn't matter but I claim to know autos and trucks," Beech snapped.

And that ended the formal discussion, but numerous groups lingered over the controversy for two hours after the council adjourned.

Its component parts had been removed and replaced as the company received demands for pieces of its equipment. The replacements came direct from the Mack factory and the company stated that "it was identically the same as the type No. 95 that is being manufactured today, carrying the same guarantee."

The firm said it had never been used in actual service, that it was a "show truck" whose regular price was approximately \$13,000. The apparatus meets every requirement of the Board of Fire Underwriters, the letter

# New Chevrolets Due Saturday at Thompson's



ED THOMPSON ... can't restrain enthusiasm

Tuesday afternoon Ed Thompson, Chevrolet dealer in Torrance, and three members of his sales staff joined several hundred other Chevrolet dealers in this district in an uproarious burst of applause as they caught their first glimpse of the new 1940 line of Chevrolet cars. The pre-showing and inspection of the new cars took place at the Philharmonic auditorium and Biltmore ballroom in Los Angeles.

If the excited enthusiasm of the dealers is a criterion of the reaction of the public when the cars go on display this Saturday, Oct. 14, the coming year promises to eclipse all others in Chevrolet history, according to those "in the know."

While refraining from giving any details until Saturday when he invites the public to come and see the Chevrolets for 1940 at his showrooms at 1600 Cabrillo avenue, Ed Thompson could not restrain from remarking: "They are the most beautiful and finest line of cars I have ever seen."

Accompanying Thompson to the pre-showing luncheon and presentation were three of his sales staff, Leo O'Brien, sales manager; Frank Colegrove and C. Murphy. Grover C. Whyte, Herald publisher, and J. W. Post, banker, were guests.

During the announcement period, beginning this Saturday, Thompson states that his showrooms will remain open Saturday evenings and all day Sunday.

**Woman, 83, Earns Her Way**  
DELAWARE, O. (U.P.)—An 83-year-old great grand-mother here earns her own living today as she has for the last 64 years—wearing rugs and cushion tops. She is Mrs. Priscene Elizabeth Zimmerman who insists that as long as she is able to weave she will not be dependent upon anyone.

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# Unknown Youth Meets Death in P.E.-Auto Crash

A victim of a collision early Sunday morning between a Pacific Electric train and a stalled automobile at 190th street and Normandie avenue, Shoestring strip, an unidentified hitch-hiker died en route to the General Hospital after being given emergency treatment at Torrance Memorial hospital.

The young man was riding with Arthur L. Lossnitzer, 40, Los Angeles, who is confined at the hospital here, suffering from fractured ribs and possible internal injuries. Lossnitzer has told investigating officers that his passenger had said he was a sailor aboard either the U.S.S. Oklahoma or Colorado. Navy authorities, however, cannot identify the body.

**Ordinance Shortage Cited**  
ST. LOUIS (U.P.)—Major-General C. M. Wesson, chief of the Army Ordnance department, said here that the nation's regular forces and national guard are in need of \$100,000,000 of equipment and ammunition which it would ordinarily take two years to produce.

Hide-tanning used to be just an occupation; now it's a vacation.

—Buffalo Courier-Express



FUEHRER'S DELIGHT...

Charming 20-year-old Marian Daniels of San Francisco so delighted the German Fuehrer with her dancing ability in the "Merry Widow," staged in Munich, that a special government plane brought her back from Cannes, France, for a repeat performance in the German city. Commented Miss Daniels upon her arrival in the United States: "He failed to impress me."

One day on the moon, astronomers tell us is equal to about 436 hours. Up there, the workers are no doubt agitating for the 400-hour working day.

—Rochester Democrat & Chronicle

# County May Raise Pipeline Franchises

Franchises for pipe lines carrying oil will cost more in paved streets hereafter, if the county auditor adopts recommendations made this week by Wayne Allen, chief administrative officer for the county supervisors.

Application of the Texas Company for a blanket franchise now

is pending, and County Auditor J. M. Lowery recommended that it be based on the diameter of the pipe and an installation charge of 20 cents per lineal foot of pipe. Allen said the county is subjected to more expense, as a rule, where lines are laid in paved streets.

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DELICIOUS WASHINGTON PEARS 3 lbs. 17¢  
BARTLETT PEARS 1 lb. 6¢  
TOKEY GRAPES 3 lbs. 10¢  
UTAH CABBAGE 1 lb. 2¢  
RED YAMS 3 lbs. 12¢

**CANNED FRUITS**  
Hemet Apricots 10¢  
Pie Cherries 42¢  
Pilsner Cavalade 40¢  
Slipped Pineapple 9¢

**CANNED VEGETABLES**  
Asparagus 8¢  
Puritan Baked Beans 47¢  
Sea Bright Peas 40¢  
Zacate New Potatoes 9¢  
Sauerkraut 10¢  
Tomatoes 25¢  
Stokely Tomatoes 12¢

**MEATS**  
SIRLOIN STEAK QUALITY BEEF lb. 41¢  
PORK LOIN ROAST lb. 21¢  
PORK SAUSAGE UN-CLD BRAND lb. 23¢  
Pork and Sliced Bacon 25¢  
Sliced Bacon 14¢  
Salt Side Pork 15¢  
Pure Lard 12¢  
Hen Turkeys 25¢  
Spare Ribs 21¢

**HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**  
Su-Purb Soap 8¢  
Su-Purb Soap 19¢  
Scotch Soap 22¢  
Scotch Soap 35¢  
Woodbury Facial Soap 20¢

**Kitchen Craft FLOUR**  
No. 10 sack 35¢  
24-lb. sack 73¢  
49-lb. sack 140¢

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YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GROCER