

## OPEN UP THAT DOOR

Two items of news appearing in this newspaper last week present to the person following the public's business in Torrance a thought which might be the key to future progress of the community.

The first was the statement of Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull backed by the City Board of Education, that the schools are going to be operated on the "open book policy," with all records and information ready for the scrutiny of the public at all times.

The other is the revelation that requests for financial data asked of the City Clerk's office have gone unheeded for months.

The city government started the year "broke," according to pronouncements. Immediately, registered warrants were necessary and several methods of increasing the revenue of the city applied.

One is the sales tax, another was an increase in the tax rate, a third a new license ordinance. A fourth was "parking meters," rejected by popular demand as unnecessary.

The year is nine months old, and still no budget has been announced.

The people want to know: "How do we stand?" How much money has been received from the County Tax Collector's office? What was the distribution of that money? How much has been taken under the new license ordinance, the sales tax?

How much have we out in registered warrants? How much money is there in the bank? How are the departments spending, no budget having been adopted? How much money have we spent this year?

This is the public's business; everything that goes on in the City Hall is the public's business, and every book, every file, report, communication and document should be available to the public for inspection all the time.

The City Clerk and the City Council merely are custodians for the people of Torrance, of the funds, records and documents of public business.

These things should be brought out into the open, and in so doing, the city government can regain the confidence of the people. By so doing, it would be possible to float a bond issue for that much-needed fire station.

Secrecy has no place in the City Hall. Information requested should be available.

For the sake of the progress of Torrance, restore confidence in city doings. "Open up that door."

## THE FIRST FRUITS

An audience of some 500 Torrance area residents gathered in Torrance high school auditorium Friday night to hear the first public concert of a group of musicians who are destined, due to popular acclaim, to become a community band worthy of public support—either through the City's music fund or through the newly formed Torrance City School District's music departments.

The presentation, by Torrance Area Youth Band, consisting of three groups from beginners to advanced musicians, was a revelation to many who had heard of the band and of the plucky group of citizens who joined forces to keep the work going after organizational support failed.

Under the baton of James Van Dyck, the young musicians exhibited with seasoned expertness the fruits of a year's training marked with frequent hardships brought about by failure of the community to understand the worthwhile work which had been undertaken.

But now they have heard and seen the band, and those in the auditorium of the high school Friday night were an appreciative audience.

There should be nothing to stop their progress to the end that regular concerts might be presented for the cultural advancement of the community. The work is a foundation upon which school bands may be built to fill the lack that has been so noticeable, particularly at athletic events. It is the groundwork for a community band which may be presented at patriotic occasions.

The band and the citizens who are its backers are to be congratulated.

Let the way be found that a subsidy may remove some of the obstacles blocking its progress.

## SOUTHWEST TORRANCE WILL GET 211 NEW HOMES IN BIG \$2,000,000 DEVELOPMENT

Another \$2,000,000 home development project is about to be undertaken in Torrance, the California Nevada Properties, Inc., having taken out applications for building permits for 211 three bedroom homes which total that amount in value.

The development will be located on tract 10306, in the extreme southwest part of Torrance, between Hollywood, Riviera and Palos Verdes Estates.

A contract for the construction and subdivision improvements has been awarded Hadcock Engineers, Ltd.

City Engineer G. M. Jair said that the start of the development is awaiting only dedication of streets to the City of Torrance along an unsubsided area which some of the lots face. This is being required by the F. H. A. which otherwise has granted full approval to the tract.

The tract has been in considerable litigation throughout the years, and Rudolph Mayer, said to be one of the owners, was involved recently in a court action brought by the Avalon Corporation. This was settled.

At the time Mayer first announced his development, it was said that provision would be made for a school site and a fire station site on the tract.

Announcement of final plans for this development brings to 575 the number of housing units in Torrance actually getting under way at this time. They include Seaside Ranchos, also in southwest Torrance, with 156; the Kettler estate, at Sepulveda Blvd., and Narbonne ave., with 144; Metro Construction Co., on Crenshaw Blvd., near 185th st., with 64 units. Others planned in North Torrance, as soon as water is available, total another 350 units, according to the city engineer.

Jack Pine is planning 132 units in the downtown area, and Ben Haggott, of Seaside Ranchos, is launching plans for another 160 homes.

They total 1507 new dwelling units proposed for Torrance.

On the reviewing stand were Miss Anne Patton, sister of the late Gen. George S. Patton; Gen. George C. Kenney and other high-ranking Army, Navy and Marine Corps officers.

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JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING . . . Pictured above are members of the Torrance City Board of Education and Perry Elementary District Board of Trustees in a joint meeting Thursday in Perry school. Pictured, left to right, are J. H. Hull, Torrance superintendent of schools; Mrs. Grace W. Wright and Mrs. Evelyn Carr, members of the Torrance city board; E. W. Ingram, assistant Torrance school superintendent; Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance board; W. C. Graham, Perry trustee; George P. Thatcher, of the Torrance board; Gordon Mann, chairman at Perry; Ray Reel, principal at Perry school and J. M. Clotworthy, clerk of the Perry board. (Torrance Herald photo.)

## Torrance And Perry Boards In Joint Meet

Members of the Torrance City Board of Education and trustees of the Perry School District met in joint session at the Perry school on Thursday evening.

In a meeting arranged by Ray Reel, principal at Perry, and Gordon Mann, chairman of the Perry board, the group gathered for dinner in the school cafeteria and discussed joint problems regarding the transfer of the Perry district to Torrance City School District.

Perry has an average daily attendance of 175 students and the school is located on a seven-acre site on Prairie ave., near 182nd st. The district also owns another seven-acre tract in the area.

The use of Perry district funds to finance the operation of Torrance City School District until July 1 was discussed. The County School office has ruled that this is a legal procedure.

J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and E. W. Ingram, assistant in charge of business, attended the session with Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance board, and members.

## TRIAL OF LAWSUITS TO HOLD SCHOOL PROPERTY SET FOR MAY 1 IN SUPERIOR COURT

Torrance City Board of Education has secured a preliminary restraining order against the Los Angeles Board of Education to prevent them from moving bungalows and selling real estate within the limits of the new charter City of Torrance.

Trial of the Torrance Board of Education's complaint in intervention with that of City Judge John A. Shidler, acting as a taxpayer, who similarly secured a restraining order against Los Angeles, has been set for May 1 on the master calendar of the Superior court, department No. 1. It will be assigned immediately and the trial will proceed at once, S. V. O. Pritchard, a attorney representing both the Torrance City Board of Education and Judge Shidler, told the local board.

Likewise, it was pointed out, an action of an identical nature brought by the Culver City Board of Education will be tried.

Questions of law never before settled in the courts were decided, it is pointed out. One is section No. 18743 of the Education Code which reads: "When any territory withdrawn from a school district pursuant to this code contains a school building, site or real property, the building or site, together with the fixtures thereon, shall, upon the withdrawal of the territory becoming effective, become the property of the district of which the territory becomes a part or the whole."

It is contended by Torrance that the section became effective upon the adoption of the City Charter on August 20, and that the electors of Torrance acted in their capacity as an independent school district on January 1, when they voted to affiliate with Redondo Union High School District for secondary education purposes.

At the Torrance City Board of Education meeting on Tuesday night, in the auditorium of Torrance Elementary School, the board appointed Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull as its representative on a Board of Arbitration to determine "what constitutes fixtures." This is in accord with section 18743 of the Education Code. Other representatives will be named by the Los Angeles City Board of Education and the office of the county Superintendent of Schools.

The lawsuits to be tried starting May 1 constitute a "dispute," and that section of the code reads in part: "If a dispute arises between the governing boards of the two districts concerned as to what constitutes fixtures, a board of arbitrators shall be appointed who shall determine what articles in a school building located within the territory withdrawn from one school district are fixtures thereof. The board shall consist of one person selected by the district from which the territory is withdrawn, one person selected by the district of which it has become a part, and a third person appointed by the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the districts are located in which the districts are located. The arbitrator or arbitrators shall proceed to view and examine such property, articles, equipment and fixtures as they are requested to pass upon by the respective school districts and make a written finding as to what property, articles, or equipment constitute fixtures. Their findings are final and binding upon the districts, the section further provides.

It is anticipated that in this manner, the Torrance district (Continued on Page 7-A)

## Torrance Loses El Camino J. C. as Pressure Groups Hike Price on Alondra Site

### Vandals Wreck Presbyterian Church Hall

Vandals entered the Community Presbyterian church at Lomita Sunday night and caused damage estimated at \$500, according to the sheriff's office.

The Rev. John Orr, pastor, stated that he knew of no reason for the vandalism, and no identification of the invaders has been made as yet.

The rooms in the church were literally torn apart, with furniture overturned, pictures ripped from the walls, religious literature torn up and scattered over the room.

Even the pulpit, containing a loudspeaker and amplifier equipment, was damaged.

The invaders also entered the social hall in the rear of the church, where a banquet was scheduled Monday night for the benefit of the Boy Scout building fund. Damage in the hall was mostly confined to the kitchen.

Fingerprint and identification officers from the sheriff's office investigated the case over the premises and went over the obtaining evidence leading to the identification and apprehension of the desecrators.

### School Board Interviewing Principals

Interviewing of principals for the elementary schools of Torrance starting with the new term in September, 1947, was undertaken by the Torrance City Board of Education Tuesday night.

Candidates for the positions at Torrance Elementary School and Fern Avenue School, which with Walteria and Perry schools come under jurisdiction of the Torrance City School District on July 1, were presented by Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull.

They will assist with the selection of teachers which already is being undertaken.

The Torrance Board of Education is experiencing fine cooperation from university teacher placement bureaus and the county school offices, Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance board, explained.

The new superintendent is recommending the hiring of an attendance officer, explaining that such an officer pays his own salary in keeping up the average daily attendance upon which state school support is based. This will run from \$90 to \$145 per a.d.a. per year.

The Board of Education members will attend the meeting of the School Trustees Association in Alhambra on Saturday.

It was announced that the Torrance district will have the full time service of Assistant Superintendent of Schools E. W. Ingram after Monday when he relinquishes his position with the State Department of Education which he has held while on leave from Montebello schools.

### BODGER NO. 3 IS COMPLETED AT ALONDRA PARK

Bodger No. 3 in the Alondra district, has been completed by the British American Oil Producing Co. and The Texas Co. as a 1500-barrel well.

It was drilled to 9145 feet with seven-inch casing set at 9100 feet.

N. Y. RAILROADS Every railroad running into the City of New York from the south or west has to enter it from the state of New Jersey.

### Appointment Of Firemen May Be Left To County

The decision as to whether or not two firemen will be appointed as regular members of the Torrance Fire department may be left up to the County Civil Service Board.

The two men, Eugene Held and Ernest Lopp, were appointed to the department during the war emergency and it was urged by friends of the men that due to their experience and training during the past five years they be retained on the department in lieu of new and inexperienced recruits.

It was reported that the Civil Service board here wished to replace the men with two others from the eligible list, and that Held and Lopp are too old to take the examinations for the posts since each is more than 32 years of age.

It also reported that the Board has given civil service status to other men in the Torrance department over age, and that Held had been promised examination for such status.

Pressure interests including a chamber of commerce secretary who has a record of supporting public gambling in Gardena apparently have won their campaign against placing El Camino college on Alondra park, adjacent to Torrance, it was seen yesterday.

After passage of special legislation in Sacramento to permit the Board of Supervisors to grant the newly formed junior college district 75 acres of land, sufficient to build the finest college of its type in the Southwest at Alondra park, the Board of Supervisors, at the reported insistence of interests opposing the location of the college there, have placed a price of \$3,000 an acre on the land originally reported as available as a gift from one taxpaying group to another.

Land adjacent to the site for which the supervisors are said to be asking \$3,000 an acre can be secured for as little as \$1,500 an acre, or under condemnation proceedings at possibly lower figures.

The net result of the opposition of interests fighting the desires of the people of Torrance, Redondo Beach, Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Palos Verdes and Manhattan Beach as of yesterday was that the taxpayers of El Camino college district will have to dig down and buy a college site at from \$1500 to \$2000 an acre while the vast and undeveloped Alondra park continues to stand vacant as a complete burden on the taxpayers.

Several sites are being considered in the district for the college, but the trustees, desiring to place it as near the center of the vast area as possible, had agreed upon the Alondra park location as the best.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, representing all of the new college districts (also Gardena, which is not in the El Camino district since Gardena is in Los Angeles City school district) has been a champion of the effort to have the college located at Alondra park. He is said to be continuing his drive to so place the institution, which already has an enrollment of some 1200 students. Classes now are being conducted in Redondo Union high school, El Segundo and Inglewood high schools.

It had been hoped that the location could be secured in time to take advantage of the offer of the government to provide some 20,000 square feet of semi-permanent buildings for the college, which alone would represent an investment of approximately \$100,000.

If the college district is forced by the delay brought about by fixing the \$3000 an acre price on the vacant, undeveloped property (which can be used for park or college purposes only) to seek land elsewhere and loses the chance to get the buildings offered by the federal government, the unnecessary cost to the people of El Camino college district may run upwards of \$400,000.

When the matter first was (Continued on Page 7-A)

## No Break Seen In Second Week Of 'Phone Tie-Up

It was apparent last night that there was no hope for an immediate break in the telephone strike which has tied up service in the Torrance and Lomita area to an extent worse than in other surrounding areas.

B. Smith, manager of the Torrance Lomita area, urged people placing emergent or urgent calls to place them on a person to person sent-paid basis as this consumes less time to handle the call. "The company regrets the inconvenience to the public of limited service in Torrance and will continue to do its best to provide as much service as possible," he said.

The manager declared figures released for the traffic department in January provided this group, which is largely composed of operators, an average weekly salary of \$41.56. Plant department men and women in Southern California in January, which includes installers, line men, maintenance men, etc., averaged \$66.94 per week. The operators are asking for minimum 25 percent increases.

Smith also pointed out that the telephone companies agree in general with Labor Secretary Schwellenbach's proposal, but here are some qualifications which include installers, line men, maintenance men, etc., which believe are necessary and which have been presented to the secretary.

Local Masonic groups are preparing to join with the public schools and Parent-Teacher associations in the observance of Public Schools Week.

A proclamation setting aside Public Schools Week in Torrance has been issued by Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr., it was announced.

Governor Warren has urged that during the week assigned to fall of our citizens set aside time to better acquaint themselves with ways in which they may take a part in the further development of our local public schools.

## Public Schools Week Set For April 28-May 3

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Governor Warren has urged that during the week assigned to fall of our citizens set aside time to better acquaint themselves with ways in which they may take a part in the further development of our local public schools.

WHEREAS, the Public Schools of Torrance have achieved a new significance through the establishment of the Torrance City School District by vote of the electors of the community, and

WHEREAS, the conditions existing not only in this community but throughout the nation are similar to those following the end of World War I when the Grand Lodge of Masons of California established what now has become a community affair, Public Schools Week, to awaken the people of California to the great danger threatening the public schools in the acute shortage of teachers at that time, and

WHEREAS, there is a great present need for the people to interest themselves in the public schools that their knowledge of the public schools and their problems might aid in building finer school systems, now, therefore, I, J. Hugh Sherfy Jr., Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby

PROCLAIM the week of April 28 to May 3 as Public Schools Week in the City of Torrance, and urge all citizens, lodges, clubs and organizations to avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain first hand information of their schools by visiting the schools of Torrance and by conducting programs in observance of this week.

J. HUGH SHERFY JR., Mayor, City of Torrance, April 16, 1947.

## Memorial Day Rites To Be Planned Here

Plans for a Memorial day service in Torrance will be discussed at a joint meeting of veterans organization tonight in the C.I.O. hall on Border avenue.

The Bert S. Crossland post No. 170, the American Legion, is scheduling the special meeting for 8 p. m., and representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans will attend.

This will be the third annual Memorial day service which has been conducted in Torrance. Prior to 1945, when the first rites were held here, local veterans participated with groups in other cities.

A plot in El Prado park, at Cravens ave., was dedicated to the memory of fallen war heroes, and the Memorial day ceremonies have been conducted there following a street parade of veterans and patriotic groups.

## City Clerk Gets 25th Anniversary Surprise Party

Approximately 35 guests, including city department heads and employees, Saturday night greeted City Clerk Albert H. Bartlett with a surprise party, in celebration of the completion of his 25th year as City Clerk of Torrance.

The party, held in the summer house at Bartlett's home, was reported a complete success, and the group presented the Bartletts with a radio as a token of their esteem.

Bartlett was elected to the position of City Clerk in 1922, and ever since has held that office.

## AIRBORNE DISEASE

Airborne transmission of diseases is being studied at the Berkeley campus of the University of California by university and U. S. Navy scientists.

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## Five El Camino Board Members Seek Reelection

All five present board members are candidates for election to the Board of Trustees of El Camino Junior college set for May 16.

Present board members appointed at the time the college was organized last fall, are N. R. Kuhn, Manhattan Beach; Robert Russell, Redondo Beach; Mrs. Kathleen Mumma and R. L. Whitaker, Inglewood; and Ernest E. Lyder, El Segundo.

Jurisdiction of the college, organized by El Segundo, Redondo Union and Centinela Union high school districts, has been extended to Torrance through annexation of the Torrance high school to the Redondo school.

It had been hoped that the location could be secured in time to take advantage of the offer of the government to provide some 20,000 square feet of semi-permanent buildings for the college, which alone would represent an investment of approximately \$100,000.

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It also reported that the Board has given civil service status to other men in the Torrance department over age, and that Held had been promised examination for such status.

## Inauguration Of Torrance Plan Announced With Dollar Days

After weeks of careful planning and many meetings of various coordinated committees, the Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce announced in a full page advertisement in this issue the inauguration of the Torrance Plan with Dollar Days on Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26.

Practically every store in Torrance has pledged to follow this plan to reduce the cost of living in Torrance by a merchandising program which will be of direct benefit to the consumer.

In a signed statement George Noonan, president of the Merchants Division, said, "Torrance merchants are determined to establish Torrance as the best shopping city in this entire southwest area. And to do this they are inaugurating the Torrance Plan, which is destined to sweep the nation as the most practical suggestion ever made to reduce the cost of living. In order to place this plan in full swing im-

mediately, Torrance merchants pledged to this plan, have gone through their stock and reduced hundreds and hundreds of items to cost and less than cost for these two great Dollar Days. Next week you are going to do some money saving shopping in Torrance—we promise you bargain you haven't seen in 10 years."

Briefly, the Torrance Plan is this:

1. To clear the shelves of all stores of high-priced merchandise.

2. To maintain the standard of quality and style which the public demands.

3. To refuse to purchase additional merchandise from all manufacturers whose merchandise is "out of line" with the Torrance plan.

4. To establish better living conditions in Torrance by a reduction of living costs as a goal for the rest of the nation.