



V.F.W. DEPARTMENT COMMANDER . . . Richard H. Newhall, California Department commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, left, was among the participants in the initiation of 38 veterans into Post 3251 in the Civic Auditorium Monday night. He was assisted by Charles P. Ash, senior vice commander, right. Commander C. Earl Conner of the local post, center, was in charge of the affair. (Photo by Bill Husband.)

## CITY WINS FIRST ROUND IN BUS SUIT

Torrance City Council scored a victory in the first round of the Superior court contest brought by W. J. B. Hughes, a taxpayer, to force the city to proceed in the sale of the municipal bus lines in accordance with Act 5203, in Department 34 of the court, Los Angeles, yesterday.

Judge Samuel Vickers sustained the demurrer of the city, filed by City Attorney J. E. McCall, and gave Hughes 10 days to file an amended petition.

The City of Torrance voted on July 24 to sell the municipal bus lines to Charles F. Koors and his interests for \$85,000, plus inventory of stocks and tools.

Hughes and taxpayer interests which he represents sought to have the council present the issue to the people under the provisions of Act 5203.

Falling, Hughes filed a petition for a writ of mandate to compel the council to act in accordance with the law as set forth in Act 5203, and the alternative writ was signed and served Sept. 11. The act would require the council to place the sale of the bus lines before the people, for vote, and then to sell to the highest bidder.

The hearing on McCall's demurrer to the writ and order to show cause started Monday and was continued to Wednesday. McCall contended that the demurrer should be sustained maintaining the petition stated no cause of action, and the court agreed. The city attorney argued that since the bus lines were acquired by a vote of the council they could be sold by a vote of the council, even though it was by a 3 to 2 majority.

## Vets' Building Campaign Makes New Progress

The campaign to raise \$20,000 toward the cost of the Veterans' memorial building, to be dedicated to all veterans of the Torrance area, will continue until the quotas of the three divisions has been reached, according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner, commander of V. F. W. Torrance Post No. 3251, who is conducting the campaign.

The advent of V. E. Day and V. J. Day, with the incidental cancellation of some government contracts, has delayed our industrial pledges to a great extent, Conner added. However, efforts in this direction will be renewed this week.

Voluntary remittances have been slow, and all citizens and those business firms who have not yet contributed to the fund are urged to submit their checks or pledges direct to Postmaster Conner, P. O. Box 335, Torrance, without delay.

"Our community veterans' program has been organized and we will have to have premises and facilities to coordinate the overall program," Conner said. "Most community veterans' programs are started in about the same way. One or two interested organizations spearhead a drive to erect a useful building, where services can be rendered the returning veterans. It is a foregone conclusion that all Torrance citizens are anxious to do everything in their power to help their own returning heroes. We must not allow our fervent appreciation for the sacrifices to cool. We must not permit the pleas of the Torrance area veterans to go unheeded. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, instead of trying to do the

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## Zamperini Welcome Plans Awaiting Word of Arrival on American Soil

While the family of Lt. Louis Zamperini this week awaited word of his arrival on the North American continent, the famous long-distance runner and flyer was made the subject of nationwide publicity extending from factual data to dramatized radio fiction.

Meanwhile, Torrance is standing "on edge" and sharing the family anxiety, awaiting additional word of the Olympic hero, long a Japanese war prisoner, that he might be properly greeted and honored.

Among the festive gatherings which the community is arranging is one for all returned heroes, members of the Order of the Purple Heart and other veterans who have returned from service in the armed forces, in which Lieutenant Zamperini will hold the center of interest.

It will be a "Victory Party" Torrance, according to Capt. R. L. Lewellen, who has been delegated by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini to represent their interests in any affairs of the kind, and who likewise has been given the unofficial "go ahead" of the City of Torrance and veterans' groups in arranging the celebration.

Every returned veteran will be a guest of the community at the affair which will include a dance in the civic auditorium. What additional plans are to

## R. A. Newton, Taken on Guam, Is Released

Cpl. Robert A. Newton, U. S. M. C., 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Newton, of 2171 1/2 Torrance Blvd., has been released from a Japanese prison camp where he had been interned for almost four years.

A telegram to his parents, received from the War Dept. Tuesday stated: "We are pleased to inform you of the liberation from Japanese custody of your son. His physical condition is fair." The message further directed them on the procedure in sending a direct message to the liberated man.

Taken prisoner at Guam in December, 1941, when his ship was en route from a China voyage, the young Marine was the first of the American prisoners taken. Through first hand information received from recently liberated prisoners in nearby cities, his parents learned that Zentsuji Camp on the Island of Shikoku, enjoyed the reputation of being the best of all Japanese prison centers. They had received five written messages from their son during the past four years and listened to a broadcast in which he particu-

## RECREATION COMMISSION REVAMPING PROPOSED TO COINCIDE WITH STATE PLAN

Revamping of the Torrance Recreation Commission to comply with the model setup of the California Youth Authority is being considered, it was announced here this week.

A meeting will be held in Torrance City Hall on Oct. 2, between Torrance officials and representatives of the state youth authority at which time a model ordinance will be presented which will provide for expenditure of recreational funds to the best advantage of both youngsters and adults of the community, it was said.

George P. Thatcher, member of the recreation commission, and Councilman C. M. Gilbert, chairman, are arranging for the meeting, and an effort will be made to make the recreation body one of the most active of city commissions.

The ordinance, if adopted, would automatically terminate the present commission and would call for appointment of a body of five persons able and willing to give their time to carry out the work, it was declared.

The recent survey of Torrance recreation needs made by Major George Braden, western representative of the National Playground Association, will have some bearing on reorganization of the Torrance recreation department, according to Thatcher.

It is hoped that the revamped department can be put in operation in time to consider the long-range recreation building program being proposed by the City Council at this time.

Three new buildings are proposed, one in Walteria park, one Torrance city park, and another in a down town location. It is expected that the proposals will be placed before the people in the form of a bond issue.

## Travel to Grid Games Allowed; Here's Schedule

With lifting of travel restrictions, the Marine League football fans are looking forward to "old times" during the coming football season which opens on Thursday, Oct. 4.

Students will be permitted to travel to other schools in the 'league', it was announced, but some of the schools have restrictions against students' decorations in cars and other fanfare. Schools will check student loads, and the students will be permitted to leave in time to get to the games without unnecessary hurry.

All games will start at 2:45 p. m.

The Marine League schedule for football is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 4: San Pedro at Torrance; Gardena at Banning; Narbonne, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 11: Banning at San Pedro; Torrance at Narbonne; Gardena, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 18: San Pedro at Gardena; Narbonne at Banning; Torrance, bye.

Thursday, Oct. 26: Banning at Torrance; Gardena at Narbonne; San Pedro, bye.

Friday, Nov. 2: Narbonne at San Pedro; Torrance at Gardena; Banning, bye.

Friday, Nov. 9: Narbonne at Torrance; Banning at Gardena; San Pedro, bye.

Friday, Nov. 16: Torrance at Banning; San Pedro at Narbonne; Gardena, bye.

Wednesday, Nov. 21: Gardena at San Pedro.

## Education Board Offices Numbered; Local Residents May Seek Election

By drawing lots members of the Board of Education selected the number of the office they will hold on the board under provisions of a new section of the State Education Code.

Under the new method each position will be designated by a number and candidates for board offices will have to indicate the number of the office for which they seek election.

In the past candidates have run for offices "at large," the winners being picked by the largest number of votes. The board members and the numbers they drew are: Mrs. Eleanor B. Allen, No. 1; Maynard J. Toll, No. 2; Lawrence L. Larabee, No. 3; J. Paul Elliott, No. 4; Mrs. Gertrude H. Rounsaville, No. 5; Roy J. Becker, No. 6; and Mrs. Marie Adams, No. 7.

## No Torrance Students Among U. C. Graduates

The summer, 1945, list of graduates of University of California was published by the U. C. public information bureau on Sept. 11, 1945, and again no Torrance name could be found among the graduates. This is the third list, two summer and one winter, which failed to show a Torrance student graduating.

Among the grads and those receiving higher degrees, almost every other community is represented.

Efforts of the Torrance Parents' Association, in its campaign to have Torrance schools withdrawn from the Los Angeles city school system, to secure from the university the scholarship rating of Torrance high school has failed. They are confidential, it was said, and not available for comparison as to the scholastic standing of one high school against another.

The standings are released in code only to the high school principals, and each principal knows only his own code number, and knows only how his school stands. He does not know who stands above him, nor below him, it was reported. Therefore the only way Torrance parents can know how the schools stand is by watching the lists of various university graduates, and noting the absence from the list of Torrance names, it was pointed out.

Messages in support of the Rolling Hills site are pouring in from influential citizens from Wilmington, San Pedro, Harbor City, Lomita, Torrance, Redondo, Rolling Hills, Miraloma and Palos Verdes. They include pledges of support for the Rolling Hills site from Chambers of Commerce and newspaper editors, reporters, columnists and many others.

## AUTO THIEF

T. M. Wade, 2019 Gramercy ave., reported to police the theft of his car, a 1935 Ford, Sept. 16.



FORMER SANTA TOMAS INTERNEE TEACHES HERE . . . Mrs. Geraldine Pearce points out the Santa Tomas prison camp to her pupils at Narbonne high school. Photo for the Lomita News by Sgt. Robert C. Wilton. Marine combat photographer who has taken many pictures of the ill-famed prison camp after the internees were liberated.

## Local Teacher, Who Endured Santa Tomas, Says U.C.L.A.-Graduate Jap Official Expected to Return

By John P. Stripling

Mrs. Geraldine Pearce, a new teacher at Narbonne High, has been a refugee in China, an evacuee of Shanghai and an internee of the infamous Santa Tomas prison camp in Manila.

Mrs. Pearce is possessor of the Asiatic campaign medal with battle star, an award given by General MacArthur to 152 of the 3000 Santa Tomas internees for "fortitude and courage, contributing materially to the success of the Philippine campaign."

A graduate of Washington State University in 1931, she taught school in Seattle, Wash., Hong Kong, China, and Manila prior to the Japanese occupation.

In 1937, during the infamous Jap incident in Shanghai, Mrs. Pearce found herself in the midst of air raids and troop skirmishes, later being evacuated along with other women and children from the so-called "Shanghai Bloody Saturday."

Upon arriving in Manila, this courageous young woman was just in time to witness the most severe earthquake in the history of Manila and to quote her, "I thought I had stood it all, but," and here she appeared to live it all again, "if I had known then what was in store for my husband and I, and the children that were to starve to death in that Jap prison camp—I'm sure I would have given up."

Her husband, Rommy Pearce,

## TORRANCE SCHOOL STUDENTS VOTE 2 TO 1 IN FAVOR OF SWIMMING POOL OVER RINK

School children of Torrance want a swimming pool, two to one over a skating rink, it was revealed last week in a plebiscite conducted at the several schools under the direction of Harold E. Perry, Torrance high school principal, at the suggestion of the Torrance Herald.

The results of the statement of preference will be made known to the City Council for inclusion in the plans for a Torrance recreation building to be submitted to the people in a proposed bond election.

Councilman N. H. Cucci has suggested a swimming pool, and has won some support from his colleagues.

Councilman G. V. Powell suggested that the skating rink is what the city needs, and he likewise won some support.

The Torrance Herald wanted to find out what the boys and girls in the grade schools and the students in the high school want and put the suggestion to Principal Perry.

This is the result of the city wide vote:

For a swimming pool, 1032. Those wanting it out of doors, 385; indoors, 647. For a skating rink, 532. Out of doors, 98; indoors, 434.

Thus, the issue is closed as far as the kids are concerned, and they will derive the most benefit from either. But the adults of the community will be able to get far more good out of a swimming pool than a skating rink, it is pointed out.

Torrance high school voted 711 to 450 in favor of the swimming pool; the fourth, fifth and sixth graders of Torrance elementary school voted 138 to 75 for the swimming pool. Fern Avenue school "upper classmen" really went overboard for the swimming pool, voting 135 for the swimming pool to the seven for the skating rink.

To determine the opinion of the students of Torrance schools on the issue, the high school sent out speakers for both sides of the topic, for the swimming pool and for the skating rink. The members of the leadership classes of Torrance high school presented arguments for both forms of recreation to the two elementary schools and the high school.

Jeannette Farquhar and Ralph Jakubowski talked to the students of Torrance and Fern Avenue elementary schools. Those who spoke before the high school students are: Jean Reynolds, Barbara Tossas, Myrna Fossum, Burns Morris, Wanda Moore, Jeannette Farquhar, Mary Tibbitts, Frank Dominguez, LeRoy Wright, Bill McLeod, Jim Standifer, LeRoy Schwenk, and Bill Johnson.

Those students presented in favor of the swimming pool the facts that the pool could be used by people of all ages; cost of travel to the beach would be eliminated; the Army and Torrance hospitals could use the pool in treating paralysis victims; swimming classes from the high school could use it, and competitive sports in this field including water polo could be encouraged. Swimming is healthful for all and exercises all muscles of the body, it was pointed out.

On the side of the skating rink were such points as the cost of building and upkeep would be less and thus the cost of admission would be correspondingly less; that skating classes could be arranged; that dancing on skates is fun; that skating teams could be organized from different industries or schools and that skating builds leg muscles which are beneficial in all sports.

## Stroh, Willett Authorized to Attend Parley

Chief of Police John Stroh and City Judge Otto Willett have the authority of the City Council to attend the coming convention of the California Peace Officers Association.

The affair will be held in Salinas on Oct. 8, 9, and 10, and the expenses of the pair of officials are to be paid from city funds.

## Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

"Dear Professor: Why don't telephone companies use men switchboard operators?"

Answer: They can't, under the bell system.

## Carl Akins Charged With Manslaughter

Carl Akins, driver of the car in which R. F. Mescall met his death last Sept. 7, was arraigned in Superior Court last Friday on a charge of manslaughter under a complaint signed by Police Chief John Stroh.

Akins, who sustained injuries in the accident that resulted in Mescall's death, was released on a reduced bail secured by his attorney, Albert Isen. Preliminary hearing has been set for Sept. 21.