

**SEEK ZONE CHANGE**

Application of Morris Lavine for a zone change from A-1 to C-4 for a 2½-acre parcel on the west side of Vermont Ave. 330 feet north of 228th St., was taken under submission by the

County Regional Planning Commission.

**CITY HAL BIDS**

Bids for the purchase of the old city hall at 1511 Cravens Ave., were received yesterday morning.

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**FURRY STRANGER**—A nutria, whose fur resembles that of a beaver, is one of the rarer animals picked up by the South Bay Humane Society here. The animal which likes water and wooded areas, was brought in by a resident for identification. Examining the animal, which is 24 inches long and weighs 15 pounds, is Jim Oge, an officer for the Torrance shelter. Press Photo

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**Realtors Named to State Groups**

Two members of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors have been named to committees of the California Real Estate Association by its president, James B. Clayton, Jr. Kenneth Miller, president of the local board, was appointed to the multiple listing committee, while Charles H. Munford was named to the brokers-salesman relations committee.

Miller, Munford, Gerald L. Alt and Lee Dawson will attend CREA committee meetings in Bakersfield this weekend.

**GETS SAFETY AWARD**

James C. Reeves, of 700 Borden Ave., driver for Pacific Motor Trucking Co., will receive a National Safety Council safe driver award at a company luncheon at Los Angeles March 15.

**FARM WORKERS NEEDED**

"Experienced stoop laborers are in demand this time of year," Mrs. Walther, manager of the Gardena Farm Labor Office, 16407 S. New Hampshire, Gardena, stated.

**Columbia School to Open**

Columbia School for the handicapped, 4502 W. 186th St., will open March 30.

The new school will house about 80 severely mentally retarded children and is specially designed for that purpose. The children now attend classes in classrooms at Meadow Park School.

Twenty-five of the 80 children are from Torrance. The rest of the children come from the six other districts in the Southwest Cooperative Program. Under this program, each district provides special schooling for certain types of handicaps. While mentally retarded children attend school here, 59 Torrance children who are blind, deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have several other handicaps go to school in another district.

Other cooperating districts are Lawndale, Lennox, Inglewood, Hawthorne, Wiseburn, and Crenshaw Valley.

The new facility has two classrooms each for kindergarten, primary, intermediate, and upper grade students, as well as an administration and cafeteria unit. It also contains a miniature "home" in which the children receive instruction. One of the primary functions of the school is to teach children to do simple tasks, primarily around the home.

Half of the \$280,000 cost of the school will be paid by the state, which also provides additional funds for the school's operating budget. Only a small part of the operating budget cost is borne by local taxpayers.

**Famed Composer to Address Club**

J. Fred Coots, contemporary of Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, and other famous composers, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Executive Dinner Club of Torrance at the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach, Saturday.

Coots, who has composed more than 3000 pieces, of which more than 700 are in published form, is exceeded only by Berlin in number of pieces composed. Like Berlin, he broke into the music field the hard way, working as a clerk for \$15 a week before getting a break that led him into Tin Pan Alley where he formed friends and contacts that helped him along.

Most famous of Coots' works is his popular "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," which not only America but many foreign countries have adopted. Of his more recent tunes, "Love Letters in the Sand" topped the nation for several weeks. Along with his popular compositions, Coots also has numerous sacred songs and concert pieces to his credit. Dr. J. H. Hull, President, will conduct the meeting.



J. FRED COOTS

**Thief Steals Purse**

A thief stole \$25 from a woman's purse while she was in the variety store at 2309 Torrance Blvd. on the pretext of using a rest room Tuesday.

While in the rear of the store he rifled several desk drawers and took the money from the handbag owned by Mrs. Opal Milican.

Use Classified Ads!

**Local Firm to Work on Hound Dog Missile**

Horkey-Moore Associates has been awarded a contract by the Missile Division of North American Aviation, Inc., for hydraulic reservoirs for use by North American's GAM-77 Hound-Dog air-to-surface missile, it was announced by E. J. Horkey, president of the Torrance engineering firm.

Under terms of the contract, Horkey-Moore will design and fabricate the unit, to be used as part of the mobile ground handling support equipment on the missile.

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**Portable School Planned**

Preliminary plans for two more Torrance elementary schools, including a "portable" school, were approved by the Board of Education Tuesday.

Plans were approved for Towers School, Ronald and Towers, and Madison School, 178th and Doty. Madison School will be composed of "portable" steel buildings which can be moved to another site if the need arises. Although a school is now badly needed in the area, experts believe that future developments may decrease the number of homes. If this happens, the buildings could be moved to another site at a minimum cost.

Bids for the two schools will be let later this year, with completion expected in 1960. First, however, final plans must be prepared and approved by the local board and the state. Madison will cost an estimated \$470,000, while towers will cost nearly \$500,000.

Under the preliminary plans prepared by Architect Roy Donley, both schools will have 12 classrooms, music rooms, cafeteriums, and administration buildings.

**THINKING**

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