

ONE-MAN RECREATION RULE LOOMS

Parking Meter Protest Wave Floods City \$9 Garbage Fee Shake-Up Due

MERCHANTS PROTEST CURB 'TOLL'

Growing concern and sentiment against the installation of parking meters in Torrance was expressed this week by merchants and householders.

The City Council last week adopted for the first reading an ordinance calling for the installation of meters in a specified downtown Torrance central traffic zone, the only dissenting Council voice being that of Councilman Nick Draie.

Sam Levy, of Sam Levy's Department Store opposing the meters, declared that installation of the meters would not create additional parking area here. Levy said: "Most of the merchants are against the meters, and I can't see much reason for them. I'm interested in the parking problem and I think it's one that requires study. But I don't see how the meters will create additional parking space. What we need is parking lots. There is only a certain amount of space for that purpose now available here, but the longer the Council waits to do something about it, the less parking space we're going to have."

OPPOSED

Bernard Lee, of Bernard's Family Shoe Store said: "I don't think that the installation of parking meters is the answer to our problem. It can't do business any good. I don't think they're"

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Power Wires Kill Lineman From Torrance

Deaths determined re-suscitation efforts by fellow workers, Thomas H. Wilson, 24, of 17303 S. Elgin avenue, died of electrocution while working on a high-voltage line in Arcadia Monday afternoon.

Arcadia police said Wilson, a lineman, came in contact with almost 8000 volts of electricity while working near Santa Anita Race Track about 1:30 p.m.

He was brought down from his perch atop a utility pole and the long effort to revive him began. A stimulant administered by a physician failed to revive him and the doctor pronounced him dead about an hour after the mishap.

Wilson's fellow workers, however, refused to accept the verdict and administered artificial respiration in relays until about 5 p.m. when they finally gave up hope.

Wilson, an employee of a Los Angeles contracting firm, is buried.

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Arrest of Jail Escapee Ends Six-Day Hunt

The arrest of Tony Escobar, 19, last Saturday, July 28, ended a six-day hunt for the Torrance city jail escapee. Escobar escaped from jail early Monday morning, July 23, while being booked by police officers. Preliminary hearing will be held at 2 p.m. in Judge Otto Willett's city court.

The escapee was taken into custody by Capt. Ernest Ashton and Officer D. C. Cook after an anonymous telephone call sent them to a home at 2119 1/2 W. 203rd street. There they found the fugitive, who surrendered without a struggle.

Escobar was re-booked at the police station on charges of suspicion of armed robbery of a Walteria service station, and escape.



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THE PARKING TAX (An Editorial)

THE PARKING TAX!! Taxation on taxation!

There never was a period in the history of this nation that "taxes" required the proportion of income from individuals as is now being extracted. It is being done in the defense of our nation. It is also being done to protect our right to tax or be taxed, and of our right lawfully to resist taxation.

When the Federal and State governments are finding it necessary to add to the burden on the "little fellow", it behooves the City and County governments to "go easy" with him, and help him meet the bill.

The idea of levying a "parking" tax on the man who pulls his car up to the curb to shop in Torrance is preposterous — particularly since the City of Torrance has sufficient money IN THE BANK to meet the cost of the "off street parking" program used as an excuse to levy this new tax. Readers are invited to scan the attested statement of fund balances of the City of Torrance as of June 30, 1951, for testimony as to the fact that WE HAVE THE MONEY to start an "off street" parking program WITHOUT PARKING METERS.

The effort to install parking meters in Torrance, is one to DRIVE BUSINESS AWAY from Torrance, and will stimulate the establishment of shopping districts in outlying areas.

The man who pays his property tax, his income tax, and his sales tax and every other tax does not like the idea of PAYING A TAX TO SHOP IN TORRANCE, and he will not do that particularly when he knows how unnecessary the PARKING TAX is in this community.

We know of one professional man who said that he can not continue to keep his office here if it is necessary to pay a PARKING TAX whenever he pulls his car to the curb. He said that it will cost him \$150.00 a year, just to park a few moments in front of his office.

We know another business man in a remote section but within the "Central Traffic District" who says he must close his doors if meters are installed.

The business man on Sartori avenue, on El Prado, Torrance blvd., Cabrillo ave., Marcelina ave., Post ave., and other central streets sees a great falling off of business if the meters are installed, brought on as a protest against "TAXATION ON TAXATION" caused by the "PARKING TAX."

A poll taken of workers in one of the important industrial plants of Torrance, on the question: "What do you think of parking meters" revealed answers which could be summed up as follows:

They are an invitation to go and shop elsewhere."

"Where would you go," was the next question.

The answer was: "Anywhere but where they haven't installed parking meters. Gardena, Lomita, but not in Torrance."

"Why don't you like parking meters" was the query to several workers. The answer:

"Why pay a tax to park at a curb when you can drive to some other place just as near and just as convenient, and not have to pay the tax? Do you think we are silly?"

Several merchants were told that a "survey of the business men of Torrance, had been made, and that it was found that they were in favor of parking meters by a majority, investigated and found that no such overall survey had been made.

A prominent elective official said that a recent article in the Torrance Press about the \$339,000 fund balance in the treasury of the City of Torrance was "just newspaper talk, from one newspaper."

We print the attested statement from the City Clerk, and ask: "Who should be doing the talking?"

Why tax the shoppers in Torrance for buying parking lots when you already have the money?

This newspaper will talk, and it will continue to point out the laxness of the present city administration.

The idea of parking meters is just as ridiculous as trying to levy the additional \$9.00 per year "garbage collection" tax on householders of this wealthy city.

How crude can politicians become? This question is on the lips of thousands of electors in Torrance.

"Give them enough rope," another said. "The people will have their say. Thank God for America and true Democracy."

We suggest that all citizens go to the next City Council meeting and let their voices be heard, if they want to avoid tax (parking meters) in Torrance.



ONLY ONE IN TOWN . . . Dick Barton (left) will hold the grand opening this weekend of the new Chrysler-Plymouth Sales and Service in Torrance, at 1885 Torrance boulevard, formerly the Mullin's automotive service facilities. Shown above is a photo of the new Dick Barton Chrysler-Plymouth Sales and Service. Pictured at the right is Mrs. Edna Mullin Reed, office manager at the agency. Mrs. Reed was associated with her father, the late Arthur Mullin, in the business. —Torrance Press photos.

City of Torrance
Torrance, California

Fund Balances
June 30, 1951

Balance	6-30-51
General	\$132,556.81
Traffic Safety	3,798.53
In Lieu Motor Vehicle	61,601.76
Library	20,632.04
County Aid	24,132.95
Streets of Major Imp.	61,789.71
Retirement	28,565.28
Pay Roll Clearing	2,899.21
Airport Improvement Fund	3,010.00
Water System Plan	--
	\$338,986.29

July 27, 1951

I, A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the fund balances of the city of Torrance as of June 30, 1951.

A. H. Bartlett

Above is a photo of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, the year, 1950-51. The balance, printed in the left's statement of the city's fund balance, for Press has been disputed by a city official.

Consolidation Issue Holds Up Water Bonds

WATER DEPT. MANAGER JOB NEW ISSUE

Who is going to be water superintendent of Torrance? This question was posed on Tuesday night as veteran Superintendent William B. Stanger retired after many long years of service in developing and operating the Torrance system.

No appointment has been made, other than by right of succession.

The City Council is not to meet in regular session until August 14.

Angus McVicar, as assistant water superintendent, naturally takes over the duties of Stanger, at least temporarily, by virtue of his office and regulations.

But, the "powers that be" have other plans for a permanent appointment.

The ruling four, it is said, wants to name another man as water superintendent. Whom, they would not disclose.

However, on McVicar's side of the picture is the Civil

(Continued on Page Seven)

Whether or not the City of Torrance can vote on bonds for a \$1,500,000 water development program depends largely upon consolidation of the three districts into one-bonding area. It was reported this week.

The law firm of O'Melveny and Myers, retained to prepare the bond issue program, is studying whether or not the consolidation of the districts can be placed on the same ballot as the bond issue.

If so, the election may be held in October.

If not, there is a question as to the ability to float the issue at all, and thus the growth of Torrance may be brought to a halt due to lack of sufficient water, reservoirs and distribution systems.

If the three districts, Municipal Improvement District No. 1 (Central Torrance), Municipal Water District No. 1, (Southwestern Torrance), and Municipal Water District No. 2 (North Torrance) are combined, the bond issue will be floated over the whole area, and all districts will benefit.

Present bond issues in MWD No. 1 and 2 would be paid off from revenues from water sales in the two districts.

Exempt from the proposed bonding area are Hollywood Riviera and some sections of the Dominguez land. Included, but not now in any district, will be Seaside Ranchos and Kettler Knolls.

As planned, the bond issue will mean little or no increase in

ONLY ONE IN TORRANCE

Chrysler - Plymouth Dealer Fetes Grand Opening

The new Chrysler-Plymouth dealer in Torrance, the Dick Barton Chrysler-Plymouth Sales and Service, 1885 Torrance boulevard, will celebrate its grand opening here this weekend.

James "Dick" Barton, opened his Chrysler-Plymouth sales and service on July 15th in the facilities which were formerly the Mullin's Service.

Sleeping Pill Overdose Taken By Local Woman

A 21-year veteran of the automotive industry, Barton spent 17 years employed by the Chrysler Corporation in various executive capacities, during which he was Los Angeles Regional manager for the Chrysler Sales Division of the corporation.

Remaining with Barton in his new enterprise here is Mrs. Edna Mullin's Service. (Continued on Page Seven)

BUILDING CONTINUES FAST PACE

Building permits for the first seven months of 1951 still exceed those for the same period of 1950 by \$747,014, maintaining more than \$1,000,000 a month average for this year to date, according to city hall records.

Total building permits issued during this year to date total \$8,590,863, with \$7,843,849 issued during the same period last year. Permits issued last month totaled \$755,260, while those on the books for July, 1950 totaled \$1,536,042.

Accounting for the major portion of last month's permits were

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In another move reportedly aimed at one-man "control" of city commissions, the ruling four on the City Council has on its agenda for early action a proposal to amend the Recreation Commission ordinance, giving "the Mayor" the authority to appoint the members of the Commission, "at the pleasure of the Council."

This move, coming at a time that the Mayor and his cohorts on the Council are trying to "convince" the Recreation Commission that they should "convince" the City Council that they are in favor of a \$9.00 per year, per household, tax on garbage collection to finance a \$90,000 per year recreation program, points to the fact that the "Council" intends to go ahead and levy the tax—come what may.

This also is in the face of the declaration of Mayor Bob Haggard that he thinks that \$35,000 per year (provided in the current budget for Recreation) is too much to spend for recreation in the City of Torrance.

The Recreation Commission, after much "prodding" by Mayor Haggard and members of his following finally has sent a letter to the City Council stating that: "After complete consideration of a waste pickup for the purpose of creating a Recreation Fund, the Recreation Commission is in favor of such a move providing the Commission is given an opportunity of having the complete details on the mechanics of creating and controlling this method of financing the Recreation Department."

This letter assertedly was signed by Thomas Babbitt, who since has resigned from the commission; by Frank Lush Jr., Marvin Goettach, A. J. Patronsky, Paul O. Roettger and J. A. Beasley, all members of the commission.

Asked by the Press if he favored the \$9.00 per year garbage collection fee (per house), Goettach said, "Yes."

Lush was more elaborate in his statement. He said, "I am very much in favor of it. I want to help the city out in recreation. We feel this is about the only way and means of getting needed funds for our rapidly growing city. More recreation is needed."

A. J. Patronsky said, "We were told by members of the City Council that the tax would be passed regardless, so we felt

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CHAMBERLAIN TAKES OVER CITY GARAGE

Marshall Chamberlain, bus superintendent of the City of Torrance, is in charge of the entire city garage, as a result of the recommendations of W. L. Craven, "automotive engineer," retained by the City to prepare a report on city garage operations.

The reason Craven gave for recommending Chamberlain for the job of "Superintendent of Automotive Equipment" is that his office is located at the city garage, and that most of the work done in the garage is on bus equipment.

Craven was critical of Paul Slonacker, and said that he found him and the mechanics "uncooperative" on his survey. Slonacker, however, will continue as garage foreman under Chamberlain's supervision, and purchasing will be placed directly under City Manager Stevens, it was said.

Craven issued a 50-page report on city garage operations, in addition to his automotive manual, and he received an estimated \$3000 for this endeavor.

Meanwhile, requests of City Councilman Nick Draie for an itemized report of purchases

(Continued on Page Seven)

County Allocates \$4822 to Torrance

Recreation programs of the city, and the Torrance Unified School District have been given another assist by the county board of supervisors.

On motion of Supervisor Raymond V. Darby Tuesday, July 24, the board allocated \$4822 of county funds for the 1951-52 fiscal year.

ABLE MABEL GIVES "PUSH-OFF"

Jaycees Launch Drive For New Members

"Able Mabel" will be giving the push-off to the Torrance Jaycees' current membership campaign, better known as "Operation EMGAM" (every member get a member), announced Jim Wood, publicity chairman. The campaign, which started July 15 will continue on through January of 1952.

Goal of the campaign, said Wood, is to double the club's present 50-Jaycee membership.

An expectant rabbit was donated by Ward's Rabbits, 2229 230th street, to the Jaycees' especially for this campaign. Each member will have custody of "Able Mabel" until he gets a new member, at which time, the rabbit will be passed on to a long standing member who has not as yet brought in any new Jaycees. The one who is caught with the rabbit at the "wrong" time gets the booby prize of a litter of rabbits.

FREE TRIP
Grand prize for the Jaycee (Continued on Page Seven)

District Receives \$130,246 Check

A check for \$130,246.02 from the federal government was received by the Torrance Unified School District in the mail yesterday morning, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, school superintendent.

The school district was notified by the government that it had been granted the money about two weeks ago.

The money was granted by the government to local areas where defense production increased the number of children in the area, causing need of more school funds.



UNWANTED ! ! ! . . . Able Mabel (center) just doesn't seem to be a very popular rabbit these days with the Torrance Jaycees. The "expectant" rabbit is being used by the Junior Chamber of Commerce to push off their current membership campaign, called EMGAM (every member get a member). Sam Van Wagner (left), membership chairman starts the drive by giving Able Mabel to Jim Wood (right), publicity chairman. Each member will have custody of the rabbit until he brings a new member into the club, at which time, Able Mabel will be passed on to another "old" member. Torrance Press Photo.