BUILDING GAINS 30 PER CENT OVER 1947

TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . THREE SECTIONS — 20 PAGES

34th YEAR—No. 32 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1948 PER COPY 10c

AIRLINE OPERATORS . . . Checking the serial numbers on these newly-overhauled engines for their fleet of three DC-3 airliners based at Torrance Municipal Airport are Mr. and Mrs. George Batchelor of Seaside Ranchos. The Batchelors are the principal tenants at the municipal flying field and purchased their third DC-3 this week to augment their non-scheduled operations across the nation.

Torrance Airport Home of Thriving Airline Business

"Arrow Airways" is expecting!

Due to arrive at Torrance Municipal Airport at any moment now is a third large DC-3 airliner to bolster the $100,000 business that an enterprising 27-year-old former Army pilot and his attractive wife have built on the proverbial shoestring.

Their simple credo: "We'll fly you anywhere you want to go and we'll get you there quickly and safely."

Proprietor George Batchelor says the firm has hauled everybody from deportation-bound aliens to race track-bound movie stars in its development into a thriving airline concern.

"We really got our start carrying the Western International Hockey League around the country," says Batchelor. "We went to Honolulu, bought our first DC-3 with everything we could hock or carry, and flew it back. Then we fell into this hockey deal, I flew the plane myself from game to game, and we made nothing but money."

The biggest blow came last summer when an uninsured DC-3 of theirs burned up in a Honolulu plane hangar the day before it was to be flown to the states.

When Batchelor leased the building and office space at the flight strip about two years and up until about three weeks ago, he was doing nothing but contract flying.

"Sailors on leave to Chicago and back, Mexicans to the border for the Immigration Department, movie stars to Del Mar for the races, and the like," he recounts.

The Batchelor aircraft also saw some of the glamour of Hollywood in such films as "A Foreign Affair."

Less than a month ago the airline started to make non-scheduled passenger flights, and with a quick business eye, right off the bat offered what they claim are the lowest rates anywhere. (For example: $88 to New York City).

In the past the firm has employed two DC-3 twin-engine planes and is averaging three cross-country flights each week. According to his certificate, Batchelor can fly passengers anywhere in the United States, Canada, Alaska or Mexico.

It takes 17 passengers to make a minimum load. The maximum is 28. "Arrow Airways" has flown some 100,000 miles without an accident!

The airline employs 12 persons, pilots and mechanics, plus Mrs. Batchelor who handles the bookkeeping and other office work. (Mrs. Batchelor usually isn't quite sure how many people are working for the company at any given minute. "He hires them so fast," she explains).

Mrs. Batchelor is also a pilot and likes to get behind the controls of the family Navion on occasion.

Does she like the airline business?

"It's a good thing I do, I live it 24 hours a day," she says.

As for George, despite his apparent success, "It's a tough racket," he intones.

The Batchelors live in Torrance, too, in the expanding Seaside Ranchos section where they can overlook the airport. In fact, they've lived there nearly two years.

Schools May Condemn New 10-Acre Site

Condemnation proceedings to obtain a 10-acre site for elementary purposes adjacent to the Hollywood Riviera, near the southerly city boundary, were authorized by the Board of Education at the request of Emmett W. Ingrum, business manager.

Ingrum explained that the board's offer for the property, a site 424 by 1014 feet in an area southerly of highway 101, has gone unanswered and that time was vital if construction of buildings is to get under way to relieve crowded conditions in the Walteria school.

The property is identified on the district's map as belonging to Dr. C. N. Ellinwood of San Francisco and is in Tract 10304.

Strike Limits Operations at Smelting Plant

Operations at the Torrance plant of the Pacific Smelting Company were being carried on with a limited force this week as the result of a strike called by the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, C.I.O.

Abiding by the terms of a restraining order issued Monday by Superior Judge Clarence Hanson, the union said it had limited its pickets to two and was asking all truck drivers not to enter the struck plant, which is located on Western avenue, where the street is under jurisdiction of both the Torrance and Los Angeles police.

Allen Klatzker, plant manager, said he had a 48-hour minimum week and was paying his workmen more than the union scale. He was taken by surprise, he said, when they told him they wanted to form a union last Friday afternoon. The plant has been operating here for five years.

The Union, on the other hand, said that their wages were not in keeping with today's cost of living, and that they are demanding paid holidays and two weeks paid vacation after a year's employment. They also assert that M. D. Schwartz, general manager, has refused to meet with them.

It was reported that the company had filed a damage suit for $150,000 against the union, asking $50,000 actual damages and $100,000 punitive damages.

COUNCIL ADVISED AIRPORT LEASE CAN BE CHALLENGED

Legality of the present operating arrangement of Torrance Municipal Airport was literally "up in the air" last night following a prolonged "unofficial" session of the City Council Tuesday night.

With indications that the entire matter may come to a head at next Tuesday night's regular council meeting, one member of the council said he wanted nothing about the airport's operation concealed from the public.

Investigation disclosed definitely that the present operating agreement between the city and the lessee was entered into without proper legal authority and is subject to challenge in the courts.

It was learned yesterday that the five councilmen had the law quoted to them on the airport situation at Tuesday night's extended meeting. In the first place, the council was told that it has absolutely no authority to lease the airport proper but may only lease ground contiguous to the runway and taxiways for manufacturing or business related in some way to aircraft. Such authority is provided in Deering's General Laws.

The Council also was advised that Deering's General Laws provide that any chartered city may employ an airport operator to operate the airport proper and that he may be paid by the city for his services.

This, it was learned, may pave the way for termination of the present agreement with a private lessee and makes it possible for the city to exercise complete control over all operations at the flying field, including the collection of all revenue.

School Budget Adopted After No Objections

Calling for total expenditures of $822,409 plus a $50,000 general reserve fund, the budget of the Torrance Unified School District was approved Tuesday night by the Board of Education and forwarded to the county superintendent for final approval.

No protests were registered concerning the budget at Tuesday night's publicized public hearing, but Chairman Robert Plomert of the Industries' Tax Committee said his committee expected to see substantial reductions in the budget next year.

The local district is eligible to receive certain additional state funds next year, after the district has been in existence for one year.

Business Manager Emmett Ingrum told the Board the shop building was in need of extensive rewiring, it had been discovered, which would increase this year's capital outlay by about $1800.

School Board Approves Six New Teachers

Hiring of six new teachers for the Torrance elementary and high schools was approved Tuesday night by the Board of Education on recommendation of J. H. Hull, superintendent.

The new teachers, who will assume their duties this fall, are Paul M. Moody, Mildred Smith, Hannah M. Erringer and William B. Lewis Jr., all elementary teachers, and Dorothy Adams and Eleanor Bremer, both secondary teachers.

Policemen Are Hired

Employment of Donald S. Hamilton and Donld L. Cook as police officers has been authorized by the city council, on certification of the civil service commission that they had passed their examinations. Employment dates from August 1.

RIVIERA ZONING

The Riviera Housing Corporation has been granted a change of zone from A-1 to R-1 on Tract 14898, by action of the city council.

Polio Cases on Decline, Claims Health Officer

Polio cases are definitely on the decline, Dr. H. C. Smiley, Torrance district health officer, reported to the Herald yesterday.

Dr. Smiley stated recently published articles pertaining to the current "scare" were somewhat misleading. He said that although Torrance has reported nine cases of the disease the history of the cases date back to the first of the year. He said that of the six cases reported here since June 1, all but one were returned home or were removed from the communicable disease wards.

The health officer listed the following as precautions to take to prevent poliomyelitis from striking: don't get over-tired, avoid chilling, keep clean, don't swim in polluted waters, avoid removal of tonsils or adenoids prior to and during polio epidemic season, and help keep your community clean.

ALL IN FUN—Explains Ann Dempsey of Wilmington to Chairman Dean Sears of the Torrance Factory Frolic in extending him a "very personal" invitation to visit the Wilmington Fiesta which opens Aug. 17. Incidentally, Banker Sears is showing the Wilmington theme girl what the well-dressed Torrance man will wear for the Factory Frolic Sept. 15 through 19.

'Miss Industry' To Be Named For Torrance Factory Frolic

Some lucky Torrance lass will win the title of "Miss Industry" for the big Factory Frolic and Community Fair to be staged here Sept. 15 to 19 under plans worked out this week by the general committee headed by B. T. Whitney.

Any Torrance girl over 16 who would like to compete for the title may register at the local Chamber of Commerce and obtain full information from Secretary Blaine Walker. Each entrant will be asked to submit a photograph, which will be placed in competition.

The book containing all the photographs will be submitted to Torrance service clubs and other organizations who will select the girl they wish to sponsor in the contest for the title. The sponsors will enter their candidates in a ticket-selling contest, providing them with ideas and "leads" to assist them in every possible way.

Prizes as well as honors await the winner, who will be proclaimed preceding the opening of the frolic. Entrants are asked to register by next Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce.

Sale of exhibit and local concession space was reported on at the second progress luncheon held Monday noon at the Chamber, attended by more than a score of committee workers.

Exhibit space has been contracted for by the following local business firms and industries:

A-1 Photo, El Prado Furniture, Ray's Appliance Store,

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Angel City May Acquire Second Municipal Field

Los Angeles city will announce its decision shortly as to whether it will take over Metropolitan Airport in San Fernando valley, which has been offered to the city for $1 by the War Surplus Administration, it was learned yesterday.

The situation there is comparable to Torrance Municipal Airport in many respects, it was learned, and if the city accepts the 300-acre airport it will continue operation of the field and make part of it available to the Army and the National Guard.

Sartori Will Be Improved

Sartori avenue, the northerly section of which is described by property owners as "most like a roller coaster", is to be ironed out and repaved in portions, just as soon as the city engineering forces can get around to it.

A call for bids was being prepared this week by City Engineer George Stevens for repaving between Cabrillo and Torrance boulevard, and for a leveling course between the boulevard and Dominguez street on the north.

The council is expected to call for bids for the work at next Tuesday night's regular meeting.

PLANS FILED ON 156 UNITS AT SEAHAVEN

Showing a continuing gain in building activity over a year ago, the total permits issued this year in Torrance up to the end of July was approximately 30 percent ahead of the first seven months of 1947, according to the City Building Department.

In addition, another $898,030 in permits is scheduled to be issued within the next few days to Rudolph W. Mayer for a 156-unit apartment project overlooking Torrance Beach.

Valuation of new buildings started during the first seven months of 1948 was given as $4,502,153 by John Patrick, city building inspector. For the first seven months of 1947 the total was only $3,443,773, showing a gain of $1,058,380 for 1948.

Mayer, developer of the exclusive Seahaven properties, said yesterday that he was expecting final approval on federal financing to come through momentarily on his multiple-unit rental project, and that he would immediately take out the permits for the 22 separate buildings to contain one and two bedroom apartments.

Patrick has been busy checking Mayer's plans for the last week and said the permits are ready to be issued as soon as Mayer presents his check. The project would be known as Palos Verdes Parkway Village.

Practically all of the new building for 1948 is residential.

Deliver Plans on Bleachers and Lighting

Plans and specifications for new bleachers and lighting for Torrance High School athletic field were in the hands of state architects for checking today, following approval by the Torrance board of education here Tuesday night.

The bleachers will be of wood, providing seating for a total of 5400 persons on two sides of the field. The floor for the lower row of seats will be 5 feet 6 inches above the ground so that people walking in front of the bleachers will not obstruct the view of the playing field.

Art Mann of the architectural firm of Daniel, Mann and Johnson presented the plans to the board at its regular meeting. Asphaltic concrete aprons will be laid in front of the bleachers, and teams may enter the field through a tunnel under the new section of bleachers to be erected on 218th street.

The lighting system will provide a total of 42,000 watts of illumination — 21,000 from either side. Three 89-foot electric high-line poles extending 68 feet above the ground will carry a battery of 12 lights each for the lighting.

Ticket booths will be provided at two new locations on 218th street and on Martina avenue. No provision is made for rest rooms because of the limited budget, it was explained, but these can be added later.

It is planned to have the bleachers ready for the first game of the 1948-49 season.

COURT RULES AGAINST RETAIL CLERKS UNION

Holding that the Retail Clerks Union was in violation of the Labor-Management Relations Act (Taft-Hartley) by insisting upon a closed shop contract, the National Labor Relations Board ruled in a test case that Torrance and San Pedro retail stores are under jurisdiction of the Act.

The test case involved the A-1 Photo Service in San Pedro and comes under the labor-management act because it purchases a substantial part of its merchandise outside California. The board ordered the findings of Isadore Greenberg put into effect, but allowed 20 days for appeal.

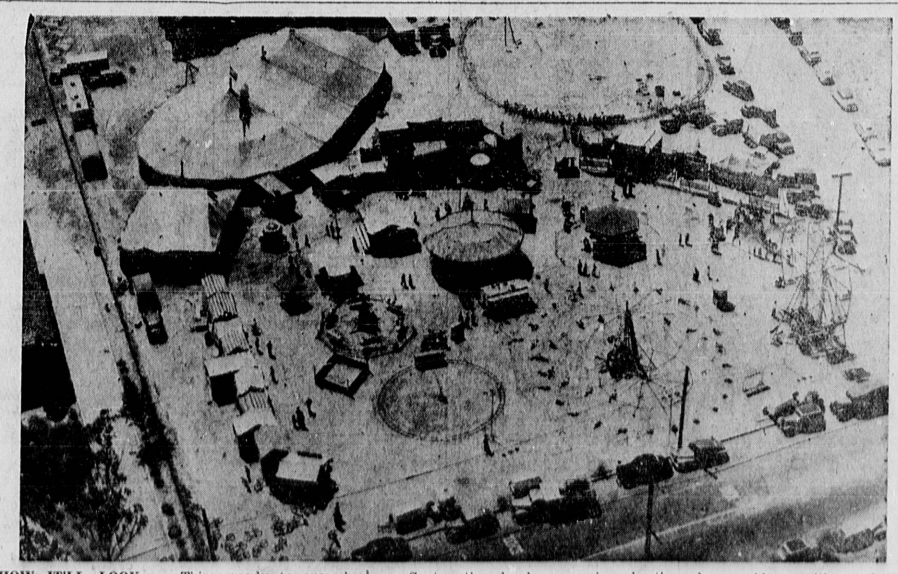
The union and employers, since the unfair labor practice hearing was held in April, have reached an agreement covering harbor district retail stores.

Individual merchants here have the understanding that any ruling in the test case will apply to all merchants in the same interstate category, and that the contract will be altered to conform to the Taft-Hartley act.

The trial examiner ruled that the union's insistence upon a closed shop clause with A-1 Photo constituted a violation of the section of the act which requires a labor organization to bargain collectively and in good faith.

He recommended that Local 905 and its agent, Secretary-Treasurer Haskell Tidwell, be required to bargain in good faith and to embody any agree-

(Continued on Page 2-A)



HOW IT'LL LOOK — This aerial photograph gives some idea of how the big Factory Frolic and Community Fair will look when it is set up and ready to open here on Sept. 15. The large exhibit tent featuring products of local industry is at the left. In the immediate left foreground are the local concession booths which will be operated by service clubs, the women's clubs and churches. Remainder of the layout is devoted to the large midway with modern rides and attractions for mom and dad as well as the children.

Semi-Pro Teams 'Load-up' for Legion Baseball Tournament

Power-packing and loading-up on players took place this week among the 16 teams entered in the month-long Seventh Annual Torrance American Legion Semi-pro Baseball Tournament that opens in the City Park Saturday night.

Allowed to enter the fight for the Semi-pro Championship of Southern California with a roster of 11 players, most of the managers reserved adding the seven players permitted for a full roster until this week—deadline for the completion of the 18-player teams.

Reason for holding back on naming the full teams was the additional time it gave strategy-minded managers and sponsors to scout around for the best talent to bolster their squads for the stiff competition the 15 otherteams in the tournament will provide.

Among the lists of additional players turned into Harry Atwood, arbitrator, this week were names of many former Coast Leaguers and top college ball players, as well as the names of many well-known semi-pros.

Ernie Potocar, Bob Williams, Joe Gonzalos, Jim Hill and Tuck Stainback are a few of the former ball handlers of

(Continued on Page 4-A)