

Taxes Single Out Motorist for Largest Share of Gouge

"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least possible amount of hissing."

So remarked the noted French financier Colbert three centuries ago. In the ensuing years, the delicate art of plucking a cent tax here and a cent tax there without unduly scarring the hide of the taxpayer has advanced to such a degree as to astound even a Colbert.

The gasoline tax—which now produces more revenue than the levy on any other single product—is a case in point.

Ironically, the gasoline tax got its start in Oregon in 1919, the year that marked the 300th anniversary of Colbert's birth. The date has since bought its way into financial history for the lowly one-cent a gallon tax imposed in Oregon to finance highway maintenance has multiplied

many times over while spreading to every state.

So large has this tax become that it now amounts to about one-half of the price charged for gasoline itself. The revenue it produces in a single year is enough to have paid the entire cost of running the U.S. government 20 years ago.

Of the average 10-cent-a-gallon tax on gasoline paid by the U.S. motorist, four cents is levied by the federal government.

The federal levy first was introduced at one cent a gallon in 1932 as a temporary tax to help meet depression needs.

As with virtually all temporary taxes, the federal levy has never been lifted, and actually had doubled by 1956. In that year the tax was hiked to three cents a gallon to pay for the new federal-aid highway program.

Last October, the federal gas-

County Orders Condemnation of Narbonne No. 2

An adequate water supply for beleaguered residents of 356 acres of Lomita and Torrance properties seemed assured today when the county Board of Supervisors ordered condemnation of the Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 2 by county Waterworks District No. 13.

After acquiring the company, the county will refurbish the system, which now is so deficient that building permits are denied applicants in the area and financing of subdivisions has been withdrawn.

On Jan. 5, an election was held seeking annexation to District No. 13 of 268 acres of unincorporated territory and 88 acres within Torrance.

Torrance filed two suits to prevent the election and to condemn the water company. Another suit was filed by a property owner.

Last week the Torrance Council approved a compromise to withdraw the lawsuits under certain conditions, thus opening the door for the county to proceed to acquire the water system.

Terms of the city-county agreement provide that the Board must acquire the present system, and sell \$800,000 in improvement bonds. The system will then be constructed to County and Torrance City standards.

Following completion of the work, the portion of the system within Torrance will be leased to the city.

By contrast, the tax on luxury items such as diamonds or furs is clearly stated separate from the price by the salesman and so impresses itself on the mind of the purchaser. And yet luxuries are taxed at only about one-fifth the rate of gasoline.

In a recent experiment in Virginia, service-station operators posted the price of gasoline separate from the tax.

The reaction of motorists was immediate.

Although the method of price posting annoyed a few who felt they weren't getting the bargain they expected, the general reaction was one of surprise and indignation at the tax.

Perhaps motorists have been plucked once too often.

As even Colbert would admit, a goose can be a pretty formidable creature when provoked.

Pinewood Derby Finals Arranged for Saturday

Finals in the Torrance Recreation Department's Pinewood Derby program are slated for 10 a.m. Saturday at the department's parking lot, 1511 Cravens Ave.

Youngsters from throughout the city are due to vie with the miniature racers in dashes down a ramp.

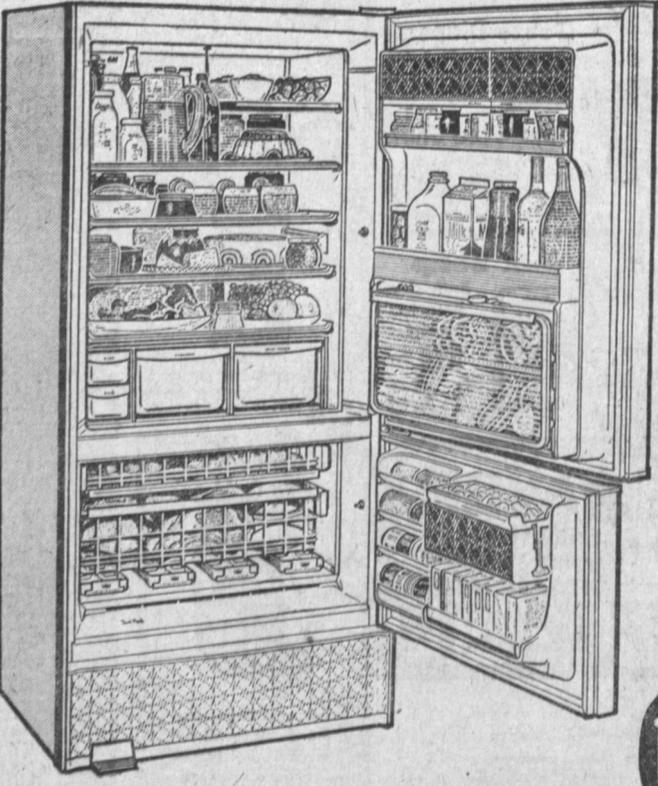
Plaques will be given to winners in three age divisions: 9 years and under, 10 through 11 years and 12 through 14 years.

Carl Wahl is in charge of the program.

Use Press Classified Ads ★ DA 5-1515

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To Start A Want Ad

1. Phone DA 5-1515 and say "I want to place a Classified Ad."
2. MAIL it to Torrance Press Classified Ads, 3238 W. Sepulveda, Torrance, California.
3. Bring it to The Torrance Press office, 3238 W. Sepulveda (Near Sears-Broadway Shopping Center.)

Your Classified Ads in The Torrance Press will reach more than 122,000 readers on Thursday.

Cancellations.. Errors..

The Torrance Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement and reserves the right to correct all errors by a corrected insertion of the advertisement the following issue.

All ads taken before Tuesday, 5 p.m. will appear in Thursday's paper. Ads taken before Friday 5 p.m. will appear in Sunday's paper.

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Announcements

100% COTTON 8-oz. duck, sanforized, guaranteed, for Bermuda shorts, etc., 95c yd. La Mae material, 45" to 50" wide, made with NON-TARNISH metallic yarn. Gold, silver, turquoise and in combination of colors, \$2.49 yd. Imported Hawaiian prints, mercerized cotton, sanforized, drip-dry, 37" wide, 32 different patterns, reg. \$1.29 yd., special, 89c yd. **VOGUE NEW YORKER & SIMPLICITY PATTERNS**
The Family Store
FA 8-7775 1673 Cravens

<p>Lost and Found 12 FOUND, 1 puppy, approximately 9 mos. old. Call after 4:30. FA 6-1557</p> <p>Personals 12</p> <p>Free Pianos WE WILL STORE A PIANO IN YOUR HOME FREE WHITMAN PIANO CO. 1746 W. ADAMS, L. A. OPEN DAILY & SUN. RE 1-7319</p> <p>Painting and Decorating 41 PAINTING SPECIAL • Skilled Workmanship • All work Guaranteed • Free Estimates DA 5-0806</p> <p>Building and Remodeling 42</p> <p>ROOM ADDITIONS Den—Family Rooms Bedrooms Kitchen—Baths</p> <p>To Save-Call Floyd's Const. Co. FA 8-1406 FREE PLANS & ESTIMATES 100% BANK FINANCING A Call Will Save You \$ TORRANCE SINCE 1950</p> <p>Room Additions • Family Rooms • Bedrooms • Kitchens • Patios • Cement Work Free Plans and Estimates 100% Financing Bishop Const. Co. FA 8-5299</p> <p>CONCRETE BLOCK WALLS Cement & Brick Patios FR. 9-2025</p> <p>ELECTRIC CONTRACTOR COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL RANGE & DRYER WIRING PLUGS INSTALLED 24 HOUR SERVICE 100% FINANCING ECHO ELECTRIC, Inc. 1819 AINSWORTH DA 3-6600</p> <p>Add Remodel Patios, garages, doors, windows. FREE ESTIMATES Call Herman Licensed Contractor DA 4-4811 Day & Eve.</p> <p>PRESS WANT-ADS DA 5-1515</p> <p>Employment Offered (Men) 70 Employment Offered (Women) 70</p>	<p>Building and Remodeling 42</p> <p>Additions Complete building service Including Permits and Plans 100% Financing, FHA terms. 5 years to pay.</p> <p>Paul's Construction CALL DAY OR NIGHT FOR FREE ESTIMATES DA 5-0001 NO DOWN, 100% FHA / Room Add./ 20 years Local Experience Dens—Bedrooms—Baths Kitchens—Garages, Fences, Cement We Do Everything for You Help and Save FREE PLANS—ESTIMATES Davenport Construction Co. Licensed and Insured Day or Night DA 6-5024</p> <p>CEMENT WORK Driveways, all types of slabs, sidewalks and concrete steps. FA 8-3399</p> <p>Building Materials 43</p> <p>SPECIAL Lumber and Plywood 1x4 Sheathing 31c 1 ft. 2x4's 8 ft. long 40c ea. 4x8 Plywood \$3.30 per sheet 1x4 T&G V-Joint Knotty Spruce 5c 1 ft. Used Bricks 31c ea. Also Used Lumber and Plywood</p> <p>Herwood BUILDING SUPPLY 2450 So. Normandie Harbor City DA 6-5146</p> <p>Plumbing Services 43 WM. PUNT CO. PLUMBING HEATING Phone DA 4-4951 PROMPT EXPERT SERVICE Garbage Disposal Thermostats Water Heaters Floor Furnaces 15410 S. WESTERN</p> <p>We Repair Furnaces, Water Heaters For Information Call Torrance Plumbing 1418 Marcellina Ave. FA 8-4444 FA 8-2654</p> <p>Gardening, Landscaping 53 TOP SOIL, FILL DIRT LARGE LOADS CALL AFTER 5 P. M. AX 5-7841</p> <p>JAPANESE gardeners clean up. Monthly work, reasonable rates. DA 9-3220</p> <p>Miscellaneous Services 65 TV SERVICE CALLS 99c No Fix No Pay Work Guaranteed DA 3-8550</p> <p>If You Don't Drink "I can save you money on Auto Insurance" Call John Ohm, DA 6-7591</p>
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★ B&S Auto. Screw Machine Operators
★ Cold Header Operators
★ Turret Lathe Operators
★ Davenport Auto. Screw Machine Operators

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DON'T JUST HOPE what's lost will be found—Contact the finder via a Torrance Press Classified Ad. DA 6-1515.