



LIEUT. WALTER OWENS . . . 20-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Owens of 2347 246th Place, Lomita, recently commissioned as a pilot in the Air Corps of the United States Army, who is leaving today after his first leave at home since joining the Army in January, 1943. He reports to Salt Lake City for assignment.



LT. EUGENE SHANER . . . who graduated with class 43K at George Field Army Air Forces Pilot School at Lawrenceville, Ill., and received his commission as a second lieutenant, spent a few days during the past week with his parents, 1622 Crenshaw Blvd., before leaving for the Salt Lake Army Replacement Center from which he will be assigned to pilot or co-pilot combat duty.—Eastern Flying Command photo.

Two Army Lieutenants Meet on Torrance Bus Find They're Neighbors

This world is a small place after all. This was the conclusion reached by two lieutenants, Eugene C. Shaner and Walter Owens, who introduced themselves when they took a seat together in a Torrance-bound bus in Los Angeles on Thursday last week. Both had graduated from the Army Air Force Pilot school at George Field, Lawrenceville, Ill.; they had been in the same outfit elsewhere, even traveling aboard the same train to California after having graduated last Dec. 5 when they won their wings and were commissioned second lieutenants. Yet, as far as they knew, had never met before. Shaner was brought up in Torrance, attended the schools here and graduated from the high school. Owens lived only a few blocks away—in Lomita, all his life and is a graduate of the Narbonne high school.

Gene Hamilton, 57, Passes Away At Long Beach

Claude Eugene Hamilton, aged 57, who was better known to everyone who knew him as "Gene," passed away last Sunday in Long Beach following illness which caused him to retire actively from the real estate business in Torrance more than a year ago.

Both on Furlough

Both were given furloughs to come home for a visit with their parents before leaving for the Army Replacement Center at Salt Lake City where they expect to receive their orders soon to go into combat duty as pilots, or co-pilots, on Uncle Sam's war planes.

Lieutenant Owens is a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Owens of 2347 246th St., Lomita. He joined the Army Air Corps in January, 1943, soon after he had completed his course at Narbonne. Since that time he has been in training in Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, finishing up at George Field. He and Lieut. Shaner followed much the same training routine. The amazing part about it all is that through all the strenuous months of training, they had never come close enough to know that they were really next-door neighbors at home. Neither had been home since they went to boot camp.

"You can't beat the Army Air Corps," declared Lieut. Shaner. (Continued on Page 4-A)

Shelter for Servicemen's Wives in Theater Building Planned

Officers and directors of the Service Men's Foundation, Inc., meeting at the home of J. E. Miller, 1272 Cotia ave., last night named a committee consisting of Mrs. Helen Miller and Mrs. Ann Burton to see what can be done accommodations for the wives of servicemen, casualties of the war, who are now convalescing at the Army Base hospital east of Torrance. Sam Levy, owner of the Grand theater bldg., has donated rooms for this purpose on the second floor of the structure.

The committee welcomes the loan or donations of pillow cases, sheets, blankets, three-quarter or full sized beds, davenport, card tables, assortment of lamps, chairs, rugs, one chess game, four of Chinese checkers, playing cards, ash trays, drinking glasses, etc. Persons having any of the foregoing listed articles are requested to call the M. & M. Transfer Co., phone Torrance 53 and they will be picked up and delivered, it was announced. Another committee was select-

Legion Sells Property on Carson Street

The quake-wrecked American Legion building and lot on Carson street has been sold, according to announcement of Jack Hallanger, post commander, to H. R. Douglass, resident of this community and employed at Los Angeles Harbor. The escrow papers have been signed and deposited with the Torrance National Bank. The purchase price is reported to be \$1500.

Originally the building cost somewhere around \$10,000 for a club house and meeting place for the Legion and Auxiliary and when the destructive tremor came it was damaged beyond repair. A debt of \$900 was still owing, but this was later paid off, members of the post considering, as Commander Hallanger described it, as an "honor debt," while entertaining the hope that steps to refinance the project would succeed. Then came the war, when priorities and other conditions arose which made the movement impossible.

Meanwhile, although the place had been surrounded by a high board fence, vandals entered and carried off practically everything of value—all evading apprehension. "Had it not been for this vandalism, the sale price would have been considerably more," declared Hallanger.

But members of the Legion post, after much discussion, decided to dispose of the property for what they could get and devote their energies toward the post-war Veterans' Memorial building project which may be presented to the voters of Torrance for approval or rejection at the city election to be held in April, 1944.

Plan for Future

Plans under consideration for a structure capable of caring for all veterans' organizations after the war is ended and one that will stand for many years to come as a tribute by the people of this community to the men and women who have or are now playing a part in the battles for freedom and preservation of American principles of government.

"The present war has brought many changes. When the conflict is over, millions will return to civilian life. Men and women from this area will be coming home; they will need a place to meet. With this end in view the Legion post membership now feels they should concentrate on the proposed post-war project," Hallanger explained.

Vote Endorses Revitalized C. of C. Program

The revitalized Torrance Chamber of Commerce was endorsed to a marked degree last night when members of the new organization voted to retain five of the directors who were chosen to serve the civic body temporarily during the period pending permanent organization.

The five given the mandate to continue with the tasks already begun to develop an aggressive and forceful business association to meet the needs of this rapidly growing community are: James L. Lynch, Philip Van Dyke, Robert T. McCallum, Charles T. Rippey and William H. Tolson. The other two members of the board are Hillman R. Lee and Howard G. Locke. The first three named in the foregoing list are to serve terms of three years, the next two for one year each.

Shortly after announcement of the result, organization was completed by election of James L. Lynch, president; Philip Van Dyke, first vice president; Howard G. Locke, second vice president; Robert T. McCallum, secretary, and Charles T. Rippey, treasurer.

The only other business transacted was adoption of by-laws drafted by a committee of which C. C. Buxton was chairman. Some amendments were added. The next general meeting of members of the chamber will be called soon after Jan. 1, President Lynch said.

AT PARENTS' HOME
Mrs. Mary Day, Mrs. Jane Holliday and her son, Walton Crawford (Mike) visited Sunday at the Los Angeles home of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Roberts.

Housing, Transportation Vital Manpower Problem, Says Bradley

While the labor shortage condition in war production plants has shown improvement in most Southern California plants, this cannot be said of the existing situation in Torrance, declared K. C. Bradley, manager of the U.S. Employment Service office, today.

Lack of adequate housing, supplemented by extremely inefficient transportation facilities are factors which is making trouble for local industries to obtain help, or to maintain men and women who have been given jobs, Bradley asserted.

Difficulties cited He cited numerous instances where men quit their jobs and have gone elsewhere, all because they had failed to find homes, apartments or even rooms. Some had brought their families with them. Others accepted jobs and their families followed, only to become discouraged and disillusioned when days of search for places in which they could live brought no tangible results. They couldn't wait until federal housing projects now under construction are completed—simply because the accommodations required were needed now.

That Bradley said about housing, especially supports what Pat MacDonnell, Federal Housing area manager, said last week when he asserted that the housing situation still remains extremely critical and that it is likely to become worse before it is better, despite all that is being done both by Federal and private enterprise to provide more housing.

Lauds Bus System While Bradley had only words of praise for the Torrance Municipal Bus system in expanding its services to the community, so great are the demands, it only partially fills the bill. Transportation, Bradley emphasized, is a distinct problem in this community insofar as it affects manpower, especially those scores of war workers who have no transportation and must depend upon public utilities or who may not have satisfactory arrangements for share-rides to commute between their homes and places of employment.

Big Leaguers to Play Ball Here Next Sunday

Dale Riley, Torrance city recreation commissioner, believes local fans will be given the opportunity to witness some real baseball in which a number of well known big league players will take part at Torrance Municipal park during the next few months.

Riley announces formation of a new league with eight Southern California teams as members with approval by the Southern California Baseball Assn.

The teams enrolled in the league consists of the Northrop R.C.'s which has already staged several good games in Torrance in recent weeks; North American, Electrical Union, Valley Aircraft, Naval Drydock, Rosedale Plumbers, Iron Workers and Pacific Clay. The opening games are scheduled for next Sunday.

Carded to appear at Torrance Municipal park on that day is the Electrical Union nine which contains such big leaguers as Lowry, Chicago Cubs; Vince Di Maggio (brother of Joe), Pittsburgh Pirates; Zarilla, St. Louis Browns; Metcovich, Boston Red Sox; Sainboth, St. Louis Browns, and Barret, Boston Braves.

This aggregation is pitted against the Northrop R.C.'s with a tentative lineup consisting of Tommy Blair, ss; P. B. Dexter, 2b; Lou Kubiak, lf; Bill Prout, 1b; John Lan Franco, c; Tillie Schaffer, p; Marion Kubiak, cf; Bob Etchandy, 3b, and John Ciccamarru, rf.

A small admission fee will be charged to help meet traveling expenses of the clubs. The league games will run until some time early in April, Riley said.

The Northrop R.C.'s claim Torrance as their home port. Sunday's game will be called at 2:15 p.m. The new baseball combination will be known as the Defense League.

NICE IS HOUSEGUEST
Miss Geraldine Miller of Elkhart, Ind., is a houseguest of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd R. Miller. She has recently taken a position in the laboratory of the Columbia Steel Co.

Christmas Issue Next Week To be Delivered on Tuesday

Due to the holiday season, next week's edition of the Torrance Herald will be delivered on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 21, instead of Thursday—the regular publication day.

This earlier delivery is being made to better serve the subscribers and advertisers, and will also give staff members a well-earned rest over the Christmas weekend. The newspaper office will be closed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 23, 24 and 25.

Church notices, club notes and other routine news copy should be submitted no later than Saturday, Dec. 18, for publication the following Tuesday.

Classified and display advertising will be accepted up until noon on Monday, Dec. 20.



JOE CRAIL . . . who will speak before a joint meeting of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs tonight in a program observing "Bill of Rights Week."

Crail to Talk in Torrance on Bill of Rights

Torrance Rotary and Kiwanis clubs are meeting tonight at the Woman's club in joint session for the purpose of uniting in a "Bill of Rights Week" observance program in which Joe Crail, Los Angeles attorney, will be the principal speaker. He has selected as his theme, "Modern Interpretation of the Bill of Rights."

Last week the Torrance public schools staged appropriate exercises commemorating the 152nd anniversary of the adoption of this historic document by the Congress of the United States, constituting the first ten amendments to the Federal Constitution and which formed the keystone upon which the American form of free government was founded and has advanced over the long span of years. In addition to the programs conducted in the schools, students were given copies of the precious document, with explanations as to what it means to preserve freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and other tenets which insure the rights of liberty to all who obey constituted law.

Ministers in many of the local churches during the delivery of their sermons called attention to the Bill of Rights and what it means to preserve the American form of government and the rights of a free people.

Crail is a dynamic speaker. He warns that the American people must not surrender one word of the Bill of Rights if they are to continue to live under a free government. He has been a leader in the movement for general observance of the week throughout Southern California and believes that now, as never before, it is important to fittingly observe the anniversary.

Attorney Crail came to California from Iowa with his parents when eight years of age. He is a son of the late Charles S. Crail, former presiding judge of the District Court of Appeals.

Local Stores Open Evenings for Record Shopping Crowds

To accommodate the largest trade in the history of Torrance, most of the retail stores of this area have opened their doors during the evening hours.

Christmas buying in Torrance has reached an all-time peak, according to observations made today by a number of local merchants. The number of shoppers in the stores throughout yesterday approached the day before Christmas rush of years gone by.

This increase is due to the discovery of local residents that they can do all of their Christmas shopping in Torrance and at the same time save the gasoline and expense of shopping in larger cities.

This trend of local shopping has been reflected in the stocks of local stores. Many shops here anticipated this and have been successful in stocking the largest variety of merchandise in their history.

LEAVE FOR EAST

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Rippey left yesterday for a month's trip in the east. Enroute they will visit at the home of Mrs. Lester Smith, Independence, Kan., their parents at Union City, Tenn. and will spend some time with their son, Charles T. Rippey, Jr., an aviation cadet at Sheppard Field, Texas.

IDECO Plant Workers Hear First Hand Tales of Battles With Japs

Two sailors who have been in the thick of naval battles in the Solomons and other parts of the Pacific theater of war spoke before an audience of approximately 200 employees of the International Derrick & Equipment plant on Carson st. yesterday afternoon. Both had been wounded in conflict and were sent home for hospitalization. At present they are at the Army Base Hospital east of Torrance.

Woman Suicide Former Worker in War Plant

Just outside a trailer in which her uncle and aunt live near Hawthorne and Sepulveda boulevards, Mrs. Vera Porter, 22 formerly employed in a Torrance defense plant, was selected as the place to end her own life by shooting early Wednesday morning.

The body was found by a passerby who reported to the Torrance police department "that he had seen some person lying near the road." Chief John Strohn and Sgt. H. W. Garner rushed to the scene. They found Mrs. Porter dead. She had shot herself by placing the end of the weapon in her mouth, the bullet came out the side of her neck and apparently pierced her jugular vein, Chief Strohn explained.

The revolver was a home-made affair, the chief said, using a single-shot 22 calibre shell. It was found near where she was lying in a pool of blood.

The woman's husband, Charles Porter, employed by the California Ship Building Co., and her aunt, Mrs. Flora Lane, with whom she has been staying since an estrangement with her spouse, said Mrs. Porter had threatened suicide on several occasions in recent months. According to Mrs. Lane, her niece had gone to bed Tuesday night without taking off her clothes. Since she had done that before, no attention was paid to her. But during the early morning hours she slipped out of the trailer unnoticed to commit the deed which ended her career. Mrs. Lane said Mrs. Porter was born and raised in New Mexico, where her parents now reside.

The husband said he had seen his wife a couple of days ago when they talked over reconciliation. He departed telling her that he would give his decision next Monday.

The Stone & Myers ambulance was called and the body was conveyed to the local mortuary. Meanwhile the coroner's office was notified.

The pistol used in the tragedy was owned by Mrs. Porter's uncle.

Knitters Urgently Needed by Red Cross

Mrs. Maude Lock, production chairman of Torrance Branch American Red Cross, is issuing an urgent request for knitters. A rush order for eight Navy scarves has just been received and there is need also for watch caps and helmets. A supply of yarn is available at headquarters, 1400 Cravens ave.

Conner Urges City Engineer to Tell Builders About Mail Slots

Postmaster C. Earl Conner has taken up with the city engineer's office in Torrance the matter of having a uniform placement of postal slot openings on front doors to business houses as well as those in residences.

The postmaster pointed out that postal regulations prescribe that these openings must be 30 inches above the door threshold, otherwise postal carriers are not obliged under the rules to give service to occupants of such places. The city engineer has been asked to inform builders regarding this postal requirement to avoid future confusion.

Conner explained that openings near the bottom of the door necessitates the carrier's stooping to an angle when contents of the mail, especially if he has a big load are apt to spill onto the porch floor which causes not only annoyance to the carrier but loss of time in covering his route. This practice is against regulations and cannot be continued, he said.

The postmaster cited one instance of a recently completed building where the owner requested the builder to place the slot in a door in the rear of the structure, just off the kitchen. To serve this house the carrier would be required to

Praises Workers

He then reminded the men and women who are employed in the IDECO plant that they are just as much a part of the line as the men who are risking their lives in the battle fronts. "Without your help, we cannot win. You have made parts for ships that have sailed all over the world—but there is yet one place we have not reached and that is Tokio. With you folks all putting in your best ticks we will go there, too, before this war is ended."

"One of the young men with

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Playgrounds Discussed by City Planners

Playgrounds under proper supervision was one of the post-war projects discussed at the meeting of the Torrance Planning Commission last Thursday night. F. L. Parks is head of this committee.

Site for the proposed playground as well as other features were discussed, without mapping a set program for the future. All seemed to agree that with such facilities, which are now lacking, there would be fewer juvenile delinquency cases brought to attention of official authorities. The question is to be given further study and the city organizations will be asked to cooperate in working out some workable plan. The matter was considered one of major importance for attention in the post-war period.