

## CITY-WIDE SERVICE OF METROPOLITAN WATER IS PROPOSED BY OFFICIALS

Visiting a city-wide water service, Mayor W. H. Tolson Monday announced plans to appeal to the Metropolitan Water District to extend its lines into Torrance, that all areas within the city may have full benefit of the water for which they are taxed 48 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Mayor Tolson announced intention of the city to seek this extension following a conference with Councilmen J. E. Hitchcock and George V. Powell and Arthur and Nelson Taylor, members of the water engineering firm of Taylor and Taylor.

The metropolitan district main lines now are extended to 190th and Crenshaw blvd., and to 242nd and Walnut st., in Lomita. A cost estimated at \$500,000 would be involved in the project, nearly 14 miles of main line being needed to take the water to points where it could serve city or water district lines, according to Manager William Stanger, of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1.

A connection could be provided at 242nd and Walnut st. to serve South Torrance and the WALTERIA area, giving the South Torrance area much needed water pressure. The present situation in South Torrance is dangerous, fire engine pumps draining the lines in some locations within a few minutes, Mayor Tolson said.

Extension of the line from 190th st. and Crenshaw blvd. would be to serve the area in North Torrance and the area west of the boundary of Water District No. 1.

The members of the Taylor firm were invited to confer with the City Council and the WALTERIA Community Service Council, in the effort of residents of the WALTERIA district of Torrance to secure an adequate water system to serve that section of the city.

Mayor Tolson and Councilman Hitchcock attended from Torrance and approximately 50 citizens of WALTERIA were on hand to represent their district.

Two civic groups of WALTERIA voted to ask the City of Torrance to order a study of their problem by experts and to make recommendations to the City of Torrance accordingly.

All in attendance were in harmony and the vote was unanimous. The city officials declared that it is the purpose of the Council to provide, at the request of the residents of the WALTERIA area, a proper, adequate water system, with necessary pressure for all purposes, to be the forerunner of a system to serve that whole area.

While there are numerous wells serving the entire Torrance territory, through private operations, the city, if successful in its appeal to the Metropolitan District, would prepare itself to furnish Colorado river water to all the city or to use the wells to be developed or to be acquired through purchase.

## CITY SALES TAX DEAD ISSUE HERE

Torrance City Council will not even bother to study a city sales tax, amusement tax and other similar levies to raise money for post-war programs, it was indicated Tuesday night.

A letter was read from United Steel Workers Union No. 1414, C. I. O., signed by Carl Steele, declaring that such a program as suggested for study recently by Councilman J. E. Hitchcock would work a hardship on wage earners, reduce the standard of living, cause consumers to purchase their needs outside of Torrance. The letter also asked that the franchise tax be restored to its 1941-43 level.

Hitchcock, in a statement to the council, said that he had "merely suggested that merchants and the council take the sales tax program of San Bernardino under advisement and study."

Councilman G. V. Powell agreed that it would be a good idea to "study" the proposal, and Councilman C. M. Gilbert said that there are various factors to consider in addition to the sales tax.

Mayor W. H. Tolson declared that the city sales tax is not universally approved, and Councilman N. H. Cucchi said that it is not a proper method to raise money.

Meanwhile, merchants of the city were sitting in the audience ready to protest, but the matter died on the table, for want of a motion, a closed issue.



TORRANCE WINTER '45 CLASS GRADUATING TONIGHT . . . Above are shown 21 of the 23 members of the Torrance high school winter, 1945, senior class, graduating tonight at commencement exercises to be held in the high school auditorium. The picture was taken just prior to baccalaureate services at the First Methodist church, participated in by various pastors of Torrance churches. They are, left to right, front row: Don Johnson, Shirley Lee, Phyllis

Hargett, Bernice Cline, Doris Robinette, Romaine Miller, Dorothy Sandstrom, Irene Hippik, Ethelyn Rusk and Lloyd Fossum. Back row: Rodney Clark, Marvin Kent, Bert Smith, Sam Intermill, Gus Bray, Bill George, Eddie Robst, Ralph Peterson, Lamar Watson and Roland Carlson. Missing from the picture are T. C. Hanni, in the Coast Guard, and Cecil A. Smith. (Torrance Herald photo)

## SYNTHETIC RUBBER PLANTS HERE SEEN AS NECESSARY TO INDUSTRY AFTER WAR

Continuance, after the war, of the Torrance synthetic rubber plants appeared highly probable in Washington this week, with disclosure that high government circles believe the new war-born industry of the United States can be kept alive after hostilities cease. Four of the six in the nation, Dow Chemical, Shell Chemical, U. S. Rubber, and Goodyear Rubber, are located in Torrance.

The changed viewpoint in administration quarters was disclosed in advance of international discussions this week on the whole rubber situation.

Previous doubts that the artificial rubber plants, built around the petroleum industry, could survive in a competitive war with factories using natural rubber have been quieted by surveys indicating several years may elapse before the raw rubber supply is restored to normal proportions.

A combination of increased demands for rubber products and the length of time needed to rehabilitate Dutch East Indies plantations after recapture from the Japanese has altered the thinking of federal postwar planners and a number of industry leaders, it was learned.

The result of most recent studies is a scrapping of the ideas advanced some time ago by Vice President Wallace that the United States should prepare to junk the costly synthetic rubber industry, because the government-financed plants could not be economically successful and as a gesture of good will toward Great Britain and the Netherlands, which controlled the bulk of the world's raw rubber.

The Torrance and Los Angeles establishments are believed among those most likely to be economically feasible for post-war operation. Proximity to the tire, tube and other fabricating plants is one reason why these synthetic plants would be more desirable than others in places remote from the users of the artificial product.

The close relationship between synthetic production and the petroleum industry is an added incentive to consider the Torrance and Los Angeles projects a sound postwar venture.

The variety of products which can be made when war pressure is eased will provide an added incentive to keeping local plants, industry sources suggest.

## Work Started On New WALTERIA City Playground

Work already is under way on the new WALTERIA park, on land bought by the city for this purpose, according to Park Superintendent Fred Blake.

The surveys have been completed, and work of installing water lines, grading and drainage is being undertaken.

The park plan prepared by Blake and Dale Riley, superintendent of city recreation, has been approved by Maj. G. W. Braden, western representative for the National Recreational Association, and will be developed on community park lines.

## Hey, Mom, Here's A Way to Get Rid Of Comic Books

Leonard Green, social studies teacher at Torrance high school, is sponsoring a "comic book drive."

He is asking for 3,000,000 comic books. The Torrance Army Hospital is requesting them for the men who cannot read the regular books. It would be appreciated if everyone would turn in comic books to the high school. This will not only help the war effort, but will bring enjoyment to the boys who are recuperating in Torrance.

## Torrance 1945 Red Cross Quota Will Be \$25,000

Torrance branch, American Red Cross, must expect to meet a 1945 fund quota of about \$25,000 at an absolute minimum, according to Harry B. Lewis, chairman of the fund drive for this year, who is forming an army of volunteer workers for the drive starting March 1 and continuing for one week.

Washington officials have disclosed that rapid expansion of Red Cross activities in the battle zone caused a 20 million dollar boost in the 1945 Red Cross goal, bringing the nationwide total to be subscribed to \$200,000,000.

Today Red Cross supplies are closely following American invasion troops on Luzon with field directors and their crews taking active part in the invasion maneuvers.

Through this medium, America is able to bring a bit of home to its fighting men as they sweep on towards Manila. Last year alone in the South Pacific, Red Cross directed 13,674,000 comfort articles, including Christmas packages, soap, toothbrushes, razors, blades; 1,652,000 pieces of reading material; 1,324,000 games; 375,000 towels; and 39,800,000 pieces of stationery, with distribution often times taking place in tents and makeshift recreation area headquarters of a few hundred yards from the front line foxholes.

"These services and countless more will be continued through 1945 and until the time all our fighting forces are returned home," Lewis declared. "Red Cross overseas services are in addition to all those performed for both servicemen and their families and others here at home."

## Doak Aircraft Building Big New Addition

Permit for the construction of a 24,000 square foot addition to the Doak Aircraft Co. factory has been issued by the City Building Department.

The new structure, already started, is of frame and corrugated iron construction and will cost \$50,000, according to the permit. The company is doing its own construction work. The addition is 60 by 100 feet and 60 by 300 feet in size.

The Assembly of God church, at 24404 Hawthorne blvd., WALTERIA, is constructing a new church edifice to cost \$10,000. The architect on the job is Keith and Keith, and the building will be of stucco construction, size 36 by 82 feet.

Longren Aircraft Co., is building a new heat-treating and metal forming building, 30 feet by 50 feet in size, to cost \$3,500. Other permits issued during the past week include:

J. Isen, 1637 Cabrillo ave., \$200, repairs.

S. H. Goldstein, 1218 Crenshaw blvd., six room dwelling, \$4,000.

S. H. Goldstein, 1222 Crenshaw, six room dwelling, \$4,000. Edwards Service Station, 17200 Redondo Beach blvd., \$80 repairs.

John Wall, 2323 Cabrillo ave., store room, 40 by 40 feet, \$3600.

E. E. Sparks, 2516 El Dorado st., \$750, repairs.

## Fourth New Torrance Bus Is Delivered

Torrance Bus Department now has its fourth new Crown Coach, custom built, 45-passenger vehicles, the last one to be bought on the contract with Crown Body and Coach Works.

Delivery of the fourth coach was made on Tuesday.

The contract for six of the coaches was cut to four recently on orders of the city council.

While patrons praise the comfort of the new buses, the drivers are complaining of brake trouble. Guarantees on them are taking care of this matter now, but a permanent remedy of the situation is being sought, it was said. Crown is declared to be standing back of the buses, to uphold their reputation for building custom-model coaches.

## Condemnation Is Urged for Rights-of-Way

Councilman N. H. Cucchi wants the city to institute condemnation proceedings for all land needed for rights-of-way on Western ave. and Crenshaw blvd., because "there is too much chance for swindling in negotiating."

When the question of the rights-of-way needed for extending Western ave. through Torrance from 190th st. was discussed at Tuesday night's meeting, it was pointed out that 3600 feet of necessary land need to be acquired. "Condemnation is the proper means," said Cucchi, "there is no use dickering. I don't like the idea of secret deals."

The council authorized, on motion of Councilman J. E. Hitchcock, that the question of the Western ave. rights-of-way be taken up with the city engineer of Los Angeles.

Also discussed was the fact that Crenshaw blvd. is not cut through at 190th st. necessitating a jog of several hundred feet. The property needed to straighten out the highway should be acquired at once by condemnation, Councilman C. M. Gilbert and Cucchi decided, but on motion of Councilman Hitchcock, the matter was referred to City Attorney J. E. McCall for negotiating.

## 3 W'45 Seniors Already Are in Country's Service

Two of the Senior A men graduating from Torrance high school at tonight's winter commencement already are in the service, and the rest are due to go within a short time.

Marvin Kent has been sworn into the United States Navy and reports for boot training on Saturday.

Sam Intermill is in the air corps and will report for training in February.

Other senior men contemplating calls to service have it figured out this way: Robert Carlson, March; Ralph Peterson, June; Lloyd Fossum, March; Donald Johnson, February; Lamar Watson, April; Gus Bray, March, and Edward Robst, February.

T. C. Hanni, who is being graduated in absentia, already is in the Coast Guard.

## TWENTY-THREE SENIORS OF TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL WILL GRADUATE IN W'45 EXERCISES TONIGHT IN AUDITORIUM

### C. J. Gramling In Hospital With Wounds

Twenty-three members of the Torrance high school senior class will receive their diplomas in the midwinter commencement ceremony tonight in the school auditorium. Baccalaureate exercises were conducted Sunday at 4 p. m. in the First Methodist church, with the Rev. Arthur P. Pedersen giving the invocation. A sermon, "God's Call to Youth," was delivered by the Rev. C. Miles Northrup, and the Rev. H. W. Roloff read appropriate passages from the Scriptures. Rev. W. A. Penner delivered the benediction.

The processional was "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," by Dykes, and recessional "God of Our Fathers," by Warren. The choir of the church rendered hymns and anthems under Richard Hogue, director, with Mrs. Hilda Findley as organist.

The sponsor of the Senior A class has been Miss Marguerite Jones and the members are: Augustine E. Bray, Roland Carlson, Rodney Arthur Clarke, Lloyd Fossum, William Chapman George, Jr., Paul Earl Hobb, Sam Monroe Intermill, Donald Earl Johnson, Marvin Lynn Kent, Vincent Ralph Peterson, Edward Robst, Cecil Albert Smith, Earl Lamar Watson, T. C. Hanni (in absentia).

Bernice Evelyn Cline, Ruth Jane Gibson, Phyllis Estelle Hargett, Shirley Lorraine Lee, Romaine Newbill Miller, Irene Anna Hippik, Doris Frances Robinette, Ethelyn Rusk, and Dorothy Sandstrom.

The program tonight will include the invocation by the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler with a response by Girls Glee Club.

Student speakers have taken "This Changing World," as their theme, based on Tennyson's verse: "The old order changeth, yielding place to new. And God fulfills himself in many ways." The speakers are: Bert Smith, Phyllis Hargett, Marvin Kent, Lamar Watson.

Piano solos, "Clair de Lune," Debussy, and "Valse," Chopin, will be given by Doris Robinette. Other features are: Class of Winter '45 in the services, Bernice Cline.

Presentation of the class gift, Sam Intermill.

Awarding of the diplomas, Harold E. Perry, Miss Elizabeth F. Parks.

Awards

### Three Boys Are Arrested on Car Theft Charges

Two Torrance boys, 17 years of age, are being held in custody, and a third, age 14, has been released to his parents following their arrest on grand theft and other charges growing out of alleged stripping of a car in Torrance during the past week.

The two older boys are facing grand theft, auto, charges, and the younger lad is charged with driving a stolen automobile.

According to records, the boys are accused of stealing the car of Stanley Gonzales, a 1937 model coupe, driving it to Santa Barbara and back to a point near their homes here.

On a tip, Capt. E. M. Ashton and Sgt. H. E. Garner, of Torrance Police Department, investigated a suspicious car on Arisano st., near Western, and found evidence of car theft and stripping. The arrest of the three boys followed.

The 14-year-old boy and one of the older lads already is on probation on similar charges, and their case is pending before juvenile authorities.

The life members of the California Scholarship Federation are William George and Doris Robinette. Ephraim membership has been bestowed upon Doris Robinette.

The boy and girl who will have their names engraved upon the George Arakawa Cup are William George and Dorothy Sandstrom. The Bausch and Lomb Science Award was presented to Lamar Watson.

Those who had "A" citizenship throughout their A-12 semester are Gus Bray, Rodney Clarke, Bill George, Donald Johnson, Phyllis Hargett, Shirley Lee, Romaine Miller, Doris Robinette and Dorothy Sandstrom.

Doris Robinette has had perfect attendance throughout the semester.

The City of Torrance has entered the state mutual aid plan by which assistance may be given by one community to another in event of disaster.

A resolution was adopted Tuesday night, and the principal features of the plan are providing for compensation for damage, death or injury while a member of the police department of one community is on duty in another community, under the mutual aid agreement.

Involved are state, county and municipal police departments.

## Eight Lomita, Torrance Cafes Named in Suits

The OPA Tuesday filed injunction suits against 8 Wilmington, Torrance and Lomita bars and restaurants which assertedly sold food and drinks over the legal OPA ceiling price, and did not post ceiling prices.

Named in the complaints are Lee B. Balaam, Five Point Cafe, 1641 Cabrillo ave., Torrance; Mrs. G. S. Cooper, Vurpillat's Cafe, 1528 Cravens ave., Torrance; Clyde Maylen, Clyde's Corner, 24522 Narbonne ave., Lomita.

Walter E. Morris and Mabel C. Preble, Walt's Cafe, 24503 Narbonne ave., Lomita; Roy S. DeKay and Floyd A. Covington, Rendezvous Cafe, 1327 Cabrillo ave., Torrance; John D. Callas, Avalon Country Club, 21716 Avalon blvd.; Estelle Sands, Denver's Cafe, 21922 Main st., Torrance; Dolores Schaffer, Paradise Hut, 26011 Pennsylvania ave., Lomita.

Opening a and widening of Western ave., between 190th and 260th sts., would cost \$599,373, Los Angeles City Engineer Lloyd Aldrich estimated in a letter to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, sponsor of a revived movement for the postwar extension of the road to San Pedro harbor.

Aldrich said that of the total cost, \$85,030 would be needed for acquisition of rights-of-way and \$514,343 for construction work and materials.

The city engineer in his letter to Darby recommended the immediate acquisition of the right-of-way for a 100-foot wide road between Torrance blvd., Torrance, to 260th st., Harbor City.

In the letter Aldrich disclosed the present condition of Western ave. along the route proposed to be improved, as follows:

The section between 190th st. and Torrance blvd. is improved with a paved roadway about 30 feet wide. Between Torrance blvd. and 228th st. the road is open on the ground but is not improved for traffic. From 228th st. to Lomita blvd. Western ave. is not cut through, and between Lomita blvd. to 260th st. the road is open but not improved.

## Western Avenue Cut-Through Cost To Be \$599,373

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