

Torrance Fire Dept. Adds Two Men; More Needed For Lower Insurance

The forthcoming fire underwriters survey of Torrance to determine eligibility of the community for lower fire insurance rates probably will include a recommendation that the fire personnel be increased so that at least 12 men are on duty at the Central station at all times.

So stated Fire Chief J. E. McMaster as he announced that his department is to be increased from 15 to 17 men as

Huge Increase In Christmas Savings

Torrance banks this week are preparing to mail more than \$128,000 to 1650 Christmas Club members who have been making monthly deposits during the past year toward their purchase of Yuletide gifts.

Boasting a 100 percent increase in club members over the year 1945, the banks here this week lists 1,650 persons who are to be mailed checks totaling \$78,000. This, according to Assistant Manager George L. Johnson, marks an all time high for the local branch.

The Torrance National Bank reports its 450 Christmas Club members will soon receive in excess of \$50,000, a substantial increase over the previous year's savings, bank officials said.

Both banks advised Christmas shoppers of 1947 to start monthly savings by Dec. 1 this year in order to insure a greater margin of savings.

Six hundred and thirty five million dollars will be distributed to about eight million three hundred and sixty thousand Christmas Club members throughout the nation by approximately five thousand banking and saving institutions and other organizations during National Prosperity Week, starting Monday, Nov. 25, according to an estimate given out yesterday by Herbert F. Rawll, founder and president of Christmas Club, a corporation.

The total national distribution is 15.7 percent ahead of last year and represents an all-time high for the thirty-six years of club operation. The average per-member distribution is about \$100.00 in large Metropolitan areas and \$76.00 for the entire country, as against \$72.00 last year. The total number of individual members participating this year shows an increase of seven hundred and sixty thousand over a year ago.

In the distribution of Christmas Club funds this year, New York state leads the other states with about \$176,000,000, the estimates for Pennsylvania are \$78,000,000, for Massachusetts \$63,000,000, for New Jersey \$49,000,000.

Californians will receive a total of \$17,300,000. The Bank of America N. T. & S. A. has about \$12,500,000 for 125,000 members in California.

Godard Released From Navy, Will Move To Utah

Gerald Godard, most outstanding Marine League gristler of 1945, this week received his discharge from the Navy after serving more than eight months. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey G. Godard, Gerald will leave the latter part of this week with his father to visit Cedar City, Utah.

The Godards have purchased a farm near the Utah city and expect to move there early next year.

Expansion Of Synthetic Plant Here Proposed

Additional rubber production facilities, utilizing new production techniques, may be in store for this area, according to a statement made before members of the synthetic rubber conference being held at the Mayfair Hotel.

The statement revealed that the development is in the discussion stage between officials of the United States Rubber Company and the Rubber Reserve Division of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Preliminary plans call for the unit to be erected on the site of the synthetic rubber project now in operation in Torrance.

The chemical process which will be utilized in the new unit makes it possible to blend carbon black directly with the liquid rubber that is formed at a stage in the rubber making operation. It was explained the black powder that adds wearing quality to rubber is at present mixed in the tire plants in a laborious milling process.

By eliminating a substantial part of this operation, costs will be reduced and greater efficiency achieved.

A more perfect blending of powder and rubber results in a finished product of greater wearing qualities.

A production capacity from two to two and a half million pounds per month is planned according to officials; the entire output to be made available to Pacific Coast fabricators.

Fifteen variations of the original type of American rubber have been developed and are now in production, it was revealed in the discussions. Officials pointed out that improved rubbers such as those to be developed in the proposed unit place increased importance on the scientifically produced rubber in relation to the natural type.

Chief McMaster also announced that the last of the war emergency firemen had been replaced by permanent men. Just installed are Robert Lucas, Deporte Skidmore and G. Whitacre Jr., at the Central station, and Leonard Christian replacing J. G. Bergeron at Walteria. Casper Clemmer, emergency fireman, returned to the park department and Bergeron resigned.

Edison Company To Move Into Water Office

Torrance Water department will become landlord to the Southern California Edison Co. on Jan. 1, 1947, according to Water Superintendent William Stanger, the district having signed a lease for occupancy a part of the water department office by the Edison company.

Thus, both water bills and electric bills will be payable at the one office, at 1510 Cravens ave., opposite the City Hall.

The Edison company has been occupying quarters at 1425 Marcelina ave., in the building owned by Dr. C. L. Ingold.

Both the water district and the Edison company will keep identical hours, it was announced.

Outside Aid In Two New Sewer Districts Asked

City Engineer G. M. Jain is authorized by the City Council Monday to ask for state and federal aid in preparing plans and performing engineering work in connection with new sewer districts for South Torrance and Walteria.

Jain told the Council that there are seven miles of sewer lines proposed for South Torrance and about 10 miles for the Walteria area, and he declared that now is the time to ask for state and federal aid if any is forthcoming.

He said the costs he will ask the other agencies to assume will be about \$18,000, and that plans must be made now if the sewers are to be constructed not later than next summer.

Woman Victim Of Assault And Robbery

Torrance police report a 32-year-old Bellflower woman early last Thursday morning was robbed and criminally assaulted near 182nd st. and Crenshaw blvd. by a man she described as "a gentleman in appearance, whose speech indicated culture."

The victim, a married woman, told officers that she met the man in a Figueroa street bar. "He seemed very nice, and when he asked me to join him for dinner, I accepted. Instead he drove out here and parked. He forced me to give him the money in my purse, which was \$7, then made me yield to his advances."

The woman said she was thrown from the car following the attack and was picked up over to Los Angeles police. The Los Angeles police, it was said, took her to the sheriff's substation at 108th st. and Vermont ave., who in turn brought her to the Torrance police station, under whose jurisdiction the attack occurred.

J. M. Hernandez Arrives At German Post

To do his bit in "winning the peace," Pvt. Joseph M. Hernandez, son of Sally Martinez of Torrance, has arrived at the European Theater Army Air Force Replacement Depot, and will soon be assigned to permanent duties with the occupational Air Force.

From this depot he may be assigned to units servicing Army Air Force planes in Germany, Austria, Italy or France. While here, in the picturesque Bavaria, he will have an opportunity to enjoy the scenic beauties of the wooded foothills of the Alps. He will also be able to visit the notorious Dachau Concentration Camp.

Before entering the service in January, 1946, Pvt. Hernandez attended the Moorpark High School. Later he was employed by the Columbia Steel company in Torrance.

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