

Private Interests Seek To Block Torrance Occupancy And Operation of Airport

Rights of Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Francisco, Oakland and a dozen other large California cities to operate municipal airports, have been placed in jeopardy by the efforts of a group of Lomita business men and a Torrance taxpayer to prevent the City of Torrance from getting permanent access to Torrance Municipal airport, located on 101 highway between Crenshaw Blvd. and Madison St.

Claiming that their private firm had been deprived of its rights to occupy and maintain the Army-built airport, Norman Gardiner, Lomita lumber dealer, E. M. Mosher, publisher of the Stanton Progress and John B. Stanton, manager of the Lomita branch of the California bank, who said they represented the Civil Air Patrol third group, and William J. E. Hughes, Torrance taxpayer, have demanded a writ of mandamus to compel the City of Torrance and a group of disinterested citizens to restore the flight strip to the petitioners, and to restrain the defendants from filing application for purchase of the airport from the War Assets Administration.

Superior Court Judge Frank Swain refused to issue a temporary restraining order to the petitioners, but ordered the defendants to show cause on Monday Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m., as to why they should not be restrained, pending a hearing on issuance of writ of mandamus, from use of the airport, asking for the property as a municipal entity, from operating the airport and other acts in connection with the port.

Most of the defendants, having no part in the issue, have not been served and probably will not appear, it was said, because there is no cause of action against them since they are not involved in the issues at hand. Not only would the plaintiffs seek the airport for their use, but their challenge of the legal right of a municipality to own and operate an airport will have

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No Action Taken On City Budget At Tuesday Meet

Torrance City Council did not take the anticipated action in approval of action on the city budget for the year 1947-48 at the meeting Tuesday night, and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett said that he was not certain when the instrument will be adopted to guide the financial affairs of the city in accordance with the City Charter.

The Charter reads that "on or before the first day of July of each year the City Clerk submit to the Council a proposed budget for all departments. Said budget shall include estimates for all the revenues and expenditures for all city departments for the ensuing year. This estimate shall be compiled from detailed information to be supplied by each of the departments on blanks to be furnished by the City Clerk."

The budget was dated on July 15, for presentation to the Council and the public at a hearing on July 16, having been prepared for the city by Logan Cotton, auditor under contract to the city. Bartlett said at the meeting of July 8 that the budget had not yet been completed.

The budget released July 15 estimates an income of \$446,498, based on anticipated tax receipts of \$280,000 from the general tax sources. It is said that the revenue will exceed this amount by more than \$100,000, and that with the expenditures as provided in the budget of \$368,403, a surplus of more than \$133,000 may be realized. This takes into consideration revenue from the sales tax and other new sources as well as the contemplated assessed valuations of Torrance of \$33,600,000.

At the budget hearing on July 16, R. I. Plomert Jr., representing the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, asked that the tax rate of the city be reduced by eight cents per \$100 assessed valuation or that the funds surplus be earmarked for repayment of bonds to Municipal Improvement District No. 1, known as the central water district.

E. J. Michels complained that the budget of the bus department was not included, but it was explained that it is considered a separate self-supporting agency.

THOMAS CONFIDENT HARBOR WITHDRAWAL BILLS WILL BE PASSED AT NEXT SESSION

Legislation which will permit San Pedro, Wilmington and even portions of the shoestring strip to withdraw from Los Angeles city will pass the next session of the California Legislature, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas declares.

Lomita Fireman To Be Sentenced For Arson Aug. 1

Richard H. Ross, 25, county fireman of 28008 Oak Street, Lomita, will be sentenced August 1 for setting brush fires in Palos Verdes Hills.

Ross has pleaded guilty to arson charges. Peace Justice Frank Carrell said the man will get a jail sentence for starting the fires he was paid to fight.

Ross told Justice Carrell, "I have no logical reason for my actions, except that I was 'peevish' at the Palos Verdes Corp."

He was arraigned on two misdemeanor counts, of throwing flaming or glowing substances and unlawfully setting fire to brush, endangering lives and property. He was remanded to the county jail pending a probation hearing and sentencing Aug. 1.

Justice Carrell told Ross: "You are going to get a jail term, even if I do grant you any probation."

Ross was arrested Wednesday following an investigation by Det. Sgt. David Ostraff of the sheriff's arson detail and Fred Caruso, insurance association agent.

F.H.A. Turns Down Another Local Tract

Another proposed residence tract in Torrance has been rejected for mutual mortgage insurance by the Federal Housing Administration, according to information received this week.

Involved is the proposed subdivision of Jack Koch located at 190th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. The F.H.A. called the tract a "pioneer" development, even though it is but a mile from downtown Torrance, is right on the Metropolitan Water District main, a part of Municipal Water District No. 2 and with a sewer trunk within easy reach, on Arlington Ave. It has been proposed to construct some 200 homes there, it is said.

A 28-acre development at 190th St. and Prairie Ave also was rejected recently.

Weather Record

July	Maximum	Minimum
7	75	57
8	79	64
9	85	58
10	85	58
11	77	59
12	81	62
13	76	62

\$2,500,000 College Here Without Bond Issue To Result From Vote

Full financing of a \$2,500,000 campus for El Camino college at Alondra park, without a bond issue, was assured with the election Tuesday in which voters of the district approved a 65-cent tax rate for the college for five years. It is estimated that the move will save the taxpayers some \$300,000 which would have gone to interest had a bond issue been necessary.

Forrest G. Murdock estimated that the college can be developed at a rate of approximately \$500,000 a year, based on the \$150,000,000 assessed valuation of the district.

The regular tax rate is 35 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. In addition, the college will get \$90 per average daily attendance state school support. Ingewood rejected the college tax increase proposal by a vote of 685 "yes" to 1000 "no" and very poor showing was made in Hawthorne, Lennox and some other areas.

Redondo Union High School District, which includes Torrance, returned a lead sufficient to overcome Ingewood's opposition, the vote being 1,328 "yes" to 991 "no." The total vote was

program of the Legislature as being one more workable, with bills limited in nature, therefore allowing more consideration of such measures.

He declared that he still has the pledged votes of a sufficient number of assemblymen to adopt the measure, and said that the bill will have no trouble in the Senate.

Lack of attention of the needs of people of the harbor district and Shoestring strip is given as the purpose for the withdrawal bill, and even the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce is withdrawing its opposition to the measure, according to Thomas.

Thomas said that the 1948 session will start on the first Monday in March, while regular sessions, in odd years, will continue to open on the first Monday in January.

The "even year" meeting is called the "budget session," and it is limited to no less than 60 days nor more than 90 days. It will permit the state department heads to figure the budget on an annual basis, and eliminate the necessity for anticipating needs as far as 18 months ahead.

He said that the introduction of legislation at the "budget session" is limited to Urgency measures; the budget; concurrent and joint resolutions; charter amendments and the governor's legislative program.

Interim committee reports will be filed and considered. Urgency measures require a vote of 54 of the 80 assemblymen and therefore will be strictly limited, according to Thomas.

There will be no change in the regular sessions, meeting in January, recessing in February and reconvening in March. Pay stops at the end of 100 days in the regular session, and legislators are limited to introduction of two bills after reconvening in March.

Torrance Area Youth Band In Concert Tuesday

The Torrance Area Youth band is presenting its summer concert in the Torrance high school auditorium next Tuesday night, July 29, at 8 o'clock. The Intermediate band will play the first portion of the program and the Senior band will play the last half. The concert is free to the public, but a silver offering will be taken. The offering will be applied to the summer budget.

John Richards will be featured on the tuba. Richards is currently attending school at U.S.C. where he is completing his masters thesis.

Flower Sale For Blind To Be On This Week End

In an effort to raise funds for the blind and shut-ins, a flower sale will be held at 1315 Sartori ave. on Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26.

Money obtained from the drive, held annually by Mrs. Elsie Smith, has been used in the past to purchase guide dogs and other wants of the needy not provided for by county aid. Last year the amount raised went to buy a guide dog for Arnold Carlson, now residing in Olysen, Utah, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carlson of 1723 Androvo ave.

Two hundred children are needed to help with this drive and are asked to call at 1315 Sartori ave. Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. Valuable cash prizes will be awarded.

2,475 "yes" and 2373 "no." The complete tabulation of the vote is found elsewhere in this edition.

Bids for converting the Army "H" type buildings and barracks at Alondra park into classrooms for El Camino college are to be re-advertised, the Board of Trustees of the district having rejected all bids. The lowest estimate, \$140,000, was declared to be too high.

Architects have submitted revised specifications. The bids will be advertised for opening Aug. 11, and they will be awarded Aug. 12.

The college hopes to open classes Sept. 15 on the Alondra park campus. Previously, classes were held at Redondo Union high school, Ingewood high school and El Segundo high school.

TORRANCE HERALD

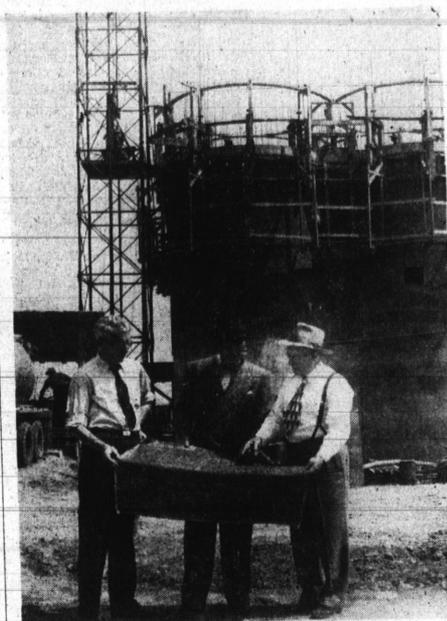
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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1947



SILO MAKERS . . . Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy, Jr., of Torrance looks the plans for one of the huge silos being constructed on the site of the American-Standard plant here. With F. B. Carter, left, general ceramic engineer of the plant, and Henry Creegar, plant manager. The silos were raised in continuous pours, rise in the background. Materials for the production of the pottery products of the plant will be stored in the structures. (Torrance Herald Photo.)



NEW PROCESS . . . Pictured above are workmen using the new Vacuum Concrete process being utilized for the first time extensively on the Coast at the American-Standard plant being constructed at the Crenshaw Blvd. site. The new process is designed to draw the water from the freshly laid concrete which is hard enough to stand on within six minutes after the pictured plates are put in position on the surface of the cement. (Torrance Herald Photo.)

Huge Concrete Silos Constructed For American-Standard Plant Here

Continuous pouring of two giant 20-unit silos for American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. plant in Torrance was being completed this week.

The tremendous concrete pouring continued 24 hours a day.

Forms for the structures were raised one-half inch each four minutes as the pour progressed.

and work started immediately on the second.

The 20 silos, in two units of 10 each, will have an overall base length of 175 feet, 10 inches. The base width is 34 feet.

Each silo is 16 feet in diameter and is 44.6 feet tall.

Conveyors on top of the silos will give the giant structure a height of from 85 to 90 feet, according to Henry Creegar, manager of the Torrance works of American-Standard which will open later this year and employ some 600 men making vitreous china products.

The silos will store such raw materials as feldspar, sand, ball clay and china clay, according to F. B. Carter, general ceramic engineer for the plant.

All the floor space of the huge plant, some 500,000 square feet, will be covered by the Vacuum concrete process, a new method used here for the first time extensively on the West Coast.

In the vacuum process, suction plates are used to draw the water from the wet concrete just after it is poured, and in a matter of six minutes after the plates are put in place, the concrete is hard enough to stand on.

It is estimated that some 10,000 cubic yards of concrete will be used in the floor of the plant.

Torrance School Proposals Are Approved; New Tax Rate Assures Needed Fund

Public Hearings On Budget For Schools August 1

Public hearings on the budget of the Torrance City School District have been called for Friday, Aug. 1, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of Torrance elementary school, according to Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance City Board of Education.

The budget calls for expenditure of \$466,940 in operation of five elementary schools of Torrance next year, to care for some 2,000 students.

The auditorium of the Torrance elementary school was selected for the meeting in order to give the people opportunity to appear and ask questions about the financial affairs of their schools.

WATSON RESIGNS POST WITH CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

Resignation of Paul M. Watson from the Torrance Civil Service Board was formally accepted by the City Council in its regular meeting Tuesday evening.

That the educational needs of Torrance children, from kindergarten through Junior college, will be adequately financed, during the first year of operation of Torrance schools by the people of Torrance, was the decision of the voters at the polls on Tuesday.



NEW COMMANDER . . . D. A. "Spud" Murphy, above, newly elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170 of the Torrance American Legion, installed Thursday night. Installing officer was John C. Dunn, past District 19 Commander. The drill team from Wilmington Legion Post No. 287 assisted. (Torrance Herald Photo.)

LOS ANGELES ATTEMPTS TO SADDLE TORRANCE TAXPAYERS WITH ORIGINAL SCHOOL BONDS

Los Angeles schools want to saddle Torrance taxpayers with the full amount of bonds proceeds from the sale of which was spent in Torrance, despite the fact that Torrance taxpayers have been paying on some of them since 1922. This would amount to \$834,545.11.

However, through efforts of Superintendent of Schools J. Heinrich Hull and County Superintendent of Schools C. C. Trillingham, Torrance will be required to pay only the unpaid balance on the bonds. This will amount from 40 to 60 percent of the total issue, depending upon the date of issue, but probably an average of less than half of that amount.

On the elementary schools Dr. Frank Evans, supervisor of the educational housing section of Los Angeles schools, who vigorously fought Torrance withdrawal from Los Angeles, recommended to the Los Angeles City Board of Education that \$413,698.88 be transferred to Torrance taxpayers.

On the high school Dr. Evans asked that \$410,946.23 be transferred to Redondo Union High School district, subsequently to Torrance upon unification of the school district here.

The Board of Supervisors determines what portion of the bonds shall be charged to the new district, but the Los Angeles claims are being tempered by recommendations of the county superintendent that only the unpaid balance of bonds outstanding be charged to Torrance.

Most of the issues are from 23 to 25 years old.

The main building bonds of Torrance elementary school were issued on Sept. 1, 1922, and amounted to \$104,827.57.

Purchase of the Torrance elementary site, Fern avenue school site and an addition to the main building at Torrance elementary, was provided for in an issue of Aug. 1, 1924, amounting to \$147,381.62.

Rehabilitation of Torrance elementary and construction of the main building at Fern avenue was provided for in an issue of June 1, 1931, amounting to \$143,207.52.

An issue of \$15,800.40 dated June 1, 1924, provided for Waverly acquisition, and another small issue Jan. 1, 1936 for \$2,481.77 provided for painting Torrance elementary main building.

On the high school, an issue of Sept. 1, 1922 for \$195,684.46 paid for construction of the main and shop buildings.

Construction of a classroom and gym was provided for in an

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By a vote of nearly three to one, 482 to 178, the increase of .50 per \$100 assessed valuation in the elementary school taxes for one year was endorsed. The rate for the first year will be \$1.40, thus financing the budget of some \$466,940.

Torrance voters also approved the request of Redondo Union High School district to continue its \$1.00 tax rate. The Torrance vote was 408 "yes" and 205 "no." The district approval was 1849 to 991.

Likewise, the request of El Camino college trustees for an additional 25 cents per \$100 for capital outlay was approved here by a similar vote, and on a district-wide basis the vote as recorded last night was 2,475 "yes" and 2,373 "no."

The reason for the Torrance school election was to make up for the loss of some \$180,000 in state school support which goes to Los Angeles this year because such appropriations are made on an average daily attendance the "previous year." Torrance school district did not exist last year, so there was no "average daily attendance" here.

The same is true of Redondo Union High School district. The high school state support, which is needed this year, also goes to Los Angeles for the first year.

The vote by precincts on the Torrance elementary rate was as follows:

Polling place	Yes	No
Torrance Elem. school	364	110
Perry school	46	13
Walteria school	72	55
Total	482	178

The vote by high school districts on El Camino college issue was:

District	Yes	No
Ingewood	656	1000
Hawthorne	309	304
Lennox	41	44
Lawndale	23	14
Wiseburn	22	0
El Segundo	96	20
*Redondo	1228	991

*This figure includes Torrance, where the vote on the college issue was 262 "yes" and 148 "no."

The vote by elementary districts on the high school issue was:

District	Yes	No
Redondo Beach	438	537
Hermosa Beach	243	162
Manhattan Beach	260	87
*Torrance	408	205

*The Torrance breakdown on the high school issue is: Perry, 44 "yes" and 15 "no."

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Thomas Supports Hull's Proposed State A.D.A. Plan

The proposal voiced by Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull that "the money follow the child" in the allocation of state school funds to districts has the vigorous support of Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, he told the Torrance Herald in a conference on legislative matters this week.

Superintendent Hull's suggestion is that the state school funds be allocated on a monthly basis during the year of attendance so that when a child moves from one district to another, the support is immediately switched to the new district, based upon actual daily attendance.

Under the present law, the funds are allocated on an annual basis, but paid in installments, computed on the average daily attendance for the entire preceding school year. This is the reason that Torrance gets no elementary state school support funds, the \$180,000 going to Los Angeles on the basis of its attendance last year.

Assemblyman Thomas said that he will introduce amendments to the Education Code which would bring about such a plan, and that he is sure of their success.

During the first year, Hull admits, there may have to be a readjustment of the entire education plan to prevent hardship on some districts.

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