

## Red Cross Call to Service



**YOUR RED CROSS NEEDS YOU!**

The dramatic poster by James Montgomery Flagg is the first war poster of the new World War. It is an appeal for a \$50,000,000 American war relief fund to feed, shelter, clothe and give medical aid to American men, women and children bombed by the enemy. It is an appeal to provide comforts for our American Army and Navy, and for welfare work for our troops at home and abroad, and their families in the home front. President Roosevelt asks you to give. Your dollars will serve humanity. Give through your local Red Cross Chapter.

## 300 Wanted for Drive in City

Approximately 300 volunteer workers in this vicinity are wanted for the Torrance American Red Cross war emergency fund drive, each worker to canvass one block, Chairman Jack Hallanger said today. No quota or starting date for the drive has yet been announced.

Chairman Hallanger today announced that the drive would start in Torrance the first of next week and the quota for this city is \$10,000 of the county-wide goal of \$2,800,000. Headquarters for the campaign will be located in the Red Cross production center at Steel Workers' hall, 1526 Cravens ave. across from the central fire station.

Money raised in this city will be massed with the quota of \$50,000,000 assigned for the entire country to alleviate conditions of people in areas undergoing to the U. S., which have been subject to the scourge of the Japanese attack.

The county's quota is \$250,000. All funds, Hallanger said, will be expended in evacuating civilian populations and providing hospitalization, housing and emergency feeding for both civilian and armed personnel.

## 1942 License Strips Available in Torrance

Next Friday morning, Jan. 2, at 8:30 o'clock the Torrance branch office of the State Department of Motor Vehicles will start issuing the 1942 cover strips to be attached to the 1941 automobile, truck, trailer and motorcycle license plates. The office is located in James Focannon's building at 1316 Border ave.

The license plate headquarters for all motorists in this area will be open from 8:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. daily except Saturdays when the hours will be from 8 a. m. to 12 o'clock noon. Distribution of the 1942 strips will end Feb. 2, it is announced.

It was recently announced by the Department of Motor Vehicles, that automobile owners will not be notified by postcard this year of the amount that they will be required to pay for 1942 license plates. Total fees due will be found in the lower left hand corner of the 1941 registration certificate (white slip) which should be posted in plain view in the driver's compartment of every motor vehicle.

Cover strips to be attached to the 1941 plates will be issued only on renewals. Regulation plates will be issued for new or out-of-state cars which are being registered in California for the first time.

### DRIVERS' TESTS GIVEN IN TORRANCE

Having made a complete survey of the defense areas of California, James E. Carter, director of the state department of motor vehicles, has set up offices where he believes defense motorists can best be served. His assistant, Bernard J. Kelley, has announced the opening of the following offices where driver's

### RENEW APPEAL FOR GIFTS OF SUPPLIES

The local Red Cross is renewing its appeal for gifts of coats, blankets, and other emergency materials, Mrs. R. R. Smith, branch chairman, said this week. An emergency kit is being purchased for the unit with funds supplied by Rotarians, Kiwanians and the Torrance Business Men's Association.

What the city of Torrance needs is another building for public and semi-public meetings. This need developed at the city council meeting of Dec. 23 when Selective Service Board No. 280 requested temporary office space in the Chamber of Commerce building while the structure now housing the board undergoes quake repairs.

The chamber building is now occupied by the municipal water department, pending similar repairs to its structure on Cravens ave. Bids on this work are to be opened at an adjourned meeting of the council tonight (Tuesday).

The city council room and the city court room are now occupied by Red Cross classes in first aid several nights a week and City Attorney John E. McCall, chairman of the Selective Service Advisory board, announced that this group will be called into service shortly to assist in the new Selective Service registration of all men from 18 to 64 years of age inclusive.

The Civic Auditorium may be used for this registration when it is held for men in Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, El Nido and portions of Redondo Beach, Palms Verdes and San Pedro.

With all these civic structures in use, and the upper floor of the fire station considered unsafe because of earthquake damage to that building, the need for public rooms is acute here. The city council took the Selective Service Board's request under consideration and agreed to see what arrangement can be made regarding giving that national defense agency temporary quarters.

**PAICES SERIOUS CHARGE**  
Police arrested Carl E. Dilley, 44, oil producer living at 1404 Beech ave., early this (Tuesday) morning for driving while intoxicated on Pacific Coast (101) highway near Hawthorne ave.

## City Asks \$22,000 From State for War

A request for \$22,000 of the appropriations which the state Legislature is expected to make for defense purposes when the special session is reconvened Jan. 12 has been sent by the city of Torrance to Sacramento. The request was drafted last Saturday by the counsel for the California League of Municipalities in accordance with instructions to member-cities of that organization.

The League is assembling the applications of cities for submission to an interim committee of the Legislature and a subcommittee which has been charged with the responsibility of investigating and determining the emergency needs of local governments and to what extent these needs would justify state aid.

After consultation Fire Chief J. E. McMaster, Police Chief John Stroh and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, Mayor Tom McGuire requested three mobile pieces of equipment—a police ambulance, 250-gallon pumper fire truck and a portable gas generator plant—in addition to considerable other equipment for the police and fire departments. No equipment was asked for any other municipal unit.

Included in the request to the state Legislature are such materials as fire hose, pump cans, radio repairs, special police and fire department badges, guns, ammunition, flash lights and batteries, gas masks, an emergency cutting outfit for the fire department, first aid kits, de-luge set for fire fighting, pyrene extinguishers, a power pump for a city fire apparatus, additional fire extinguisher charges and ladders.

The League of California Cities is particularly interested in Senate Bill No. 12 which provides for an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for state aid to local governments for the acquisition of materials and equipment other than personnel. Assemblyman Fred N. Howser also introduced a bill in which he is asking a \$3,000,000 appropriation for coast cities which could be used for equipment and extra personnel.

Long Beach has transmitted a request for \$1,355,260 worth of emergency equipment while Inglewood is asking for \$305,000, it was learned.

## City Buildings Filled Up; More Space Needed

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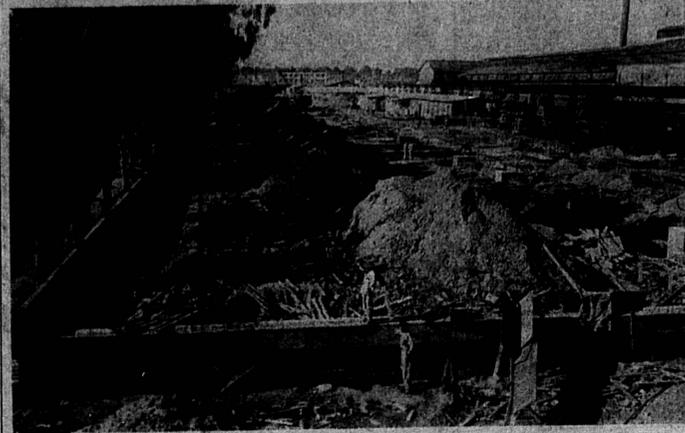
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## Torrance Plant Rushes Expansion



**EXPANSION RUSHED**—Here is a general view of the big construction program now in progress at the National Supply Company plant in Torrance. Picture shows the work being done preparatory to erection of a new forge and machine shop building along Carson st. whose over-all dimensions are 75 by 120 feet. Pozzo Construction Company is the general contractor while Jack Wilcox is the sub-contractor for excavation, backfill and imported compacted earth fill on which there are several thousand cubic yards of each item. All foundations for this national defense project will be approximately 17 feet deep below natural grade. Photo courtesy of Jack Wilcox Crane and Shovel Service, 1625 South Third St., Alhambra.

## Local Resident Saved as Ship Sunk by Japs

A Torrance resident, John T. Smith of 2448 Hawthorne ave., was listed as a member of the crew of the Union Oil tanker Montebello when an enemy submarine fired on and sank at dawn last Tuesday off the California coast. All hands were reported safe.

The tanker's captain, Olaf Eckstrom, Smith and three other seamen were so cold and numb when brought to safety on a lifeline they could hardly talk. Their lifeboat crashed on the rocks near the shore. Some watchers on the shore saw the shelling of the Montebello.

They said one direct hit caused the tanker's bow to lurch upward and almost immediately she sank. There had been firing before this hit, however, witnesses said, and flashes of light could be seen.

## Council Opens Bids At Tonight's Session

At an adjourned meeting of the city council tonight (Tuesday) bids will be opened on the repair and re-furnishing of the municipal water department building on Cravens ave., which was badly damaged by the Nov. 14 earthquake. The council rejected one bid unopened several weeks after deciding that an alternative construction method—using gunite—would be more economical than virtual reconstruction of the entire structure.

**AND THEY GROW**  
Military capacity in a world war depends on how many, and how widely scattered are the fronts to be defended.

## New Year, 1942

New Year's Day, 1942, will dawn upon a blackened sick, freezing, hungry Europe—upon fresh graves of children dead of starvation in Greece—upon homeless peasants by the million in Western Russian and the Balkans, where, in the wake of armies, creeps the exterminator Typhus.

The day will dawn upon peoples not only destitute but betrayed and spirit-broken in the Norway of Quisling, the France of Petain, the Belgium of Leopold. It will dawn upon an embattled Britain facing an almost certain attempt at direct invasion before the year is half out—to be preceded, unquestionably, by the most vicious ordeal by fire from the sky that the genius of destruction can devise.

New Year's Day, 1942, will dawn upon an American people untouched by epidemic or famine; a people exchanging greetings in great cities where streets are lined with shops filled with every necessity of life, exchanging greetings in rural communities where lush farms and grazing lands guarantee that hunger and the epidemics of malnutrition can never blight America; a people comforted by the knowledge that the gallant soldiers, sailors, flyers and marines defending their country are equipped with the best ships, planes, guns, food and medical care in all the world—and sure in the faith that American resources, enterprise and courage will make final victory inevitable; a people, above all, serene in conscience that their cause is just, their shield unshakable.

Whatever may come in the murky future, America is superbly equipped, materially and spiritually, to meet it. In a humble sense of gratitude to Providence, the American people, of all the world, are the most favorably endowed, the most fortunate—the truly happiest people on earth this New Year, 1942.

## Lomitan on Torpedoed Ship Gets Home for Big Christmas Dinner

Santa Claus was rather rough about it but he delivered an unexpected but very welcome gift at the T. D. Watkins home, 25033 Walnut st. Because of the torpedoing of the S. S. Absaroka, Chief Cook T. D. Watkins ate turkey dinner at home instead of cooking a dinner for the crew on board ship.

For 30 years Watkins served in the U. S. Navy. He retired two years ago as Officers' Steward, First Class. Years ago he had built a beautiful, two story home in Lomita. Here his wife and her son John McQueen lived and John won honors on the Gaucha football team.

How nice to come home and not rush off to a boat again. But like all seadogs, it was only a few months until Watkins could stand it no longer. Back to sea on a freighter, back to work and as he knew well, danger.

**Torpedo Ruins Roast**  
Lately he had been prepared, keeping a warm suit near to put on in case of attack. For "whites" are cold comfort when dumped into a cold sea.

When Mrs. Watkins, who has had many years of waiting for her man to come home from the sea and in times of peace, followed him to many foreign ports, heard over the radio that the Absaroka had been struck she called John, and got out the car ready to drive wherever the men were being picked up.

When her husband telephoned that he was at a coast guard station in San Pedro, great was her surprise and relief.

Watkins had put on a warm suit, he had remembered to save his wife's picture, but what his design when his wife and son met him, to find he had forgotten to put on a tie.

He suffered a cut across the back of one leg. He discovered



**T. D. WATKINS**  
... suffers leg cut, forgets the

that about the time he noticed he had no tie, but he doesn't know where he got it. He was in the galley, attending to a fine roast when the ship was hit and he thinks the roast is ruined.

**Going Back to Sea**  
And he couldn't have cooked that dinner for the crew any how. A Japanese shell went through the store room and ruined all the nice things he was going to fix for Christmas dinner.

John McQueen is a senior at U. C. L. A. but doesn't expect to finish. His number is up in the draft and he expects to go.

In the Watkins home there is a room filled with curios of the first World War when Watkins was on transport duty. Souvenirs from Hawaii and China, queer native drums and weapons. Something will no doubt be added from the Absaroka.

But the Watkins home is very merry and happy today, because not only the head of the house but nearly all his shipmates are safe.

But he's going back to sea again as soon as the boat is ready.

## Lower Fares, Later Night Trips on Buses

Lower fares and later night trips to Los Angeles are among a number of important changes to go into effect Jan. 1, according to an advertisement printed elsewhere in this issue, by the Torrance Municipal Bus Line. More frequent trips on holidays and Sundays are also afforded under the revised schedule. Rides anywhere between Walters and 190th st. in North Torrance are now five cents. Service to Walters is also improved with added trips daily and Sundays. Readers are requested to clip the advertisement and keep it for reference.

## Appeal Board May Cut Cost of Plans For Quake Repairs

An appeal board of five members with power to rule that earthquake repairs may be made on certain small buildings on the advice of the city engineering department without preparation of plans and specifications by a licensed structural engineer or architect may be the way out of the Torrance building code controversy.

## Aliens Surrender Cameras, Radios, Guns to Police

All types of radios—from miniature sets to the largest made—all varieties of cameras—from box kodaks to the most expensive Leicas—and all manner of weapons from snub-nosed automatics to high-power rifles—flooded into the police station yesterday as alien residents complied with the latest government orders to surrender such equipment.

From early in the morning until midnight, Japanese, German and Italian residents lugged their radios, cameras and guns to the police station where all equipment was checked and tagged with the name and address of the owner. A receipt was given for each article surrendered to enable the owners to reclaim their property after the war.

There were some tears in the eyes of a few who turned over cherished possessions but none made any verbal objection to the confiscation. Old and young men and women and children they brought their cameras, radios and weapons to the station in all manner of vehicles.

## Civil Police School Starts At 7 Tonight

If all men in Torrance who have been previously notified and those from Redondo Beach and other communities who have signed for the instruction show up at the Civic Auditorium tonight (Tuesday) the first session of the Auxiliary Civilian Police school should be attended by between 400 and 500.

The first lesson will start promptly at 7 o'clock with Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz, Captain Raymond Bergh of Sub-Station No. 3, Chief M. F. Nuremburg of the sheriff's department and Police Chief John Stroh present to launch the 60-hour course of instruction. All men attending are asked to bring notebooks, pencils and lap boards on which to take down notes.

Trained instructors will lead the school which will cover such subjects as war duties, how to meet the public, military discipline, laws of arrest, gas protection, traffic flow, regulation patrol duties, riots and unlawful assemblies and first aid.

At tonight's session, arrangements will be made to start an afternoon course for men who are unable to attend the regular Tuesday night sessions.

James Hitchcock: "This law is a hardship on owners of small buildings. Why, in many cases, I've heard the cost of preparing the plans alone exceeds that of the repairs. If we've made an error in the ordinance I think we should at least discuss a correction."

## State Guard Unit Has Openings for Men in Ranks

There are a few more openings in Company H, Torrance-Lomita's own California State Guard infantry unit which obtained a supply of rifles and the warranting of four corporals during the past week to start.

L. Guy Blake, Norman M. Gardner, Dr. Trevor W. Bullock and Joseph LePorte have received the rank of corporals in the outfit. Fifteen members of the company are now attending officers' training school which is held in the Torrance Recreation hall on Arlington ave.

The Torrance city park is being used by the company for drill practice with First Lieutenant Chalmers Dulmage in charge each Sunday at 9:30 a. m.; Wednesday and Friday nights at 7:30 o'clock. The park site was chosen because of the availability of illumination. The Torrance city council recently authorized renovation of a dressing room building which will be used to store the Guards' equipment. Application blanks for enlistment.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

The city council on Dec. 23 at the request of Frank Dalton, Fay Parks, Harold Guttenfelder and other alder agreed to study such a plan. The appeal board, as set up by the building code, would consist of an architect, a builder, a lawyer and two structural engineers, each with 10 years' experience. Although no definite action was taken by the council, this means of relieving the cost burden on property owners will probably be approved at a special meeting soon.

A petition, carrying 54 signatures of property owners who suffered damage in the Nov. 14 quake, requested easement of the burden of employing high-priced structural engineers or architects on small buildings. City Engineer Glenn Jain reported that as of improvements, Guttenfelder appealed for permission to rent his building at 1618 Cravens ave., which he contended suffered only slight damage in the quake.

Jain countered all requests with pointing out the law does not permit "drawing the line" between small or large repair jobs and declared that Guttenfelder's building, because it was unoccupied at the time of the earthquake, cannot be occupied now until it is completely repaired according to the city ordinance.

When the city engineer reported, in answer to a question by Guttenfelder, no "occupancy permits" had been issued as yet from his office, Councilman Fern Babcock and Guttenfelder called his attention to several past-quake occupancies of buildings which were damaged. Jain said he had no knowledge of these infractions and he was instructed by the council to investigate them.

**Hitchcock for Correction**  
Council reaction to the plea of the property owners was expressed by the following:

George V. Powell: "This complaint (referring to the petition) is striking at our city engineer. I'm satisfied he's doing his best. We felt we adopted a good ordinance. If anyone is to be blamed, the responsibility rests with the council and not Jain."

(Dalton, Parks and Guttenfelder denied the petition "took a slap at the city engineer" but was drafted and signed for one purpose—that of correcting a burdensome load placed on small property owners.)

Vern Babcock: "This occupancy permit thing has been violated in the city on at least three occasions that I know of. I don't think we should discriminate against Harold while permitting the infractions to continue."

Mayor Tom McGuire did not make any statement other than questioning various speakers as to what they desired.

Dalton tried to obtain consent to a rule that buildings under so many square feet or costing less than \$1,500 or \$2,000 to repair be exempt from the requirement of having plans drawn by structural engineers. He also criticized the manner in which inspections are made.

Councilman Babcock moved that the board of appeals be set up in the state building code, be formed here to act on such relief but his motion failed to receive a second. However it was indicated that the council will go into this matter at a special meeting in the near future.