

# TORRANCE RENTS NOT DECONTROLLED

## Water Employees Ask \$35 Wage Hike Reports Cause Tenant Flurry

### ENTITLED TO MORE MONEY, SAY WORKERS

Employees of Torrance Municipal Water districts Tuesday night asked the City Council for an "across the board" salary increase of \$35 per month.

They said that they feel that they are entitled to the raise because the type of work they do places them in perilous positions demanding that they be on call 24 hours a day, subject to the dangers of pipe laying and at times doing the work of high-paid plumbers. They get the same scale now as do city park and street employees, Gus Weber, spokesman for the employees, said.

Water Manager William Stanger is sympathetic to the raise, it was said.

Water employees now are paid:

Junior service man, \$212 to \$252; senior service man, \$262 to \$287; foremen, \$297 to \$343. Some 20 workers are employed in the three water departments.

Weber said that in the past four years, they have had only the \$10 per month raise granted all workers in November.

The City Council tabled the raise request until an agenda meeting next Tuesday.

### Building Here Ranks Fourth In County

Torrance is ranked as fourth in building volume among cities in Los Angeles county, according to a survey by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Building permits issued here for November totaled \$1,853,121. Three out of 45 cities in the county placed higher. They are Los Angeles with a total of \$42,297,439; Long Beach \$2,611,735 and Pasadena \$1,954,816.

Ranking slightly lower than Torrance were Monterey Park with \$1,693,665 in permits, El Segundo \$1,508,375 and Burbank \$1,103,085.

In comparison, Torrance building for November, 1949, was only \$764,885. The grand total for all areas in the county amounted to \$27,339,977, nearly half of which was for residences.

### 'WE NEED A PIANO,' SAY FIREMEN

The fellows at the Fire Station have a complaint to make. St. Nick has forgotten them. They have a band with a piano player, but, alas, no piano.

Having been formed about a month ago, the band consists of Fireman Gordon Jonsrud and Capt. Gordon Northington at the trumpet, Fireman Don Davis and Bill Russell at the guitar, Fireman Sam Dial at the bass fiddle, and Bill Slonecker, the piano player who wants a piano.



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### City Being Prepared Against Atomic Attack

Torrance is rapidly getting in readiness for possible atomic attack and any other major disaster, according to the report submitted to the City Council Tuesday night of the Torrance Disaster Council.

In naming the accomplishments of the Disaster Council to date, City Manager George Stevens reported that the division chiefs have inventoried personnel, equipment and materials pertaining to their division operations.

Most Division heads have been attending frequent meetings with corresponding Division heads from other cities to prepare mutual aid plans and to perfect the planning and organization of their divisions.

The Law and Order Division has recruited, equipped and is training an Auxiliary Police Force.

The Fire Protection Division has selected and registered an Auxiliary Force. Classes in First Aid have been started.

The Medical Division has been organized on a County-wide basis by the Civil Defense Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.

Eight "First Aid Field Stations" have been selected for the City of Torrance and official acceptance is being processed, following which, doctors, nurses and aides will be assigned to each station.

Public Works, Transportation and other Divisions are preparing their plans to include use of all Public Employees and facilities. (Continued on Page Two)

### Two Elementary Teachers Hired By Board

Two elementary teachers were hired by the School Board Dec. 19, to begin working Jan. 2, 1951.

They are Clara Guetzkow at an annual salary rate of \$3,450 and Betty Adams Hardesty for \$3,150.

Employed by the Board as instructors in the adult education program were Helen Lockwood, to teach English and Citizenship, as of Jan. 3, 1951 and Charles Frank Bryant, to teach Social Dancing, as of Jan. 3, 1951.

Salary rates for the adult education instructors are to be in accordance with the adult education salary scale adopted by the Board on June 6, 1950.

Ruby E. Rethwisch was hired by the Board as clerk, as of Dec. 26, 1950, for \$159. Reclassified from Maintenance Man - Painter to Custodian Probationary was Fred W. Schmid, Effective Jan. 1, 1950, his new salary will be \$220 a month. His present salary is \$250 a month.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR --- From the Staff of the Press



GREETINGS—The staff of the Press takes this opportunity of extending to the people of the greater Torrance area, its readers and advertisers, Best Wishes for a Prosperous and Happy New Year, and in so doing, presents photos of the staff for the first time. At the top, left to right, is W. R. "Bill" Zappas, business and advertising manager; Mrs. Marie Louise Owens, editor; Miss Edith Pavin, assistant editor; lower, left to right, Mrs. Belva Brase, bookkeeper; Ross "Junior" Sciarotta, advertising, and Bob Maggard, circulation. At the right are a few carriers who service the readers each Thursday morning with the Press. They are, top photo, left to right—Wayne Bischoff, Weldon Smith, Frank Montez, Richard Beswick.

Second row, left to right: Dan Buckley, Frank Smith, Don Sciarotta, Jerry Sciarotta.

Third row, left to right: Joe Lafferty, Fred Grant, Larry Hunt, Frank Theodosis. All of our carrier boys were not available for the Press camera. (Press photos)

As the Press approaches, in 1951, its third year of service to the people of Torrance, Lomita and the surrounding areas, it takes this opportunity of presenting a little of the background of those responsible for publication of the growing newspaper each week.

Owned by the Southland Publishing Company, Inc., the newspaper was established in 1949 by W. R. Zappas and Mary Louise Owens.

Zappas spent the years of 1942 to 1946 as Lieutenant in the United States Navy. After his Naval duty, he graduated the University of Southern California. He also attended Villanova College, Columbia University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Owing his home in Kettler Knolls, Zappas and his wife, Betty Jo, have a 2-year-old son, Peter.

Mrs. Owens was born in Pensacola, Florida. She is the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. D. Alvis of Palos Verdes Estates. Capt. Alvis, now retired, served 32 years in the United States Navy. Marie Louise attended the University of Southern California. She and her husband, Bob, own their own home in Kettler Knolls.

Miss Pavin graduated the University of California at Los Angeles in June, 1950, where she won the 1950 Shirie Robbins Poetry Prize of a seven university competition. She also attended the University of California at Berkeley, and is the daughter (Continued on Page Two)



### Local Youth Wins Place in All SC Panel

Winning a place in the All Southern California High School Band is Ross Sciarotta Jr., Press employee and student director of the Torrance High School Band. Ross was notified of his achievement Tuesday afternoon.

Ross, a senior in high school, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Sciarotta Sr., of 1630 Beech ave. Eighteen years of age, Ross was among the many southern California students who tried out for the place on the All Southern California High School Band Dec. 9 at the University of Southern California. (Continued on Page Two)

### Construction Of Sewer Lines Begun

Now under construction on Crenshaw Blvd. between 164th st. and 170th st. in Torrance is a sewer line. It is being installed by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District No. 5, according to City Manager George Stevens.

Besides serving neighboring towns, many Torrance lines will empty into the 48-inch North Torrance line.

Construction also began this week on a trunk line which will run into Mariposa street, being installed by C. C. M. O. The line will serve the C. C. M. O. tract as well as the new Torrance-Garden tract now under construction at Crenshaw and Torrance blvds.

### Season's Rain Lags Behind Last Year

Even with the rainfall Tuesday morning of .01 inches, the season for 1950 is still lagging way behind last year for the same period.

The total rainfall for the season this year is .074 inches, lagging 2.38 inches behind last year. Total rainfall last year for the same period was 2.45 inches.

### Do You Want A Refrigerator?

Many local residents are enjoying additional comfort in their home today because they use the Press Classified columns regularly. The ad below is a typical case to point. Ordered on a one time basis at a charge of 60c, the ad brought immediate and overwhelming results.

For Rent—Electric refrigerators. Very reasonable. We install.

Rent control in Torrance has not been lifted, contrary to reports recently printed in other local newspapers. City Manager George Stevens said that, unless the action was statewide or nationwide, rents could not be decontrolled here unless requested by the City Council. "I know of no action taken by the City at all appealing for rent decontrol," Stevens declared.

Rents were decontrolled in Los Angeles Dec. 20 by Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods.

Woods signed the order after President Truman signed the new rent control expansion bill which, Woods said, made his actions mandatory.

The Los Angeles City Council some months ago adopted a rent decontrol resolution, but decontrol had been blocked in the courts, and fought by Woods.

Effected by the decontrol order in this area is the Shoestrip, Wilmington and San Pedro.

### Addition To Police Station Bid Awarded

Accepted by the Council last Tuesday night was the bid of W. Workman, Torrance contractor of \$5,184 for the planned addition to the Police Station.

Also accepted by the Council was the Torrance General Insurance Agency Fire, Theft, and Comprehensive bid on the City Fleet of \$470.99.

The Council awarded the Airport Liability bid to the Lund Company, a representative of the United States Aviation Underwriters, for \$132.40.

A bid for street signs was awarded to the Hundley Company. Each sign, according to the bid, will cost the City \$8.99 per installation.

Referred to City Manager George Stevens for recommendation were bids on street poles. A single bid to build a steel hangar at the Airport was turned down by the Council.

All bids accepted were the lowest worthy bids offered.

### Funeral of Dr. Laughon This Afternoon

Dr. William I. Laughon, 62-year-old well-known Torrance physician, passed away at 4:25 p.m. Tuesday afternoon at the Torrance Memorial Hospital. The funeral services will be at 2 p.m. this afternoon at the mortuary, 1221 Engracia avenue.

The attending physician, Dr. Eugene Cook, said that Laughon succumbed to a kidney ailment, although an autopsy was taken. Laughon was taken to the hospital Tuesday, Dec. 19. Cremation will follow at the Inglewood Park Cemetery.

The deceased, born in Bedford, Va., resided with his wife, Fern, at 375 Camino De Las Colinas in Hollywood Riviera and has been in Torrance for 13 years. He is a veteran of World War I.

Active in civic affairs during his many years here, Laughon was a member of the Kiwanis Club in Torrance.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Fern Laughon; his mother, Mrs. Ottilie Ferguson of Bedford, Va.; and two brothers.

### Relinquishment Of Housing at Hospital Asked

Request of the federal government to relinquish all ownership over the veterans housing facilities on the grounds of Harbor General Hospital, Long Beach and Rancho Los Amigos was made in a resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's meeting.

According to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, the housing facilities recently completed through county and federal cooperation were planned for employees who were veterans, but under the new proposal other resident employees as well as those who are veterans will be allowed to rent these homes from the County.

### 18-Year-Old Booked on Rape Charge

Booked on a charge of rape Monday night at the Torrance Police Department was 18-year-old Lawrence Warren Westlake of Los Angeles.

Westlake was discovered molesting a 16-year-old girl from Los Angeles at 9:30 p.m. Monday night at the Torrance Beach by Officers Lawrence Benton and Harvey Turrentine of the Police Department.

### Free Gobblers And Used Cars Go Steady!

A new car and a turkey dinner went hand in hand during the holidays as McCollum Buick Used car lot at 1512 Cabrillo Avenue, offered a large prime broadbreasted turkey to everyone buying a new or used car before January 1st.

This novel sales promotion not only boosted sales during the holidays, according to Duke Fielder, manager of the lot, but made a welcome addition to Yule festivities of the many buyers. McCollum Buick will continue to make this unusual offer to car buyers through December 31, 1950.

### Drunk Hit and Run Driver Fined \$200

Fined \$200 Tuesday afternoon at the court of Judge Otto Willett was Frank J. Zebura, 50, of 1441 W. 214th street, Torrance.

Zebura was charged with hitting the rear of the auto of Avis L. Lynn, 28, Saturday, Dec. 23, while allegedly under the influence of liquor. Lynn's daughter, Carol, 3 1/2 years of age, was treated for minor injuries at Harbor General Hospital.

According to police report, Lynn was stopped at the red signal at the corner of Carson and Western avenues, when Zebura, neglecting to stop in time, struck the rear of Lynn's car.

Zebura was also given a sentence of 20 days suspended and a summary probation for six months.

### \$1000 Gold Rush Ends As Woman Here Wins \$100

Winding up the \$100 Gold Rush Days event, sponsored by Torrance merchants, Mrs. Brenda Fryback, 1502 231st st., Torrance, won a \$100 last Friday night at the 10th and concluding Gold Rush event.

The winning ticket came from Bernard's Family Shoe Store. When asked how she felt holding the winning ticket, all Mrs. Fryback could utter was, "Just fine."

### 15 Booked on Drunk Charges Over Weekend

The Christmas weekend proved to be a long and busy one for the Police Department as a total of 15 persons were arrested on drunk charges beginning 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

With this last Christmas one of the most woeful on record, four persons were booked for drunk driving, another four were found drunk in their cars, with the remaining seven booked for being drunk.



TICKLING THE KEYS of an imaginary piano is potential member of the Firemen's band, Fireman Bill Slonecker. Arrow points to where piano should be. Lacking the piano for their piano player, the other members of the band are Fireman Sam Dial, bass fiddle; Fireman Gordon Jonsrud, trumpet; Capt. Gordon Northington, trumpet; Fireman Don Davis, guitar; Fireman Bill Russell, guitar; and (center) Fireman Bill Slonecker, piano. (Press photo)

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