

# Rise In Consumers Prices Shown In New Los Angeles Area Survey

An 11 per cent increase in orange prices following the temporary removal of price control was mainly responsible for a one half of one per cent rise in the price of living in Los Angeles area between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15, Charles A. Roumasset, economist for the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Rising prices of food, clothing and miscellaneous goods and services offsetting fractional declines in housefurnishings and rents, brought the Consumers' Price Index to a 22 year high point at 137.7 per cent of the 1935-39 average.

Overall food prices were up 1.1 per cent over the month as oranges advanced from 48 cents for five pounds to 53 cents, following the suspension of price controls on this item. Price advances were also reported for lettuce (up 7 per cent), apples (up 3 per cent), onions (up 4 per cent), and green beans (up 3 per cent). Offsetting this rising trend were decreases of 3 per cent in prices of potatoes, cabbage and carrots. Egg prices, at their seasonal peak at the time this report was prepared, were virtually stable as supplies began to improve. Over the year 1945, food prices advanced 5 per cent, and are now 51 per cent above the average of the pre-war years 1935-39.

Average prices for clothing rose 0.4 per cent for the month as increases were recorded for men's shirts, undershirts and socks, and women's dresses. Retailers' inventories of apparel—especially men's clothing—were at a new low level as stocks were depleted by returning servicemen and Christmas shoppers. During the last year clothing prices have gone up 5 per cent, and are now 47 per cent higher than they were during the pre-war years.

Average prices of miscellaneous goods and services were up 0.2 per cent over the thirty day period as increased costs of operation forced hospitals to raise rents. Rents held firm despite the acute shortage of housing accommodations, showing a one tenth of a per cent drop over the last 6 months as scattered reductions of over-ceiling rents were forced by OPA. Prices for housefurnishings declined fractionally (by 0.1 per cent as smaller sized towels appeared on the market at reduced prices. No change was reported in prices of fuel, electricity and ice. During the year 1945, prices in Los Angeles rose 3.6 per cent as compared with increases of 2 per cent in each of the years 1944 and 1943 and advances of 10 per cent in both 1942 and 1941. Although the price rise for the year was only moderately above those for 1943 and 1944, gains were general and not confined to relatively few commodities as in the earlier years. In addition to five per cent increases in food and clothing, housefurnishings rose 4 per cent and miscellaneous commodities a 1/2 services 3 per cent. In contrast to these increases rents rose only a tenth of a per cent over the year, and costs of fuel, electricity and ice remained unchanged.

## WALTERIA SCOUT TROOP ATTENDS SUNDAY SERMON

Boy Scouts of troop 240, Walteria, attended the Assembly of God church last Sunday to hear Rev. Rainwater deliver a message commemorating Boy Scout Week in which he highly indorsed the Scouts' motto "Be Prepared."

Scouts attending in their uniform were, Charles, Combs, Cort Stagner, Raymond Deurlo, Henry Oleson, Derril Roe, Bruce Niles, Rudy Moreno and Joel Hagberg. Scoutmaster George Powell also attended. Rev. Rainwater is Scout Chairman of troop 240.

**FROM PORTLAND**  
Mrs. Paul Girard of Portland, Oregon, is a houseguest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Dunham.

# Reward For Lee Assailants Up To Total of \$3,211

(Continued from Page 1-A)

fore being taken to an Arizona resort.

The incident created an anti-climax in many months of labor strife involving the clerks of retail stores of the South Bay and Harbor districts, whose strike last fall had resulted in closing of Penney, Woolworth and Newberry stores in Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington.

The clerks were called out on strike by Haskell Tidwell, secretary of Retail Clerks union No. 805, and negotiations for a new wage scale and reopening were stalled in November by Tidwell's refusal to meet with the representatives of the stores involved.

Willing to negotiate but receiving no cooperation from Tidwell, the Torrance Penney and Newberry stores decided to reopen on a self-service basis, using managerial staffs only for serving the customers.

Resuming business, to the gratitude of thousands of shoppers of Torrance, the stores were picketed at once by the retail clerks, who resumed their activities until they were closed again last Wednesday, five days after the attack on Lee and Melville.

United Steelworkers of America pickets who went into the picket line on Friday were withdrawn on Saturday, after the attack.

The Penney Co., in its reward offer statement, said:

"We are deeply appreciative of the concern the people of Torrance are showing as a result of the vicious attack on Feb. 1, 1946, on two Torrance residents, one the manager of the J. C. Penney store, and the other the manager of a local business who came to his assistance."

"The spontaneous action through which a large share of the community are pledging subscriptions to a reward fund offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the gangster-like attack upon Hillman Lee and John Melville is heartening to all Americans."

"The J. C. Penney Co., as part of the business community of Torrance, wants to participate in this public reward. It is, therefore, offering a reward of \$1000 to the person or persons who furnish information which leads to the arrest and conviction of the attackers responsible for this murderous assault. We are notifying the Torrance Chamber of Commerce of this offer, and asking the Chamber of Commerce to act as trustee for this sum which is to be paid under the same terms and conditions as the balance of the fund being raised by the citizens of Torrance."

"We are grateful that neither Mr. Lee nor Mr. Melville was permanently disabled. Mr. Lee has been a valued member of the J. C. Penney organization since 1927, and has managed the Torrance store for the last 10 years. During Mr. Lee's 18 1/2 years with the J. C. Penney organization, he has earned from his associates, as well as from the public with whom he has come in contact, high regard and affection. We are proud that Torrance citizens have accorded him the place in this community which is evidenced by the public concern over his injuries."

"We are proud that the Torrance business community contains such men as Mr. Melville, who, regardless of danger to his own person, came to the aid of Mr. Lee while he was being kicked and slugged."

"We trust that those responsible for this attack will be quickly brought to justice. All evidence points to the fact that the slugging and kicking resulted from well-planned preparation."

# Welcome Home Veterans

E. C. Floyd, 1728 Martina ave., has been discharged at the separation center in San Pedro following nearly two years in the Navy. Floyd participated in the battles of Okinawa and Luzon aboard the U.S.S. Oxford. He is a former Torrance High School student and worked as a machinist prior to his enlistment.

Adrian L. Thornberry, husband of Mrs. Priscilla Thornberry, 1613 Amapola ave., received his discharge from the Navy in San Pedro. He was attached to the 11th Naval District Shore Patrol during his enlistment.

Edward L. McDonald, ETM 3/c, 1951 Carson st., was discharged Feb. 7, at Shoemaker separation center, following long service with the Navy.

Andrew B. Cochran, S/1c, husband of LeNore Cochran, 723 W. Ocean st., was discharged in San Pedro. Cochran served more than eight months in the Pacific Theater of operations.

David M. Cox, S/1c, son of Mrs. V. L. Willmar, 20618 N. Elliot St., received his discharge at San Pedro Feb. 9. Cox was in the invasion of North Africa, also many Pacific campaigns, serving in the Army and a half year of service. Cox has been awarded the Bronze Star along with many other ribbons and medals. He has spent more than three years overseas.

Sgt. Joseph L. Harris, son of Mrs. May Harris, 828 Sartori ave., and husband of Kathryn Harris, 143 W. 2nd and Richfield, Utah, has been discharged from the Army at the Fort Douglas Separation Center in Utah. Sgt. Harris served five months overseas with the 1521st A.F. Bu., and is authorized to wear the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Ribbon. Prior to entering the Army July 27, 1942, Harris was employed by the Columbia Steel Co. at Provo, Utah, and Torrance, Calif.

Leslie C. Foster arrived last week following three and a half years Army service. Just prior to his arrival here, Sgt. Foster had been stationed at Camp Campbell, Ky., near Nashville, where he was attached to an infantry unit. A son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton F. Foster, of 811 Cota ave., he plans to attend Chouinard Art School, Los Angeles, where he will complete a course of illustrations.

Pvt. John W. Guyan, Jr., arrived recently following his honorable discharge from 16 months' Army service. He joins his wife and their three sons at 2119 Gramercy ave., and his parents at 1807 Ardmore.

T/4 Francis Mowry arrived recently from Manila and has received his honorable discharge at the conclusion of 57 months' Army service. He plans to resume his course of training at Los Angeles.

S/Sgt. Charles E. Grubb, recently received his honorable discharge upon his return from three years Army service in the E. T. O. The holder of the Order of the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, he participated in the African-Rome-Arno, Rhine-Land, Southern France, Mid-East and Central European campaigns. He joins his wife, Peggy, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Grubb, of this city.

S/Sgt. John O. Harmon, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Omstead, Lomita, has been discharged at the Fort Douglas separation center in Utah. Sgt. Harmon, who served 15 months in both the European and Pacific theater of operations, completes more than three years of service.

Franklin Brown, S/1c, 2335 W. 250th st., has been discharged from the Naval service at Shoemaker separation center Feb. 8.

T/4 Arnold Pierce, Lomita, is reported to be enroute home



**TORRANCE FUTURE TOLD** . . . Torrance can be the heart of the Los Angeles industrial area in the near future, L. T. Gagnon said at the Lions club meeting Tuesday. Gagnon, pictured above, whose firm, L. T. Gagnon & Associates, has been responsible in the present endeavor of the City of Torrance to secure acquisition from the government of the Army flight strip in Torrance as a municipal airport for the city. (Torrance Herald photo.)

# Other Cities Envy Torrance For Its Possession Of Fine Army Airport

Torrance, for the possession of its army airport, is the envy of all Western cities, according to Lewis T. Gagnon, industrial consultant of Los Angeles.

In a talk before Torrance Lions Club in the Civic Auditorium Tuesday, he declared that the airport is the finest in the west because of its "weight," the runways built to withstand the heaviest loads of the largest air freighter and passenger planes; because of its long and wide runway, more than 600 feet long and 30 feet wide; because of the vast acreage surrounding it, totaling some 470 acres awaiting development by allied industries.

The City of Torrance virtually has been assured possession of the airport, for municipal operation, it was said.

Introduced by President Harry B. Lewis, Gagnon declared that Los Angeles County needs 60 airports and has only 14.

Cagnon formerly was associated with H. F. Leffingwell, New York business consultant, for several years. He has mapped roads from Peiping, China, to Harbin, Russia, for the hydrographic office, and lived in China for two years. He worked on investigation, and his father, who is an outstanding private investigator of this country, a writer, lecturer and gained fame recently in the famous Oakes Case of Nassau, when he was retained and succeeded in freeing Count de Marigny, who was wrongly accused of a crime.

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# Supervisors Act To Acquire Army Hospital Plant

(Continued from Page 1-A)

Failure to secure maintenance of the unit as a hospital will result in demands that it be converted into housing for veterans and their families, it is pointed out.

**Takes Birmingham**  
The Veterans Administration already has agreed to take over Birmingham General hospital as a veterans' facility, it was said, and there is little chance that that branch of the government would be interested in the Torrance Army hospital.

The United States Public Health Service was interested in the hospital at one time but has decided not to take it over, according to reports.

The hospital is not admitting any patients now except emergency cases from the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, and these will end the plan for using the port Feb. 28.

There are 160 civilian employees at the hospital, with 50 to 60 officers and 80 enlisted men being stationed there. There are at the present time some 200 patients still being cared for there.

Commander C. Earl Conner, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2281, and J. G. Caldwell, director, Torrance Area Veterans Service Center, requested of Congressman Cecil King that the facility be turned over to the Veterans Administration. If that unit is not interested, they suggested that the county be permitted to buy it. The third suggestion, that of using it for veterans' housing, was made in event the plan for using the expansive facility as a hospital could not be worked out.

King replied that he had conferred with General Omar Bradley, veterans administrator, and that Bradley promised investigation of the possibilities.

Regarding the proposal to place on the June 4 ballot a plan for a bonded county hospital in the neighborhood of Long Beach, Darby said it is a matter which will take years to develop, while the added space is needed now and is available in the 480-bed Army hospital.

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# Synthetic Rubber Need Is Reported

Although the war is over, synthetic rubber will continue to play an important part in the nation's industry. This was revealed as the synthetic rubber plants in Torrance continued their production at an unrestricted pace.

Reports from the natural rubber producing centers of the far east indicate that conditions there are very bad, and that the outlook is very dismal, industrial department surveys.

The Japanese destroyed a great many Hevea (rubber) trees and neglected the rest, these reports state. And it would take a plantation of 300,000 trees to supply as much rubber as the output of the local synthetic rubber industry.

At least 85,000 native workers would be required to care for a 300,000-tree plantation and operate the production facilities. Native unrest and the dispersion of many natives by the Japanese has made native labor very scarce.

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# Torrance G.A.A. Resumes Sport Activities

With the beginning of the new semester, the Girls' Athletic Association resumed its sports activities. All girls in Senior High School are eligible for membership.

The girls are playing speed ball on Monday and Wednesday afternoons for the first ten weeks. Shirley Saffern is in charge of the basketball team which will be the sport for the second ten weeks. Burna Morris and Wanda Moore were the heads of bowling and basketball respectively last semester. Miss Fohl is the sponsor of this organization.

The new officers are Burna Morris as president replacing Myrna Fossum. Wanda Moore follows Barbara Tossas as vice-president; for secretary, Wilma McBride, replacing Polly Robinson; Mickey Kapanen is the treasurer following Pauline Letz; Terry McIntire is replaced by Myrna Fossum as reporter.

The girls of the G.A.A. are looking forward to a playday at Banning High on Feb. 21, and are practicing very hard to be able to enter in the struggle for championship. The sports participated in will be speedball, volleyball and basketball. Two other playdays will be held at San Pedro and Gardena High schools.

Phone Tor