

# MORALE AT LOWEST EBB, ANGRY FIREMEN DECLARE

TORRANCE CALIFORNIA

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NO. 50

## 2 1/2-Cent City Tax Increase Seen

### Employees Seek Social Security Plan

A 2 1/2-cent increase in the city's tax rate per \$100 of assessed valuation may be forthcoming.

This will happen in case city employees decide that they wish to participate in the Federal Social Security program.

Such a move will have to be approved by the City Council and a formal vote of the employees, according to City Manager George Stevens.

Stevens said the tax increase would be necessary for the city's contribution to the Old Age Survivors' Insurance system.

Under the plan, the city would match the employee contribution.

Stevens said that representatives of city employees, exclusive of policemen and firemen, have indicated that the workers wish to be covered by Social Security addition to the state plan.

Currently 9.4 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation of the total municipal tax rate goes for the city's contribution to the state retirement pension system for municipal employees.

### COUNCIL BRIEFS

**MORE INDUSTRY:** The City Council voted Tuesday night to permit further industrial development in Torrance by granting a variance and conditional permit to the Del Amo Estate co. to develop an industrial park along Torrance blvd., between Hawthorne blvd. and Madrona. Coleman Engineering firm plans to build a \$700,000 research center on the property, hiring 400 employees.

**SCHOOL CROSSING:** John Kesson, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn., addressed the council in regard to the dangerous crossing in front of the Crenshaw Elementary school. He asked for either an overhead crosswalk or improved traffic regulations to safeguard the 760 students that cross the boulevard every day. The matter was referred to the Traffic Commission.

**FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS:** With reference to the recent bid by J. B. Hanauer and co., financial consultants, it was moved by the council to table the matter until such time (Turn to Page 22)

### EDITORIAL

## The Pool Needs a Roof

Last year Torrance obtained its swimming pool. The pool has been a tremendous recreational asset to the community—and still it is not all that it could be.

Because it is an open-air pool, it is used only during the summer months, its use during the rest of the year being highly restricted.

It is unfortunate and unrealistic that such a costly investment cannot be used to its full potential.

The ideal pool is one which can double as an indoor pool during the fall and an outdoor pool during the summer.

By providing a sliding roof for the Torrance pool, the facility could be used the year around.

Cost of such a roof has been estimated at \$300,000. It seems to us that it is better to do something right than not to do it at all or only half-way.

A good all-year swimming pool would make it possible for groups such as the schools, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and others to hold instructional classes.

Giving youngsters a chance to learn how to swim and to be instructed in the rules of water safety is one of the main purposes of a municipal swimming pool and would be the justification for the expense involved.

### Horlander Explains New National Guard Program

Youths in the 17-18 1/2 age category who face military obligation may complete all their training, active and ready reserve, in only four years under

a new program which took effect Monday, April 1.

The new training plan was explained today by Capt. Douglas "Dutch" Horlander, commander of Co. 1 (Bridge), 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion, Torrance National Guard unit.

Effective April 1, said Capt. Horlander, all new Guard enlistees in the 17-18 1/2 bracket who have no prior military service are required to undergo a minimum of 11 weeks. They will return to Torrance where they will round out their military service participation in ready reserve (National Guard) training until they are 28.

As an alternate, however, they may volunteer for six months active duty training then return to Torrance where an ad-

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### Longren's Variance In Trouble

City councilmen, annoyed over continuous troubles with Longren Aircraft, were ready to take action to revoke the firm's variance Tuesday night.

Councilman postponed action until they have had a chance to inspect the Carson street operation Monday morning and see for themselves the findings of the Planning Commission.

Councilmen indicated that they have had trouble with the firm for the last five years and that the company has shown "bad faith."

The Planning Commission letter indicated that the company has not provided executive parking as proposed; that the proposed parking area is being used for industrial purposes; that the Elm street building has not been beautified to the satisfaction of property owners; and that "additional soundproofing as may be necessary to control excessive machine noise" has not been installed.

### \$30 Million Pulp Mill Plans Told

Negotiations for erecting a \$30 million pulp mill in Saskatchewan are presently under way with the Canadian government and Charles Shepard and Tom Block of Torrance Sand and Gravel Products. Shepard indicated that a lease for 12,000 square miles of timberland has been acquired. The partners expect to put in the foundations for the mill this fall.

### Toastmasters Hold Dinner Installation

Richard Barrett was installed president of Torrance Toastmasters club No. 695 at the semi-annual installation of officers Tuesday.

Other officers installed include Virgil Steele, educational vice president; Howard Hinkel, administrative vice president; Edwin Wheeler, secretary; Joseph Hencel, treasurer; Dr. Marvin Brain, optometrist, sergeant-at-arms; and Robert B. White, publicity.

Charter member, Joseph Hencel, was Toastmaster of the evening and introduced speakers, William Lashbrook, Stan Behrens, and Walter Casson. Speeches were evaluated by Dr. Brain and past presidents Frank Gorbet and Dr. Warren Low, optometrist. General evaluator was Virgil Steele.

The Torrance club has openings for seven members and meets the first and third Tuesdays at the Fish Shanty in WALTERIA.

### BUILDING ACTIVITY \$1,238,695

Building activity for 1957 is far behind last year's at this time, the total so far being \$4,869,235 as against last year's \$14,602,415 total.

Building total for March was \$1,238,695, according to Walter Bradford, senior clerk in the Building Department.

Biggest single item was a \$156,974 permit for two eight-unit apartments at 16821 and 16907 Yukon ave. taken out by Jacob Narrod.

Parochial school permits included \$56,237 for the First Lutheran church at Carson and Flower, and \$50,000 for St. Catherine Laboure Catholic school at 3846 Redondo Beach blvd. St. Andrew's church took out a \$14,000 permit for additions to its sanctuary.

Apartment permits included \$65,000 for eight units at 309 Calle Miramar, presented by Frank Norris; \$49,473 for five units at 112 Palos Verdes blvd., C. J. O'Gorman; \$44,000 for six units at 233 Calle Miramar, W. B. and L. Korach; and \$38,600 for units at 2244 Redondo Beach blvd., Roy Lynd.

### Assemblyman Blasts State Road Division

Blasting State Division of Highway officials, Assemblyman Vincent Thomas charged last week that their "high-handed" operations have prevented the development of an adequate road system in Southern California.

Thomas spoke at a luncheon of Los Angeles county legislators. He said local road authorities have been trying for years to get 118 miles of Southern highways into the State highway system to qualify for

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### Just Do As Drews Did

Mrs. A. F. Drews of 25434 Feijoa, Lomita, had no trouble at all solving her problem. She just placed an ad in the Torrance Press classified section, as follows:

FOR RENT—Modern 1-bedroom apt. Garbage disposal, nicely furnished. 25434 Feijoa, Lomita DA 6-3950

Presto, that did the trick. She had at least eight calls before noon the day the Press came out and could have rented the place several times over.

It's so easy to solve your problems with a Press classified ad. Just call FA 8-2345. Fifteen words cost only \$1.30. There's a 30-cent discount if you pay cash at the time you place the ad.

### Press Offers Evening Classified Ad Service

Classified advertisers are being offered a new evening service.

When you call after regular business hours when the office is closed, you may leave a message with an electronic ad-taker.

You will be given 30 seconds to leave your name, address, telephone number and message.

By writing down your classified ad in advance, you will have sufficient time to dictate it to the machine.

If there are any questions about the ad, a classified girl will call you back in the morning.

Should you desire help in wording your ad, just leave your name, address and telephone number and a classified girl will call you back at any time you designate.

Cost of a classified ad is \$1.30 for 15 words.



DRIVER IN COMA  
Woman driver of this car was hurt critically Friday.

### Woman In Coma From Collision

Police are searching for two gunmen who held up a service station and ended up by crashing into another car, critically injuring the woman driver, then stealing another get-away car, after mauling the woman who owned it.

Bandits held up a service station at 225th st. and Western ave. late Friday afternoon.

An employee at a helicopter repair service near there phoned in the alarm to police. Bill Grondahl, 20, told police that one of the suspects approached the station carrying a gasoline can while the second pretended to be checking his "stalled" auto.

"Give me your payroll money," the bandit told Grondahl.

When he refused, he was hit over the head with the .38 caliber revolver. The gun discharged but the bullet missed him.

After felling Grondahl, the robber seized his wallet and fled in the car.

At Carson st. and Harvard, the car collided with another driven by Mrs. Olga Sinatra, 44, of Buena Park.

The woman sustained severe

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### State OK's Moratorium On Courts

A two-year moratorium on establishment of new branch superior courts was approved Monday by the State Assembly it was reported.

The effect of this will be to postpone establishment of branch courts in Redondo Beach, Whittier and West Covina. The measure changes the distances between cities, other than the county seat in which branch courts sit, from eight to 14 miles.

What effect the present action will have on the proposed branch office in Torrance of the South Bay Municipal Court could not determine at this time.



GET-A-WAY CAR GOT IT

Bandits, who had just held up a gas station attendant, crashed and ran off on foot, stealing another car to make their get-away.

—Press Photos by Bill Robison.

### Purse Containing \$1000 Snatched At Shoe Store

While the owner of Bernard's Bootery was busy attending to one "customer," his companion snatched her purse which was under the cash register and which contained currency and checks amounting to \$1000.

Both then fled the scene.

According to Mrs. Bernard Lee, owner of the store at 1315 Sartori ave., two men came in inquiring about shoes.

She had a funny feeling about the men, and refused to go to the stock room to check for a requested item, which one had asked for.

While she waited on one of the two men, the other one kept wandering about the store.

The "customer" bought a pair of shoes and then both walked out. Still suspicious, she looked under the counter to find her purse missing.

One of the suspects looked back seeing that she had realized what had happened. Both fled.

Mrs. Lee asked that customers who paid for purchases with checks Friday and Saturday contact the store and write out another check, as substitutes for the ones which were stolen.

### Public Meetings

Meetings of various city commissions as well as City Council and Board of Education meetings are open to the public. For individuals desiring to know what meetings are held where and when, here's the schedule:

**CITY COUNCIL**

First, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 8 p.m. in council chamber of the Torrance City Hall, Torrance blvd. corner Maple.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

First and 3rd Wednesdays, 7 p.m., council chamber of the Torrance City Hall.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Second and 4th Wednesdays, 8 p.m., council chamber of the Torrance City Hall.

**AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Fourth Thursday, 8 p.m., council chamber of the Torrance City Hall.

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

First Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., conference room of the Torrance City Hall.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

First and 3rd Tuesdays, 8 p.m., Torrance Unified School District, 2335 Plaza del Amo.

### Promotions, Over-time Criticized

Torrance Fire department unrest, which came to the surface about a year ago, erupted again Tuesday night at a meeting of the City Council.

Firemen charged that unjust promotional methods have placed morale at the lowest ebb ever, while Fire Chief J. J. Benner justified certain promotions in terms of the letter as well as the spirit of the law.

Firemen also sought more accurate provisions regarding time worked and time off in accordance with certain provisions of the city ordinance.

The council and city manager, interpreting the ordinance differently, turned them down.

Much of the controversy hinged on the fact that there still is no clear-cut Civil Service ordinance.

**Overtime Compensation**

Jerry Holloman, engineer, chairman of the safety and welfare committee of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1138, stated that firefighters desired compensation or comparable time off for time worked in excess of 66 hours per week stipulated in ordinance No. 478.

Although the Civil Service board recommends that this request be approved, City Manager (Turn to Page 22)

### Commission To Consider Water Issue

The California Public Utilities Commission today ordered a further hearing on an agreement whereby a water system operated in Torrance by the Dominguez Water corp. would eventually be taken over by the city free of charge. At the same time, the commission ordered an investigation into the legality of the agreement.

The commission said it wants to determine whether the company has undertaken to dispose of the system contrary to law, whether the agreement would result in unlawful abandonment of service and whether the company has violated its extension rules. The hearing will be held at a time and place to be announced.

The company contends that a document conveying the system to the city after 10 years was signed "by mistake." The Milton Kauffman corp., which developed the area of more than 400 acres, paid Dominguez \$285,000 for constructing the system.

### Civic Group Will Hear EC President

Forrest Murdock, president of El Camino college, will address members of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. Thursday, April 4, at 8 p.m. in Mc-Master hall, 174th st. and Yukon.

Councilman Nick Dralle will be chairman. The event is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

### Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.



DAVID JACOBS, your plumber, has been serving the City of Torrance since 1933 and has built up a fine reputation as a plumber and repairman in the community. He is located at 1908 W. 222ND ST., and specializes in emergency repair service on water heaters, furnaces, garbage disposals, and plumbing of all kinds, to include electric drain and sewer equipment. Mr. Jacobs can deal with any plumbing problem expertly and will gladly arrange easy terms.



TOASTMASTER INSTALLED

Richard Barrett (l), incoming president of the Torrance Toastmasters club No. 695, receives the certificate of office from Roy D. Graham, Long Beach, district governor.

### This Issue Has Special Realty Page

National Realtor's week is being observed throughout the nation and in Torrance March 31-April 6 and is being featured on a special page of this issue of the Torrance Press.

If you plan to invest in or dispose of real estate, turn to page 35 and let one of the realtors there guide you. They can be depended on for thoroughness, efficiency, responsibility and protection.