

City Taxpayers Get the Message: It's 'Dig'

By JERRY REYNOLDS

Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance taxpayers will be asked to dig deep into their pockets this year—deep enough, in fact, to come up with about \$9.46 for each \$100 of assessed valuation.

Tax rates were set last Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors. Leading the list was a county tax rate of \$2.3997, up 18.49 cents over last year. The supervisors also set tax rates for the Torrance Unified School District, \$5.0967, an increase of 41 cents over the 1963-64 year, and rates for several special districts.

The city tax rate, set by the City Council two weeks ago, has been pegged at \$1.2380 per \$100. The city rate is the only major taxing agency which did not increase property taxes, although certain new taxes were imposed to raise additional revenue.

City fathers voted to establish a 2 cent tax per

pack on cigarettes and a 4 per cent tax on hotel and motel accommodations, and a 50 per cent increase in household rubbish collection fees. The city also raised some business license and permit fees.

The bulk of the \$9.46 per \$100 is divided among three agencies—schools, the city, and the county. The remaining portion is split among several special districts, including the Metropolitan Water District, the County Flood Control District, and the County Sanitation District.

Schools, including El Camino College, will get the lion's share—just a bit more than 50 per cent of all property taxes.

County rates, applied throughout the county, are the same for cities and unincorporated areas.

Of the \$1.2380 collected by the city, the bulk goes to the general purpose fund and provides for such things as fire and police protection, operation of the city departments on a daily basis. A total of 89.6 cents of the city tax rate is used for the general fund.

Seven cents of the city rate goes for libraries, and 18 cents is used for the employe retirement program. Other major categories include 2.7 cents for bond interest and redemption and 6.5 cents for parks and recreation. Revenues from property taxes represent only 32 per cent of all city revenues.

Local property taxes represent nearly 60 per cent of revenues collected by the Torrance Unified School District. Bulk of the increase, in dollars and cents, is in the school tax rate for the current fiscal year.

The general purpose tax rate will be up 13.27 cents to \$3.0327 per \$100. Another general purpose tax—the community services tax used to pay for maintenance and other expenses incurred as a result of community service—is up from 4.2 cents to 10 cents per \$100. Both of these tax rates can be controlled by the Board of Education.

The other major increases in school taxes came under the bond redemption program, where a slow gain in assessed valuation forced a hike of nearly

17½ cents per \$100. Growth problems have kept the district bonded to capacity, meaning nearly \$375,000 had to be raised over the amount needed last year for bonds. With virtually no gain in total assessed valuation in the district, taxes had to be raised. Local boards of education have no control over the bond fund once bonds have been committed.

Most other increases were small, amounting to less than a tenth of a cent per \$100. One agency, the Metropolitan Water District, actually reduced its tax rate by a small amount.

What it all adds up to is money—more than ever before where the local property owner is concerned.

A man owning a home in Torrance which is valued at \$20,000 will have an assessed valuation of about \$5,000. If he is a veteran, he'll get a \$1,000 exemption—meaning he must pay taxes on \$4,000 of assessed valuation. That will amount to about \$380, or a hike of about \$30 for the current year.

So hold your breath and dig deep.

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

UNEQUALLED CIRCULATION AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE

- Torrance
- East Torrance
- Lomita
- Carson
- Harbor City

To Reach Us By Phone

If you miss your copy of the Press-Herald call the CIRCULATION OFFICE at DA 5-1515

OTHER PHONES:

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FA 8-4000
ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT FA 8-4000
WOMEN'S NEWS FA 8-5144
NEWS DEPARTMENT FA 8-4981

Series II—Vol. No. 7, No. 20

★ ★

1619 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, California — Sunday, September 6, 1964

By Carrier 50¢ Per Month
By Mail \$12 Per Year

10¢ Per Copy

20 Pages

PAROLEE HELD AS RAPIST

Victims Spot Pictures of Man in Files

Criminal file photographs of a 20-year-old Torrance parolee have led to his arrest by Torrance police, who have charged that he raped a 13-year-old girl last July 11 in a West High School washroom and assaulted her 14-year-old companion. He also is believed responsible for a similar Redondo Beach crime a short time before the Torrance attack.

Arrested at his home Friday at 17040 Atkinson St. in North Torrance was Dale James Luxton, married and the father of a 2-year-old girl. Torrance officers reported that he had been convicted previously for the knife attack on a 40-year-old woman in the Torrance area two years ago.

Arrest of Luxton Friday climaxed a two-month search for the attacker led by juvenile officer Phil Josephs of the Torrance department.

AFTER THE July 11 attack, the teenage girls reported to police that the attacker had forced the two girls into the West High School washroom at knifepoint and then had used plastic cord to tie up the older girl before tearing the clothing from the 13-year-old. After the attack, he left the scene on a bicycle, they reported.

The girls had looked at hundreds of pictures before picking out Luxton. He also was identified in a police lineup by the victims of the Torrance assault and by the Redondo Beach victim, according to juvenile officers. (Continued on Page 2)

Man Hurt When Auto Hits Pole

A passenger was hospitalized early Friday morning after a car went out of control and hit a traffic signal.

Taken by ambulance to Harbor General Hospital was Roy Watts, 38, of 2270 Sepulveda Blvd., a passenger in a car driven by Juanita Hazel Hughes, 21, of 3406 W. 171st St.

Watts suffered minor injuries. Police said the driver refused medical aid in the 1:20 a. m. accident which occurred at Western Ave. and 213th St. The driver told police another car forced her off the road.

IN OTHER accidents, Samuel Lewis Gladstone Jr., 34, of 2421 Loftyview, suffered minor injuries Thursday and was taken by ambulance to Little Company of Mary Hospital after his compact foreign model car was involved in a collision on Crenshaw by the Redondo Beach vic-

tim, according to juvenile officers. (Continued on Page 2)

Building in City Setting Record Pace

Construction activity in Torrance appears headed for a sure record during the current year with the announcement that August totals exceeded the \$3.7 million mark.

Permits issued in August by the city brought totals for the year to \$54,355,939, less than \$2 short of the record established last year.

August turned out to be a relatively slow month compared to the near record of \$12.3 million in permits which the city issued during July. July's brisk business was ascribed to the City Council, which prescribed new parking restrictions for multiple units—restrictions which became effective Aug. 1.

THE CITY issued 327 permits during August for a total valuation of \$3,742,108. The permits provided for the construction of 360 new apartment units, 11 new single-family homes, and one duplex unit. The bulk of the permits called for additions or alterations to existing buildings.

Largest of the permits issued went to Gilco Development Co. for a 154-unit apartment project at 3922 Emerald St. The permit was valued at \$1,413,420.

OTHER PERMITS included one for 42 units at 3722 Del (Continued on Page 2)

PROPERTY between Park St. and Madison Ave. will be zoned M-1 if the Planning (Continued on Page 2)



TORRANCE DAY . . . Don H. Hyde, left, and William M. Belding are serving as co-chairmen of Torrance Day at the Los Angeles County Fair. The day will be observed Tuesday, Sept. 22, and is under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce. Municipal buses will be available to carry persons to and from the fair. Tickets are available at the chamber office or city hall. (Press-Herald Photo)

'Fair Share' Giving Explained for Drive

"The multiplicity of fund-raising campaigns has been a grave concern to industry in the past. Now, with the United Way and the American Red Cross joined in the United Crusade, there is only one major drive a year."

Speaking was John Luring, regional vice president of the United Bank and vice chairman of area campaigns for United Crusade. Luring addressed members of the area campaigns staffs at the "Commitment to Success" luncheon last week at The Palms Restaurant.

Luring explained the meaning of "fair share" giving for employes and "pro-rata share" giving for firms to representatives of leading companies in the harbor area.

Proportionate giving allows each donor to contribute within his means, Luring said. "In this way, more than 300 much needed United Way agencies and Red Cross services can be supported voluntarily instead of through taxation," he added.

West High Sets Frosh Program For Orientation

Freshman orientation at West High School will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 8 a. m., according to Dr. Robert Ford, principal.

Registration for new students will continue throughout the week from 9 a. m. until noon and from 1 to 3 p. m. The school is located at 20401 Victor St., one block south of Del Amo Boulevard.

Most Offices Closed Monday

Government offices, banks, many retail stores and businesses will be closed as the nation observes Labor Day tomorrow, the first Monday in September.

City and state employes will return to work Tuesday and then get Wednesday off as California observes Admission Day. Federal offices will not close on Wednesday.

Offices of the Press-Herald will be closed Monday only.



LEADERS MEET . . . Area leaders for the United Crusade met last week at the Palms restaurant to discuss plans for the forthcoming campaign. Shown here are John Luring, vice chairman for the area campaigns; Jack Mortensen, commerce and industry chairman for the Harbor area; G. Stanley Williamson, Harbor area chairman, and Jack Cunningham, United Way corporate sponsor. The United Crusade combines the United Way with the American Red Cross annual fund appeal.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What do you think about a proposal to install seat belts on school buses?" the Pennies inquirer asked.

Mrs. Leonard Buffehr, Gardena:

"I think it would be an excellent idea. I have them in my car. I think the kids would have to be reminded to fasten them. The public might not like the expense involved in having them installed on school buses."

Mrs. James Palmer, 21119 S. Budlong:

"I think if it's important to have a law requiring them in cars then it's important enough to have them in school buses. Seat belts are not new anymore so I think the public is ready to accept seat belts being installed on school buses."

John Bancroft, 3109 Sonoma:

"I don't think kids would wear them. I was on a school bus that crashed with a car. Speed involved was about 20 miles an hour and there was enough stopping time so the accident was not serious. I think this is usually the case."

Mich'el Lukas, Long Island, N. Y.:

"I think it's a good idea but would the seat belts be used? There would have to be an adult on the bus to force their use because the drivers have enough responsibility now. Seat belts really wouldn't be of significant value because the chances of them not being used."