

IMPROVED MAIL SERVICE IN CITY INCLUDES NEW RURAL ROUTE FOR NORTH TORRANCE

Long sought and greatly needed changes and improvements in the Torrance postoffice service have been approved by the Postoffice Department in Washington, D. C., it was announced this week by C. Earl Conner, Torrance postmaster.

Important among the changes, to be effective Oct. 1, 1947, are the extensions of delivery service to a number of new housing projects, and delivery service extended to portions of North Torrance.

The North Torrance service, formerly handled through the Redondo Beach postoffice, will include rural service from Western ave. westerly on 190th st. to Arlington ave., north to 174th st., west to Prairie ave., including service on Yukon ave., south to Hickman drive, west to Bailey drive, south to 182nd st., east to the Coast dairy, near Crenshaw blvd., returning west to Prairie, south to 190th st., and west to Hawthorne blvd. where it will join rural route No. 1. Service in addition to this route will be added as necessary, it was said. This leaves most of the territory east of Arlington ave. and north of 174th st., and Hawthorne blvd. itself, to service by the Gardena and Redondo Beach offices, it was pointed out.

Residents in the area affected by the new Torrance rural route are being requested to notify their correspondents that after October 1 their mail will be addressed to "Torrance, Calif.," instead of Redondo Beach and Gardena.

Other improvements to be effective Oct. 1, according to Postmaster Conner, are:

- 1.—All territory north of Carson st. to Torrance blvd. and between Crenshaw blvd. and Greenwood ave., will be served by city carrier delivery. Part of this district will be by foot carrier and a portion by city mounted carrier.
2. The Pueblo tract, that portion of the Shoestring strip now served by city carrier, the Hammetton tract, Berendo st., new homes at Moneta and 214th st., Carson st. from Normandie to Avalon, 220th from Avalon to Vermont plus a number of additional districts will be served by the city mounted delivery service.

Postmaster Conner said: "The approval by the Department of the changes to be effective Oct. 1, will be greatly appreciated by a great majority."

(Continued on Page 7-A)

Post Office in North Torrance Is Sought As Moneta Station Closing

North Torrance residents, having won half of their battle to get the United States mail through the Torrance postoffice and thus speed from two to four days delivery of local mail, are seeking a contract or branch postoffice, it was revealed this week.

The movement, under way for some time, gained new strength when it was announced that the Moneta postoffice may be closed and facilities moved to a point at 15051 So. Arlington ave.

The Moneta office had many patrons from North Torrance, and removal of that office would mean that they would have to travel miles to get to a post-office.

In the efforts to establish a Torrance rural route in North Torrance to take the place of the Gardena and Redondo Beach rural routes, the need for a post-office was stressed.

Redondo Beach's rural route is being virtually abandoned in North Torrance in favor of a Torrance rural route. Little change is made in the Gardena service.

Gardena Postmaster James H. Gates was ordered recently to transfer the Moneta station to 15051 Arlington ave. The Moneta station has been under his jurisdiction, but in view of the establishment of a Torrance rural route in North Torrance, Postmaster C. Earl Conner, of the Torrance office, said that the request of residents for a branch or contract station in North Torrance will be given every consideration.

The transfer may completely end postal service at Moneta, which for half a century had an independent office of its own.

Opening near the end of the last century, the Moneta postoffice was an independent station until 1944. An expansion of the Gardena office gradually reduced the duties of the one in Moneta, Postmaster Sid Horrell, after discussing the matter with residents of the area, finally decided a classified station would give just as good service, and an application for a merger with the Gardena office was approved.

One factor in the department's recent decision to make further reduction to contract status, Gates revealed, was the boost in mail of the present Moneta quarters early this year, from 227.75 to \$75 a month.

Following the offer of a West-

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.3904 Cent Cut In County Tax Rate Ordered

Thousands of taxpayers, whose assessed valuations were not increased by the County Assessor this year, should receive substantial decreases in their tax bills next October.

This should be brought about by the fact that the County tax rate will be cut approximately .3904 on each \$100 assessed valuation.

The County tax rate as submitted to the Board of Supervisors at its regular session on Tuesday by County Auditor Joe Lowrey for the year 1947-48, will be \$1.4937 on each \$100 assessed valuation.

"When I was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors," said Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, "I stated publicly that I would espouse the reduction of taxes insofar as it is compatible with public service and needs, and I am happy to join my colleagues in fulfilling such a pledge for the current fiscal year, 1947-48."

The County Flood Control District rate was cut .0307 cents to .0065 cents to .0695 cents. The county road fund remains the same at .02 cents.

Bus Line To North Torrance To Start Soon

Torrance Municipal Bus Lines will start operating local service in the North Torrance area within the next 10 days, it was reported Tuesday night.

Extension of service to Seaside Ranchos likewise will be ordered, it was said.

The City Council now has under consideration a plan to purchase four more new buses without use of city funds other than that earned by the bus lines, and as soon as the deal is completed, Los Angeles service will be stepped up and the Inglewood-Long Beach line established.

Manager William Murphy said that the overhauling of the old buses is progressing, but slower than planned, and the two new buses recently received are on the present lines replacing equipment being repaired.

The old Whites are ready to be "junked," it was said, as they are costing too much to maintain.

Nearby Cities Cut Tax Rate For Municipal Purposes; Gardena Same

Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach are reducing their city tax rates, while Gardena's will remain the same this year, a survey of the nearby districts shows.

The Torrance general rate remains the same, at 99 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, however, and the total is increased 18 cents by the pension fund need.

Hermosa Beach followed in line with the general trend toward local tax reductions as the City Council took preliminary steps toward lowering the city tax rate.

By introducing an ordinance setting the rate at \$1.26 for the fiscal year 1947-48 the council thus reduced the current rate 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Of this tax 35 cents will go into the general fund, 15 cents to the music, parks and advertising coffers, 3 cents to pay off bonds for the municipal pier, 7 cents for redemption of sewer bonds, and 5 cents to pay for the new fire equipment, as ordered by the voters at a recent election.

The council also adopted next year's budget, setting estimated total revenues at \$147,917, including police court fines, business licenses and permits of all types, in addition to the tax revenues. This figure is expected to be \$64,334, based on the 95-cent rate for a total assessed valuation of \$7,128,515, less 5 percent to be chocked off for delinquency.

By introducing a city ordinance, Redondo Beach city councilmen took the first step toward reduction of the city tax rate from last year's levy of \$1.80 per \$100 assessed valuation to a new figure for the 1947-48 fiscal year of \$1.70—a 10-cent saving on each \$100.

Mrs. Bernice Venable, chairman of the finance committee, said that the 20-cent library tax will continue this year in order to build up a sufficient surplus so the new building in the north district may be constructed.

Gardena's tax rate will stay at 80 cents this year.

Deciding that extra revenue from the higher assessed valuation

(Continued on Page 4-A)



WE TRAIN THEM, OTHERS TAKE THEM . . . Because of poor pay here, several officers have left the Torrance police force and seven have taken examinations for better jobs elsewhere. Half of the officers pictured here, in the recent graduating class of the F. B. I. school held in Torrance over a period of 20 weeks have left or may leave. In uniform: Sgt. Percy Bennett, Capt. Frank Schumacher, T. Deal, who took the California Highway Patrol examination; Capt. Ernest Ashton; Carmel Cook, who took the patrol examination; Kad Fiberg; Adrian Thornberry, now on the Los Angeles Police department; Alex Thompson; Willard Barnett, now with the California Highway Patrol; John Maestri, who took the patrol test; Henry Porter; Larry Benton, who took the state test; Sgt. William Evans, Capt. G. M. Calder, deceased; Jess Holmes, who took the state test; Swayne Johnson, who took the state examination. In the foreground are F. B. I. agents Skousen, Gouge, Chief of Police John H. Stroff, F. B. I. agents Sullivan and Smith. (Torrance Herald Photo)

Labor Day To Be Marked Here By Big Celebration

The Labor day holiday in Torrance, Monday Sept. 1, will be observed with the usual closing of stores, banks, public offices and public utility offices.

Torrance postoffice, in line with the federal policy, will close, and there will be no distribution of mail.

The Torrance Herald office will be closed, and due to the summer schedule of Saturday holidays, advertisers and others wishing to assure publication of notices are asked to have them in the office Friday, if possible.

In Torrance the Labor day holiday will be marked with an all-day picnic in Torrance ball park, sponsored by the Lions club and the Moose lodge.

In the evening a Donkey Basketball game will feature the city's celebration, with leading citizens riding "Missouri mules" in a new crazy game. Proceeds will go to charity funds of the Lions and the Moose lodge.

Low Wage Rate For Torrance Police Accounts For 60 Per Cent Turnover

Office workers in the Torrance City Hall receive more pay per hour than starting members of the Torrance police force, investigation by the Torrance Herald revealed this week.

As a result patrolmen on the Torrance Police force regard their positions as a means to an end, the end being better paid police jobs elsewhere.

This attitude can be seen in the rate of turn-over in the force during the past year and one-half. Seven men have already quit the Torrance police department to get more money elsewhere. Six more have taken Civil Service examinations for the California Highway patrol.

Those who have quit the department for more money in similar work elsewhere, include Adrian Thornberry, who went to the Los Angeles Police department; Willard Barnett, California Highway patrol; Bob Cosullo, Sheriff's office; C. C. Tolson, private business; Al Hill, private business; Gene Garner, state correctional officer.

Torrance police officers who have taken the Civil Service test for appointment to the California Highway patrol are: J. W. Holmes, Roy Sullivan, Swayne Johnson, John Maestri, Carmel Cook and Lawrence Benton.

According to the Civil Service Commission there are only six applicants for police jobs on the waiting list.

Although the policeman starting out on the Torrance force is paid \$220 per month, the sal-

(Continued on Page 4-A)

Penney Store Hit By Thieves Tuesday Night

After prying open the front door with a bar, thieves made off with \$500 in clothes and \$200 in petty cash from the J. C. Penney store Tuesday night.

According to Manager George Noonan, the doors were locked when he left the building at 5:00 p.m. Tuesday. The following morning he found the lock broken. Investigation revealed 15 pair of men's trousers, 3 suits and 3 sport coats missing. A petty cash box in the office, containing \$200, had also disappeared.

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL TO START CLASSES SEPTEMBER 12; REGISTRATION UNDER WAY

Registration for the fall semester is being completed this week at Torrance high school. Miss Harriet Hardy, dean of girls and head counselor has been busy for several weeks programming students. Much to her surprise, the new courses being offered at Torrance this fall are proving most popular. Public speaking, drama and journalism are elective courses for junior and senior students, and if registration continues at the present rate, they will be full before registration is completed.

Miss Hardy said that in her opinion public speaking would probably do more for a student's personality and self-development than any other similar class in a public high school. Seniors planning to enter the university are urged to enroll in the modern literature class, as the course of study offered in this class includes a review of grammar and construction necessary to pass the Subject "A" test given by most universities.

In the music field band and orchestra are being offered again this year.

With the prospects of a good football team, it is hoped that a good 40-piece band can be ready for the first game on Friday, Sept. 26. Orchestra

(Continued on Page 5-A)

CITY PAYING 75 PERCENT OF MUNICIPAL AIRPORT INCOME FOR MANAGEMENT

E. Y. Tarkington's commissions to manage Torrance Municipal Airport were increased from 15 per cent of the gross income to 75 per cent by the City Council Tuesday night.

The agreement was amended with the understanding that gasoline and oil sales are exempted and that Tarkington pay all expenses, as was provided in the previous agreement entered into originally on May 28.

The effective date of the agreement also was amended to read as of August 4, 1947.

Regular weekly accounts are filed by Tarkington with the City Clerk's office, and he is paid his commissions as they are filed.

The city receives two cents per gallon commission on all sales of gasoline up to 5,000 gallons a month; two and one-half cents a gallon on sales from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons, and three cents above 10,000. The sales, however, do not exceed 5,000 a month at this time.

Tarkington took over the airport on a temporary agreement when right-of-entry to the airport was granted the city on May 28, and later as the War Assets Administration turned complete ownership of the airport over to the city the agreement was made permanent, but subject to cancellation under certain conditions.

The only explanation given by the Council for increasing Tarkington's commissions to 75 per cent was that "Mr. Tarkington is to pay all expenses, including labor, from the 75 per cent." He had been doing that under the previous agreement, although it was not stipulated in the contract.

According to records of the Clerk's office, his earnings since taking over the airport have been as follows:

A net profit of \$1,296.62 has been taken in by the City of Torrance since the initial airport contract went into effect May 28.

From May 28 to Aug. 4, at which time the second contract was placed in effect, a total of \$184.50 was paid the manager on a commission basis of 15 per cent on gross receipts amounting to \$1,230 from Aug. 4 to Aug. 26 under the new arrangement whereby 75 per cent commission is paid. \$847.50 went to the manager, leaving the city \$382.50.

Sale of gasoline at the airport over the same period netted the city \$127.

Meanwhile, Capt. George Batchelor, of Hermosa Beach, has six planes on the field which must soon be moved unless hangar space is provided for them, he said.

Capt. Batchelor, in attendance at the Council meeting, declared that he will have to operate from another airport where shelter is available unless he can secure space before the rainy season starts.

He owns four DC-3 28-passenger and cargo planes, has another on lease, and one UC-78, five plane plane.

Capt. Batchelor has contracts with the California Air Freight Forwarders, the Los Angeles trolley club and other firms for carrying passengers, merchandise and perishable food across the country. He employs 14 men now, all veterans except two, and said that he will have 50 men on his payroll by January 1, if a proper operating setup can be secured.

No indication was given by the City as to whether or not his hangar needs can be cared for. (Continued on Page 2-C)

Pipe For Water On Crenshaw Is Received Here

Pipe for the new water line on Crenshaw blvd., north to 174th st., to serve the new Torrance Manor home-building project, has been received and strung along the boulevard.

The City Council Tuesday night called for bids to lay the line and thus complete the first phase of the new Torrance Water system.

Recently 2,000 feet of pipe tapped the Metropolitan Water District main at Crenshaw boulevard and 190th st. and carried it to 185th st. The balance of some 3,200 feet was bought "on the open market" and strung along the boulevard preparatory to installation in order to have water available for the Homer Bales building project at 174th st. Some 190 homes will be built in Torrance Manor.

Bids probably will be opened for the job on Sept. 9.

Three steep fines for drunk driving were handed out by City Judge John A. Shidder in the Torrance City court Wednesday morning.

Ernest Clark 69, 2414 Clark lane, Redondo Beach, was fined \$150. Henry Rizo Ascencio, 22, 20250 Hawthorne blvd., was fined \$125 and had his operator's license suspended for 30 days. Virgil V. Caraway, 2013 Havermyer lane, Redondo Beach, was sentenced to serve 30 days in the county jail or pay \$150, and also had his license suspended for 30 days.

All three men entered pleas of guilty.

Boundaries And Schedules For Fall Bus Runs Given By School Board

There will be no charge for any Torrance Public School pupil riding the school buses.

This was the announcement made last week by the Torrance Board of Education as full information on bus boundaries and schedules was issued.

It will be the policy of the school district to provide transportation for all pupils living beyond a mile and quarter radius of their school. Crippled children and children whose doctor certifies to the Board of Education that their health will not permit walking to school, may ride the buses regardless of their residence location. They may ride the bus by reaching a stop on any scheduled run.

Stops will be made at corners only, and beyond the intersection unless there is a boulevard stop. Pupils will be picked up and discharged on the right hand side of the road.

Seventh and eighth grade bus runs will begin at 7:30 a. m. in order for those students to arrive at school in time for 8:20 classes. Elementary runs will begin immediately following the 7th and 8th grade runs.

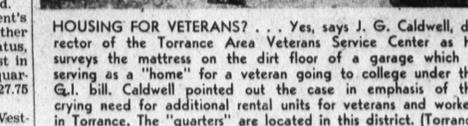
BUS BOUNDARIES

(1) Seventh and eighth graders may ride buses if they reside beyond a line beginning at Western ave., traveling west on 233rd st. to Estelman, south on Estelman to 235th, west on 235th to Pennsylvania, north on Pennsylvania to 233rd, west on 233rd one block to the line of Tract No. 2200, then north on that line to Sepulveda, westerly on Sepulveda to Maple, north on Maple to the Santa Fe railroad, east on the line of the railroad to Western, beyond which is not Torrance City School District.

(2) Perry School children may ride the buses if they reside beyond a line beginning at Redondo Beach blvd. and Yukon ave., and traveling south on Yukon to 168th, then east on 168th and projected straight across to

throughfare would be opened from Hawthorne blvd. to Redondo Beach blvd. on the west, and from the Torrance city line to connect with Artesia blvd. at Alameda st. on the east. From Alameda blvd. Artesia is open easterly to Firestone blvd. in Orange county. Much of the 100-foot right-of-way for 174th st. through Torrance has been secured, it was said.

Proposed freeways which will follow the two routes will be in addition to the present highway proposals, it was said.



HOUSING FOR VETERANS? . . . Yes, says J. G. Caldwell, director of the Torrance Area Veterans Service Center as he surveys the mattress on the dirt floor of a garage which is serving as a "home" for a veteran going to college under the G.I. bill. Caldwell pointed out the case in emphasis of the crying need for additional rental units for veterans and workers in Torrance. The "quarters" are located in this district. (Torrance Herald photo).

(Continued on Page 4-A)