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COUNCIL DECIDES NOT TO SELL BUSES AS N. H. CUCCI CUTS PUBLIC HEARING SHORT

Without giving many in the audience an opportunity to speak on the subject, Councilman N. H. Cucci cut short the so-called "public hearing" on the question of whether or not the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines should be sold to a private operator by moving that the offer of Charles F. Koors of \$20,000 for the lines be rejected.

The motion immediately was seconded by Councilman C. M. Gilbert and thus the controversy ended.

Following the meeting, several local business men and patrons of the bus line complained that they were prepared to talk on the issue, but were not given an opportunity due to Cucci's haste to close the hearing.

"What are they hiding?" was the general inquiry.

Then Cucci, just as abruptly, turned to Mayor W. H. Tolson, who, with Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, voted against the motion and demanded that the reins of the bus department be turned over to him.

Mayor Tolson, Councilmen Hitchcock and C. V. Powell are the transportation committee.

Cucci and Gilbert, with Powell, have been advising with C. Z. Ward, bus manager, on the operation of the department. Powell has shown an inclination to sell the lines at the right price, but voted in favor of the Cucci motion. He said he was interested in community service first, at any cost.

The only ones given an opportunity to express themselves on the matter were A. L. Elder and Koors, who engaged in a lengthy debate on the subject of "Municipal Ownership vs. Private Operation." Paul Slonecker opened the debate with a question about the problem, and a few scattered remarks were heard during the debate, but no one else was given time to be heard.

Sam Levy, prominent local business man and civic leader, said he would have appreciated an opportunity to speak on the subject.

Koors dealt at length on a letter read to the council purportedly from 12 local residents and property owners attacking a recent advertisement on the bus issue printed in the Torrance Herald. The letter was unsigned, the 12 names being typewritten thereon, and a copy had been sent to the editor of the Torrance Herald, the communication said. At press time last night, the letter had not been received by the Herald.

The names typewritten on the letter were those of John A. McVicar, Carl D. Stoele, Harry R. Boynton, G. F. Billingsley, C. S. Johnson, N. J. Mortenson, Wm. H. Sykes, Carl C. Benner, Frank W. Smith, Wm. C. George, L. E. Stanley and A. L. Elder.

Elder was asked by a representative of the Torrance Herald if his name on the typewritten document was authorized. He said it was, but suggested that since the matter was all "water under the bridge" that the unsigned letter be ignored.

Cucci said that it had been decided to accept delivery of the Crown Body and Coach Co. buses, one of which is due this week. Six have been ordered and an effort will be made to settle on four, it was indicated.

Cucci said the revenue saved in the double-header service will be offset by the purchase of buses. "We've got to have buses, even if we put in new motors or let them go. We've got to have transportation." He did not explain the meaning of his statement, but it was claimed previously that the 125-horsepower Hall-Scott motors Crown uses are not sufficient.

The council appropriated \$350 for two new Ford replacement motors for the buses, \$300 for a new Ford transmission, \$125 for two fare boxes, entered into a contract with B. F. Goodrich Co. for tire rental and ordered that Gardena be notified that the lines will not be sold, that the mutual agreement with the city to allow Torrance buses to operate into Gardena, and Gardena buses into Torrance might be consummated.

PATRICIA DOANE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle C. Doane, of Naples and formerly of Torrance, leaves Dec. 10 for Hunter College, New York, to begin basic training with the WAVES. Miss Doane attended business college in Long Beach, following her graduation from high school and has been employed on the office staff at Douglas, Long Beach.

Theodore Meier New 'Y' Leader For Torrance

Torrance's new Y.M.C.A. secretary will be on job Dec. 1, it is announced by Hillman Lee, chairman of the Torrance community Council. Theodore Meier of Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed to the position.

Although a native of Pennsylvania, Meier has lived most of his life in Ohio and states he grew up in the Toledo Y.M.C.A. He attended the University of Toledo and secured a master's degree in social service administration at the University of Chicago. While in school he was active in athletics, debating and music.

He was employed as boy's work secretary of the Toledo Y.M.C.A. and since Mar. 1, 1942, has been associate executive secretary at Cleveland Y.M.C.A. Between these two positions he served a year in the United States Navy.

Meier will specialize in H.Y. work and other activities for young men of high school and business age. He will have an office at the Torrance Service Center, 1400 Cravens ave. Any who have previously held membership in the Y.M.C.A. elsewhere are invited to leave their names at the Torrance Service Center, so that they may take part in activities here.

S-Sgt. S. Griffith Is Awarded His Second Air Medal

Staff Sergeant Stacy W. Griffith, 26, son of Mrs. Griffith of 1545 1/2 W. 218th st., Torrance, who is serving here with the veteran 806th Bombardment Group as a waist gunner, has been awarded his second Air Medal for "exceptionally meritorious achievement." It was recently announced by his commanding officer, Col. James S. Sutton of Findlay, Ohio.

As a waist gunner of a Flying Fortress, the duties of Sergeant Griffith are to protect the waist, or "center-section" of his aircraft and in an emergency to be ready to take the place of the top turret gunner and flight engineer. He can handle two guns, one on each side of the waist section.

The efforts of men like Sgt. Griffith in the 806th Bombardment Group recently received official recognition when the First Bombardment Division, of which this group is a part, was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for "extraordinary heroism" displayed in carrying out the highly successful attack on the enemy aircraft plants at Oeschelshen and Halberstadt, Germany, despite extremely heavy fighter opposition.

Prior to entry into the Army Air Forces Griffith was employed at the Bethlehem Shipyard, San Pedro.

Mail Gasoline Applications, Green Urges

In view of the added work load that has been placed on the Torrance OPA board, the public is requested to make applications for gasoline as far ahead as possible. Application forms may be requested by mail and returned to the applicant by mail, thus saving gasoline in making trips to the local board. The only applications for gasoline that are acted upon immediately are requests made by our men in uniform on furloughs. "We ask the public's cooperation," Lloyd Green, chief clerk, said.

At present it is taking one week to ten days to process civilian applications.

TRIP AUTHORIZED
City Engineer G. M. Jain has been authorized by the City Council to attend the coming session of the League of California Cities in Sacramento.

AT STEVENS REUNION
Mrs. N. H. Cucci attended a luncheon and reunion of Stevens College alumnae Saturday at the home of Dr. Stan Curtis on Los Feliz Blvd.

TORRANCE SCHOOL GROUP WILL ORGANIZE AT PARLEY HERE ON TUESDAY NIGHT

What is lacking in educational opportunities, equipment and facilities in Torrance schools as operated by the Los Angeles city school system?

Can Torrance provide for itself better schools? Can taxes be reduced? Should a large metropolitan district dominate the schools of a small incorporated city when the facilities of the County Board of Education and the California Department of Education are available to Torrance as a separate school district just as much as they are to Los Angeles?

Should Torrance continue to pay the Los Angeles school system \$2 for every \$1 the Los Angeles system is spending for the operation of Torrance schools? These questions, and many others, will be answered at the organization meeting of the Torrance Parents' Association to be held in the council chambers in the City Hall Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 7:45 p.m., according to Mrs. Evelyn L. Carr, temporary chairman of the association.

The meeting is open to all interested in "Torrance Schools for Torrance Children," and letters inviting representatives of various organizations to the meeting have been sent out by the new association, Mrs. Carr said.

The letter reads: "An organization meeting of the Torrance Parents' Association will be held in the council chamber of the City Hall, 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, 1944. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect permanent officers and committees and plan our programs for the immediate future.

"Some of the subjects to be discussed at this meeting will be: "1. What is lacking in educational opportunities and equipment and facilities? "2. Could Torrance provide for itself better schools? Better teachers? Special opportunities? Supervision of educators? Better equipment, cafeteria, swimming pool, adequate gymnasium? "3. Would taxes be reduced? Could we obtain better results even at present tax rates? "We want to make a definite decision on what is to be done. Should we have our own school system or remain in the Los Angeles district? "It is our desire to make available to the children in this area the best in education and facilities. We want what the majority of the citizens want. "Your attendance is urged. Please send a representative of your organization to this meeting, that they can bring back the message to your group on what has transpired."

Report Cards go Out at Torrance High
Torrance high school report cards were issued on Monday, Nov. 13. The report to parents marks the end of the first term of the school.

Every student was urged to bring his report card back Tuesday morning signed by his parents.

The school will welcome conferences with parents, on any phase of the student's subject and citizenship grades, Principal E. Perry said.

Walter Hanson Cannot Make Local Recreation Survey
Walter Hanson, Santa Ana municipal recreation director, will be unable to make a recreation survey of Torrance, the City Council was informed Tuesday night. His duties in Santa Ana prevent the division of attention required by the local survey for which \$300 was appropriated.

The Torrance council decided to consider the situation before taking further action.

MRS. ECKERSLEY HERE
Mrs. Ivan Eckersley has returned from a prolonged visit at Oakland and at Ames, Iowa, where she had accompanied her husband, a fireman, 2/c, before his departure for overseas service. Mrs. Eckersley will make her home in Hermosa Beach.

Housing in Tents, Trailers, Garages Topping of City Council as Pleadings Are Filed by Anxious Families Here
Housing was a principal topic of the City Council Tuesday night — housing in trailers, tents and garages.

Chief of Police John Stroth said that in obedience to direction of the City Council he had notified three families living in trailers that they are in disfavor with the council, but he asked the council to "show me what to base a complaint on" before he can cite them to court or take any abatement proceedings.

Robert Gillon lives in one trailer, Stroth said, and Joe Reynolds, his wife and six children live in another. J. W. Ward and his family of wife and three children live in the third, all in Walteria.

The council admitted it was at a loss as to what to do, and told the chief that the families could continue to occupy the trailers until Dec. 4, at least, when the chief, the planning commission and the council will get together on the matter.

Mrs. Lillian Silver of 1605 Hickory appealed for the right to build a room to a 16x20 ft. garage of good construction, that she and her 79-year-old husband might have a place to live. The owner of the property has given her the right to make the addition, she said, but the zoning ordinance is against it. She was referred to the planning commission.

Abel Davila, essential war worker, asked permission to live in a tent or temporary shack on 14 acres of land he owns in Torrance. He said his family is in Santa Barbara, and he has been trying for two years to rent a house. He said he would like to build but cannot unless his family is here to help him and watch materials on the ground while he is at work. Councilman N. H. Cucci said he wanted more information on the subject, and the council delayed action on the request.

Council Again Refuses V.F.W. Poker Action

Admittedly for the purpose of shaping legal action against the city, James Judge, commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post, and James O'Toole, service officer, demanded of the City Council Tuesday night a statement of its intentions with respect to Ordinance No. 360 which bars the playing of draw poker in Torrance for fee.

Operators of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Country Club, the post officials were told that the ordinance is in full force and effect.

"We have complied with the election code and filed a supplementary petition," O'Toole said. "What do you intend to do?"

"There is no action necessary," Mayor W. H. Tolson told O'Toole.

"On what grounds?" O'Toole demanded.

"On the grounds that, on the advice of the city attorney, if we want to rescind the ordinance we can, but if not, no action is necessary," said Tolson. "We don't want to take action."

"That's all we want to know," O'Toole said.

Later, Judge and O'Toole said that the matter was now in the hands of their attorneys. The country club is not conducting illegal games at this time, they said. They previously had filed petitions calling for an election or for action rescinding the ordinance. City Attorney J. E. McCall ruled the petitions did not comply with the election code and the filing of the supplementary petitions followed.

Torrance Relief Society, Welfare Group to Meet

Members of the Torrance Relief Society and of the Family Welfare Association will meet at the Torrance Service Center on Friday, Nov. 17, to discuss past and present facilities for meeting family needs in Torrance.

The meeting will center around a presentation of the early history and later developments of the Torrance Relief Society, and of current continuation of its work through the Family Welfare Association and other agencies of the Extension Chest. The present extension of family services to include consultation and help on problems of personality adjustment, marriage counseling, child guidance and home management will be discussed.

Mrs. Helen Miller, past president of the Torrance Relief Society and chairman of the Family Welfare Association, will preside.

Juvenile Crime On Upgrade; Warning Issued
Juvenile crime is on the upgrade in Torrance, and Chief of Police John Stroth has issued a stern warning both to youths and their parents that his department is going to enforce the law to the fullest extent in an effort to keep crime at a minimum in Torrance.

Two burglary cases are in the hands of the juvenile court, involving boys of ages from 14 to 16 years.

F. A. Covington's residence at 2444 Andree ave. was entered and liquor and cigarettes taken. The boys were apprehended, five of them, and cited to juvenile court. One already has been sentenced to six months in a forestry camp.

Three boys, ages 14 and 15, entered the residence of Mary Kopsha, 24406 Hawthorne Blvd., stealing two diamond rings, which were recovered with their arrest. They also stole three bicycles, all of which have been recovered. Their case is pending in juvenile court.

STORM DRAIN
National Supply Co. was authorized by the City Council Tuesday night to construct an overflow storm drain from its Plancor plant along 218th st. to Western ave. and the slough. About 1,090 feet of the work will be inside of Torrance city limits.

MARITIME 'M' FLAG WILL BE AWARDED COLUMBIA AT CEREMONY SATURDAY

Formal presentation of the United States Maritime Commission's "M" Pennant, the Victory Fleet Flag, and the Labor Merit Badges for all employees, will be made at Columbia Steel Co. Torrance plant, for achievements in production, on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m. The presentation will be made by C. W. Ellason, a former employee of Columbia, regional industrial adviser of the Maritime Commission, Pacific Coast region.

Notification of the award, in recognition of outstanding production for the construction of new ships for the Victory Fleet,

was received recently by O. A. Kresse, general superintendent, in a telegram from Admiral E. S. Land, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission.

"I take pleasure," the telegram stated, "in advising you that the Board of Awards in recognition of outstanding production achievement has awarded your plant the Maritime 'M' Pennant, the Victory Fleet Flag and Maritime Merit Badges for all your employees."

The "M" award is made only for production over a given period and is made by the government on behalf of the people of America, as a token of their appreciation to the thousands of men and women engaged in the greatest shipbuilding effort of all time.

Employee Badges
The merit pennant carries the letter "M" in white on a blue background, with a gold star. It is flown in company with the Maritime Victory Eagle Flag. All employees of a plant engaged in Maritime Commission work which has received the "M" award are eligible to wear the commission's Labor Merit Badge.

Guests of honor at the presentation will be Rear Admiral Joseph R. DeFrees, U.S.N., and staff including Lt. Com. W. J. Staffis; Major A. Milton Fish, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 30th Regiment, California State Guard, a unit of whose command, Co. H, Torrance, commanded by Capt. R. L. Wellen, is furnishing the color guard composed of guardsmen who are employed at Columbia Steel's Torrance plant; city officials and civic leaders. Families of employees are invited, and instruction will be by Rev. Paul Moore, Wheeler, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal church, Newell Mortenson, a Columbia machinist, will be master of ceremonies.

The color guard will be under command of Lt. Tom Ramskill, Columbia millwright, who is an officer of Co. H. It will be composed of Columbia employees Sgt. Russell Martin, Sgt. Thomas Walker, Grl. Orville Daniels, Grl. Conrad Wilkin, Pfc. Luke Nickel and Pfc. William Peterson.

The War Production Drive Committee of Columbia will be escorts and the committee is composed of H. P. Dotson, acting works manager, E. E. Wilson, J. Barry, G. Uzzo, W. Walton, H. Cook, J. Boucher, D. Hamilton and E. Dench, with J. Gallyer, chairman.

The employees selected to receive the awards are John Agapito, oldest plant employee from point of service, and Jim Ammann, who has made the most War Production Drive suggestions. The speech of acceptance for the employees will be made by Kenneth Beight, president of the Steel Workers Union, C.I.O.

The presentation program will take from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Columbia is the first plant in Torrance's big industrial district to win the Maritime "M" Pennant.

Radio Program to Honor Parents of Lt. L. Zamperini
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini, parents of Lt. Louis S. Zamperini, whose world inter-scholastic mile record of 4m. 21.38, and intercollegiate record of 4:08.3 still stand, and who brought international fame to Torrance with his athletic feats, will be honored by Cecil B. DeMille in a broadcast over Columbia network from KNX Sunday night, Nov. 19.

The parents of Torrance's number one hero, who, according to War Department records, gave his life for his country as a bombardier in the South Pacific in May, 1943, will speak over the network in behalf of the Sixth War Loan drive, which opens on Nov. 30.

While Mr. and Mrs. Zamperini and their hundreds of friends hold hope for Lt. Zamperini's return, they decided to do their part to promote his return, and the return of millions of other boys in the Service, by initiating the Sixth War Loan appeal here over the nation-wide hookup of the Columbia system.

DeMille's original request was met with hesitancy on the part of the parents of the popular Zamperini, but they soon decided that their part was to do all they can to insure the return of other parents' sons by appealing for War Bond campaigns.

Most Torrance radio sets will be tuned to KNX on Sunday night, Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m., when the story of Zamperini will be heard.

Drainage Problem At Western and Boulevard Solved
Drainage problems at Torrance Blvd. and Western ave. will be cared for, as a result of action of the City Council Tuesday night.

The sum of \$1,000 was appropriated for repair and gunting of the culvert under Torrance Blvd. and the Pacific Electric right-of-way damaged by acid from an accident with the Columbia Steel Co. galvanizing tank. Columbia will pay the bill for the repairs, City Engineer G. M. Jain told the council.

Further allowance of \$235 for rental of a clam shell digger for clearing drainage channels there was allowed by the council.

Adrian Stevenson Hit by Car on Torrance Blvd.

Adrian Stevenson, 1229 Portola ave., is in a Moneta sanitarium recovering from injuries suffered when he was struck by an automobile on Torrance Blvd. during the heavy rain of the past storm.

Glendola Skaggs of Redondo Beach, employe of Longren Aircraft Co., was driving the car which hit Stevenson, according to reports of Police Chief John Stroth, and she said that she did not see Stevenson walking along the highway with his dog until too late to avoid striking him. She was not held.



OTTO A. KRESSE



H. P. DOTSON

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