

CITY ACTS TO REGISTER LOCAL REDS

School Enrollment Total Is 4319 Communist Job Ban Is Ordered

744 Pupils Added to Load Here

Torrance Unified School District enrollment figures as of Tuesday, Sept. 12 for this new fall semester show a skyrocketing increase of 744 students over last year's first day enrollment figure of 3,575. The total is 4319.

The greatest level of increase occurs in the sixth grade. The fall 1949 first day enrollment on this level is 229, as compared with this year's first day enrollment of 360, an increase of 131 students.

The second highest level of increase appeared on the fourth grade level. There were 264 students enrolled the first day of school last year in the fourth grade, and 372 students this year, an increase of 108 students.

The enrollment increase of each school of the district over last year's figures is as follows: Fern Avenue School, '49—575, (Continued on Page Two)

Local Boy Injured In Action

A Torrance boy was injured in the Korean War.

Mrs. Teresa Cowart, 1055 Maple street, received a telegram last week that her son, Cpl. C. Cowart, 25, had been injured in action August 10. The telegram also stated that Cpl. Cowart, an infantryman in the 2nd Division of the 9th Army, had returned to duty August 16.

Cowart attended San Pedro High School, before moving to Torrance. He served almost two years overseas in World War II (Continued on Page Two)



Cpl. Charles Cowart

Baby Found Dead in Bed By Mother

Found dead in her bed Tuesday morning at 6:10 a.m. by her mother was seven month old Lynn Guesno, 17033 Wilkie avenue, Torrance.

Mrs. Guesno, the baby's mother went to the house of her neighbor, Mrs. Peterson, 17025 Wilkie avenue, and told her that she had just awakened. She said her baby was cold and she thought it was dead.

Officers Schumacher and Miller called for a resuscitator from the Fire department, but it was too late. Dr. Clifford Easley arrived only to pronounce the child dead.

Cause of death is not yet known, but an investigation will be made by the coroners office.



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SECOND YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1950

No. 21

5c



LET'S GO TO SCHOOL!—says (left to right) Margaret Cunningham (10), 1417 Cota avenue; Harold Maestri (9), 1442-B Engracia; Barbara Fedor (10), 2267 Sonoma avenue; and Billy McLain (9), 1028 Arlington avenue. All started to school last Monday, the beginning of the fall semester. Margaret, Harold, and Billy attend the Torrance Elementary School. Barbara attends Catholic School. Press photo.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICEWOMAN HIT

Charges that the City Council is by-passing the Civil Service Commission and ignoring the Civil Service Rules of the City of Torrance were hurled at a stormy meeting of the Civil Service Board Wednesday night. Members of the Commission, objecting to the appointment of Lucille Stroh to the position of policewoman without promotional examination, ordered letters written to the City Council reminding the city fathers of their duty to the Civil Service Board and of the Commission's duty to the people of the community.

The rules provide that all personal recommendations must go to the civil service body before going to the Council.

It was charged that the Stroh promotion, and another in the City Court Clerk's office, were made without consulting the board.

"Lucille Stroh was promoted without a promotional examination," said Commissioner George Downing.

"They are taking things into their own hands," said G. A. Mothersell, also a member of the Commission, of the Council's action.

Referring to the Stroh case, Commissioner Frederick Cook said: "She jumped classification. We didn't know anything about Lucille Stroh's permanent appointment. The same examination is necessary for a policewoman as for a policeman, including the physical." Miss Stroh had been acting as matron-clerk.

"Changes in position should not be made without promotional examination," Cook continued.

Commissioner Dan Desmond moved that the Council and City Manager George Stevens be told to hold the Stroh promotion as temporary until a promotional examination can be held, and that other applicants be permitted to file for the job. The motion carried, and such a letter was ordered sent to the Council and manager.

Patrolman Wright Leaves For Service

Leaving the Torrance police service tomorrow for service in the United States Armed Forces is Patrolman Robert Wright, 1922 W. 222nd Street, Torrance.

The 25 year old police officer will report for re-assignment in the army September 28 to Fort Ord, California.

Wright served three years in the armed service in the last war. He was overseas in active European duty for one and one-half years.

He has been on the Torrance Police Department for more than two years.

Recalled to Navy Service

Among the Navy fliers well known in Torrance who have been recalled to active service is Lieut. (jg) Maurice G. Smith, husband of the former Muriel Alverson, popular Torrance girl.

Lieutenant Smith left Monday with his squadron, V.P. 772, for Seattle, Wash., for a period of training. An active reserve unit, the squadron had been based at Los Alamitos.

The Smiths have been residing in their Lakewood home since Lieutenant Smith's release from the Navy following service throughout the past war.



Mrs. Lois C. Litaker, new associate member of the Percy & Vaughn Investment Corp.

Joins Realty Firm Staff

Howard Percy, sole owner of the Percy and Vaughn Investment Corp., 2091 Torrance Blvd., has announced the appointment of Mrs. Lois C. Litaker as an associate member of their firm.

A resident of Torrance for several years, Mrs. Litaker, formerly of Akron, Ohio, was engaged in the real estate business as an active member of the South-East Realty Board in the Huntington Park-South Gate area. She was also recently employed in the Torrance Unified School District.

"I like Torrance very much and am happy to be a part of this growing city," said Mrs. Litaker.

Mrs. Litaker has a daughter, Mary Joe Schrepel, 16, now attending Torrance High School.

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

11,190 CIRCULATION

BUS CURTAILMENT STRANDS BIG AREA

With apparent disregard for the will of the people as expressed in the April municipal election when they defeated by 10 to 1 a proposal that the City of Torrance sell the municipal bus lines, management of the lines, with the blessing of the City Council, eliminated bus service to east Lomita, Harbor City and Harbor Hills.

Thus, the people in those areas are "stranded," and Torrance folk who want to reach those

BULLETIN

At a meeting of the Harbor City Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night, steps were taken to bring bus service from Wilmington or San Pedro to the area left stranded this week when Torrance Municipal Bus Lines stopped serving east Lomita, Harbor City and Harbor Hills.

Mrs. Frances Hencel, spokesman for the group, told the Press that the Los Angeles Public Utilities Commission, the Los Angeles Transit Lines, Councilman George Moore of Los Angeles and other interests were working closely with the group to get transportation for the fares which Torrance says it doesn't want.

Thus it appears that the retail trade from the area will go to another community.

The copolymer synthetic rubber plant at Torrance, to be jointly operated by the Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. of St. Paul and the Pacific Rubber Co. of Oakland will be producing rubber by about December 15, John Howell, Safety Section official of Rubber Reserve division of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. told the Press Tuesday.

Preliminary operation steps are in progress, said Howell.

This is in confirmation of reports which the Press published two weeks ago concerning the re-opening of the copolymer plant formerly operated by Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.

Four hundred persons will be employed in this plant when operating to full capacity, said Howell.

(Continued on Page Two)



Pfc. Joe E. Hooker, 18, died in Korean War.

LOCAL BOY KILLED IN KOREAN WAR

The Korean War took its deadly toll of a Shoestring area family.

Mrs. Grace Pearson, 1645 W. 228th street received a telegram this week notifying her of the death of her 18-year-old son, Pfc. Joe E. Hooker, August 26.

He enlisted in the service December, 1948, and was sent to Korea last July with Company D, 1st Battalion of the 5th Volunteer Regimental Combat Team.

His mother said that she had only received one letter from him since he had been sent overseas and that it was dated August 25. In it he had said that he had been one of the marooned group to which supplies had to be dropped by parachute. After escaping that peril, he was stationed at Battle Hill, from which place he wrote the letter. He also said in the letter that he was very weak physically.

Hooker graduated from Narbonne High School where he was preparing to study drafting. Born in Kansas, he has been living in California since 1944.

"He had joined the army in the hopes of learning engineer designing," said his mother.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Grace Pearson, 1645 West 228th Street, Torrance; a sister, Mrs. Mildred Keaton, Torrance, and another brother, Berton A. Kooker, an Army paratrooper in Tennessee.

Rubber by Dec. 15 Says RFC

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Sept. Unemployment Figures Shows Drop

Unemployment in the Torrance area has slidded down from 2717 for July to 2219 for September, a decrease of almost 500 in the last two months, according to the Torrance office of the California Department of Employment.

The area covered by the Torrance office includes Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, and adjacent territories.

Of the total number of unemployed for September, 978 are women and 1241 are men. Thirty-five per cent of the men are veterans.

July		August		September		
138	156	160	160	138	156	PROFESSIONAL
438	451	451	451	438	451	CLERICAL
169	169	156	156	169	169	SALES PEOPLE
219	298	292	292	219	298	SERVICE
337	202	211	211	337	202	AGRICULTURAL
548	458	371	371	548	458	SKILLED
430	359	276	276	430	359	SEMI-SKILLED
338	363	302	302	338	363	LABOR
2717	2456	2219	2219	2717	2456	

The City of Torrance joined other California political subdivisions in taking steps to register, control and ban from public jobs any known members of the Communist party and other subversive organizations which advocate overthrow of the government of the United States by force.

Emergency ordinances were adopted by the City Council Tuesday night to require registration of known Communists and to bar them from jobs over which the Council has control.

Whether or not there are any Communists working for the city was not immediately determined.

The Council also referred to the next agenda meeting a request for resumption of check-off of union dues of city employees on the statement of the local union of the United Public Workers of America, C.I.O., that they had broken away from the parent organization and were seeking affiliation with a C.I.O. international union which is not under the control of Communists.

United Steelworkers of America, Local 1414, of Torrance, told the Council in a letter that they had acted too hasty in banning the dues check-off.

Immediate steps to register known Communists in Torrance will be taken, it was said.

NEW NAME FOR LOCAL TOWNSHIP

That Gardena Judicial Township, which includes all territory south of Manhattan Beach boulevard and west of Western avenue will be known as the South Bay Judicial Township in the future was indicated in action of the Board of Supervisors last week.

The Board ordered plans drawn for the new Justice court building at Pacific Coast Highway and El Camino Real Highway, in Redondo Beach, and said that the building will be designated the "South Bay Justice Court."

Justice of the Peace John Shidler, of Torrance, presides over the court, having won reelection for a four year term, in the June election.

The township has been known as "Gardena" since the court was established at 166th street and Western avenue 19 years ago.

Since the name is not representative of the township, in which Torrance is the largest city in area, it was suggested the name be changed. "Peninsula" was suggested as a name, but apparently the supervisors decided on "South Bay." Other communities in the township are (Continued on Page Two)

Merchants Ask Parking Commission

The Torrance City Council Tuesday night received and tabled for further consideration a letter from the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce that a parking commission be formed to iron out automobile parking difficulties in the city.

The Council also appointed the law firm of O'Melveny & Meyers to approve proposed water bond proposals and the issue, and acted to put the water bond proposition on an early ballot for vote.

The bonds will be needed to enable the Water department of the city to keep pace with growth of residential and industrial areas, it was said.

50 Per Cent of Total on Street Lights Is Paid

Fifty per cent of the \$5,035.19 necessary to install 18 modern octagonal design Marbelite poles with luminar mercury vapor lights in the Torrance business district has been received, it is reported.

Registered letters were sent to property owners along Sartori and El Prado avenues outlining the plan to install the 18 new lights and asking their cooperation.

Costs to each property owner, and Torrance where city property is under the present plan will be on a front footage basis of \$2.10 a foot. Total cost will be \$5,035.19.

Old poles have to be replaced by new taller type poles as the new proposed lights require poles taller than the present ones.

The whole project will be discarded if full cooperation is not obtained and one merchant declines to go along with the plan said the spokesman for the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce.

City Manager George Stevens assured the committee that the City will install these new poles free of cost to the property owners, thus making a substantial saving on this portion of the work.

Leaders Of Chest Drive Announced

Top leadership for the 1950-51 Community Chest campaign in Torrance was announced this week by Dean L. Sears, Chest campaign chairman.

Heading the Advance Gifts division is Mayor Bob Haggard, rector, assisted by committee-men Jack Koch, owner of Star Furniture Co.; and Sam Levy, owner Levy Dept. Store. Levy is also Community Chest campaign chairman for the entire Harbor Area.

Chairman of the Commerce and Industry division is W. T. Tillotson, manager American Rock Wool Corporation assisted by Charles Ragdale, of Ragdale, and Newell, Hancock Oil distributors.

Solicitation of the business section of Torrance will be headed by John Almond, owner of Almond Dept. Store, and Paul Diamond, owner of Gay Dress Shop, as co-chairmen. They will be assisted by Edward Raphael, of Gary's Jewellers, and William A. Zoeller, public accountant, as section chairman in the business division.

Chest chairman for the Torrance school system will be Dr. J. H. Hull, Willys G. Blount, city councilman, will serve as Chest chairman for the city employees.

What about Tomorrow!

The public realizes that prices are on the upward trend and it is a fact that more property is now changing hands at substantial increase in prices during the last six months. Sales increases in some real estate offices are reported to be 100%.

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Turn to the Classified Pages today for this and other Good Listings of Outstanding Real Estate Firms.

YOUR TV TICKET STUBS HERE

SEPT. 14-15

Drop Stubs Here

ANN STEPHENS examines ticket as she deposits stub for the 12 1/2 inch screen television set offered by the merchants of Torrance. The box in which to deposit the stubs for this Grand Merchandise Event is located in Torrance Tee Vee, corner of Gramercy and Cravens. Tickets are available at Photo Arts Studio, Sam Levy's Department Store, Payless Drug Store, Almonds Department Store, Torrance Men's Shop, A-1 Photo Shop, Kates Children's Shop, Garsh Auto Supply, Bernard's Shoe Store, Gary's Jewelry and Hincley's Market in Lomita.

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