

H. S. Costs Up 44 Percent in Decade; \$173 Per Pupil in L. A. District

WHITTLES HER WAY
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (U.P.)—When Jane Hudson, University of Indiana co-ed, is whittling, she isn't wasting her time. Tuition, clothing, books and spending money have been carved with her 75 percent knife and she expects to keep on whittling her way thru school.

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LOCAL EXPENDITURES HIGHER THAN MEDIAN FOR STATE

Current expenditures by the Los Angeles high school district (which includes this community) averaged \$173.97 for each of the 122,485 pupils in average daily attendance in 1939-40, an increase over the \$162.84 per pupil spent for current purposes by the district in 1938-39, California Taxpayers' association stated this week, following its study of per pupil expenditures of the 175 largest high school districts in the State.

The \$173.97 per pupil total current expenditure was higher than the median or midpoint expenditure of \$164.13 for other six-year high schools teaching grades 7 to 12 in the same size group, the association found.

The district spent an average of \$116.42 per pupil for teachers' salaries last year, compared with the median for similar districts of \$117.65, the association stated. For other current expenditures, the district spent an average of \$57.55, while the median expenditure for this purpose for similar districts was \$45.62.

How Costs Jumped
Since 1933-34, the low point in total current expenditures by the high schools throughout the state in the last decade, high school costs have increased 44 percent, going from \$52,067,038 in 1933-34 to \$74,841,984 for 1939-40, the association found.

During the same period, the average daily attendance of pupils in the high schools has also increased, but at a much slower rate, the attendance of the high schools going from 389,998 to 449,562, an increase of only 21 percent during the period when total costs climbed 44 percent.

Because the increase in total current expenditures has been so much greater than the increase in the number of pupils in attendance in the high schools, costs per pupil jumped from a state average of \$140.70 in 1933-34 to \$166.48 in 1939-40, an increase of 18 percent. Had total expenditures increased only in proportion to the increase in attendance, the cost per pupil would have remained at the same level.

Trend Is Analyzed
Pointing out that in the elementary schools the 625,051 average daily attendance last year was 21,880 lower than the 646,931 in attendance in 1938-39, the Taxpayers' association said: "Analysis of the trend of school enrollments indicates that the shortage of pupils in the elementary grades during recent years is now appearing in the

Defense Housing Drive Begins in This Area Today

Announcement was made this afternoon by W. E. Bowen of an intensive National Defense Housing drive in Torrance, Lomita, and vicinity, designed to provide homes so vitally needed in this district for national defense workers already here and for those to come. Bowen pointed out the immediate necessity of a drive, if Torrance is to get its share of the new national defense plants being established in Southern California, to arouse the entire community to the problem of supplying homes and preventing the "trailer camp" conditions existing in San Diego and other mushroom-growth communities.

"We must act at once," said Bowen, "and bring to bear all the financial resources of the community to immediately start a concerted drive for funds from within our own community for which I have just concluded arrangements to have matched two for one in outside capital."

This means, according to Bowen, that for every dollar invested by Torrance, Lomita and vicinity business men in defense housing that two additional dollars will go into this project.

Bowen stated that "since the founding of Torrance 'The Industrial City' has been our slogan. Through tradition and advanced planning Torrance is in a more ideal position to attract national defense plants than perhaps any other community in the West, and now the primary barrier to the growth of Torrance as a great industrial city is the lack of adequate housing."

With this basic thought in mind the National Defense Housing Drive has been inaugurated by the Lincoln Building & Loan Association as the medium through which funds may quickly flow into housing activity.

Bowen pointed out that nobody is asked to contribute money for anything, but rather to invest funds Federally Insured at 3 1/2 percent. Without risk of capital and with a return on the investment the broader benefits of the program accruing from the sound growth of the city can be readily appreciated.

A drive will be made on every business man to open a National Defense Housing Account in Lincoln Building and Loan Association. Bowen stated that during the month of April the Association invested over \$40,000 in homes in Torrance and vicinity, but that this program must be vastly increased to keep up with the demands, and that public support to this end must be obtained.

All press books made by publicity chairmen will be on display at the May meeting (May 22) of the Council, which will be held at the Fern Avenue school in Torrance.

Galloping Gadgeteers

Comes the month of May, comes the peddler. The season of flowers in full bloom is likewise the season when the itinerant merchant also bursts forth, fortified with a new line of gleaming gadgetry and specious salesmanship. Be prepared for him! With a firmly planted foot giving him a toehold between the door and the door-lamb, you will be introduced to the marvels of the Sisters of the Skillet Handy Helper, the combination bottlewasher and shoe polisher, the duplex razor sharpener and can-opener, all these "bargains" for an amazingly low price.

By the time Mrs. Housewife and her money are parted, and the worthless gadgetry is lying in a heap on the kitchen floor, the peripatetic peddler has flown—and so has the money. He offers no money back guarantee.

These hustling hucksters of the road have only one sure fire weapon—their customers' gullibility. But that gullibility, is such that countless thousands of dollars are taken out of the community every year in this fashion. Yet the local stores, chain and independent, offer an infinitely greater variety of genuine bargains than was ever contained in any drummer's suitcase. Unlike the fly-by-night seller, these independent and net-work stores put thousands of dollars to work in their community, with their rent bills, tax payments and payrolls. Giving work to none, the galloping gadgeteer is content to "work" the community and hustle on to the victims in the next town.

Be prepared for him. Shop at home, but not at your front door!

Salvation Army's Social Service Store Finds Market for Cast-Offs

There is hardly a home that is so systematized or perfect that it would not reveal some article that has outlived its usefulness or desirability, either by wear or change of style. The patrons of the Salvation Army Men's Social Service at 1308 Post ave. in Torrance are not fussy about period furniture, or who made their clothes. The article that you disperse with may become the most prized possession in some home in the process of being rebuilt.

The store is called upon to supply every conceivable thing. The unemployed man finds a job, the Salvation Army has to find the tools, anything from a wrench to a lawnmower.

Students Tour Housing Project

Students in high schools are showing increased interest in the Harbor Hills low-rent housing development at Western Ave. and N. Palms Verdes Dr. near Lomita, the County Housing Authority reported today. Illustrated talks on low-rent housing, showing Harbor Hills as an outstanding example of development in this field, have been presented recently to senior students of Inglewood, Gardena, and San Pedro high schools.

The County Housing Authority will provide, in the 300 homes at Harbor Hills, the means for desirable living at rents ranging from \$16 to \$23 a month, including water, according to officials. Applications of families with limited income for homes in the \$1,300,000 development are being taken at the rental office at the development site, daily from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

May Up Retirement Age for Co. Officers

Retirement age of deputy sheriffs and other county peace officers should be raised to 60 years, instead of 55 years as at present, if their retirement fund is to be stabilized, according to a report filed with the supervisors this week by Wayne Allen, their chief officer.

Men retired for disability should be examined periodically to determine whether they could perform some other county service, Allen also recommended. Some of these men, could be used in the sheriff's civil division, or as watchmen, caretakers or as guards.

Army Recruiting Office in L.B. at New Location

The U. S. Army Recruiting Office has been moved from the basement of the Long Beach postoffice to room 701 of the same building and is now accepting applications for enlistment in the air corps, ordnance companies, medical department at all western fields, Anchorage, Alaska; Hawaiian and Philippine departments.

ANCIENT CULTURE
PHOENIX, Ariz. (U.P.)—Arizona may be the "Baby State" of the nation, but its culture basis began 10,000 years ago, according to Clara Lee Tanager, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona.

Torrance Action Renews Highway Name Changing

Action by the city of Torrance in adopting a resolution to have the name of the coast highway, variously known as Roosevelt Highway, Redondo Wilmington Road, State street, Highway 101 and a few others to Pacific Coast Highway has brought renewed effort on the part of other cities to effect the change.

Already on record to endorse the name is the Los Angeles county planning commission and the Los Angeles city planning commission.

In Torrance, where the move has gained new life, the artery known as U. S. Route 101 and State Alternate 60, also known as 25th street and Wilmington road. The Harbor District chamber of commerce also is on record as endorsing the proposed new name, according to Joe Mellen, office engineer for the county planning body.

A general move is under way to eliminate the remaining duplicate highway names in the county, such as Ocean, Olive, Center, Main street, Ocean View and Alameda, there being seven of the latter in various cities, Mellen said.

'RED BIRD SEED'
ST. LOUIS (U.P.)—Wiscrackers call the vitamin pills' President Sam Brodton feeds the St. Louis Cardinals "Red Bird Seed."

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Infant Mortality Rate at New Low

Infant mortality rate has been reduced more than 50 per cent in the last 12 years within the area served by the Los Angeles county health department, according to Dr. Roy Gilbert, acting county health officer.

Further, the 1939 rate of 37.9 infant deaths per 1,000 live births was reduced during 1940 to a new low of 28, Dr. Gilbert added.

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