

# TORRANCE SCHOOL BONDS PASSED

## Police Chief Attacks Pin Ball Machines

### Stroh Backs P.-T.A. Gambling Stand

Punch board disappeared from Torrance last Wednesday, immediately after the Press hit the streets with the disclosure that gambling is running "wide open" in Torrance in the operation of the nicker to dollar grabbers in the form of both marble games and the easily "ditched" prize boards.

Chief of Police John Stroh said punch boards are going to stay hidden, because he has ordered them out of town.

### Shoppers Shortcuts

By HAZEL KELLER

#### Easter Fashions Are Here

An array of new spring dresses have just arrived at Sam Levy's Department Store. Gorgeous floral crepes, exquisite real silk and a variety of sheer frocks in navy color are being shown. Dressy and tailored styles, and some with jackets are among this lovely variety to choose from at 1311 Sartori avenue.

At the Torrance Poultry Market you'll find choice fryers, roasters in live or dressed poultry. Rabbits and fish and eggs are also featured for retail as well as wholesale trade. Vernon and Melvin are nice to know and offer courteous, sincere service. Stop in at 1613 Cabrillo avenue in Torrance.

Benson's Shop at 1271 Sartori avenue is the setting for so many new fashions.

See the lovely chic spring clothes designed to enhance your beauty. Gabardine two-piece suits, Boleros, and pretty dresses of many new styles and colors are pleasing to view.

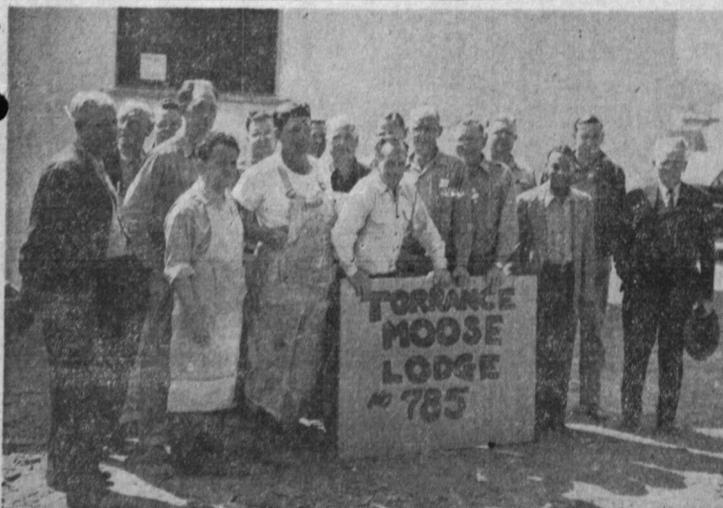
Those who like to budget will find Benson's 120-day "Budget Plan" convenient, too.

**Believe It or Not!**  
FOLKS, here is \$1 for you. Just clip this item and take it to Burke's Bargain Spot at 2113 Torrance boulevard in Torrance to apply on any outside furniture purchase. Metal chairs are being featured at a surprisingly low price. Drive over and see our many specials.

**Little Girls**  
... will be delighted with one of those frilly frocks at Kale's Children Wardrobe at 1277 Sartori avenue in Torrance. Genuine dotted swiss, prettily trimmed in organdy and lace ruffles, and Pinafors with embroidered organdies. Just right for the Easter Parade.

**Liquidizers for Milady**  
LIKE MAGIC works the Universal and Osterizer food choppers at the National Home Appliance Store, 1267 Sartori Avenue, in Torrance. They liquidize your food and operate as mixers for drinks. Also a complete line of nationally known mixers are on display, including the Hamilton-Beach three-speed hand mixer. You'll be happy with one of these. Visit this store and see them.

**Round and Round We Go**  
... and shopping, too! That's why it's so nice to take your wash to the Laundry Lounge at 1627 Cravens avenue, Torrance. Do you know they'll do your wash for you without additional charge? If you prefer to do your own, their automatic Bendix makes it so easy. Try it.



PICTURED ABOVE—Moose lodge members who have donated their labor and some of the material that have made possible the new Moose lodge, located on Carson street, near Western. Included in the above group are presidents, past and present, and other officials of the lodge. The estimated cost for the modern building will



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VOL. 1, NO. 48 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1950

10,000 Circulation

### Building Plans Are Rushed

Voters of Torrance Unified School District Tuesday overwhelmingly approved the \$2,000,000 bond issue to provide new schools to care for the rapidly increasing attendance here.

The vote on elementary bonds of \$1,000,000 was 868 "yes" and 125 "no."

On the high school bonds, the vote was 843 "yes" and 151 "no."

The bonds voted will increase the tax rate well above Los Angeles, according to R. I. Pleasant, General Petroleum Corp. tax consultant, but they will provide much needed classrooms for the hundreds of children moving to Torrance each year due to housing expansion.

Several new elementary schools and facilities will be built. A boys' gym, cafeteria and new classrooms will be added to the high school.

The result of the vote cast was rushed through official channels so that the Board of Education can get to work at once on drafting plans for the new improvements.

## RETAIL SALES NEED BOOST

### BARGAINS GALORE



PICTURED ABOVE—Is just a sample of the crowds of people who swarmed through the doors of the new McMabans Furniture store at the corner of Sartori Avenue and El Prado, during their opening day sales last Friday and Saturday.

## Bus Revenue 30 Cents Mile, Stevens Reports

Torrance city bus department carried 1,496,023 passengers over a distance of 716,226 miles during the fiscal year 1948-49, according to a report issued by City Manager George Stevens as of March 8.

The figures in the 13-page report are the first accurate ones released on the total bus operation. The 14 buses used 186,375 gallons of gasoline, and revenue was \$232,449. Salaries paid to 38 employees amounted to \$129,371.

The previous year, 12 buses carried 1,127,574 passengers 543,539 miles, with revenue of \$183,970.

The revenue per mile in 1948-49 was 30 cents plus per mile, and the revenue per mile for the previous year was 29 cents plus per mile.

No cost figures were given except for salaries. The City Court handled 5819 cases and collected \$40,501.50 in

finances, the report showed, and the city fire loss for the year was \$9,875.00 from 278 fires.

Police made 13,040 arrests during the year, with 2785 for traffic and vehicle law violations; 2604 road and driving law violations; 1369 parking violations; and 5184 other violations.

The water department pumped 910,180,053 gallons of water, installed a total of 591 meters, and 26,320 feet of pipe.

Other highlights of Stevens report are:

The City tax rate was reduced to \$1.16 in 1948-49 from \$1.31 in 1947-48.

The City completed the greatest year of Street Improvements in its history, important among which are the following:

Widened Sepulveda Boulevard east of Narbonne Avenue, a Resurfaced Border Ave., Sartori Ave. and Via Monte D'Oro.

Five-step plan for employees established to cover past services.

Council-Manager form of government inaugurated January, 1949.

Special Census taken, which gave City official population of 17,450.

North Torrance Water Main system installed, opening area for development.

Two new, ultra-modern fire engines purchased, being the first new fire engines in over 20 years, and old engine completely modernized.

City purchased first mechanical

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### Jr. Chamber Urges Get Out and Vote

TORRANCE—Diving wholeheartedly into Civic Activities, Torrance Jr. Chamber this week went all out in an effort to encourage people to use their civic rights and vote. Monday found two Jr. Chamber members, Ralph Jakubowski of Ralph's Liquor store and Val Miletich of Thatcher and Ott DeSoto Agency hard at work stenciling sidewalks throughout the town with the slogan "Your Obligation—VOTE."

### School Post Filing

TORRANCE—Filing for post on the Torrance School Board will be closed April 19, according to information received this week.

All applications may be obtained at the school administration offices, and must be returned to the superintendent's office before that date. Only the signature of the applicant is required on the application, according to Supt. J. H. Hull.

## Business Fails to Reflect City's Growth

Retail sales tax gains in the City of Torrance are far below the percentage of population gain, it was revealed this week, and the fault lies in the failure of Torrance to "invite" new residents to shop here according to opinions voiced to the Press by many merchants.

Retail sales taxes for the fiscal year to date, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, are \$34,680.14, and the same period last year netted the city practically the same amount, \$34,340.14.

Meanwhile, the population gain in the year has been about 10 percent.

Nor have sales tax returns for previous years equalled the percentage of population gain.

The total sales tax collections for Torrance in 1948-49 were \$44,925.02 and in 1947-48, \$40,825.16. The population gain in those same years was 18 percent.

In talking with the members of the board of directors of the new retail merchants group, the Press found that a majority of the members feel that lack of adequate bus service to outlying areas is responsible partly for failure of newcomers to come to Torrance.

"After all," they say, "if you don't invite them to Torrance, nor provide a way for them to get here, you cannot expect much patronage from them."

Herb Cohn said that he has felt for years the city should run free busses to extreme outlying areas, not just to the edge, but into new tracts such as Hollywood Riviera, Seaside Ranchos, North Torrance, Pacific Hills, and other new developments.

"Certainly curtailment is not the answer," Cohn said.

John Almond, president of the group, admitted perhaps the fact that the business is not coming

to Torrance is partly the fault of merchants. He said faster and better bus service might help bring people from outlying areas to Torrance.

Paul Diamond said that he feels that a free bus service plan would be much more sensible than curtailment of bus service as now proposed. He said that the return in increased sales tax would offset the loss of operation of the bus line, and reflect to the prosperity of the whole city.

Darwin Parrish said that there is no question that better service would bring people to Torrance, whether or not the city could bear the pressure of free service.

Other directors of the merchants group are James Squire, Claudia Adams and Harry Abramson.

All agreed that sales tax revenues should more evenly match population gains, if the rightful growth is to be realized, and that outlying sections are those which should be worked on to develop new business.

### Father, Son Hurt In Traffic Crash

WALTERIA—A 2-year-old boy and his father were slightly injured Monday, March 20, when their auto was involved in a collision on Pacific Coast highway at the entrance to the Flight Strip housing project.

Treated by a private physician were James C. Rash, 25, of 5207 Vanderhill road, and his son, James D. The tot suffered a slight concussion, a cut lip, and lost three teeth. The elder Rash was treated for a sprained back.

Driver of the other car involved in the mishap was listed as Earl F. Craig, 46, of San Diego.

## Letter Challenges Candidate Statement

TORRANCE—Controversy arose this week over a statement recently published by a candidate to City Council post, Victor E. Benstead.

In the statement, which was released Thursday, March 9, 1950, Benstead stated "The present dispute over the bus system is not a new one. In 1945, the majority of the council voted to sell this transportation system. N. H. Cucci, then member of the council, opposed the motion and tried in vain to get the majority to rescind their action—pointing out that the bus lines operated as a public convenience and belonged to the people.

I participated and contributed to a citizen committee and instigated litigation to save the bus lines. The sale was ordered stopped by the courts, including the Supreme Court.

**LETTER CHALLENGES**

This week, the Press received the following letter from a Torrance resident, and one time candidate for City Council.

The following is my statement, any part or all of which you are welcome to publish.

For the information of my fellow citizens that they may better judge the claims of a certain candidate for the City Council, I offer the following information.

It seems that Victor E. Benstead who is a candidate for election to the City Council in the forth-coming election is, for political purposes, trying to give the voters the impression that through his efforts and the instituting of litigation, he prevented the sale of the municipal bus lines several years ago.

I instituted that litigation. Victor E. Benstead had nothing whatsoever to do with it. (signed) WILLIAM J. B. HUGHES.

## Council's Switch Bans Dairy

TORRANCE—Decision "Kangaroo Court" held a ago by City Council to permit small dairy located on 182nd St. to operate was declared null and void Friday night by the same Council. Action was taken after City Attorney Smith declared that the earlier action was not valid due to lack of four-fifths vote required by Ordinance 116.

The "Kangaroo Court," as the startling session was labeled by many who witnessed the event, was held to determine whether or not the owners of the controversial dairy had abandoned their permit to operate; whether or not the Council had the right to grant the license or whether the Planning Commission's veto of same became the subject of lengthy discussion by Council members whose final decision at the Tuesday night meeting was to grant the license under the premise that abandonment had never occurred.

At a Friday meeting of the Council, which the dairy owner, Peter Naccio, was not notified of, discussion pro and con continued.

(Continued on Page Four)

## Bear Service Initiated at Local Station

TORRANCE—Virgel Bolles, owner of Virgel's Wheel Alignment, 1750 Carson Ave., near Western Ave., announced the opening of a new branch station for Bear Safety Service Wheel Alignment.

Virgel's Wheel and Frame Alignment is the only completely equipped station in Torrance, according to Bolles, who is also proud of the fact that his modern up-to-date station is one of the best equipped Wheel Alignment stations on the West Coast.



O'BRIEN