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RAIL FRANCHISE ATTACKED

COUNCIL GETS LONG REPORT ON SANTA FE

Santa Fe trains are being operated on Madrid avenue without a valid franchise from the city of Torrance, the City Council was told Tuesday night by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith.

Request for renewal of Ordinance 57 under which the Santa Fe once held a franchise, was denied and action on the matter was "tabled" for the duration of the war, Smith said he learned from official city records.

"My interpretation is that because it was denied and tabled, it does not give the Santa Fe any right to operate," Smith said, "although it seemed that both the previous city council and the Santa Fe had the impression they were operating under two franchises."

Smith said the Santa Fe first obtained a franchise under Ordinance 57, then discovered that one street was omitted from it. Then, he told the council, Ordinance 146 was passed to supplement it, but no time limit was set in the latter, which made it perpetual.

Furthermore, Smith said, the title of the ordinance calls for a 21-year franchise, but the body of the ordinance does not.

"The Supreme Court," Smith explained, "has said that the title of an ordinance is not part of the ordinance. Furthermore, there is no consideration shown for the franchise, and a franchise, which is a contract, is void without a consideration."

City Attorney Smith and City Administrator George Stevens were ordered by the Council, on motion of Councilman Powell, to study the situation and report back at the first July meeting as to the proper steps to take.

Soap Factory Site Reported on Crenshaw

Exploratory work on a proposed \$10,000,000 soap plant site has been made on site holdings of the Santa Fe, west of Crenshaw boulevard and opposite the new plant of American Standard.

Authority for the report was a statement by officials of C.C.M.O., owners of the land, during the course of a hearing called by the District Attorney's office this week.

An option is reported to have been taken by Lever Brothers Soap Company for a huge plant which would supply the entire West Coast with various soap products now made elsewhere. Official word is expected shortly.

Fire Insurance Rate Cut Here

Reduction of approximately 20 per cent in certain fire insurance rates in Torrance was announced yesterday by the Pacific Fire Rating Bureau, which serves all but a few of the fire insurance companies doing business in this and other western states.

The major reductions will be in the residential class, according to Russell Lund, local insurance broker. Dwellings represent a considerable value in California and reductions in this group will affect the majority of policyholders in the state, Lund said. Rates on certain other classes of property are adjusted upward because of high loss experience over a five-year period as compared with premiums charged, the Rating Bureau said.



COME ON IN, THE PIE'S FINE . . . Behind that mask of fluffy cream pastry delicacy is Jimmy "Pie Face" Haworth who tried to out-gobble his fellow playmates at Fern Avenue Park in a pie-eating contest that was part of the program marking the opening of adult-supervised playgrounds for the summer. Jimmy's second is Herbie Hodges who also got seconds on the pie. (Herald Photo).

Schools Budget for Next Year Adopted; Calls for \$763,880

Calling for a total proposed outlay of \$763,880 for the coming school year, the Torrance Board of Education at its meeting Tuesday night adopted the tentative budget for 1948-49 and ordered it submitted to the county superintendent of schools for approval.

At the same time, Emmett W. Ingram, business manager, disclosed that the Torrance Unified School District was finishing up the 1947-48 school year with a cash surplus of \$23,640.

Last year's total expenditure, by comparison, was \$425,242. The comparable figures include tuition paid to other districts, operation and maintenance of buildings, salaries of teachers and administrative staff, auxiliary services, fixed charges, capital outlay exclusively of bond issue proceeds and community services.

Data for the public hearing on the new budget was set

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No Dispute Over Wages or Hours of Local Clerks

"There is no dispute or argument over wages and hours between Torrance clerks and retail stores now serving this area," it was stated this week by officials of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, which organization comprises the leading merchants of this city.

The announcement was made, according to the merchants, "in order to correct a misunderstanding that seems to be quite prevalent."

"Torrance merchants are strictly abiding by the conditions of their previous union contract. The wage scale under which Torrance clerks have been working for the past 18 months is as high or higher than is now being paid in any other city on the Pacific Coast. To the best of our knowledge, these wages are as high as specified in any union contract in the entire United States," the announcement states.

"The major difference in agreement between Torrance merchants and Haskell Tidwell's Retail Clerks Union No. 905 is Tidwell's insistence that we sign a closed shop contract, which is illegal under the Federal Labor-Management Relations Act. We also insist upon a fair and impartial arbitration clause for the settlement of future disputes," the statement concluded.

Vice-Principal Wallace Here

Rounding out the new administrative staff at Torrance High School for next year, the Board of Education yesterday announced the appointment of Charles E. Wallace, former principal of Potter Valley High School, as vice principal.

While doing post-graduate work at USC during the summer months, Wallace visited Torrance yesterday afternoon to confer with school officials relative to his new position at the local high school.

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Deadline Set on Dust Bowl Land Owners

Six Torrance industrial concerns have complained to the County Air Pollution Commission about dust from the Santa Fe dust bowl, it was learned this week during a conference at the District Attorney's office in Los Angeles.

I. S. Decker, engineer for the Air Pollution District, made the statement before City Attorney C. Douglass Smith, City Administrator George Stevens and Deputy District Attorney Fred Whidell Wednesday. The swirling dust, he was told, was interfering with normal factory operations.

H. L. Briggs, vice president of CCMO, R. N. McMaster, chief engineer and Attorney Elsh of the CCMO legal staff were summoned to Wednesday's meeting to hear the complaint lodged against the land owners. They said they were willing to cooperate in any way possible to relieve the dust menace.

This drew an immediate response from City Attorney Smith.

"I found one of your letters to the city of Torrance pledging your firm's cooperation to stop this dust, and it's been a long ten years," Smith said. "This property

Silver Dollar Event Friday and Saturday

Launched with a dramatic and novel idea, leading Torrance merchants will present sensational values to thrifty shoppers Friday and Saturday during Twin Dollar Days.

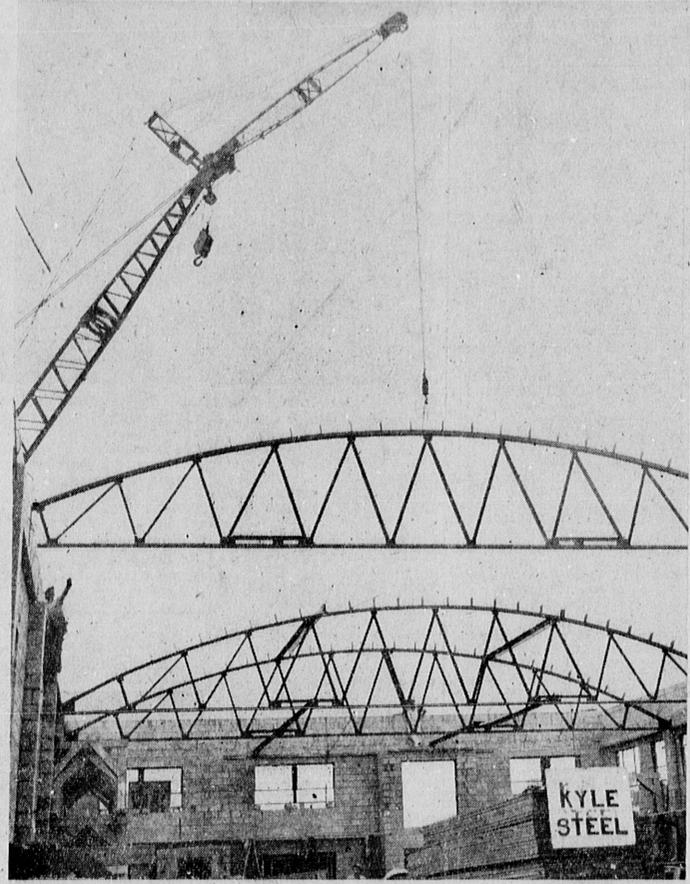
The central promotional idea of the event will be hundreds of items on sale for a silver dollar. All of these items are valued far more than a dollar. One merchant is advertising articles valued as high as \$75 for a silver dollar.

Local banks, warned in advance of a "run" for silver dollars, have stocked up and are prepared to take care of the needs of everyone. It was explained that silver dollars would not be "for free!" The banks expect a paper dollar or a check other than the rubber variety in exchange!

So rob junior's bank if you must . . . get your silver dollars and be ready for fun and bargains in Torrance.

Friday and Saturday are the big days.

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NEWSPAPER PLANT RISES . . . Giant steel roof trusses for the new publishing plant of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News were put into place this week. Shown above is one of the six 60-foot heavy steel trusses which will span the walls of the fireproof structure now under construction at 1619 Gramercy avenue. The all-steel roof framework furnished by Kyle Steel Company is believed to be the only such construction so far used in a Torrance business building. Present schedule calls for completion of the newspaper building by October 1.

Columbia Will Cease Foundry Work This Fall

Foundry operations at the Columbia Steel Company's Torrance plant will be terminated in from 60 to 90 days, it was estimated yesterday following the announcement on Tuesday of the company's plans for future operation of the local plant.

All other steel-producing units will continue in operation. J. L. Perry, president of this western subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation, said that all present commitments for production will be completed before suspension of the foundry operations, however.

Every effort will be made to absorb the approximately 150 foundry workers at the local plant into other steel operations, Perry emphasized.

"It is well known that Columbia Steel Company has turned most of its attention to production of rolled steel products," Perry said. After giving the foundry situation long and careful study, it was deemed wise to abandon foundry operations at Torrance to make available all steel possible for conversion into rolled products."

The Torrance plant and its foundry were originally built by the Llewellyn Iron Works in 1917. The facilities were acquired in 1923 by Columbia Steel Corporation, which seven years later joined the subsidiaries of U. S. Steel and assumed the present name, Columbia Steel Company.

Pedestrian Has Fight of Way, Court Decides

Pedestrians still have the right of way over motorists marked crosswalks at intersections or in the middle of blocks, the Appellate Department of Superior Court held yesterday.

Superior Judges Edward T. Bishop, Hartley Shaw and Jess E. Stephens in handing down their decision reversed a ruling by Los Angeles municipal judge Philbrick McCoy. Judge McCoy had dismissed a recent case on the ground a motorist had not committed a misdemeanor in failing to yield the right of way to a pedestrian in a middle of the block crosswalk.

Fines Levied on Traffic Counts to Fix Streets

Fines derived from drunk driving and speeding violations constituted all but \$207 of the \$1,918 collected as Road Fund Monies during the month of May in the Torrance City Court, a report on file today showed.

This money will be spent for highway improvement and maintenance, while \$1,992 collected as fines for drunkenness, falling to stop for boulevard stops, parking violations, and other miscellaneous crimes will be used as General Fund Monies, the report showed.

New Telephone Books Monday

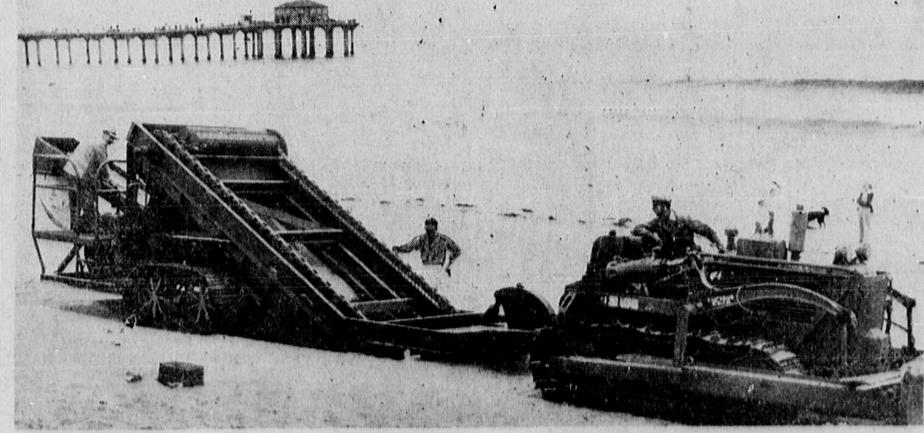
Delivery of 33,800 copies of the new green-covered San Pedro-Wilmington-Harbor City-Lomita-Torrance telephone directory, containing listings of all telephones in the southern section of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, will be started Monday, according to A. B. Smith, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The number of listings has been increased from 140,000 to 165,000 during the last year. This directory is the fourth to be delivered in the second round of the new five-directory plan that divides the entire metropolitan area into five divisions with a separate alphabetical listing for each.

Model Planes Use Western Avenue Field

Scheduling of the third annual All-Western Open Model Aircraft meet for June 23-28 was announced by the sponsoring Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Outdoor rubber and free flight events are scheduled for the open field at Western and Rosecrans avenues; indoor activities will be staged at the Santa Ana Naval Air Station and rise-off-water events are scheduled for East Road and Main street in Los Angeles. Control line events are being held at Santa Anita race track. Winners will be flown to the Plymouth International Meet at Detroit, with all equipment being sent airfreight.



SANITIZING BEACHES . . . Invented by Vic Chatten of Torrance this giant steel beachcomber passed its first tests before county officials Monday and soon will be put into operation to rid beaches of broken glass, driftwood, and other trash. Money recovered by the operator, who is bonded for \$25,000, will be used to promote the ocean-front playgrounds that will be kept clean by the new machine. Chatten (center) watched

the 10-ton machine scoop up a light bulb, run the gauntlet of the buckets, and drop into a trash container without breaking the bulb during the trial runs conducted near the Manhattan Pier shown in the background. Built in Torrance, the inventor plans to build future models in a plant to be located here. (Herald Photo).

Oil Well Supply Firm Buys Site Adjoining City

Acquisition of a 13-acre factory site in the heavy industrial district adjoining Torrance on the East was disclosed today by the Medearis Oil Well Supply Company, which will move its operations here from South Gate.

Paul A. Medearis, head of the firm, said that as soon as the deal is through escrow an order will be placed to fabricate the steel for the buildings at the site, 210th Street and Normandie avenue. The land was purchased from Clarence A. Birney, former Torrance realtor who some months ago acquired the remaining 1100 parcels of the old Dominguez Rancho in this area.

Employment will be provided for from 100 to 150 men in the new factory, it is understood, and the company is engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of oil field supplies.

"We hope to start our move within the next 30 to 40 days, just as soon as the new buildings are sufficiently completed to permit the move," Medearis said. "Our present plant at 8638 Otis street is inadequate for our needs."

Wheel Week Playgrounds' Next Feature

Watermelons on TREES?? Not normally, but they were Monday at playgrounds throughout the city where the opening of the summertime recreation areas was marked with a watermelon treasure hunt, pie-eating contests and other action-packed contests for the neighborhood kids.

The program of maintaining adult supervised playgrounds under the joint sponsorship of the city and the school board is under the direction of Eddie Cole who announced that next week will be "Wheel Week" at the various play areas and will feature contests for bicycle riding, roller skating and similar attractions.

Red Cross in Meeting Plans Year's Work

Katherine A. Ferguson, director of the geographic division of Los Angeles Chapter, American Red Cross, was a guest of Torrance Chapter Monday evening in the Chamber of Commerce directors' room. Bob L. Haggard, branch chairman, conducted the session.

Purpose of the meeting was to formulate plans for a year-round Red Cross program and to devise methods of giving service to various groups.

Present at the meeting was Mrs. A. L. Hudson, geographic fund chairman, who lauded the efforts of her volunteers who "rang doorbells in this year's drive."

William Moon to 'Y' Camp

William E. Moon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer S. Moon, of 1024 Annapolis avenue, left last week for the YMCA camp at Estes Park, Colo., where he will remain until Labor Day.

Moon joined a group of 135 college students who will assist "Y" church and college groups who are planning conferences in the park during the summer.

A social science major at USC, Moon has the distinction of being the only student from his school chosen for the summer camp service.