

COUNCIL STUDYING USE TAX LAW

28,600

Guaranteed circulation to homes in all sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and adjacent City and County areas.

FIRST - In Circulation - In Readership - In Advertising

TORRANCE HERALD

TORRANCE'S ONLY COMPLETE NEWSPAPER - WITH OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1415 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

Phone

FA 8-4000

Published Monday and Thursday - Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

41st Year - No. 52

10¢ per copy

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1955

CIRCULATION OFFICE FA 8-4664

12

36 PAGES

Bennett Named Assistant Chief

Percy G. Bennett Assistant Chief

Percy G. Bennett, 33, has been appointed Assistant Police Chief of the City of Torrance. The appointment was made Tuesday on recommendation of Police Chief Willard Haslam.

Bennett qualified in May in Civil Service examinations making him eligible for the appointment, which becomes effective July 1.

The promotion moves him from the rank of sergeant in the detective bureau of the department.

Other appointments made Tuesday were:

J. B. Miles to sergeant, effective July 1; and Ray L. Jackson, as motorcycle officer, effective Sept. 1.

Bennett, who lives at 2465 Hawthorne Blvd., is married to Addie Bennett, and is the father of two sons, Melvin Bennett, 27, of the police department, and Warren Bennett, 20, a student at Southern California.

Born in England, the new assistant chief is a native of London, England, whose family came to California when he was five years old.

He joined the department in 1933 as a patrolman, and was one of the two first motorcycle officers of the force. He was promoted to sergeant in 1940, served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, and returned to the police force as a uniformed sergeant in 1946. In 1948 he was moved into the detective bureau, where he has specialized in bad checks; being instrumental in curbing phony check operations in this area for the protection of local merchants.

Others who passed recent Civil Service examinations are as follows:

Assistant Chief Ernest Ashton, Captain Ernest Knapp, A. S. Thompson, Lieutenant P. G. Bennett, then sergeant; and Karl Friberg, Lieutenant. Lieutenants Knapp, M. H. Forster, T. A. Morris, D.

2 Still Critical In Triple-Fatal Auto Collision

Three Torrance persons were killed and three persons injured - two critically - in a collision Sunday in drizzling rain at 28th and Main streets.

Dead are Juan Flores, 2, and his mother, Violeta Flores, 34, of 1148 Queen Anne Pl., and Mrs. Joann Gagliano, 34, of 1112 Claron Dr.

Critically injured, at Harbor General Hospital, are Leonard Flores, 33, husband of one of the mothers who died, and a Steven Gagliano, 3, son of the other woman.

Also injured, but released from Harbor General was Vincent Gagliano, 29, husband of the other woman.

State patrolmen said Flores was driving south on Main St. when his car slid out of control on wet pavement and crossed to the wrong side of the street.

The Gagliano car, headed north, hit the other auto broadside, the impact being so great all passengers were thrown out onto the pavement.

Mrs. Gagliano, who had lived in Torrance for two years, was a native of Stillwell, Okla., and leaves eight sisters and a brother there. She also leaves her husband, Vincent, a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Joann.

Rosary will be recited tonight at 8 in the Utter-McKinley Chapel at 4254 S. Broadway and Requiem Mass will be celebrated tomorrow morning at 9 at St. Patrick's Church at 1046 E. 34th St.

Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery. Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Flores and her son are pending at Stone and Myers Mortuary.

Two Oil Derrick Measures Asked

Possibility of eliminating at least two classes of wooden oilwell derricks figured in discussions Tuesday night between Torrance city councilmen and an oil well operator's representative.

Don Hitchcock, attorney, met with the council at an informal session at which George Powell, Planning Commission secretary, also took part. Hitchcock represents small independent operators. The meeting was held prior to the regular council meeting.

Council Adopts 1955-56 Budget

The 1955-56 preliminary budget, effective July 1, was approved Tuesday by Torrance City Council, after no protests were heard at the second of two public hearings. The \$2,088,800 operating budget, a balanced budget, with no property tax increase, is based on estimates of department heads, compiled by the city manager.

The final budget will be adopted next fall after tax assessments have been declared, making city income from that source definite. The tax rate will also be set at that time.

DIRECTORS NAMED

R. S. "Dick" Fyle, Manager Torrance Office, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. was elected as a new member of the Board of Directors and A. S. "Tommy" Thompson, Manager, Torrance Refinery, General Petroleum Corp., was elevated to the office of second Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors Monday afternoon.

Council Delays PV Annexation 'Coup de Grace'

A sudden new twist came Tuesday night in negotiations over proposed annexation of the Rollings Hills area, after the recent announcement by owners of the vast uninhabited peninsula section of their decision to withdraw proceedings to annex to Torrance.

When attorney Jesse O'Malley, representing Palos Verdes Estates and other owning interests, read into the record a statement expressing protest by the owners against the annexation move, the Council decided to defer decision on the matter, and a motion by Councilman Nikolaos Dras to that effect was promptly passed.

Up to that point the withdrawal of the developing company from its original position had appeared to be progressing full speed ahead, and annexation was seemingly a dead letter.

The question of how much Torrance would be recompensed for expenses in conjunction with annexation discussions originated by the owners has not been determined.

It is believed that the councilmen are awaiting clarification of certain legal aspects by the City Attorney.

"We decided not to do anything hasty," Councilman Dras said.



(Herald Photo) The city's new assistant chief of police, Percy G. Bennett, (left) stands in front of Police Chief Willard Haslam. Both are veterans of the Torrance Police Department. Bennett was named assistant chief Tuesday by the City Council after successfully completing a civil service examination for the position. He had been a sergeant in the department's detective bureau.

Council Ponders \$100,000 Use Tax Measure Claim Goes To Court

A half-cent use tax will be imposed here if an ordinance introduced this week before the City Council is passed.

The ordinance, which will come up for second reading next Tuesday, would effect one half of one per cent tax on sales - half a cent on each dollar. It would affect certain items on which purchase is made in other cities for delivery here, thus avoiding sales tax.

It mainly concerns automobiles and materials used in construction and will not come up every time the shopper purchases a pair of hose or bag of groceries.

Councilmen have already indicated that passage of this use tax, as well as an increased sales tax (under the uniform 4-cent state law), will probably cause them to reduce property taxes after assessments have been declared in August.

Councilman Nikolaos Dras specifically went on record in favor of a three-cent decrease under those conditions.

The use tax is expected to deliver \$70,000 to \$80,000 into the city coffers.

The tax exempts purchases by the state of materials for construction of public buildings, and is payable to the city clerk quarterly, according to the ordinance now being studied.

City Workers Get Pay Hike

Substantial salary increases have been approved by the City Council for Torrance municipal employees.

City Manager George Stevens said that the increase averages about 4.7 per cent.

He explained this is a one-grade raise for most of the employees, with department heads going up two steps on the pay levels.

Mayor Albert Isen, beaming over the Council's decision, said, "This will make city employment attractive and will enable us to get the right kind of people and to keep them."

Payrolls constitute about 75 per cent of operating expenses in the new budget. The new rates go into effect July 1.

Police, Scouts Plan Rodeo for July 16th, 17th

Sgt. D. C. Cook has been named rodeo chairman of the first annual Gold Gulch Rodeo, which is set for July 16 and 17 in conjunction with the Community Fair.

The Torrance Mounted Police and the Torrance Scout Center Inc. are co-sponsors of the affair.

Sgt. Cook said this week the best professional riders and ropers in the nation are being invited to the two-day rodeo.

All participants will be members of the Rodeo Cowboy Assn., he added. The rodeo will be held at 220th and Western Ave. and will begin at 2 p.m. both days.

Events on the schedule include such thrilling rodeo regulars as bull riding, bareback riding and saddle bronc riding, calf roping, team roping and bulldogging.

Tickets for the festivities are priced at \$1.50 and may be obtained at the Torrance Police Dept., or from any Boy Scout Scout Center, while the Police-men plan to construct a clubhouse for members and reserve unit meetings.

Burglar Uses Axe

A pickaxe was used Monday night to force a door at 2102 S. Matia Moulding Co., 19702 S. Figueroa St., Keystone, when \$285 in equipment was stolen.

Sheriff's detectives said the loot included a checkwriter and two electric drills.

Jerkovick Honored By Kiwanis Club

Former German Boy Scout Richard Jerkovick, who now resides at 1441 Carson St., was honored with a Life Scout award Monday night at a meeting of the Torrance Kiwanis club.

Jerkovick, a member of Explorer Post 219X, which is backed by the Kiwanians, was a first-class Scout in Germany. After passing his merit badge requirements, the award was approved by local Scout officials. A former displaced person, Richard has been here since 1951.

Arnold Sorenson, Los Angeles Council executive, was the major speaker at the dinner meeting. He talked on Scouting and assisted in awarding the Life Scout badge to young Jerkovick. Richard is a student at the Nativity School. He passed his first aid, cooking, swimming, nature, home repairs, art, electricity and citizen merit badges to qualify for the Life rank.

AFTER AWARDED . . . Boy Scout officials and honorees pose following award at Kiwanis affair. Left to right, Arnold Sorenson, LA Scout executive, Mrs. Jerkovick, Richard Jerkovick, Al Moller, Harbor Area Scout official, and Bill Sells, advisor for Post 219X, are shown after Jerkovick got Life Scout Badge as a highlight of the meeting.



(Herald Photo) PROUD SCOUT . . . Richard Jerkovick fastens miniature Life Scout pin to his mother's blouse after he received the Scout badge at the Kiwanis Club's dinner meeting Monday night. Presentation was a surprise to Jerkovick, who has been in this country only four years. Born in Yugoslavia, he formerly lived in Germany.

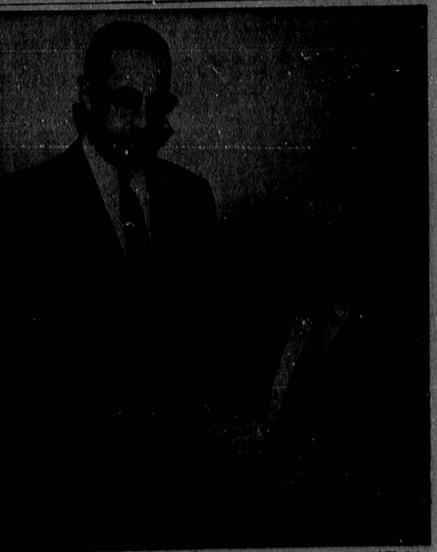
Free Concert Set for Park

Music students of the Melody Music Center will perform in a free recital to be held at the Torrance Park, July 4 at 1 to 3 p.m.

Under the direction of Bill Edwards the all-string production will feature several musical numbers by such students as Julian Eurida, Johnny Burrows, Dean White, Leo Robertson, Robbie Boyd, Kenny Hamm, Lucy Scogins, and Pat and Bruce Duncan.

MORE \$\$\$ FOR THE HOSPITAL . . .

John Ebbingshouse, center, president of the Torrance Rotary Club, hands a check for \$1000 to Hospital Fund Chairman Henry Creeger (right) while Rotarian John Tweedy looks on. The check, in keeping with Rotary's traditional spirit of aiding worthwhile community projects, was made possible through efforts of a committee headed by President Elect A. E. Thompson, Ebbingshouse said.



(Herald Photo) MORE \$\$\$ FOR THE HOSPITAL . . . John Ebbingshouse, center, president of the Torrance Rotary Club, hands a check for \$1000 to Hospital Fund Chairman Henry Creeger (right) while Rotarian John Tweedy looks on. The check, in keeping with Rotary's traditional spirit of aiding worthwhile community projects, was made possible through efforts of a committee headed by President Elect A. E. Thompson, Ebbingshouse said.