

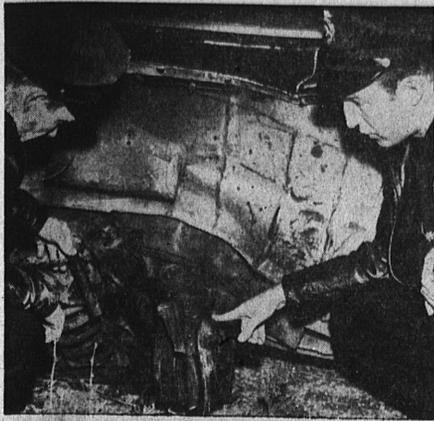
PLANS TO IMPROVE AIRPORT ARE DISCLOSED BY BIDDER TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . FOUR SECTIONS — 28 PAGES

34th YEAR—No. 51

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1948

PER COPY 10c



WHEEL HUB 'MELTS' IN CHASE—Torrance Police Officers Alexander Thompson and Don Hamilton (top, left to right) look at wheel hub worn to a nubbin on which fleeing hit-and-run driver raced 85 miles per hour along Pacific Coast Highway Sunday night. Bottom photo: Officer Thompson points to dent in seat where bullet he fired at fleeing suspects spent itself in the cushion three inches from the driver's spine. (Herald Photos).

FLAMES SCAR HIGHWAY IN HIT-AND-RUN CHASE

Nine miles of flame-scarred highway are all that remains today as a result of the wildest chase in the history of the Torrance Police department. Even the movies would have difficulty in filming a chase as involved as this one which took place last Sunday night along Highway 101 and included:

Five Points Solution to Await Others

Action on the Five Points traffic problem has been delayed until a plan is submitted for Cabrillo avenue at the Pacific Electric depot and at its intersection with Torrance boulevard.

The Torrance City Council, discussing two plans on Five Points submitted by the Auto Club of Southern California, decided not to take action until the other plans, for which the city also has asked assistance, were received.

Chief Engineer E. E. East said his engineers were "having a little difficulty" working out a satisfactory channelization of traffic for the even more complicated intersection of Carson street and Cabrillo avenue, in front of the Pacific Electric depot.

WATCHMAN APPOINTED

The city has appointed John Moffitt as watchman on a temporary and part-time basis, effective Dec. 15, by approval of the City Council this week.

Batten Down the Latches, Mates, and Your Phone

People steal the darndest things!

Latest missing item reported to the Torrance Police Department is the pay telephone from the north side of the city park, which was reported to the local police by E. C. Starr of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Reason for the theft is believed to be the nine dollars estimated as the amount in the coin box.

Broadcasting Aid Puts Yule Music on Air

Strains of "Silent Night," "Jingle Bells" and a score of other familiar Christmas melodies are being wafted over the air by the Torrance Hardware, 1515 Cabrillo avenue. An ingenious broadcasting device installed by Gray V. Jones, a radio technician attached to the U. S. Navy, for his father Charles V. Jones, proprietor of the popular hardware store, provides the mechanics for the Christmas holiday cheer.

Records by famous choirs, soloists and instrumentalists are rotated to give wide variation of the programs. Jones is president of the Re-

First Step Taken for Consolidation of Water Districts

Wheels were officially set in motion at last Tuesday's Council meeting to consolidate the three water districts within the city and to bring under one district the supplying of water to the entire city. The council authorized William Stanger, superintendent of the water department, and George Stevens, city administrator, to begin an engineering investigation of the city's water needs and present facilities.

Stanger pointed out recently that eight companies presently are supplying residents of Torrance with their water needs. "We were forced to tell a prospective factory builder that at present we would be unable to fill his required water needs. We will be forced to advise other commercial ventures of our inadequate system and supply unless steps are taken immediately to correct the situation," Stanger said recently.

This step referred to by Stanger was taken at Tuesday's meeting when Stanger and Stevens were instructed to submit their report to the council within ninety days.

It is estimated that to bring the system up to a point where it can supply not only the commercial needs of the city but the future residential needs as well, a bond issue of between \$700,000 and \$800,000 will have to be floated and a revamping of the present tax schedule undertaken.

Eventually the plan would bring all water subscribers in the city into one water district.

Communities Face 'Go Back' Chest Appeal

Cities and towns throughout Community Chest territory face a "go back" campaign Jan. 10 through 13 as result of a \$2,500,000 lag in the current Red Feather appeal.

Edward R. Valentine, general chairman, told 1200 leaders and workers at the Billmore Hotel last Thursday that barely \$5,000,000 of the \$7,500,000 rock bottom minimum goal has been raised to date. He said it would be virtually impossible to bring in the \$2,500,000 deficit by the end of December, and it is expected there will be a full \$1,000,000 lack by Jan. 1.

At this time, Valentine said, several thousand crack volunteers will be re-enlisted to cover all individuals who have not been reached previously and to re-solicit on a selective basis those firms and individuals who may wish to give a little more in the face of the need.

Willis H. Merrill, general chairman for Harbor areas, said that real community breakdown can result if the Chest fails. "If the seven and one-half million dollar goal is not raised," he warned, "there will be no other alternative but to close up some vital health and welfare programs in Chest agencies."

"If this happens, Children's Hospital alone would be forced to close a wing or ward and turn away several hundred boys and girls urgently in need of medical care. Down the line agencies would have to cut services. I do not believe the people of this area will allow a shocking condition of this kind."

B. T. Whitney, Torrance chairman, said that standing for the community as of last Tuesday is \$10,677 raised for 87 per cent of the quota of \$12,430.

Ronald Coll, leader for Lomita, reported that \$435 has been turned in so far for 23 per cent of the \$1860 goal there.

Next Two Issues to Be Delivered on Wednesdays

In order to better serve our readers and advertisers, the next two weeks' issues of the Herald will be distributed on Wednesday mornings instead of the usual Thursday morning deliveries. In other words, the pre-Christmas issue will be distributed on Wednesday, Dec. 22, and the pre-New Year's issue on Wednesday, Dec. 29.

Distributors and newsmen (and newsmen) are requested to report for their papers at the usual hour on Wednesday instead of Thursday, for the next two weeks.

Advertisers and those supplying information are requested to advance their advertising copy for submission one full day. Classified advertising will close at 6 p.m. Mondays, Dec. 20 and 27.

All departments of the newspaper will be closed all day Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25, in order that employees may enjoy a three-day Christmas holiday.



IN ICY RESCUE—Lt. Charles E. Daly of Torrance, pilot of a C-47 wrecked in the Yukon, was one of six men rescued yesterday in the first glider pick-up rescue seen in the Arctic.

City Buys Two Motor Coaches

Purchase of two used White motor coaches for \$5140 was approved by the City Council Tuesday night, on recommendation of George Stevens, city engineer, and Marshall A. Chamberlain, superintendent of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

The two new units will augment the present equipment and provide spare units for use when it is necessary to take the regular buses out of service for overhaul.

Funds for the purchase were taken from "non-appropriated" funds.

Promiscuous Dumping Will Bring Fines

Promiscuous dumping of refuse and even garbage—alongside some of the city's streets is going to cost persons who should know better a stiff fine.

The City Council this week asked the police department to "bear down" on their patrolling of outlying streets, where even the drivers of cement trucks are lazily dumping residue from their mixers.

But it is the health problem resulting from garbage that concerns city officials, since many health officials suspect that flies may be carriers of the polio germ.

Commander W. H. Mason of Hollywood Riviera said that his community has been plagued by dumping of refuse, and plans are under way to police the area more thoroughly.

Two Tenants Put in Bids for Operation of City Flying Field

Three bids for the operation and management of Torrance Municipal Airport were under consideration today by the City Council, with indications that the city may expect to receive considerably more revenue from operation of the field under a new deal for the city's taxpayers.

Jobs

State's Office Here to Serve San Pedro Area

The Torrance state Employment Office will serve several thousand more persons listed as "unemployed," beginning Feb. 1, as result of the state's decision to close the San Pedro job and unemployment insurance office.

More than 13,000 persons who now make use of the San Pedro office will come to Torrance or go to Wilmington to apply for unemployment insurance payments and jobs. Bert Harnish, area manager for the state employment service, said.

He served notice on the Laborers' Hall Association, owners of the San Pedro office building, that the state's lease for the quarters will be cancelled as of Feb. 1.

A cut in the state's budget will force the end of the employment and job insurance service in San Pedro, Harnish said.

Announced late last week by Bert Harnish, area manager for the state employment service, the plan was immediately protested by various San Pedro labor and business organizations, and Harnish said there was a "chance for a reprieve."

Stores Open Till 9 Daily

"Open until 9 p.m. every night until Christmas," read the signs hanging on the doors of most Torrance merchants and stores this week.

Charles V. Jones, chairman of the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that nearly all the stores handling Christmas gifts would remain open for the convenience of day workers until 9 p.m. every night until including Christmas eve.

First bid opened by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett at Tuesday night's council meeting was that of George Batchelor, now a tenant at the field, who offered to erect a building for maintenance equipment now sitting on the field, erect a hangar, install night lighting facilities and otherwise improve the field.

Batchelor's bid appeared to be by far the most advantageous to the city, City Engineer George Stevens said following analysis of the bids. In addition he offered to pay the city 25 per cent of gross receipts from tie-downs, and a percentage of gasoline and oil sale receipts.

In this connection, it was learned that Batchelor has commitment from two other operators of non-scheduled airlines that they will move to the Torrance field and operate out of there. Using Douglas DC-8 planes, their gasoline consumption will be large, and this will insure larger receipts from this source than from thousands of small planes.

The second bid, that of the Acme Aircraft Company, offered the city 70 per cent of certain gross receipts, but the bidders did not offer to erect any buildings. The bid was signed by C. B. Keesey, H. K. Crawford and Charles Klinkert Jr., all of whom are now doing maintenance work on the field.

The third and last bid opened was that of West Coast Aircraft, Ltd., and signed by William F. Pike, general manager. He offered the city 33 1/2 per cent of practically all gross receipts, which he said should amount to not less than \$500 for the first year, or \$300,000 for the five-year period covered by the contract.

Pike formerly operated the Gardena Valley airport and more recently has been at Metropolitan Airport in Van Nuys.

All three bids were referred to the council as a whole on motion of Councilman Al Jackson, for study. The city could decide to issue a new call for bids, but in the meantime, it was pointed

(Continued on Page 7-A)

WM Puffs on Sherlock Pipe to Foil Frost

"Quite a variety of meteorological phenomena this week," said the Weather Man between puffs on his big Sherlock Holmes pipe. "Had a couple of nice warm spring-like days, one at 81 degrees, rain, a full rainbow over our city, and this morning a blanket of white frost over everything."

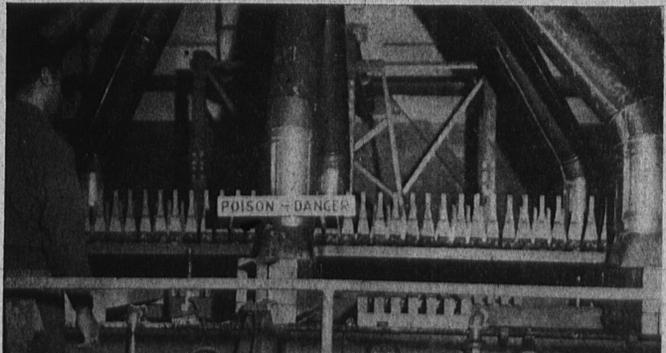
Looking at his record we found the coldest day, Wednesday, to be 35 degrees—above freezing, yet the rooftops even now were white with the morning's frost.

We asked for an explanation of this. How could the minimum temperature be above freezing and yet we received calls from housewives that sheets they had left out all night were starched stiff with frost.

After two hours of listening to a lecture on the subject we are saddened to report that we now know as much about the situation as before.

The record reads like this:

December	Maximum	Minimum
1	70	43
2	81	45
3	67	46
4	68	46
5	64	40
6	66	40
7	66	40
8	66	40
9	66	40
10	66	40
11	66	40
12	66	40
13	66	40
14	66	40
15	66	40
16	66	40



PLATING MACHINE—This photograph shows a small section of the 237-foot-long plating machine at the Torrance plant of the Andersen-Carlson Manufacturing Company on 213th street, which recently went into operation and now is turning out 400,000 lineal feet of top-grade electrical conduit weekly for the building industry. Operator observes plating process from walkway alongside the \$300,000 machine.



POSTAL AIDE—Dale Alan Stitt, 21-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stitt, 908 Amapola avenue, tried out the drive-in parcel postoffice innovation opened by Postmaster C. E. Conner for the convenience of Torrance residents. Edward A. Siedel, postoffice clerk, takes the package for mailing while the Stitt family remains seated in the car. The drive-in plan will remain in operation at Cravens and El Prado next week.