

School District May Receive \$2,000,000 Federal Aid

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School Assured \$340,000 Grant; May Get More

Torrance Unified School District may get \$2,051,701 to assist in the construction of new schools from the Federal Government for the next fiscal period, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, informed the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Dr. Hull also stated that he had received confirmation of an immediate \$340,000 grant which will enable plans to be started at once on the new Howard Wood School, 235th St. near Narbonne Ave.

The financial shot in the arm is possible under Public Law 815 which allows heavily populated districts housing defense workers to tap Federal coffers.

Augmenting a prior Federal grant in aid, Public Law 874, under which Torrance received considerable monetary assistance, B.L. 815 can be used for construction of school plants and facilities—capital outlay projects.

Law 874 funds could be used for salaries and operational expenses only, it was pointed out. Dr. Hull stressed, however, that final approval for the Federal money has not been received and the FSA probably will not okay the move until late in May or the first of June.

Board members gave their approval to preliminary plans for the Wood School, which will consist of 12 classrooms, a double kindergarten and an administrative unit.

Hundreds Attend Dedication of Justice Court

Representatives from city, state and federal government took part in dedication ceremonies of the gleaming new South Bay Cities Civic building housing the Justice Court yesterday morning in Redondo Beach.

On hand to inspect the new court chambers of Judge John A. Shidler were Congressman Cecil King, Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, radio-movie star Jean Hersholt, County Administrative Officer Arthur Wills, the Rev. Paul Wenske, City Judge Otto Willett and a host of other civic dignitaries.

Darby, who officially turned over the building to the people, and Judge Shidler, told an audience of some 200 persons that the structure marked a many-year struggle on the part of local officials to get a court building for the South Bay cities in this area.

Formerly, court was held in a rented building in Gardena. Areas included in the jurisdictional boundaries of the court include Torrance, Lomita, Redondo, Hermosa, Palos Verdes Estates, Manhattan Beach and other nearby territory.

Council Splits on Naming Mayor

Schwab Elected After Drale Bid Voted Down

Mervin M. Schwab, elected to the City Council in the April 8 municipal elections, had only been seated on the city's governing board long enough to vote "no" on one motion before he was elected Mayor of Torrance last Tuesday.

Backed in his successful campaign by the Torrance Council of Churches, Schwab was elected to the council with incumbent Nick Drale and Victor E. Benstead.

Following a canvassing of the ballots Tuesday by the outgoing council, Drale, Benstead and Schwab were given oaths of office by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Benstead immediately made a motion that Drale be named mayor and Drale seconded the motion. It was defeated 3-2.

Councilman Willis Blount then moved that Schwab be named mayor and Councilman Harvey B. Spelman Jr. added his second. The vote carried 3-2 with Drale and Benstead voting "no."

Mayor Schwab took his seat amid a hearty round of applause from those in the packed Council chambers. He thanked those who had placed their confidence in him and promised to do his very best to give Torrance a clean, efficient government.

Councilman Drale expressed his thanks for those who had supported his return to office and introduced the man "who almost made it—Al Isen."

Councilman Benstead also expressed his thanks to those who supported him and said he would work with all the elected and appointed city officers. The word "recall" was being bandied about loosely in the corridors after the council meeting. Observers would not discount the possibility that a move would be undertaken by their backers to increase the Drale-Benstead block by some means to a majority of three.

School Board Hires New Clerk-Steno Gal

One new employee was added to the Torrance School District payroll by action of the Board of Education Tuesday night. She was Ethel Morse, clerk-stenographer; Clarence W. Gibson was reclassified from custodian to head custodian.



NEW COUNCIL TAKES OATH . . . City Clerk A. H. Bartlett (l) administers the oath of office to Councilmen Victor E. Benstead, Nick Drale and Mervin M. Schwab, elected in last week's municipal elections.

Jay-Walker Hit By Car Receives Painful Hurts

Emory Brown, Torrance View Trailer Park, Redondo, received painful injuries last evening when he was struck by a car while crossing Cabrillo Ave. north of the Cravens Ave. five-points intersection.

Driver of the car which struck Brown was listed as Ray Sleppey, 1755 Santa Fe Ave. Witnesses told police that Brown walked out from behind a parked car and was struck by Sleppey's auto. He was taken to Harbor General Hospital by F&M ambulance with a severed varicose vein, head abrasions and cuts, and possible fractured ribs.

Returning Veterans Due Home First of Week, 'Free Men'

Anxious moms, dads and wives are eagerly awaiting the arrival home this week-end of veterans of the Korean War, all members of California's 40th Division who are being discharged under the Army's "phase out" plan for former National Guardsmen.

Six Torrance area men probably will hang their uniforms on the hook for the last time Sunday, Monday or Tuesday, it was learned yesterday afternoon.

They are: Cpl. William E. Hughes, 3708 W. 244th St., WALTERIA; Sfc. Charles C. Batte, 4033 W. 167th St.; Cpl. David L. Byrne, 2035 W. 240th St.; Sgt. R. V. Thom, 25660 Marigold Ave., Harbor City; Lt. R. S. Hamada, 1764 W. 165th St., and M/Sgt. Ben F. Pearson Jr., 1503 W. 214th St.

At Least Five to Seek Board of Education Posts

At least five persons will seek election to the Board of Education in the school elections May 16, it was learned yesterday.

Turning in nomination papers early were the three incumbents, Mrs. Grace Wright, Carl Steele and Dr. Rollin Smith.

Filing late yesterday were J. A. Beasley, 24032 Neece Ave., WALTERIA; and Mrs. Kathryn Matson, 2812 W. 174th St., North Torrance.

Holder members of the board include Judge John A. Shidler, president of the group, and William Tolson, elected with Shidler two years ago.

Deadline for filing was 5 p.m. yesterday.

King Says Investigation Best Protection

Scandal sleuth Cecil R. King (D-Cal.), head of a current investigation which already has knocked over a score of king pins in the Internal Revenue Bureau, said yesterday that periodic investigations by Congress were the best protection the nation's people could have against the infiltration of graft and corruption in government agencies.

The gray-haired, soft-spoken Congressman, speaking to newsmen in Torrance yesterday, spoke more in the tone of a curator in an art gallery than as one of the nation's leading crime busters.

King, the 17th Congressional District's representative in Congress, stated: "If the Bureau of Internal Revenue had not been allowed to function for the past 15 years without an investigation, the scandalous conduct that was uncovered recently among the high officials of the bureau might never have developed."

The inquisitive Congressman, 13th man in seniority on the important House Ways and Means Committee, made the motion to



MINNIE BROOKS . . . Death Mourned

Friends Mourn Passing of Minnie Brooks

Friends this week were mourning the death of one of Torrance's most highly respected residents, Mrs. Minnie S. Brooks, for many years the business manager of the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Brooks died Monday at the hospital after she was found in a coma in her home at 1325 Portola. She never regained consciousness.

A native of Beaver Falls, Penn., Mrs. Brooks came to Torrance with her family 31 years ago. Her late husband, Willis Brooks, was a Torrance councilman and active civic leader before his death.

Mrs. Brooks was an original board member of the Torrance Memorial Hospital, a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Torrance Chapter; member of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; past president of the Torrance Woman's Club; member of the Business and Professional Women's Club; member of the Southern California Weavers Guild, and the Cosmos Club of Los Angeles.

She was known far and wide for her fabulous collection of tea sets. She had one of the largest collections ever assembled, and her hobby has been the subject of several stories in the Torrance Herald and elsewhere.

She leaves a son, Major Phillips M. Brooks, of 610 Santa Barbara, Millbrae, Calif.; a son, John Comet Brooks, No. 4 Spur Lane, Rolling Hills; a brother, John A. Singlaub, Sherman Oaks, Calif., and a sister, Mary Gillespie, Independence, Calif.

Selected to serve as pallbearers for services today were C.A. Curtiss, Frank Church, Harry Sellers, Dopald Findley, Dr. John W. Beeman and John Burrows. Funeral services will be held this morning at 10 at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Measles, Mumps Cut Some Grade Classes in Half

Kindergarten and first-grade teachers in Torrance don't know from one day to the next whether they will have a class to teach when they turn up at school in the morning.

Reason for the uncertainty during the past couple of weeks has been a wave of measles and mumps, reaching epidemic stages in some instances, according to Warren Hamilton, director of special services for the Torrance Unified School District.

"Right now, the hardest hit area is the Fern Ave. School," Hamilton reported yesterday. He said at least one class had more than half of the pupils out of school with either the mumps or the measles.

It isn't quite as bad in other areas right now, he said, but the wave could hit "any minute."

Torrance Elementary was first to feel the might of the measles bug when an "above average number" of pupils were out of school recently with the childhood disease.

Now it is Fern Ave.—and no one will say where it might hit next.

Hamilton said the brand of measles now going around had been described as "mild." The children are out of school for a few days, and then return to see some of their classmates leaving for a forced vacation.

Children in kindergarten and the first grade—those who have had limited exposures to the maladies prior to school—appear to be the biggest victims at the present time, Hamilton reported.

Lieutenant, Sergeants Named By Police Chief

Five Torrance police officers were promoted in rank by virtue of their placement on Civil Service lists and were given their new gold badges yesterday afternoon by Chief of Police John Stroh.

Elevated to the rank of lieutenant was former Police Sergeant A. S. Thompson, who will be station commander for the night watch, commencing at 11 p.m.

Promoted to sergeants were Patrolmen Mervyn Porter, John Maestri, D. C. Cook and Ted A. Morris. Cook was also named department juvenile officer.

The officers met yesterday at 2 p.m. to learn for the first time the results of examinations taken six weeks ago.

Steelworkers May Receive Pay Hikes Soon

Steps to give CIO steelworkers a boost in pay were taken in Washington yesterday as administration leaders prepared to go over the head of the seized steel industry and deal directly with the union on wages.

Secretary of Commerce Sawyer, boss of the steel industry under Truman's seizure order, said he would "proceed promptly, but not precipitately to consider the terms and conditions of employment as I was instructed to do."

Members of the steel industry are prepared to seek a court order to restrain any payment of increased wages out of industry funds, a spokesman said.

What the increase might mean for local steelworkers could only be guessed at, but one government spokesman said that the government would probably give the steelworkers the substance of the Wage Stabilization Board recommendations.

The WSB recommended a 17 1/2-cent hourly increase with several fringe benefits.

Ambulance Rides To Cost More Starting Sunday

Ambulance rides will cost a trifle more starting next Sunday when a new rate-like recently adopted by the City of Los Angeles goes into effect. The City Department of Public Utilities and Transportation, who recommended the rate boost, virtually establishes a county-wide rate schedule.

The new ordinance calls for a flat \$10 fee as a base rate which covers a response to a call and the first mile of travel or a fraction thereof. Each additional mile will cost \$1.

Special charges include an additional \$2 fee if the ambulance is called out after 5 p. m. or before 6 a. m. Also, a waiting charge of \$2.50 will be imposed for each 15 minutes that the ambulance is required to wait until it is dismissed.

Fractional amounts are charged for a "more than one person" ride, or for patients who are unable to pay, after authorization from a physician shows need for an ambulance.

The new rate was put into effect, it was stated, after many reported that ambulance concerns were reluctant to provide service to some outlying districts unless rates were raised.

Plans to Open Crenshaw Told

Plans for extension of Crenshaw Blvd. south for approximately a mile was revealed Tuesday when the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution acquiring jurisdiction over the portion lying within the City of Torrance for improvement purposes.

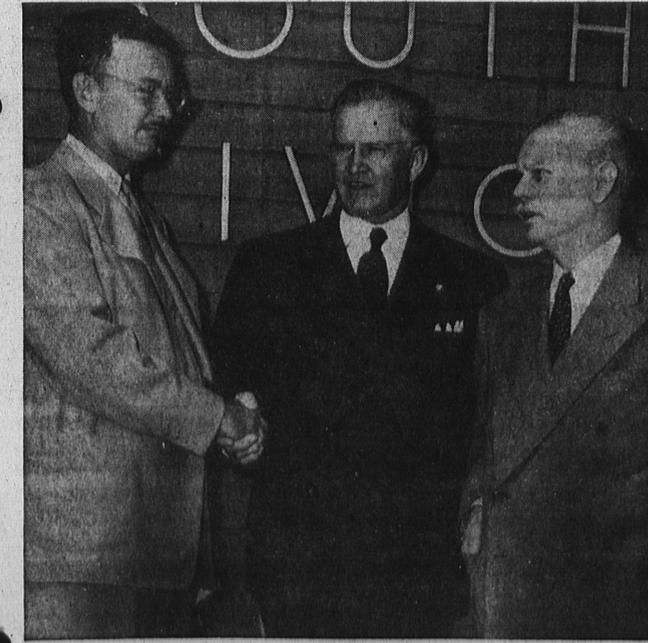
Supervisor Raymond V. Darby said that Crenshaw will be cut through from Lomita to Pacific Coast Hwy. by construction of two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders.

Plans and specifications are now in preparation and, according to present schedules, the project should be completed sometime in October of this year.

Darby also revealed that plans are being laid for extension of Crenshaw Blvd. north from Lomita to Sepulveda, a distance of approximately a half mile. However, this improvement is not expected to start until later this year.

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JUDGE SHIDLER, SUPERVISOR DARBY, CONGRESSMAN KING . . . officials at new Court dedication



CECIL R. KING . . . Visits City