



ZAMPERINI HONORED . . . Capt. Louis Zamperini, recently returned from Japanese captivity after surviving an airplane crash and 47 days on an open raft, was among the veterans honored by the City of Torrance and its people last Thursday night. He is shown, center, being introduced by Capt. R. L. Lewellen, welcome committee member, from the stage of the Civic auditorium, as Harry B. Lewis, master of ceremonies, looks on. Photo by Bob Wilton.

TORRANCE IN TRIBUTE TO RETURNED VETERANS AS 1500 THROUGH AUDITORIUM

Torrance paid tribute to her sons and daughters who served their flag on the battlefields of the world in World War II in a celebration last Thursday night, timed to coincide with the return of Capt. Louis Zamperini to the home town which he made known throughout the world.

Capt. Zamperini Enters Hospital For New Checkup

After attending the wedding ceremony of his close friend and college classmate, T/4 Gordon Maurice DeMont, in Montecito, Captain Louis Zamperini reported to Birmingham General hospital yesterday for checkup prior to leaving for Miami Beach, Fla.

DeMont, who gave Captain Zamperini the ring which enabled him to escape from the submerged airplane in which he crashed in the South Pacific in May, 1943, exchanged vows with Miss Gwendolyn Dorothy Rhodes in All Saints church, Montecito on Tuesday. Both the bride and groom are of Hollywood.

Miss Virginia Zamperini and her sister, Mrs. Harvey B. Plummer, attended the bride and groom. Zamperini with his brother, Chief Smeolist, Pete S. Zamperini, USN, were among the ushers. A dinner party and dancing for 150 guests followed in Montecito Country club.

WHEEL AND TIRE STOLEN

A wheel and tire were stolen from Police Officer Enfield's car while parked in front of the police station between the hours of 11:00 p. m. and 6:00 a. m. Oct. 17. Enfield was reported to be patrolling the city, locking forgetful merchants' doors when the theft occurred.

Flowers To Be Scattered On Ocean Sunday

As a special tribute to the men in all the armed forces who lost their lives at sea, a navy plane Sunday will take off from the Terminal Island naval air station and scatter flowers over the Pacific, Mayor W. H. Tolson said he had been informed by the Navy League of the United States.

Russell Smirl, Harbor Navy League committee chairman, said the traditional ceremony of scattering flowers will be held in accordance with the Navy's desire that Navy Day Sunday shall be a special day of tribute to those who were lost at sea in defense of the United States. Citizens who wish to participate should send flowers to the navy family chapel, 451 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Smirl said.

"It is requested that only one flower be forwarded by each individual since space is limited," Smirl added.

All flowers must be delivered at the navy family chapel before midnight Saturday and not before Friday. They then will be taken to the naval operating base, Terminal Island, to be placed aboard the plane.

Prior to the flower-scattering ceremony, navy chaplains will conduct an all-faith service, paying tribute to those whose last resting place is beneath the waters of the world.

CHAMBER DIRECTORS ACT TO END CLERKS' DISPUTE AND REOPEN STORES HERE

Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors have acted to end the deadlock which has kept three Torrance retail stores closed for the past three weeks, or for a total period of 37 days including all work-stoppages.

The chamber directors Tuesday adopted a resolution exploring the condition which has kept the stores closed thus handicapping consumers of the city, and ordered telegrams sent to various agencies involved in the dispute between the Retail Clerks' union and chain store operators, urging these agencies to take steps to end the clerks-merchants strike.

One of the telegrams was sent to Lyman S. Sisley, Commissioner of Conciliation, U.S. Department of Labor. Others were sent to the union and to the representatives of the merchants.

The J. J. Penney Co., J. J. Newberry and Sontag Drug stores have been closed due to the refusal of the clerks' union to negotiate a contract and return its members to work.

The Chamber resolution urged that all interested parties concerned "use their good efforts to conciliate any differences that may exist so that our citizens may again have available to them the trade conveniences so necessary to their welfare during this period of readjustment."

Irvin Stallmaster, representative of the merchants, said that "there are no negotiations." He declared: "The union declines to meet with the employers and sit down and negotiate a contract. They insist we sign an agreement some other people signed." Referring to the contract signed by independent stores, Stallmaster:

(Continued on Page 4-A)

Los Angeles Refuses J.C. Site On Hill

The Los Angeles city council has turned down a petition asking annexation of a beautiful 30 acres of land in the Rancho Palos Verdes, which Dr. H. L. Snow of San Pedro, who filed the petition, proposed to offer as site for a harbor district junior college.

The council acted on a ruling of the city attorney, who contended that since the property includes government-owned land, it could not be annexed.

Thus it appeared that the 30-acre site of the proposed harbor district junior college, located on a hill between Vermont Ave. and 101 High-much under water and with a sewage plant nearby will become the site of the proposed harbor district trade school and junior college.

The Chamber of Commerce occupied the building from the time it was built until it was surrendered to the Civilian Defense corps here. When that activity was abandoned, the Chamber requested that the quarters be given to the Red Cross until the end of the war.

After the favorable action by the City Council, Reed Parkin, president of the Chamber, expressed the gratitude of the organization to the city fathers.

Capacity Crowd Anticipated For Big "Torrance Plans Ahead" Dinner

Finishing touches were being placed on the plans for the big "Torrance Plans Ahead" dinner, which will be held in Civic Auditorium next Thursday evening at 6:30 o'clock, according to Hillman R. Lee, chairman.

A capacity crowd is anticipated, judging by the sale of tickets by members of the committee in charge of that function.

Twelve speakers, engaged in different activities, and representing industry, government, veterans, labor unions, business and other groups, have agreed to address the affair.

Except for two or three principal speakers, those addressing the gathering will limit their remarks to three minutes, according to Reed H. Parkin, Chamber president. "The meeting has been planned to be highly informative and thoroughly representative of all civic groups, but at the same time we want to keep the program moving right along so that it can break up at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Immediately following the dinner, fifteen minutes of musical entertainment will be given by the Almsworth Trio, popular songsters. During the serving of the dinner, Mrs. Betty Dalton Thomas, accordionist, will play a group of numbers. The entertainment portion of the program was arranged by Don Moshos and the Rev. Paul Moore Wheeler.

The dinner will be served by Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, and the ticket cost is \$3.00, according to Lee.

PROCLAMATION

BY
WILLIAM H. TOLSON, Mayor
City of Torrance

WHEREAS: The 27th day of October, 1945, has been set aside as Navy Day, in honor of the great United States Navy and in observance of the 86th anniversary of the birthday of the 25th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, known as the "Father of the United States Navy," and

WHEREAS: The United States Navy has played a major role in the glorious victory of the Allied Forces over Japan, Germany and Italy, and saved our coastal cities from the horrors incident to bombing and invasion during the early trying months of the war, and

WHEREAS: This first Navy Day after Victory over Japan and Victory in Europe is of extraordinary significance and should be proudly celebrated, now, therefore, I, William H. Tolson, Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby

PROCLAIM: That the 27th Day of October, 1945, be observed in the City of Torrance as Navy Day and in keeping with the desire of the Navy League of the United States call upon all organizations in this city, Service clubs, Women's clubs, Veterans' organizations, Fraternal and Patriotic lodges together with our Schools to devote the programs of their meetings closest to Navy Day to calling attention to their members and students to the glorious traditions of our country's Navy.

WILLIAM H. TOLSON
MAYOR, CITY OF TORRANCE

October 18, 1945
ATTEST:
A. H. Bartlett
City Clerk
(SEAL)



JOINS VETERANS GROUPS . . . Commander James Brodie, of Bert S. Crossland post, the American Legion, left, and Commander C. Earl Conner, of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 3251, hand Captain Louis Zamperini applications for membership in the two posts. He accepted both. Photo by Bob Wilton.

COUNCIL APPROVES CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN SUIT TO ADJUDICATE WATER RIGHTS

The City of Torrance will become a plaintiff with the California Water Service Co. and other interests in a lawsuit to determine the rights to ground-water in the West Basin area, which includes all coastal territory from Inglewood to the flood control channel at Long Beach.

Members of the City Council authorized Kenneth K. Wright, attorney for the group of plaintiffs, to include the city as a plaintiff, with Municipal Water District No. 1 paying the costs for the city. The suit will be filed in Superior court within a few days.

In the lawsuit, the court will be asked to determine the rights of present producers to ground water, to limit the use of the ground water to a safe yield, and to require the use of impounded water, such as the Metropolitan Water District, to supply any deficit between the demand and the safe yield. All parties to the suit would be required to assist in paying for the difference in the cost of the MWD supply over that of the wells now in use.

Water levels have receded to more than 10 feet below sea level over most of the area in the West Basin. They are 45 feet below sea level east of the City of Hawthorne and within a mile of the Inglewood-Newport fault line, and approximately 67 feet below sea level west of Dominguez Gap. This, it is pointed out, has produced a downward hydraulic gradient, from the ocean inland, of five feet or more per mile. This gradient favors a landward movement of ocean water.

Contamination of ground-water supplies of the coastal areas from Redondo Beach and Torrance north to El Segundo by saline intrusion has been in process for some years, it is said, and now extends inland for varying distances up to a mile or more.

The present annual withdrawal (Continued on Page 4-A)

Vandals Sought By Police In Stop Sign Destruction

Chief Police Stroh reported two new stop signs that the city had erected for the safety of the school students recently at 220th and Abalone ave., not only have been torn down but stolen as well.

Stroh believes that this vandalism is the work of a minor group of boys, set upon destruction. He said that these signs were far from easy to get at, and he is avoiding accidents to the school children.

Culpis found guilty in this destruction will not face a tolerant chief in the person of John Stroh, it has been promised.

Work To Start On Goodyear Plant Expansion

Goodyear synthetic rubber plant of the Rubber Reserve Corporation, 1920 S. Vermont ave., is to be expanded for Reconstruction Finance Corporation at a total estimated cost of \$300,000, it has been announced.

Fred J. Early Company, Inc., has been awarded a contract and is setting to work at once.

Benjamin E. Nelson is Early's superintendent and W. E. Nicholson is the company's project manager.

BUS DEPARTMENT STILL IN 'RED' TO CITY, ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT REVEALS

Torrance Municipal bus lines operating deficit is \$2,156.19, despite the "profitable" months of this calendar year, according to the bus department balance sheet prepared as a part of the annual city audit by Logan R. Cotton, accountant, and auditor under contract to the city.

35 Percent Profit In Water Dept.

Torrance Municipal Water district No. 1 had an operating surplus of \$134,296.19 on June 30, 1945, according to the annual audit and report of Logan R. Cotton.

Total assets, deducting reserves for depreciation, are \$392,653.09 against total liabilities of \$258,356.90. This figure includes bonds outstanding of \$238,000.00.

The department made a net operating profit of \$23,516 during the fiscal year of 1944-45, on a total operating revenue of \$70,631.58, or nearly 35 percent. Operating expense was \$47,114.92.

After deducting expense for interest on the funded debt and amortization on bonds, amounting to \$15,440.48, and computing "other revenue" amounting to \$4,666.38, the report shows that the department had a net profit of \$12,742.56, approximately 18 percent.

The sound financial condition of the department reflects sound operating methods on the part of Manager W. E. Stanger, members of the council said when the report was filed.

George Barham Released From Japanese Prison

George A. Barham, adopted son of James G. Caldwell, executive officer of the local Veterans Service Committee, 22120 Monica ave., was recently released from a Jap prison camp in Japan, where he has been a prisoner since April of 1942, according to reports.

A card signed by Barham while still a prisoner was received by Caldwell only a short time before he received official notification from the War Dept. of his safety. Barham later notified Caldwell that he was in Manila enroute home.

City Government Operating Cost For Last Year \$450,631; Debt Low

It cost \$450,631.10 to run the City of Torrance in the fiscal year 1944-45, according to the annual report and audit of Logan R. Cotton, and the city had an excess revenue over the expenditures of \$16,200.07. The figures are exclusive of those of the Water and Bus departments.

General government cost the taxpayers \$50,993.46; protection of life and property \$124,488.35; streets, \$178,760.37; recreation, parks and library, \$57,168.61; health and sanitation, \$10,120.31.

Current taxes for the year produced \$310,485.69 of the total revenue of \$466,831.17. Delinquent taxes collected amounted to \$25,694.42. County aid to cities was \$46,000.00; fines and forfeitures, \$21,467.50; sales of tax-deeded land, \$10,872.64; motor vehicle license fees, \$8,821.44; franchise earnings, \$8,771.79; business licenses, \$8,365.50; gas tax, \$3,778.69; permits, \$5,544.23, with miscellaneous revenue making up the balance.

Prairie School Crossing Guard Gets City Okay

Employment of a school crossing guard to serve the students of the Independent Prairie school, at 182nd st., and Hawthorne Blvd., was approved by the City Council Tuesday night if investigation of Chief of Police John Stroh shows that it is needed.

C. C. Carpenter, of the office of the County Superintendent of Schools, requested the action of the city due to the heavy traffic at the crossing.

Prairie school is at 180th st., and Prairie ave., and while within the city limits of Torrance, it is independent of the Los Angeles city school district.

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Who is the father of mass production?
Answer: Papa Dionne.