



PANNING FOR GOLD! Yep, (left to right) have come to Torrance. Beginning 7 p.m. tomorrow night at the corner of Marcelina and Sartori, a total of \$1000 in cash will be given away free of charge during the next ten weeks.



• TORRANCE • LOMITA • HARBOR CITY • SHOESTRIP • KEYSTONE

Serving Greater Torrance Area

SECOND YEAR TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1950 No. 26 5c

COUNCIL GRANTS MAYER NEEDED TRACT CHANGES

Largest Circulating Newspaper or Combination Newspapers in the Torrance Trading Area.
11,190 CIRCULATION

Water Level Drop Held Threat to City Supply

With water levels in Torrance municipal wells dropping at an alarming rate, and the city's system using approximately 50 percent of its allocation of Metropolitan Water District supply, William Stanger, superintendent of the water department of Torrance, appealed yesterday for the creation of a Torrance Water Commission to administer the departments.

Stanger urged an amendment to the City Charter to create the Water Commission to relieve the City Council of its responsibility in handling the water departments.

Stanger said that the water levels in city wells had dropped from 10 to 15 feet during the past 12 years, and that salt water encroachment is imminent.

LEVELS DROP
The water superintendent said that water level tables of the two principal city wells are:
Well No. 1, 1938 level, 127 feet; 1948 level, 133 feet; 1950 level, 137 feet.
Well No. 2, 1938 level, 109 feet; 1948 level 114 feet; 1950 level, 124 feet.

He said that Torrance used 50 percent of its allocation from Colorado River supply (8500 acre feet a year) last year, and that "there is no assurance that the Metropolitan Water District can continue to give us this service." He continued, "there is no stand-by for Torrance, if Metropolitan cannot give us service."

Stanger charged that the City Council does not seem to realize the critical condition of the water situation in Torrance, and declared that the delay in pushing the proposed water bond issue might prove costly and disastrous to future growth of the city. He declared that the present system can take care of only 1000 more homes in Torrance.

Increase of 362 Pupils For Month

Torrance school enrollment at the end of the first month of the school semester this year, shows an increase of 742 over last year's enrollment at the end of the first month of last year of 3,827, according to figures released by Warren Hamilton of the Torrance Unified School District. First month total of this year is 4,569.

During the first month of school this year, the enrollment has been upped from 4,207 students to 4,569 students, an increase of 362 students.

Last year during the first month of school, an increase of 245 students was shown.

Enrollment at the end of the first month of school this year, as compared with the same period last year is as follows: Fern Avenue, '49-500, '50-571; Perry School, '49-512, '50-465; Seaside, '49-385, '50-377; Torrance Elementary, '49-354, '50-1,062; Walters, '49-295, '50-413; North Torrance, '49-0, '50-464; 8th Grade, '49-248, '50-0; High School, '49-827, '50-889, and Special Classes, '49-8, '50-28.

School Employees Take Loyalty Oath

Teachers, administrators and employees of Torrance Unified School District got their new California Oath of Allegiance forms this week, and no opposition has appeared in the local system in opposition to signing the oath, according to Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull.

"I have not heard a single protest against the oath," Superintendent Hull said. It is mandatory that the oath be taken by employees of the school district, by order of the Board of Education and the State Department of Education. It is testimony that the employees have not been nor will be members of parties or organizations advocating overthrow of the government of

the United States by force or violence, or other unlawful means.

It reads as follows:
"I (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter."
"And I do further swear (or

Fordyce Denied Expenses

Request of Margaret Fordyce, City Treasurer, for \$25 for use of her car and telephone on city business for the month of August was denied Tuesday night by the City Council.

The same request had been previously made to the Council a few weeks ago, but no action was taken.

Councilmen Drake and Powell voted that Treasurer Fordyce be granted her expense of \$25, but were overruled by Councilmen Haggard, Blount, and Spelman.

Widening of Streets Near Completion

Expected to be completely paved, after being widened, sometime this week according to City Manager George Stevens, is Cashmere avenue from 170th to 174th street.

The newly widened street, near a new Torrance school, has been widened to a full street. It had been a half street before.

Also being widened are two blocks along Arlington avenue, from 172nd street north, according to Stevens.

Employers Group Names Appointment

Appointment of Pat MacDonnell, for 10 years secretary-manager of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, as public relations representative of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, was announced this week.

MacDonnell undertook his new duties Monday as a part of the move of the Employers' Council to expand its activities, according to Frank S. Selover, executive chairman.

CITY SHOCKED BY ALMOND'S PASSING

Torrance suffered the loss of one of its leading citizens and outstanding merchants, when John P. Almond, of Almond's Department Store, died in bed



JOHN P. ALMOND

37 minutes after midnight Monday night of a heart attack. Almond was 37 years of age.

He was seized by the attack

at about midnight when he said to his wife, "What's happening to me?" A doctor was immediately called, and Almond was given a shot of adrenalin. The Torrance Fire Department arrived soon after with the oxygen apparatus, but Almond had already expired.

Almond, who had spent two years serving the United States Navy during the last world war, was president of the Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis member and member of the Methodist Men's Club and the Methodist Services Held.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, his son, John, and daughter, Nancy Rose, who live at their home, 2666 Torrance Boulevard. Also survivors are his father, John M. Almond, his mother, Sadie F. Almond, and his brother, Robert M. Almond.

Funeral services will be held today 10:00 a.m. at Stone and Meyers Chapel in Torrance. Ceremonies will be conducted by Rev. Paul Wenske. Interment will be at the Inglewood Park Cemetery.

\$1000 for Shoppers During Gold Rush Days

Gold Rush Days are here again! But you don't have to go to Fort Sutter, because a total of \$1000 in cash will be given away to Torrance shoppers during the next ten weeks. The first event for \$100 will take place 7:00 p.m. tomorrow night at the corner of Marcelina and Sartori. If the winner is not present the unclaimed money will be added to the next week's prize, until won by some lucky person.

Subsequent drawings will be held each Friday evening along Sartori avenue.

Paul Diamond, proprietor of the Gay Shop, chairman for Gold Rush Days, announced that tickets available at leading merchants in Torrance are free of charge.

Cochairman are Bernard Lee, of Bernards Family Shoe Store,

and Louis Arbeter of Allens Jewelers.

Tickets for those wishing to take advantage of this stupendous giveaway event may be obtained with every visit to following stores: A-1 Photo, 1312 Sartori avenue; Adams Dress Shop, 1274 Sartori ave.; Allen Jewelers, 1321 Sartori ave.; Almonds Dept. Store, 1261 Sartori ave.; Bakers Furniture, 1512 Cravens.

Bernards Family Shoe Store, 1319 Sartori avenue; Frank's Furniture, 1334 El Prado; Gary's Jewelers, 1322 Sartori ave.; Gay Shop, 1319 Sartori ave.; Kales Children Shop, 1321 El Prado; Lawson's Jewelers, 1317 El

Need For Parking Space Dire

Unless the City of Torrance employs some solution to the drastic parking problem as shown in the picture on this page, Torrance shoppers will be driven to do their shopping elsewhere.

In an editorial a few weeks ago, the Press offered a solution to the Torrance parking problem, which has been employed successfully in other localities.

The solution offered by the Press is as follows:

Cabrillo boulevard and Torrance boulevard are 80-foot streets from curb to curb. Provide parallel parking at the curb for their entire distance from Cravens avenue to Madrid avenue.

Place a narrow asphalt island in the middle (through



HOW DO I FIND A PARKING PLACE?—Asks many a Torrance shopper. And this crowded situation along Sartori avenue between Marcelina and El Prado in Torrance is only the beginning of traffic congestion which the busy Christmas shopping will bring into Torrance.

Appointee Law Passed By Trio

Despite the question of its constitutionality, the City Council majority of Bob Haggard, Willys Blount and H. J. Spelman Tuesday night voted to adopt the ordinance which would bar the appointment of members of city boards and commissions to the City Council.

Councilmen Nick Drake and George Powell tried in vain to block the measure.

Drake reminded Mayor Haggard that he is the only commission member ever to take a seat on the City Council, and Powell tried to get the ordinance referred back to the city attorney.

UNIFIED SCHOOL TAX TO BE \$2.28

According to figures released by Torrance Unified School District Superintendent J. H. Hull, Torrance taxpayers will pay a school tax rate of \$2.28 per \$100 assessed valuation for the 1950-51 fiscal year.

Of this tax rate, 64 cents is for retirement of five-year bonds voted by the people of Torrance in 1947; of which 57 cents is for the Unified School District, 3% cents for retirement of Los Angeles bonds, and 2 cents for the High School.

Operational costs account for \$1.65 of the tax levy.

This is in addition to a 60 cent tax for the El Camino Junior College District, which embraces this area.

The El Camino levy is comprised of a 35 cent operating fee and a 25 cent building tax.

Land Sale To Negros Blocked

Torrance City Council by a three to two vote Tuesday night took steps to permit Rudolph Mayer and Ocean Hills, Inc., to proceed with development of the beautiful hillside tract along the Palos Verdes-Torrance city boundary as originally planned.



LT. RICHARD HUFF

Thus, the threat of the sale of the 400 residents lots involved to a syndicate of wealthy Los Angeles Negro citizens was removed.

Voting in favor of granting the sidewalk variance, negotiating for sale of the controversial two and one-half acres of land on the hillside, and for abandonment of easements along Hollywood-Palos Verdes Parkway were:

Mayor Bob Haggard, Councilman Nick Drake, Councilman George Powell.

Voting against the deal which might have opened the tract to development by the Negro group were:

Councilman H. J. Spelman, Councilman Willys Blount.

STEVENS TO NEGOTIATE

City Manager George Stevens was given power to take necessary steps to sell the two and one-half acre plot to Mayer's group. The plot was secured in exchange for abandonment of a portion of the 220-foot wide parkway. Stevens also was allowed to take steps for abandonment of the easements.

City Attorney C. D. Smith was authorized to prepare an amendment to the land use ordinance involved to permit development of the Mayer tract, an exclusive, rural type project, without sidewalks.

LETTER TO COUNCIL

The letter to the City Council (Continued on Page Two)

Husband of Local Girl Hurt in War

Wounded by shrapnel during a Korean river crossing was Lt. Richard A. Huff, 24 years of age, husband of Mrs. Helen Mea Huff, of 22407 Denker avenue, Torrance, announced the department of defense.

Mrs. Huff said that her husband, wounded as he stepped from an assault craft, is now recovering in a Japanese hospital. She said that he is scheduled to be in the hospital for treatment for about another month.

Mrs. Huff recently returned to Torrance from Okinawa, where she married the lieutenant while she was working for the army.

She is now living in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ericson.

Photo Arts to Do Torrance High Yearbook

Awarded the contract to do photography for the Torrance High School 1950-51 class yearbook were Hal Mellen and Jim Krueger of Photo Arts Studio, 1311 Post avenue, Torrance.

Their photo studio has been established in Torrance for one and one-half years.

Both are graduates of the well-known Fred Archer School of Photography in Los Angeles. Krueger is also a graduate of the Ray School of Photography in Chicago and Mellen, of an Army photographic school.

Krueger, who lives at 616 E. Carson ave., Torrance, with his wife, Mildred, has one child, Susan, 5½ years of age.

Mellen and his wife, Susan, also Torrance residents, have two children, Patricia, 13 years of age, and Lee, 11 years of age.

JAYSEE SPONSORED FIRE PREVENTION MONTH TO WIND UP WITH EVENT SAT.

Sponsored by the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Torrance Fire Department, Fire Prevention Month of October will be wound up this Saturday morning when a fire truck, rigged up with Fire Prevention signs will tour the streets of Torrance.

A Fire Prevention stunt will also take place, according to Fireman Jay Nielsen, Jaycee chairman for Fire Prevention Month.

In emphasizing the importance of fire prevention, Nielsen stated, "Death from fire is a horrible thing to contemplate, especially when your own children are involved." Remember that children are less able than you to act rationally when fire strikes. Approximately one-fourth of all fire fatalities involve children under five years of age. Do you want to live the rest of your life with a sound picture in your mind of your little son or daughter a human torch screaming in agony? Thousands of parents are

bearing that awful burden."

He also stated that, "the most tragic aspect of death by fire is that it doesn't have to happen. All fires are the result of a definite cause, and all but a very few can be prevented."

Nielsen also wished to inform the public of the proper telephone numbers of the Fire Department. They are as follows: for emergency, Torrance 23; for information, Torrance 491; for L.A. City, Terminal 2424-1; for L.A. County, Terminal 4-5281.

\$1000 GOLD RUSH HITS TORRANCE!!

Section 34.66
P.L.B.R.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Torrance,
Calif.
Permit 17