

# Court Action Holds Up Local Water Bond Sale!

(See story columns 7 and 8.)

# ARMY LEASES ALCOA PLANT

## Aircraft Firm Also Involved

ALCOA, the United States government's wartime aluminum plant at 190th and Normandie, which was purchased by United States Steel will be leased by the Army in conjunction with a local aircraft firm. This information was disclosed today in an exclusive interview by Fred Johnson, chief of acquisition, for the Real Estate Division of the Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.

## AIRPORT EXPANDS

More than \$100,000 in building improvements are being planned at the Torrance Municipal Airport, Ed Dietrich, president of Collins, Dietrich Air Service, Incorporated, who runs the airport, disclosed today.

He said that most of the improvements contemplated would be made by aircraft manufacturing companies which have approached the airport.

Dietrich said that he refused to name specific firms because it would be a breach of confidence.

Longren Aircraft has put in a bid for 10 acres at the airport, City Manager George Stevens revealed.

"If Longren can get a favorable contract on the Crenshaw site of the airport," said Stevens "and if they can get the government work to make the project feasible, it is my understanding that they plan constructing the whole plane instead of just part of it."

## TORRANCE AIRPORT

Besides private enterprises, the Torrance Airport has also been approached by the Army and the Navy, Dietrich said.

The airport establishment is a comparative recent enterprise. During World War II, it served as an Army interceptor strip for P-35's. At the end of the war, it was declared surplus. After quite a bit of juggling, it was granted to the city of Torrance with the provision that it be maintained as an airport.

During the first year of undecided ownership in 1946, the Civil Air Patrol was in charge of the airport.

Up through 1948, E. Y. Tarlington, managed the airport for the City of Torrance.

In 1949, Collins-Dietrich Air (Continued on Page Seven)

## Award Soldier Infantry Badge

PFC William C. Schultz, 17416 Falda Ave., recently was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for excellent performance of duty in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The badge, a symbol of the front line fighting man, distinguishes the combat soldier from rear area and service troops. It consists of a miniature replica of a Revolutionary war flintlock rifle mounted on a blue background and superimposed on a wreath.

Schultz is a member of the 5th Cavalry Regiment.

## Grand Opening at Teen Store



JUANITA MANN AND IDA RIFE open the doors of their new Tot and Teen Store this morning.

Neta's Tots and Teen store, catering to the needs of youngsters from infancy to 14 years of age, is staging its Grand Opening today at 1272 Bartoli.

Proprietors Juanita Mann and Ida Rife, both well-known in Torrance, said they are particularly looking forward to seeing a lot of youngsters today.

"We have free balloons for the kiddies," they said.

As the doors opened this morning, customers were greeted by a gayly-decorated store in the newest pastel colors.

"Even though this is our first business venture," said Mrs. Mann, "we're looking forward to

## Employees Win \$2000

Paul Dorin, 1119 W. 190th Street, Torrance, is one of two General Petroleum Corporation employees sharing a \$2000 award for suggesting an improved device for treating water at the company's Torrance refinery.

Dorin, a pipefitter, and Victor E. Thomson, 6127 Tipton Way, Los Angeles, a glassblower, designed and built a glass mixing device which more effectively mixes a chemical into cooling tower water. The chemical, liquid bromine, kills bacteria and algae growth and prevents fouling of the water circulation system.

Liquid bromine is currently classified as a critical defense material. In fact the fourteen places throughout the General Petroleum refinery where the new device has been installed an estimated 80,000 pounds of the chemical will be saved annually.

The \$2000 award, which Dorin and Thomson shared equally, was made under the General Petroleum Suggestion System through which employees are paid cash awards for their ideas on how to achieve greater operating efficiency.

Johnson said: "I have been instructed to find out who has the title to the property and to negotiate for a lease. At present, I do not know what aircraft company has been chosen to fill the government contracts."

More than one month ago, the Torrance Press reported exclusively that four top representatives of Douglas Aircraft had paid a visit to the ALCOA plant.

U. S. Steel representatives flatly denied that they planned either the sale or lease of the factory.

**PLAN UNFEASIBLE**  
When U. S. Steel purchased the plant from the government, they planned to put in a steel mill. However, engineers pointed and the company abandoned this idea.

Rumors continue to persist that plans are moving forward to construct the Steel Mill in Torrance near Columbia. Since U. S. Steel will lease the ALCOA factory to the government, the only available land in this area near Columbia is in Torrance.

While speculations continue on a prospective new steel mill, one thing is certain: ALCOA will soon be in operation under supervision of the United States government.

## Torrance PRESS

13,500  
The Largest Circulation Newspaper in Torrance and Lomita  
Phone Torrance 1185-1186

Printed 100% Union Shop  
FOR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE PHONE TORRANCE 1818

THIRD YEAR TORRANCE, CALIF., JANUARY 17, 1952 54 5c Per Copy NUMBER 40

## Bus Insurance Awarded

### Lund to Get Nod

The American Fidelity and Casualty Company, represented by Russell Lund, was recommended for the City Bus insurance contract, City Manager George Stevens, informed the Council. This action will have to be approved at a regular Council meeting next Tuesday.

Stevens said that Lund has been receiving the bus contract consecutively since 1947.

This year, Wait Schaeffer of Farmers Insurance raised the question of specifications, and the bus bids were tossed out by the Council — making a rebid necessary.

**RATING QUESTIONED**  
Schaeffer pointed out that the Council had asked for an A, AA or better rating. According to Beat's Insurance Guide, AA stands for financial rating and A for the over-all integrity of the company.

A check of the American Fidelity and Casualty Company quickly showed that they had a B, AA rating.

Mayor Hob Haggard entertained a motion to have the bus bids thrown out.

When new specifications for the bus bids were drawn up the first "A" standing for over-all rating was eliminated. Also, the financial rating was raised from four million to five million dollars.

**CHANGE RATINGS**  
Since Farmers Insurance only has a four-million dollar financial rating, they would have been ineligible to bid on this insurance. In this case, however, the American Fidelity and Casualty Company did present the lowest bid.

On comprehensive insurance, however, Farmers presented the lowest bid which would have saved the city of Torrance \$1605. This bid was also tossed out for specifications. However, the Council refused to permit Farmers Insurance to rebid. Russell Lund's company was given the comprehensive contract.

## Auto Dealers Offer Tickets

More than 70 moving models and demonstrations of what is behind the development of the modern automobile were unveiled yesterday evening at a private preview of the Chrysler Corporation's "New Worlds in Engineering" show in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

The exhibit will be open to the public beginning today. Local dealers Dick Barton, Chrysler-Plymouth and Whittlesy Motors, DeSoto-Plymouth, have free tickets for the show, they revealed.

Newest addition to the show is Chrysler Corporation's recently unveiled dream car—the K-310 European type sports sedan. The K-310 sports sedan was developed as an experimental companion to the powerful new K-310 engine which is also on exhibition.

## National Supply Pioneer Retires

David S. Faulkner, pioneer oil tool designer and early civic booster here, has retired as vice-president of the National Supply Co., it was announced this week.

Faulkner came here in 1913 as an employee of the Union Tool Co., which was later purchased by National. During this time he made many improvements in oil tool design and took an active part in the development of Torrance.



Retiring Superintendent OTTO A. KRESSE



New Superintendent DONALD E. RICE

## SUPERINTENDENT KRESSE RETIRES

Retirement of Otto A. Kresse as General Superintendent of U. S. Steel's Torrance, California, plant and the appointment of his successor, Donald E. Rice, was announced today by L. S. Dahl, Vice President — Operations, Columbia-Geneva Steel as Assistant General Superintendent of U. S. Steel's Pittsburgh, California, plant since September 30, 1947.

Mr. Kresse's retirement marks the close of nearly a half-century of service in the steel industry. Known far and wide as an authority on steel production, he has the distinction of having tapped the first heat of steel for Columbia Steel Company back on November 22, 1910.

**KRESSE RETIRES**  
Mr. Kresse, who has reached U. S. Steel's retirement age, started his career in his native town, Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1904. He worked in various steel plants in the East and Midwest, finally becoming associated with the engineering firm of Wellman, Seaver and Morgan now known as the Morgan Engineering Company.

His firm won a contract to build a steel foundry at Pittsburgh for the old Columbia Steel Corporation, which was subsequently acquired by U. S. Steel and Mr. Kresse was placed in charge of the job. The foundry was completed and on November 22, 1910, Mr. Kresse tapped the 15-ton basic open hearth furnace and the first heat of steel made in California gushed into a waiting ladle. At that time Columbia had 90 employees as compared to the nearly 5,000 persons employed at the Pittsburg plant today.

Columbia bought the Llewellyn Iron Works, now the Torrance plant, in 1923 and a few years later Mr. Kresse was transferred to this new addition as Open Hearth Superintendent. He was (Continued on Page Seven)

## Rain Becomes Conversation Of Torrance

Cold weather seemed to be playing a secondary factor as the present rain storm became the main topic of conversation with Torrance.

On Monday evening, a new rain storm started which by Tuesday evening of this week had delivered .57 inches of rain in Torrance, the rain gauge at the Fire Department showed.

For the December, January period so far 7.19 inches of rain water have been accumulated. For eleven months of 1951, a total of 7.5 inches of rain were recorded.

For the past week, the minimum temperatures have averaged in the forties and the maximums have been in the fifties.

Here are the totals for the week—Friday through Tuesday:

DAY	Min.	Max.
Jan. 11	35	59
Jan. 12	46	56
Jan. 13	46	56
Jan. 14	40	59
Jan. 15	45	51

## O'Cain, Winner Of Hi-Y Contest

Jack O'Cain, president of the Torrance High School Student Body and the Hi-Y club won the Hi-Y "Boy of the Year" contest, competing with youngsters from four other districts at the Ding How Cafe, last Thursday.

O'Cain will now compete in the Los Angeles area finals, Jan. 31, to seek the honor of Hi-Y Boy of the Year.

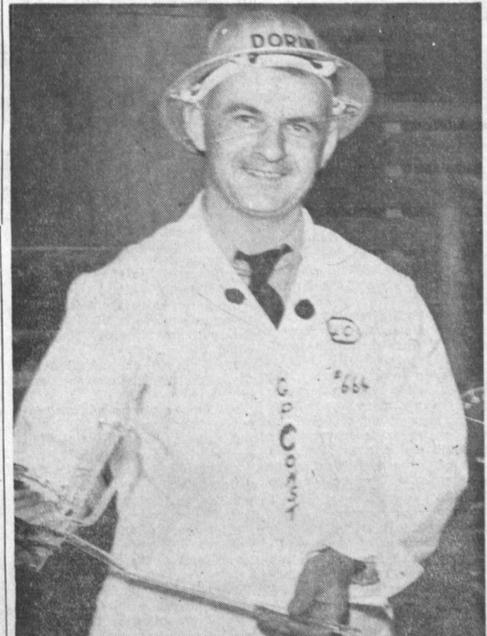
If O'Cain wins in Los Angeles this year, it will be the second time in a row that Torrance has captured the contest. Bill Johnson, Torrance representative won the Metropolitan award and a \$500 scholarship last year. He is now attending UCLA on that scholarship.

Don Hitchcock, local attorney in Torrance, served as district chairman of the judges. Boys from the Harbor area including San Pedro, Wilmington, Gardena, South Gate and Torrance came (Continued on Page Seven)

## \$500 Given by Polio Donors

March of Dimes Chairman, Postmaster Clara Conner, reported today that Torrance residents have contributed more than \$500 since the campaign opened Jan. 2. The drive for funds to combat polio will end Jan. 31.

Mrs. Conner urged anyone who wants to contribute from a dime on up to send it to her in care of the Post Office.



PAUL DORIN, 1119 W. 190th Street, Torrance, employed at General Petroleum's Torrance refinery, displays a \$1000 smile. The glass device he is holding won him \$1000 under General Petroleum's suggestion system. The device mixes liquid bromine into cooling tower water more effectively, thus allowing a greater portion of the chemical to do its job of killing bacteria and algae which foul the water systems in cooling towers.

## Test Suit Will Be Filed Soon

Near-sighted planning by the City Council today appeared to be holding up a much-needed water expansion program. Although the residents of Torrance voted six to one for a bond issue, it may take six months to a year before they may be sold, it was revealed today by City Attorney James Hall.

Hall said that the legality of creating District number one to replace Districts number One, Two and Three, would have to be tested in court.

Why the Council members didn't avoid this red tape cannot be answered by anyone at City Hall today.

Hall claimed that the legal aspect of the bond issue was a mere technicality which would be rendered in favor of the City. He said that in the Wilcox versus the City of Torrance case, it was established that funds from one district could be transferred to another district.

Whether a technicality or not, the Council should have straightened out the status of the water bonds before they were presented to the people, irate residents contend.

The additional delay will be costly to the taxpayers. This

bungling, it is believed, may make it impossible to build the water system for \$2,000,000. On top of that priorities are becoming tighter, and it may become impossible to obtain materials by the time the matter is out of court, and the bonds are sold, a former city official said.

In the meantime special counsel James Beebe in Los Angeles has been instructed to make a test case in the courts to permit consolidation of the three districts.

Why the Council members didn't avoid this red tape cannot be answered by anyone at City Hall today.

Hall claimed that the legal aspect of the bond issue was a mere technicality which would be rendered in favor of the City. He said that in the Wilcox versus the City of Torrance case, it was established that funds from one district could be transferred to another district.

Whether a technicality or not, the Council should have straightened out the status of the water bonds before they were presented to the people, irate residents contend.

The additional delay will be costly to the taxpayers. This

## JOBLESS INCREASE REPORTED

A downward trend in unemployment in every category with the exception of the skilled worker was reported today in a news letter by Winona Ellis, local manager of the California State Employment Service, for the Torrance area.

The Torrance area also includes Gardena, Lomita, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, and adjacent territories.

A check with Mrs. Ellis' office revealed that the rising unemployment situation among skilled workers was due to the lag in construction. It was pointed out that the shortage of materials and the necessity for priorities has played havoc with skilled workers in the building trades.

The total picture showed that 1,272 were seeking employment as compared with 1,303 for last month. Among skilled workers, 348 needed jobs this month as compared with 279 for November.

Unemployment in other fields, as of Jan. 1, revealed the following statistics: Professionals, 36; clerical, 157; salespeople, 60; services, 154; agricultural, 82; semi-skilled, 206; and laborers, 229.

Unemployment in other fields, as of Jan. 1, revealed the following statistics: Professionals, 36; clerical, 157; salespeople, 60; services, 154; agricultural, 82; semi-skilled, 206; and laborers, 229.

Unemployment in other fields, as of Jan. 1, revealed the following statistics: Professionals, 36; clerical, 157; salespeople, 60; services, 154; agricultural, 82; semi-skilled, 206; and laborers, 229.

## Project to Cost Total of Million

LOMITA — An additional 118 two and three-bedroom houses, costing a total of \$1,000,000, will be constructed at Harbor Villa, a housing development at Lomita Blvd. and Western Ave. that already contains 154 homes, officials of Harry Brittain, Inc., subdividers, announced this week.

In order to obtain approval of the addition from the Los Angeles City Council, the home-building firm agreed to install an 1100-foot-long corrugated iron underground drainage culvert at a cost of \$30,000 to insure adequate drainage facilities for the land, according to Howard Lawson, manager of the project.

Work will start immediately on the drainage culvert, Lawson said, which will hook up with the county drainage system at Lomita Blvd. and President Ave. and construction of the homes is scheduled to start in 60 days.

The homes will be of the same type of architecture as dwellings already completed in the development. Lawson said when the full subdivision is completed there will be 274 homes.

## Treskes Given Army Discharge

One of the happiest men in Torrance this week is Jack Treskes, Jr. He received a medical discharge from the Army while he was stationed in Japan, and arrived in Torrance, last Thursday. He flew by plane from San Francisco.

"I consider myself very lucky."

Jack Treskes, Jr. Returns from Japan

Jack Treskes, Jr. Returns from Japan