

CITIZENS GROUP OFFERS BACKING TO CARPENTER IN RECREATION ROW

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'The Line's Busy'

Phone Bills to Be Much Higher if Requested Rate Hike Approved

Phone Company Says Rates Behind Prices

Requested rate hikes for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. would boost the cost of telephones to the average Torrance user by 3 1/4 cents a day, according to A. B. Smith, local manager of the company.

The company applied Wednesday to the California Public Utilities Commission for a rate increase varying by cities.

"Higher rates are necessary," according to Smith, "because of inflation as reflected in higher costs of materials and supplies, increased taxes, and higher wage costs."

Typical rates for Torrance users at present and under the requested scale would be:

Now Asked	Present
One-party residence	\$4.05 \$5.70
Two-party residence	\$5.25 \$6.40
Four-party residence	\$7.70 \$9.50
One-party business	\$5.00 \$7.00

"General price levels have increased 90 per cent since the 1935-39 period established by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics as 'normal.' During the same period, California intrastate telephone rates increased only 24 per cent," Smith said. He also pointed out that the company had spent \$315 million for service improvement throughout the state in the six post-war years.

"From the end of World War II to January 1952, the company investment in the Torrance exchange increased \$314,500 or 202 per cent," Smith said.

Postal Workers Shift Into High For Mail Rush

Postmaster Clara A. Conner said yesterday that post office employees have shifted into high gear, as the volume of Christmas mail is mounting sharply.

"Where before it was uneven and unpredictable," she explained, "the packages and Christmas cards are now arriving in a steady flow. This coming weekend is especially critical."

By "critical" the postmaster means that delivery of parcel post by Christmas cannot be guaranteed after this week. She recommends you "use Air Parcel Post for gifts mailed out-of-town at a later date."

Christmas cards going out of town should be mailed this week, too. Those for local delivery at least a week before Christmas.

Mrs. Conner points out that thousands of packages are now enroute from all 48 states. They will create an even greater strain on local post office facilities.

However, as many daily deliveries as are necessary will be made between now and Dec. 25. In some localities around-the-clock service is available. But a sudden storm can delay the Christmas mail to and from any part of the United States.

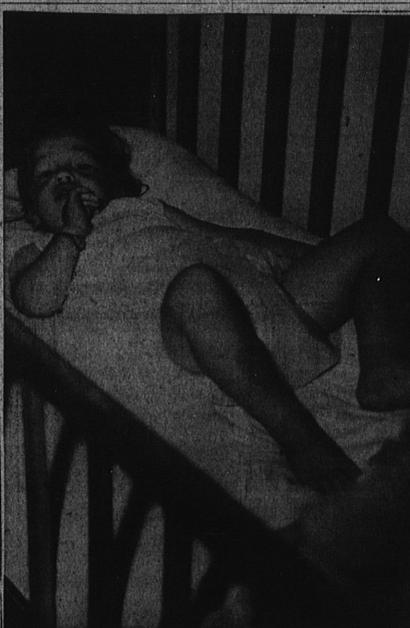
Consequently, the postmaster urges you to forget about sending everything at once. Mail your packages two or three at a time. Tie your Christmas cards in two bundles, and attach the special postal labels marked "All For Local Delivery" or "All for Out-of-Town Delivery."

"Ask for these labels," the postmaster said, "when you go to the stamp window. You'll find other helpful mailing instructions printed on the back. I think they are one of the best time-saving devices the post office has ever had."

Judge Forced To Give Up His Law Practice

Dissolution of the law firm of Willett and Hitchcock, whose offices are at 1821 Craven Ave., effective Dec. 5, was announced yesterday by Atty. Donald Hitchcock.

Election of City Judge Otto B. Willett to Office No. 2 of the new South Bay Municipal Court in the November elections was the reason given for dissolving the partnership. Terms of the office to which Willett was elected for six years prohibit private practice.



CLOSE CALL... Carolyn Joyce Grierson, 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grierson, 5105 Zakon, Seaside Heights, experimented with anti poison Friday. Quick action by neighbors in calling Torrance police, who rushed the tot to Harbor General Hospital to have her stomach pumped out, averted a possible tragedy. Her mother was down the street when Currijoy, as she is called, gobbled the gooey stuff.

Trash Collection a Major Problem Here

To the average citizen of the City of Torrance the problem of refuse disposal does not seem to be an important one. If he will place his refuse in the alley or at the curb line on the evening before the scheduled pick-up, his refuse will be collected and disposed of.

To the city administration the problem of collecting and disposing of refuse is a major one. This has become so because of the increasing use of paper, tin and glass products in our daily life, and due to restrictions placed upon the disposal of same by health and air pollution control agencies. Added to these is the tremendous growth of our city, especially in the most remote sections, according to City Manager George Stevens.

To meet this problem, the city must constantly adjust its routes of collection, so that the newly-developed areas may be served. The operation has been streamlined and modernized by the purchase of two new load-packer type vehicles.

The three-man crews, which man these vehicles, can collect a greater amount of refuse than two of the open-type trucks formerly used. It is planned to ultimately perform all collection operations with this type of equipment. The packer not only carries a much greater load, but reason of compacting the refuse, but saves many trips and unproductive time enroute to and from the dump. Also it provides a closed container for

transporting refuse along the city streets.

In an effort to facilitate collection by the new type equipment, all residents have been asked to cooperate by placing their combustible refuse in containers and by cutting tree or hedge trimmings of considerable length and girth to lengths of not over 6 feet and tying them into bundles of not over 15 inches in diameter. This cooperation is necessary for rapid and efficient pick-up service. It is next to impossible to load the packers unless the loose refuse is in containers, and they cannot handle tree or hedge trimmings which are over six feet in length, Stevens stressed.

Another important factor in refuse collection and in keeping our streets clean, is the operation of two modern street sweepers by the Street Department. These sweepers clean approximately 45 gutter miles each day. Streets in the downtown business area are swept six times weekly.

Few citizens realize that until late 1948 the city's street-sweeping operations were performed by manual labor, a most costly and inefficient method. These

Torrance Ranks Near Top in Vote Percentage

Torrance beat the county average in number of votes cast in the November election by nearly two percentage points, according to figures submitted Friday to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett by the registrar of voters.

With 14,980 of this city's 16,610 registered voters making their way to the polls during the hot election, Torrance posted a voting percentage of 90.186—probably an all-time record for the city.

Topping the entire Southland and winning a citation from Gov. Earl Warren was Palos Verdes Estates with a voting percentage of 95.48; 1881 of the city's 1970 registered voters went to the polls.

Other Torrance area communities ranged around the county average of 88.6% with only Manhattan Beach (topping the Torrance vote, Manhattan's percentage in voting was 91.04.

Rondo Beach registered 88.15 per cent, Gardena 89.97, Compton 87.92, Inglewood 89.91, Hermosa 85.33, and Hawthorne 88.17.

No separate figures are available for the unincorporated county areas of Lomita and other Torrance fringe communities.

Stores Remain Open Evenings Until 9 p.m.

Torrance stores will be open each night until 9 o'clock between now and Christmas to accommodate shoppers of this area.

This issue of the Torrance Herald and next Thursday's issue of the Torrance Herald will offer shoppers a wide range of gift ideas to facilitate the annual Christmas shopping chores.

A study of the prices offered by Torrance merchants will convince you that:

"It Pays to Shop in Torrance."

Drop Charge Of Shoplifting

Charges of shoplifting against Virginia Hayes of 1416 Cota Ave., were dismissed Thursday in City Judge Otto B. Willett's court.

Miss Hayes, who was arrested by Torrance police recently, had been charged with lifting a coat valued at \$89 from a Torrance shop.

Reports that additional articles found in her dwelling might have been stolen, were without foundation, officials later declared.

Miss Hayes was represented by Atty. Donald Hitchcock.

Kids Named Losers In City Squabble

By JACK O. BALDWIN and REID L. BUNDY
The children of this town are in for a setback because their elders are behaving like kids.

It's all a matter of clashing personalities in the City Recreation Department.

The department, always a political football, is getting another kicking around — only this time it is a little early since election time is still many months away. While other departments of the city—the water department, the street department, and police and fire departments—are considered essential to the operation of a city, the Recreation Department is regarded by some as a "luxury" and consequently is the fall guy when fault-finders attempt to find fault.

Latest target is Frank Carpenter, director of recreation for the past two and a half years.

Turned Down
Carpenter recently submitted his resignation to the city council. It was turned down.

Irked by the attack on Carpenter, a committee of local citizens including Dick Miller, Albert Isen, and Frank Dominguez Sr., approached Carpenter and volunteered their support and offered to fight for him.

If he wanted the backing and the job of recreation director, Carpenter told them he appreciated the offer, but asked them to "lay off" because he did not wish to create any more fuss.

Opening the attack on Carpenter was Councilman Victor E. Benstead. He charged that the children of this town were being short-changed because most of the recreation budget was being spent on salaries and not on youth activities. He contended that the department has seven full-time and seven part-time employees.

Check Made
The authors of this article have no knowledge of how Mr. Benstead investigated the Recreation Department. We did and found that five of the seven part-time employees are supervisors (chaperones might be another description) at teenage activities at the weekly dances in the Civic Auditorium and in Walteria. Knook off these people and the Friday night programs would grind to a halt.

Carpenter has been the target also of several editorial blasts in another local newspaper.

Some time ago Bob Owens, a local real estate salesman, was nominated by Councilman Nick Drake to serve on the Recreation Commission. He was not appointed. He is the husband of the editor of the newspaper blasting Carpenter.

Carpenter has no authority to appoint or even recommend appointments to the Recreation Commission.

Scouts Win
Last city election-time Carpenter refused to cancel the meeting of

Summer Events
Summertime events sponsored by the department in which youth participates include:

Alondra Park Kiwanis Club Learn-to-Swim program, daily programs at eight areas in the city, two divisions of boy's softball leagues, teenage chesses, open house program, Shriners' Circus project, and picnic areas which are used by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, other youth groups, and families—many with children.

Considering that Mr. Carpenter should be replaced in the Torrance Fire Department, the city and its children will never completely regain some of the loss it will suffer during this squabble over personalities. Some of the loss suffered will be of time. No matter how efficient a new recreation director may be, he will never be able to pick up the time lost in planning and programming while this haggling over personalities continues.

Firefighters Install... Taking over as the new president of the Torrance Firemen's Assn. Friday night was Ray Flagg, center, who succeeded Frank Tuttle, left. Bill Russell is the new vice-president. Taking part in the ceremonies were John Agapito, outgoing vice-president, and Jay Nielsen, new secretary-treasurer. On duty and unable to attend was George Blalnik, outgoing secretary-treasurer.



(Herald Photo)
FIREFIGHTERS INSTALL... Taking over as the new president of the Torrance Firemen's Assn. Friday night was Ray Flagg, center, who succeeded Frank Tuttle, left. Bill Russell is the new vice-president. Taking part in the ceremonies were John Agapito, outgoing vice-president, and Jay Nielsen, new secretary-treasurer. On duty and unable to attend was George Blalnik, outgoing secretary-treasurer.

WEATHER

Summer in the middle of winter months will continue today, the weatherman said, as beforecast continued clear, little change in temperature, and a high today of 84.

