

MARBLE-GAME INTERESTS DEFY CHURCHES ON BAN



• TORRANCE • LOMITA • HARBOR CITY • SHOESTRIP • KEYSTONE

Serving Greater Torrance Area

SECOND YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1950

54

3c No. 14.

Largest Circulating Newspaper
or Combination Newspapers in
the Torrance Trading Area.

11,190 CIRCULATION



BETTER SERVICE—Petitions for better telephone service in Torrance received quite a bit of attention when they started circulating in downtown Torrance last Saturday. Pictured above is Tweed Jollyand Al Ewalt, past president of the Optimists and Lions service clubs. The project is under the sponsorship of the Inter-Service Club Coordinating Council, with Dr. W. I. Laughon, committee chairman. —Photo by Photo Arts Studio

Reaction Varied at Markets

Local housewives have entered into the hysteria buying which is sweeping the Los Angeles district. Local markets have had varied results from the "stock up now" buying, with some showing extraordinary sales of sugar, coffee, soap, canned meats and oils.

Dick Allen of Food King reported that the sale of sugar has gone up approximately six times as much, and soap, coffee and oils have doubled.

Ideal Ranch Market reported nothing out of the ordinary, except an exceptionally large sale of sugar last week, but indicated that the sharp rise in sugar buying might have been due to the canning season.

Other market managers in the Torrance trading area reported that several times they have been completely sold out of stock items that proved "hard to get" in the last war.

Market owners urged housewives to buy reasonably so that there will be enough for everyone. "There is no shortage," said one merchant, "but markets are not set up to handle large scale buying."

Legion to Install New Officers

A score or more civic leaders and public officials are expected to be among the two hundred guests attending the annual installation of officers of the Bert S. Crossland American Legion at the Legion's Border avenue Post Saturday night at 8 p. m.

The Redondo Beach post ceremonial team will wear in James G. Parks as the new commander of the Crossland veteran's group, succeeding Thomas Watson. Parks is in the printing business in Torrance, and is a life-long resident of the community.

Robert Sleeth, Jr., and Joseph Platt, will receive their oaths as the post's new vice-commanders. Insurance man Robert Fernley will assume the office of post finance officer, following in the footsteps of Lyle O'Hara, who guided the post in financial matters during the difficult days following the erection of the new Legion home.

Ben Youngken, Jr., the son of a Legionnaire active for 30 years, will be the new service officer, and Paddy Ryan will once more serve as the post chaplain. An orchestra will provide music for dancing immediately following the installation ceremony.

Lomita Rent Decontrol Possible

LOMITA—According to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, the Board of Supervisors may order decontrol of rents in unincorporated county areas under an opinion submitted Tuesday to the Board by County Counsel Harold W. Kennedy.

County Counsel's interpretation is centered on a recent amendment to the Federal Rent Act which gives the Supervisors the right to call a public hearing on rental patterns in county territories and serve notice of such hearing upon the Federal Housing Expediter, Darby stated.

Following such a hearing, duly advertised in a newspaper, rents may be decontrolled by the housing expediter "based upon a finding by such a (the County) governing body," namely the Board of Supervisors, according to the Kennedy analysis.

It was learned that the cafeteria at Fern avenue may cost the taxpayers \$18 a square foot, before it is completed.

Modern buildings, it is learned, are costing less than one-third of that amount, including fixtures for restaurants, etc.

It appears, say those watching the building program, that the architectural setup and requirements of the State Division of Schoolhouse Planning are causing school buildings to cost more than twice the cost of ordinary buildings.

However, it is pointed out, unless the school district abides by the recommendations and instructions of the Division of Schoolhouse Planning, the State aid funds provided for various districts are withheld.

Another phase criticized is the fact that it takes a year to build a school building, whereas a modern, one-story office or store building can be completed in from three to four months.

Retailers Move To Get Trade

Following the publication of the facts in the Press last week that Torrance stores are getting only 50 cents of each \$1.00 which its population spends in retail stores.

John Almond, head of the Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce announced the newly formed Torrance Better Merchants are cooperating with each other in assisting customers in securing all their needs in Torrance. Members of the Torrance Better Merchants, Almond pointed out, are pledged to better business conditions in Torrance, and in so doing:

1. To accept the truth in advertising principles of Better Business Bureau as a Code of Ethics.

2. To abide by standard opening and closing hours.

3. To cooperate with out fellow merchants in assisting customers in securing all their needs in Torrance by directing their attention to the store where the merchandise can be found.

The organization has a large and representative membership, and better conditions now are enjoyed in Torrance than did in 1948, when the survey which resulted in last week's story was made, it was pointed out.

It is believed the per capita purchasing rate has increased materially since that time.

Opening
The Nativity Catholic School announced this week that they have openings for enrollment in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

building cost almost \$18 per classroom square foot. Tolson admitted that some of the frills are necessary, perhaps to the extent of \$4 per square foot for administration units and other necessary costs, but it should not cost \$18 per square foot to buy classroom space.

11 SCHOOL ROOMS
"Without the classrooms, the other items would not be needed," he said. "So, in the period of expansion which Torrance is going through, the money should be put in the school rooms where the children are, not into the frills."

The schools' plan to pay from \$500 to \$750 a month for a building inspector, when they already are paying two percent of the cost of the schools to the architects, which includes inspection for the district, also was challenged. Tolson said that he opposes this.

An investigation by the Press reveals that the very temporary three-room addition to Fern avenue school cost the taxpayers in excess of \$9 a square foot, while Roths Market has built a fine new market building which, including refrigeration and extras, is standing the owners only \$6 a foot. It is a permanent building.

New Lights For Retail Area Asked

Torrance retail shopping center may get some new lights, to make it the "bright spot" of the area, under plans being worked out by Blaine Walker, secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and John Almond, president of the Torrance Better Merchants.

High standards, of latest design, with powerful lights such as have been installed on several busy corners, are being sought to replace the present lights.

Property owners would be assessed to pay for the lights, it was said. Many already have agreed to the plan.

In present positions occur, the Superintendent shall notify the Board, and shall announce a competitive examination for all applicants desiring to be appointed to such positions. Such examinations shall fairly test the applicants skills, knowledges, and abilities required by the class of positions to which the appointment is to be made, and shall impartially evaluate the personal qualifications necessary for success.

Opening
The Nativity Catholic School announced this week that they have openings for enrollment in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

School Building Cost Bring Tolson Protest

Unnecessary "frills" and other "fringe" items being added to new school buildings are causing classrooms to cost twice as much as they should, even at the exorbitant rate which school districts are required to pay because of State architectural restrictions.

This was the claim of William H. Tolson, new member of the board of education at its last meeting. Tolson not only challenged costs but also held up the selection of architects for new buildings until the whole board could be present. With Tolson presiding, only Mrs. Grace Wright and Carl Steele were other members present.

Tolson pointed out that the cost per square foot of classrooms should be about \$9 per square foot, according to present day school standards. The state allows up to \$11 per square foot for classroom construction. However, the frills, extras, unneeded corridors and other added features at Seaside school made the

Teachers Will Tour Torrance

While many "old-timers" in Torrance apparently are unaware of the vastness of the city, and new-comers are evidencing interest in its expanse, the teachers of the Torrance Unified School District are going to find out about the city they serve.

During Orientation Week, the teachers will be taken on a tour of Torrance, including visits to all the schools, housing projects, and the industries. School buses will be used for this tour.

Recently, Paul Diamond, of the Gay Shop, and one of the active Torrance retail merchants leaders, suggested to the Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce that they sponsor a bus tour of Torrance to show the people and the merchants the town.

New School Help To Be Examined

Future appointments of employees of Torrance Unified School District will be subject to examination for fitness and personal qualification to perform duties assigned, according to the personnel policy adopted by the Board of Education.

The policy gives the employee similar to that of civil service, it is said. "As new positions are created by the Board, and as vacancies



BETTER WATCH OUT THERE, young man — don't you know that hitchhiking in the county is against the law? The County Board of Supervisors recently passed an ordinance making hitchhiking, and the picking up of hitchhikers against the law. Safety measures was cited as the cause for the action. —Press photo

Parking Authority Dangerous - Drale

Creation of a parking authority in Torrance in the form suggested would be dangerous to the welfare of the community, and such "authority" as is proposed for the new body already is vested in the City Council, according to Councilman Nick Drale.

The parking authority as provided by the state law, according to Drale, would create another board which would have the power of eminent domain, if established here.

The City Council already has adopted a resolution declaring the need for such a parking authority.

"We already have two boards here with the authority to condemn property, the City Council and the Board of Education," Drale said. "I am not in favor of creating another authority with such powers. The entire

Parkway Strip Elimination Plan Studied

The parkway strip in Torrance boulevard from Madrid Avenue to Crenshaw boulevard may be eliminated entirely, it was indicated this week.

City Manager George Stevens told the Press that the future of the parkway depends upon the type of property the frontage is to become, commercial or residential.

If it is to be determined to be commercial property, the parkway probably will go, it was said.

The entire matter is in the hands of the Traffic Committee of the city, however, he said.

Jaycees To Install New Officers

The Palos Verdes Country Club will be the setting for the installation of officers and a dinner-dance by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, tomorrow, Friday evening, at 7:30.

Ev. Ross State Junior Chamber President will officiate and the public is invited to attend. Officers for the coming year are: Ed Karlow, President; Dwight Babank, 1st Vice President; Harvey Abrahamson, 2nd Vice President; Bert Smith, Treasurer; Jim Morehead, Secretary; Max Gortlach, Sgt. at Arms. The retiring president is Howard Percy.

Passage of Law Delayed By City

Out-of-town interests who operate the marble games in Torrance which are openly used for gambling Tuesday night delayed final passage of the abandonment ordinance.

Thus, they openly defied the Torrance Council of Churches, the Torrance Parent-Teacher Council, and Torrance Educational Advisory Committee and other interests which they termed "minority" in talking the City Council into holding up final action on the ban.

They asked that store owners where the games are located get together with the opposing interests and work out a proposition. The games are for the most part in bars, liquor stores and restaurants.

Woody MacFaden, attorney for the out-of-town operators of the games called gambling devices in almost every California city, asked that the matter be put on the ballot in November, if a "deal" cannot be worked with the opposition to the games. The matter was referred to the agenda meeting of Aug. 1.

However, it was indicated Councilmen will insist on final passage of the ordinances, since they are unanimously pledged to ban the marble games and punch boards from Torrance.

Dagwood At Rotary Tonight

Dagwood and "Daisy," of the "Blondie" series movies will make personal appearances at the Torrance Rotary Club Thursday, July 27, according to Don Armstrong, program chairman.

Dagwood, in real life Arthur Lake, will put on a show for the local Rotarians featuring the almost-human canine "Daisy" and her five pups. The well-known movie, radio, and television comedian will be introduced by Bob Levellen who arranged the personal appearance.

Rotarian wives and children are cordially invited.

PETITIONS ASK FOR UNIFYING

Petitions for the adoption of a proposed ordinance of the county of Los Angeles repealing the selection of sites by the Board of Supervisors of said County and its plan to build two separate buildings thereon for the Superior Court and the Municipal Court were circulated here this week. The petitions also urged that the county select, in lieu thereof, another site for a building or buildings for said

(Continued on Page Two)

Recent Report Shows Employment Picture

As of this week there are 2717 persons unemployed and seeking work through this office. There are 988 women and 1729 men. Of the men 32 percent are veterans. The applicants are classified as follows:

May, 461; June, 435; July, 438; Professionals—including accountants, industrial chemists, industrial, electrical, chemical and mechanical engineers, musicians and other entertainers, draftsmen, May, 461; June, 435; July, 438; Clerical—including bookkeepers, stenographers, inventory clerks, postage clerks, grocery checkers, general office clerks, receptionists, comptometer operators, payroll clerks, shipping and receiving clerks, typists, stock clerks, telephone operators.

Section 34.66
P.L.&E.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Torrance,
Calif.
Permit 17