



Lt. Col. Dallas I. Downs, left, just promoted from major, is shown above pinning on an insignia on Major William L. Geissert, who was just promoted from captain. Looking on is Major Lee W. Gibbons, who was also promoted from a captain. Lt. Col. Downs is battalion commander of the 578th Engineers (C) Battalion, Major Geissert is battalion executive officer, and Major Gibbons is assistant division engineer.—Photo by Photo Arts Studio.

Protection of Life And Property Costly

Protection of life and property, one of the most important of local governmental functions, also is one of the most costly, a survey of the Torrance city budget for 1950-51 by the Press reveals. The budget adopted by the City Council August 22 at which the tax rate was set at \$1.12 per \$100 assessed valuation, shows that 37.2 percent of funds paid for operation of the Torrance city government goes to protection of life and property expended in operation of the police and fire departments.

The most expensive of the two departments is the police unit, which will spend \$151,561 this year, as authorized in the budget.

The department was authorized to hire five new patrolmen during the year, making a total force of 30 men, 14 of whom are employed for each 500 population.

Here is the way the police department was adopted: salaries \$110,000; a 4 1/2 percent raise granted each employee the night the budget was adopted:

- SALARIES:**
 Police chief at \$419 per month—\$5,028.00.
 Two captains at \$349 per month—\$8,376.00.
 One captain at \$333-349 per month—\$4,156.00.
 Five sergeants at \$304 per month—\$18,240.00.
 Eight patrolmen at \$290 per month—\$27,840.00.
 Two patrolmen at \$277 per month—\$6,648.00.
 Three patrolmen at \$265 per month—\$7,950.00.
 (Continued on Page Two)

Man Injured In Fall From 30-Foot Tree

Redondo Beach man found in a semi-conscious delirious condition in a Torrance field was injured by a fall from a 30 foot tree which he had climbed when drunk.

The man, Faustino Estrada, 28, in a serious condition at Harbor General Hospital, is suffering from a fractured pelvis and bones.

Earlier reports were that Estrada had been seized by a gang of men and brutally beaten with clubs and fists.

The man lay on the field for 12 hours when Officer Joe Wysocki discovered him.

Asst. LA Schools Supt. To Speak At TEAC Meeting

Dr. C. C. Carpenter, Asst. Supt. of L.A. County Schools will speak at 5 P.M. Sept. 6 in the Torrance civic auditorium at the regular monthly meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

At this joint meeting, Dr. Carpenter will address members of the faculty of the Torrance Unified School District and the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee.

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

All Wartime Rubber Plants Here To Reopen

SYNTHETIC MATERIAL HIKE ASKED

Reactivation of the Torrance Rubber Reserve corporation plant operated during the past war and years following by Goodyear Synthetic Rubber company has been reentered, according to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

The plant blends styrene, made by Dow Chemical Company, with butadiene, made by Shell Chemical Company, into copolymer or synthetic rubber. Both are Torrance plants.

Dow has continued in operation since the close of World War II, but Shell Chemical Company only last week got its orders to reopen.

Goodyear officials admit that the plant is to be reopened by Reconstruction Finance Corporation but said that they probably would not be the operating agents.

R.F.C. said that it was unable to disclose who the operating agents would be, but the plant is needed to complete the cycle in rubber making with Dow and Shell in operation.

The reopening has been ordered to step up production of synthetic rubber, ordered by President Truman.

Shell will employ about 200 men and it is expected that the former Goodyear plant will employ about that number.

Dow has stepped up its styrene production and has hired additional crews, it was reported.



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SECOND YEAR TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1950 No. 19 3c

HIGH FARES KEEP RIDERS OFF CITY BUSES, REPORT

Survey Finds Travel Slumps

High bus fares are driving business away from Torrance and are contributing to the inability of the Municipal Bus Department to make the local lines pay, according to a survey of the Press.

It is found that shoppers in the Hammett tract and other outlying areas are able to travel into Gardena or Redondo Beach for 10 cents, while to come to Torrance costs 15 cents — or 30 cents a round trip.

The Gardena Municipal and Redlands Bus lines fares are lower than Torrance, and these lines are taking trade away from the Greater Torrance Trading Area which the Press blankets with paid and free distribution each Thursday morning.

Merchants and advertisers in the Press are aware of this, and for this reason the campaign is growing to secure more efficient operation of the lines.

"It cost just as much to run a bus carrying 10 passengers who paid 15 cents as it would to run one carrying 15 passengers at 10 cents," said one business man, "but if you could get 30 passengers to ride the bus at 10c you would double the revenue. You'll never get 30 passengers on at 15 cents as long as Gardena and Redondo lines carry them for 10 cents."

A survey shows that the bus fare to Hollywood Riviera, the extreme southwest section of Torrance, is 15 cents. However, the fare is only 10 cents to Redondo Beach boulevard, the extreme north section. "There is no justification for this," said another merchant. "If you can ride to one part of Torrance for 10 cents, you should be able to

ride throughout Torrance for the same fare."

It also was revealed that you can ride to Carson street and Vermont for 10 cents, but the fare jumps to 15 cents as it reaches the Hammett tract and other popular areas also served by Gardena. And Gardena takes its passengers to that shopping area for 10 cents.

Sunset stages travel along Redondo Beach boulevard, Hawthorne boulevard and Torrance boulevard, taking passengers to Redondo for a dime.

"Torrance does not even serve this area, except north of 182nd street."

The records show that when Torrance raised its fares the last time, the revenue of the bus department fell off.

Merchants are urging that the fares be reduced and the bus service be properly advertised and promoted, to put them on a "good financial standing."

"If we don't go after the business, and other towns do, it's our own fault. We've got to do something about this."

Here are statements of a few of the residents of outlying areas interviewed by the Press regarding the bus service:

Mrs. Frances Honel, 25108 So. Normandie; "Certainly we want and need the bus. But the rates are much too high. When the rates were raised last January, they lost rather than gained. It costs me 15c to get from Harbor

(Continued on Page Two)



RIGHT TURN ONLY?—Maybe, but at present there is no ordinance to back up this sign painted at the exits of alleys and parking lots in the Torrance business district.

Trial Ordered In Hughes Suit

Trial of the \$35,000 false arrest damage suit against two Los Angeles police officers and a San Pedro cafe owner, brought by W. J. B. Hughes, prominent Torrance man, was ordered by the Appellate court Tuesday.

Hughes had sued the officers and cafe owners after his arrest and incarceration on Feb. 1, 1948. Because he had two silver dollars with which he paid his bill to Nick Oreb, the record shows, Oreb called police and had Hughes picked up as a suspect in the robbery of Oreb's place. It was reported that among the loot were silver dollars.

Defendants in addition to Oreb are Police Officers O. H. Ledbetter and H. J. Greenwood.

Hughes charged that he was held from 2 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1948, until Monday without being given an opportunity to notify his family or his attorney. He alleged he was beaten while in jail, but no charge was brought against him. Later, another man confessed the robbery.

The lawsuit of Hughes was dismissed on a non-suit judgment of the Superior court, but an appeal was taken and the decision reversed. Trial of the case was ordered. Hughes was represented by M. E. Story of Entenza & Gramer, lawyers.

The District Attorney's office had said that "only the innocent will be hurt by an investigation," but apparently the jury felt differently, those who heard the rumor said.

JURY QUIZ OF ELECTION IS RUMORED

That the Grand Jury is carrying on a secret investigation of the last Torrance municipal election was rumored this week with the calling of several election board officers to Los Angeles.

The inquiry was asked by a group of citizens who charged that numerous errors and mistakes were found in the recount of the ballots in the election of Councilman Willys Blount over Vic Benstead, who demanded the recount.

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According to A. L. Gram, secretary of Metropolitan Water

Someone Is Kidding On 'Right Turn'

By WANDA ROUND
 Who's kidding who?
 Exits of some alleys and parking lots have been painted with big letters "Right Turn Only."

A check of the situation by the Press reveals the motorist is being kidded.

No ordinance has been adopted by the City Council to require motorists to turn right from off street parking lots or from alleys so marked.

No such ordinance has been requested by the City Council nor is it in the process of being drawn, according to C. D. Smith, city attorney. Yet the signs have been posted for several weeks.

In talking to one business man about the signs, he remarked, "What's the rush with those fellows in the City Hall? Painting the signs before they pass the law teaches disrespect for the law."

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Lights to Be Installed At Hazard Point

Under a joint agreement between Torrance and the State Highway Commission, additional lights are to be installed at the intersection of Hawthorne and Sepulveda Bldgs., City Manager George Stevens indicated.

Installation costs of the three 10,000-lumen mercury vapor lights at the intersection will be divided by the state and the city, Stevens said. Present lighting is by a lone sodium vapor light.

Planned as soon as funds are available is "channelization" to eliminate the hazards of a present erratic series of turns on either side of the Hawthorne part of the intersection.

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Dallas Downs Promoted to Lt. Colonel

Promotion from major to grade of lieutenant colonel of Dallas I. Downs, commanding officer of the National Guard's Engineer Battalion, with units stationed in Torrance, has been revealed. Also promoted was Lee Gibbons from rank of captain to major and Wm. L. Geissert, promoted from captain to major.

The announcement was made by Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Huddleston, commander of Southern California's 40th infantry division.

Headquarters of the battalion are located at Torrance airport. Other units are located in Torrance, Wilmington, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach.

The battalion has been called into the federal service as of today, and members of the various units of Colonel Downs' combat engineers were making camp on Torrance Municipal Airport for a stay of several days before traveling by caravan to Camp Cooke for a long training period.

More than 50 Torrance officers and men are involved in the call to active service.

27 Members Of Defense Unit In Drill

Police Chief John Stroh announced that 27 members of the local auxiliary police are being drilled in their duties in the event of an atom bombing or wartime catastrophe.

The members of the unit meet once every two weeks for briefings on what is expected of them during periods of emergency, Stroh stated.

Virtually all the men are exempt from call to military service, but have backgrounds of police or military service. All are capable of local defense.

The unit is an important segment of the disaster organization being formed under the command of City Manager George Stevens.

Torrance To Hear Anti-Red Editors

Scheduled to hear Ed Gibbons and Norman Jacoby, anti-Communist editors at 8 p. m. Sept. 11 in the Torrance Civic auditorium, are 2000 members of service clubs of Torrance and industry, according to Chief of Police John Stroh, who, with J. B. Scotton, are handling arrangements for the joint session.

Gibbons and Jacoby launched their weekly newsletter, "Alert," in 1948. It is devoted to fighting communism in California.

The Kiwanis club of Torrance is sponsoring the program, said Mayor Bob L. Haggard, Kiwanis president.

There will be no admission charge, although admission will be by ticket only, said Chief John Stroh.

L.A. DELAYS ACTION ON BUS LINES

Because Los Angeles Board of Public Utilities does not know whether or not it has any jurisdiction over the operation of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines into Harbor City and other Los Angeles city areas, it took no action Tuesday at the hearing called at the request of residents of Harbor City to stop the abandonment of the Torrance bus service to that area.

The Los Angeles board said that it would ask the State Public Utilities Commission for a ruling.

Meanwhile, it was reported, the curtailment of the bus service will be held up because it might place the Torrance lines into Los Angeles in jeopardy.

Personnel Ordinance To Be Drawn

At the last Torrance city council meeting, Aug. 22, City Attorney Smith was instructed to draw up an ordinance concerning the compensation of personnel of the city clerk's office with that of the court clerk.

After a survey of duties, City Manager George Stevens recommended that the compensation of the court clerk be fixed at \$184 for the first step; \$193, the second step; \$202, third step; \$211, fourth step, and \$221 for the fifth step, which will be equitable with other classifications of similar duties and responsibilities.



Pictured above are members of the Torrance Auxiliary Police who will act as ushers at the 13th Annual Police Show. Proceeds from this benefit show will be used for the TAPS. The police train these boys and girls on the pistol range and take them on recreational excursions. They are, left to right: First row—Lois Salsbery, Phyllis Stevens, Barbara Camp, Alice Albertson, Jeanette Lopez, Elizabeth Webb, Jacquelin Pagac; second row—Elizabeth Middleton, Nalbro Miller, Michele Silver, Janet Roventine, Nancy Levesque, Helen Helpman, Louise Laferty, Patricia Friberg; third row—Patricia Merritt, Gary Carter, John Hughes, Larry Bryant, Joe Friberg, Tommy Cook, Ronald Jadin, Norman Chambers, James Babb, David Bisbee, Thomas Webb, John Babbitt, Weldon Smith; top row—James Brown, Monte Backstrom, Edward Alvarez, Sammy Held, Alfonso Zamora, Kenneth Purdy, Melvin Ballinger.

Photo by Photo Arts Studio

Seaside Cesspools Trouble Residents

Under study by city officials are cantankerous cesspools in the Seaside Heights district. City Manager George Stevens, a committee of 50 residents of the area, and the entire city council inspected cesspools in the area last week.

The cesspools have been filling rapidly, apparently because of a lack of porosity in the soil and the cesspools.