

City Authorizes Purchase of \$15,000 Fire Station Site

CARSON, CRENSHAW LOCATION PICKED

The City Council Tuesday night approved the purchase of a site for a new fire station to be built soon. The property, located on the southwest corner of Carson st. and Crenshaw blvd., will be bought for the sum of \$15,000, it was disclosed. The sellers request that the city pay part of the costs of extending the

sewers beyond the property to connect with adjacent properties. The sellers were listed on their proposal as John Miller, Richard Miller and Harold Bolas.

The purchase brought to a close a controversy of many years standing regarding the building of a new fire station. It reached a climax a few years ago when voters refused to approve bonds for the station, and Sam Levy, prominent merchant and property owner, came to the city's aid with a plan to repair the present fire station at a cost of but a few thousand dollars.

For his effort, Levy was made honorary fire chief.

OFFER MADE

An offer by Julius R. Schwartz of Los Angeles to purchase city property located on Engracia ave., northwest of Border ave., was received by the Council. Schwartz has offered \$3200 for the property. Council referred the matter to City Attorney James Hall for study.

A 11-lot subdivision gained the approval of the Council, with the provision that the subdividers provide water for the area, and fence an existing sump.

Further Council business included approval of a recommendation by City Manager George Stevens that the salary of the City Attorney be increased \$50 per month, because of an increase in an amount of legal work to be done in connection with the formation of Municipal Water District No. 3, and handling of the water bond issue. The increase is to be paid by the water districts.

A cost-of-living increase for the City Recreation Director Frank Carpenter was approved by the Council. Other city employees were granted such increases recently.

Three recommendations by the Traffic Commission were approved. The recommendations call for the installation of two-way stops on Paseo de Gracia at Camino del Campo and El Dorado Street at Cota Avenue; no parking at any time on the east side of Torrance Blvd. from Border Ave. to Bow St.; one-hour parking on El Prado and Post Ave. from Carson St. to Arlington Ave.

Airport Safe State Official Doolin Says

State aeronautics commission officers this week refuted charges that aircraft from Torrance Municipal Airport are endangering homes in Lomita and Palos Verdes.

In a meeting held Saturday in the airport lounge B. M. Doolin, state director of aeronautics, and R. M. Byrne of the aeronautics commission, said that extensive checking of flight operations at the field and nearby generally comply with all safety regulations. They described the field as one of the safest in the state.

The officials concede that the noise of the planes was sometimes a nuisance, but pointed out that such annoyances are usually accepted as a price of technological advancement.

Byrne said that a door-to-door poll in Lomita taken during recent months indicated that a majority of the residents are not bothered by the flying. Only about half of the persons who attended the hearing indicated that they were against the present flight plan.

Byrne showed the group a diagram of approach pattern in general use throughout the country. It indicates planes begin

Bumper Rain Brings Bumper Vegetable Crop

We hope we aren't speaking too soon, but it looks like old Sol is back in town to stay.

The U. S. Weather Bureau disclosed today that signs of rain are conspicuous for their absence and that every indication is for some warm, bright weather.

Last Friday's rain deposited .20 inches of water in the Torrance area. This brings the season's total up to 16.71 inches. Not since 1944 has this area been so deluged. Rainfall for that season hit a high of 21.47 inches.

Bumper crops are expected because of the heavy rains. And housewives can look for a probable lowering of produce prices.

Produce now being harvested throughout the harbor area reflects the benefit it has received

Candidates Address TUT Town Meeting

By PAT RODEN

At last Friday's Torrance Unified Taxpayers' Town Meeting for residents of Hollywood-Riviera, Seaside Ranchos and Seaside Heights, many homeowners of that area turned out to hear the platform of the "BID for Better Government" candidates for City Council, Victor Benstead, Albert Isen, and Councilman Nick Drale.

After hearing the candidates, residents of Southwest Torrance were given an opportunity to put questions concerning their local problems to the speakers.

The audience was also given the opportunity to hear two of their neighbors, J. A. Beasley, from Waveria, who is the vice president of TUT, and Jim Minter, president of the Pacific Hills Home-Owners Association, who were invited guest speakers, but who, because of their residence, did not put questions to the candidates.

The opportunity to address the audience was accorded to any

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Council Cools Hot Coals in Park Issue

At last week's meeting of the Recreational Commission Anthony Bilotti, a North Torrance resident, presented two permits he has received from the Director of Recreation for the use of McMaster's Recreation Hall for political meetings.

His purpose was to have the date of one of the permits changed. He found, however, that opposition to his request had arisen in the City Council.

An unofficial telephone poll had been taken of the "Ruling Four" of the Council, and a mass firing of the Recreation Board was threatened if the Torrance Unified Taxpayers, the group Bilotti represented, was permitted the use of this city building for the purpose of holding a political meeting to which the general public was invited.

The Recreation Commission pitched the hot coal right back into the lap of the Council, which met Wednesday night to pass on the issue.

After considerable debate and Drale got a second for his motion to allow the use of McMaster's Hall. The motion was passed unanimously.

NATIONAL SUPPLY CO. SEEN ON KTTV FRIDAY AT 9:00

Thirty eight acres under one roof, housing mammoth steel furnaces and machine shops, makes up the National Supply Company, first industry in the rapidly growing city of Torrance. The KTTV television cameras will show the viewers the inner-workings of an industry this size

on Richfield's SUCCESS STORY this Friday, March 28 (KTTV, Channel 11, from 9:00-9:30 P.M.).

Telecasting the intricate workings of this sprawling industrial giant will require another of the fantastic technical setups this television program has become so justly famous for during the past year. Four cameras, a complete mobile remote unit and at least 2,000 feet of cable will be needed to beam a television signal to Mt. Wilson for rebroadcast by the KTTV transmitter there.

Accomplishing the "impossible," however, has become old hat for Success Story. Under the direction of Ed Roden, this unusual public service program has received many notable awards for such difficult doings since its inception a little over a year ago.

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T. U. T. GROUP GIVES O. K. TO SPECIAL COLLEGE TAX



It looks like everything but the roof was carried away last Friday when McMahan's Furniture Store had their Second Anniversary Sale. Throngs of people who were waiting outside when the doors opened, crowded into the store

to snap up the unusual bargains offered on this special sale day. Charles Markland, manager of the store, said that Torrance bargain-hunters know a sale when they see one.

—Press photo

Extra Funds Requested for Civil Defense

George Powell, assistant director of the civil defense program in Torrance, indicated recently that federal and state funds may be granted to the city to help carry on the program of civil defense in this area.

Powell is filling out necessary request forms for transmittal to Sacramento next month.

Exact amount to be requested has not been determined, Powell said, but it is expected to be several thousand dollars.

Under the civil defense fund allocation plan, Powell stated, the federal government would pay half and the city and state would each pay a quarter of municipal civilian defense costs.

'Cut Taxes' Cry of BID Candidates

"Lower taxes can be achieved in Torrance with good government," declared the "BID for Better Government" candidates for City Council in the April 8 city election. The "BID" candidates are Victor E. Benstead, Albert Isen and Councilman Nick Drale.

They pointed out:

The fund balance total for the City of Torrance again is approaching the three hundred thousand dollar mark, with the balance on hand reported on February 29, 1952, to be \$281,431.97.

This figure compares favorably with the fund balance of June 30, 1951, the end of the fiscal year, when the total was \$338,986.29. That year's surplus was earmarked for spending during the present fiscal year, but no report was rendered as to whether or not the projects for which it was allocated have been completed.

However, the general fund had a balance of \$168,996.41, on February 29. It is the largest of the several city funds.

Receipts for the month of February were \$158,448.87, and disbursements were \$202,145.38. The fund balance as of the previous month-end, January 31, 1952, was \$324,328.48.

OTHERS CUT TAXES

Candidates for the City Council on the "BID for Better Government" (Continued on Page Four)

Jokers Ready For April 1st

Be on the look-out next Tuesday for bill-folds laying on the sidewalk or mythical spiders some gagster points to.

Don't go for any funny stuff, because the chances are someone is pulling your leg. Tuesday, you know, is April Fool's Day, and of course, its open season for practical jokers.

If you aren't inclined to indulge in Fool's Day gags, stay in bed. If you can't do that, just keep cool, and remember that the day is only twenty-four hours long, and the next day, fortunately, is April 2nd.

Two Popovich Boys Capture Speech Honors

Copping speech honors is becoming a tradition in the Popovich family.

Latest laurel added to the family collection was the first prize won by Lody Popovich in the annual Lions Club speech

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Steel Strike Looms April 8

April 8 has been set by the CIO United Steel workers Union as the deadline for the steel industry to accept the recommendation of the Wage Stabilization Board that the steelworkers be granted a 17 1/2-cent hourly pay increase and union shop agreements.

Union officials said today that a strike, which would close the Columbia Steel plant here, would be called for April 8, if industry had not accepted the WSB recommendation by that time.

The steel companies blasted the recommendations as "unfair and unreasonable."

Strum's Reveal Prize Winners

Strum's Department Store celebrated their first anniversary celebration Monday with the announcement of the winner of their "Guess the Beans" contest.

First prize went to Helen Farag for guessing the exact number of beans in the jar, 8013. She received a set of 1847 Rogers Brothers silverware. She was very excited, she said, because she is getting married soon, and can very well use the silverware.

Second prize was won by Shirley Chapman of 1207 Fonthill. She was awarded a complete DuBarry cosmetic kit for her guess of 8000.

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Better Bus Service for People Asked

Torrance Municipal Bus Lines are approaching a financial position where better local service can be given to the people, it was indicated by a report for the first seven months' operations just obtained by the Torrance Press.

Better city bus service is one of the platforms of the "BID for Better Government Ticket" on the ballot of the April 8 City Council election.

During the first seven months of the year, an operating loss of only \$2,409.72 was registered. To cover this loss and provide better service, the budget includes a \$20,000 appropriation from the general fund, for the year.

An average of 1.2 passengers per mile was carried during the first six months. All lines have about the same passenger load, per mile.

Operating revenue as given in the report was 27.2 cents per mile and operating cost, 27.8 cents per mile, or less of only six tenths of a cent per mile.

The system, carried a total of 488,127 fares in the first seven months of the year. By lines, the fares were: Los Angeles, 311,395; Long Beach, 115,906; El Camino-Kettler Knolls, 17,524; Waveria-Hollywood Riviera, 37,248.

The total operating revenue for the first seven months was \$107,989.03 and total operating expenses, \$110,398.75.

Los Angeles line was the only one to make money, on the basis of the figures, but as the lines are being operated for the convenience of the people, patrons feel that profit working lines should subsidize losing lines.

A "theoretical" depreciation figure of \$9,185.66 on equipment is included in the report under "loss," but the history of the line shows the buses lost many times the "charge off" indicated in the depreciation figure.

Early Morning Blaze Guts Local Market

\$50,000 is the estimated amount of damage caused by a fire which gutted the Quality Market early Saturday morning.

Approximately \$20,000 of frozen food stored in 300 rented lockers was not damaged. The market is located at 2171 Torrance boulevard.

Police records show that Peter Collet of 2300 East 103rd St., L. A. reported the fire at 4:06. Fire crews battled the blaze until 8:03.

Owners of the store, Grant Barkdull and his son, Dean were summoned to the scene.

"We'll probably be closed for about three months, but the food lockers will be open," the younger Barkdull said. According to Fire Chief J. J. Benner, who commanded the three fire companies, the blaze resulted from an overheated compressor.

The fire, once believed under control, broke out again in a narrow space between the ceiling and the roof an hour after the original fire was discovered.

Crest Names Contest Winner

Throngs of people turned out last Friday evening to witness the drawing for the name of the winner of the Crest Furniture Store contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Rinkale of 18737 Crenshaw were the lucky winners. They selected as their prize a modern, green frieze two piece livingroom set.

Jerry Baldwin, owner of the store, said that he wished to thank all of the people of Torrance for their participation in the competition.

"We had a fine turn-out, and very friendly support from the townspeople. Rod and I are looking forward to seeing all of you throughout the year," he said.

NEW FRANCHISE AWARDED

Universal Furniture to Show Complete GE Line

General Electric appliance division awarded Universal Furniture of Torrance the franchised dealership for the full line of appliances, as announced by Johnny Gerster, local manager at Universal. Gerster told the press that Universal was proud to be chosen as a G. E. franchised dealer because the nationally advertised products of G. E. are popular with all homemakers.

Also, "we are planning an expansion program to better serve our fast-growing community."

Universal furniture is one of the oldest furniture stores in Torrance and has maintained a policy of progress with the town by improving the merchandise and services.

The management extends a hearty welcome to friends and

customers to visit the store and see the display kitchen and the full line of G. E. appliances.

Suicide Foiled By Fast Police

A suicide attempt by Mrs. Nell Buckley was thwarted last Saturday by the quick thinking and action of a neighbor and the Torrance police.

When the tip was received, police were dispatched to Mrs. Buckley's home at 2224 Gramercy Ave.

Officers found her unconscious but were able to arouse her. She told them she had taken 30 sleeping pills.

Providing entertainment for the inter-service club dinner meeting at the American Legion Hall was the well-known Los Cancioneros mixed chorus. Clubs in attendance at the dinner included the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, and Optimists. Winners of the sweepstakes award at last month's Venice Music Festival, Los Cancioneros will present a concert for the entire city this summer. Shown above are members of the chorus. They are: (left to right—top row) W. Harrison, J. MacDonald, T. Mabin, T. Corazza, W.

Boggs, W. Brown, W. Beckman, R. Hole, T. Burman, and C. Mewborn; (second row) B. Mabin, L. Lytle, B. Holloway, F. Bennett, M. Groven, N. Hole, I. Roberts, A. Kilgour, and L. Gettman; (first row) L. Hardsage, C. Polhemus, E. Beckman, J. Sutton, N. Boyer, E. Pearson, D. Corazza, W. Mewborn, and B. Wallace. Also members of the chorus, but not shown above, are L. Fuller and M. Parrish.