

CITY'S GROWTH REFLECTED IN 1948-49 BUDGET

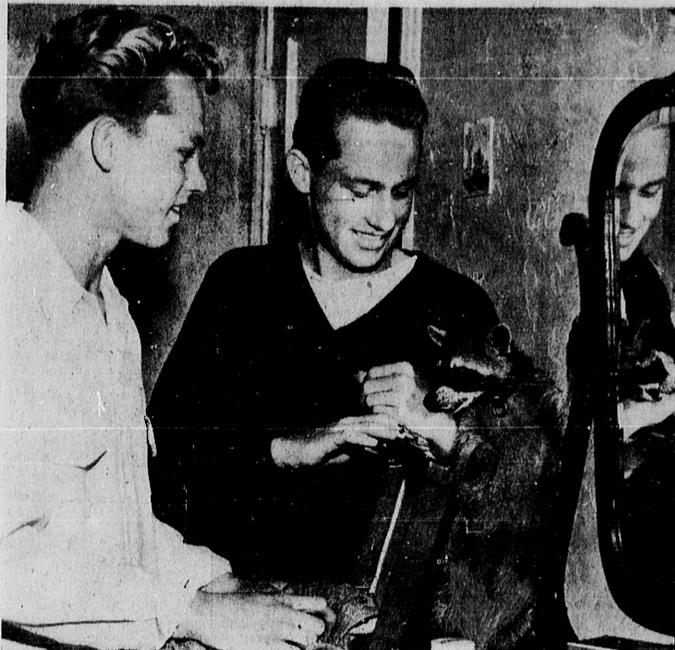
TORRANCE HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1914 . . . THREE SECTIONS — 20 PAGES

34th YEAR—No. 27

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1948

PER COPY 10c



RACCOON HELPS BROTHERS PACK . . . brothers prepare to leave for Basic Training in the U. S. Army. Bimbo was dependent upon the two brothers for much of its food as the pet is totally blind. Note its "camouflaged" face. (Herald Photo).

MURPHY RESIGNS POST DEPARTMENTS CUT FIGURES TO MINIMUM

CHAMBERLAIN NAMED AS SUCCESSOR

Marshall A. Chamberlain is the new superintendent of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, by appointment of the City Council on recommendation of George Stevens, city administrator.

Resignation of William H. Murphy, who still was on probationary status, was filed with the city earlier in the week and was accepted by the Council at its adjourned meeting Tuesday night. Murphy is employed by a major oil company and will devote his entire time to his new position, he said.

Chamberlain's appointment is effective today, and his salary is specified as \$419 per month with the provision that he become a resident of Torrance within 90 days. He passed the city's civil service examination for the job several weeks ago and now begins serving his probationary term.

Stevens said that Chamberlain has a background of 17 years' experience in the public transportation field, with the Lang Transportation Company of Long Beach, the Los Angeles Transit Lines and a Santa Barbara concern.

The Council at Tuesday's meeting also authorized employment of seven persons to carry out the city's joint summer recreation program this summer. The list includes Eddie Cole, Ray Leroy Clark, Myrna Lou Fossum, Erna Bennett, Valda Murphree, Gwynne O. Campbell and Bill Stonecker, who is being temporarily employed, effective July 6.

Herbert R. Burgess was transferred to the street department from the recreation department, where he fills his former position, effective today.

McJannett Is New Head of Steel Workers

Alex McJannett heads the new panel of officers elected by the United Steel Workers of America (CIO), Local 1414, as the result of last Friday's all-day balloting at the Labor Temple. Only three men on the slate of candidates were opposed.

McJannett received 366 votes as against 215 cast for his lone opponent, E. Morang. Ken C. Beight received 304 votes for recording secretary, against 278 cast for L. Nikol.

Charles Monahan was unopposed for vice president, R. Constance had no opposition for financial secretary, and Mike O'Rady was unopposed for treasurer.

For guard, R. F. "Dick" McNalley received 420 votes, Don Wald 347 votes, and R. Sheppard 175 votes, McNalley and Wald being declared elected to the two posts open.

Hartest Cooke was unopposed for guide and the three trustees—Frank Smith, Don Hamilton and Dave Barrett, also were unopposed.

McJannett and Barrett also were elected members of the maintenance grievance committee.

Way Cleared for Building on New Tract

Building operations on the new subdivision at the corner of Crenshaw boulevard and 174th street were ready to proceed this week, following final approval given to new zoning of the subdivision by the Torrance City Council.

The property, now zoned for R-1 for 165 single-family houses, R-2 for 15 duplexes along Crenshaw and C-2 for a small business zone at the corner of Crenshaw and 174th.

Building permits were issued for the 180 buildings this week.



NO. 1 CITIZEN . . . For his service to the community, James L. Lynch has been designated the "Leading Torrance Citizen of 1948" by his fellow Rotarians.

Lynch Is Honored by Rotary

"James L. Lynch—Leading Torrance Citizen of the Year." This was the designation bestowed upon the retiring president of the Torrance Rotary Club by his fellow Rotarians at the annual "demotion" dinner dance last Thursday evening at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

The honorary designation was given to Lynch in recognition of his outstanding contribution to civic progress and to community and cultural development.

Among the activities listed by Program Chairman Reed H. Parkin in which Citizen Lynch played a prominent part were: Community Compact Series, Youth Band, Boy Scouts, acquisition of Torrance City Schools and their future development by passage of the school bond issues, financing program of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and numerous other campaigns for civic betterment.

Chairman Parkin presented Retiring President Lynch with a suitably engraved carving set and set of steak knives on behalf of the Rotary Club, and in addition a wristwatch as a personal gift of the club members. Mrs. Lynch was presented with a silver dinner tray in appreciation of her kindness in entertaining the club members on many occasions at the Lynch home.

George L. Johnson, newly-elected president of the Rotary Club, will preside at his first meeting this evening. Johnson is assistant cashier at the Torrance branch of Bank of America.

Both School Bond Issues Will Be Sold

Because indications are that interest rates are going up, the Torrance Board of Education has decided to offer for sale the entire issue of \$1,504,000 in bonds authorized for school purposes at the special election on June 4.

Acting accordingly, Superintendent Henry Hull said yesterday he had asked the County Council to take the steps

Board Decides on Preference

Site acquisition and building plans for new schools in Torrance will be carried forward in the following order with proceeds from the recently-voted bond issue, the Board of Education decided this week:

- Hollywood Riviera, North Torrance.
- High School athletic field.
- High School cafeteria.
- District service unit.

necessary to offer the issue for sale through the Board of Supervisors.

"Investigation of what other school districts are doing in similar situations reveals that they are selling all of their bonds, with a few exceptions," Hull said yesterday. "Best available advice from three sources indicates that the interest rates are going up."

"Industry," Hull added, "has indicated that it is desirous

(Continued on Page 3-A)



ELEVATED . . . George L. Johnson, assistant bank cashier here, who took office as new president of the Torrance Rotary Club for next year.

Silver Dollar Days Success

Twin Dollar Days last Friday and Saturday were a decided success, Chairman Charles V. Jones of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce reported yesterday following a check-up with local merchants.

"The silver dollar feature was an unusual idea, and proved popular with shoppers," Jones said. "The values offered brought a large number of people to Torrance, and they all left with purchases on which they made substantial savings."

Among the sensational dollar day items was a diamond ring, a man's wrist watch and a solid gold zircon ring, each obtained for one silver dollar. The winners were Fred C. Marsteller, Julia Gray and Carol Thornton.

INDUSTRIES TAX GROUP ASKS CITY TO CUT RATE

A plea for a reduction in the Torrance city tax rate was voiced before the City Council at its adjourned meeting Tuesday night by R. L. Plomert, Jr., representing the Torrance Industries' Tax Committee.

"Torrance enjoys the rather dubious honor of having one of the highest tax rates of any city in the county," Plomert told the Council after City Clerk A. H. Bartlett had presented the proposed 1948-49 budget.

"Industry and business large and small has really taken it on the chin," the tax official said, "and we are now asking a reduction in the general tax

rate, which we believe can be accomplished by a careful screening of the requests of the various departments."

Plomert also sounded a warning to the council.

"All taxing bodies have got to realize that taxes are mounting and that industries are moving to the communities with the lower tax rates."

"We are asking a cut of \$17,500 in your city budget this year, which amounts to a five-cent reduction in the tax rate, to bring it down from 99 cents to 94 cents."

"If this can be done, it will stimulate both business and in-

(Continued on Page 7-A)

More homes and more population mean more municipal expense, a fact that was brought into sharp focus before the Torrance City Council this week as officials whittled away on the 1948-49 budget.

While more homes also mean gains in assessed valuation, the city will not know for six weeks how much broader its tax base will be, and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett explained that some of his figures were necessarily estimates. Over these figures, members of the Council, City Administrator George Stevens and department heads burned the midnight oil this week.

Bartlett estimated revenue for 1948-49 at \$545,000 and he reported cash on hand on June 30 would be \$115,000, making a total of \$660,000 available for next year for general city purposes.

"The 'cash on hand' figure was a source of satisfaction to the councilmen, City Administrator George Stevens and all

Hearing to Be Set by Council

Set for public hearing on the city's proposed budget for 1948-49 will be set by the Council and announced in advance, Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. explained yesterday.

By that time the various departments will have their figures whittled to an absolute minimum, according to City Administrator George Stevens.

department heads because it means the city is in a somewhat financial position, it was explained.

Expenditures, based on departmental requests transmitted to the Council by Bartlett at Tues-

(Continued on Page 3-A)

Firecrackers Outlawed by State Edict

Outlawed by state law, firecrackers thrown at a Bellflower housewife caused one of the first Fourth of July injuries of 1948. Mrs. Margaret Fraser, the victim, saved herself from possible serious burns by putting out the smouldering cloth with her bare hands.

Fire Chief J. E. McMaster warned residents that all firecrackers larger than two inches long and three-eighths of an inch in diameter were against the state law.

He cautioned parents and children that the possession and lighting of firecrackers larger than those mentioned above would subject the offenders to arrest.

Map Carnival Plans

Midway Will Boast Local Concessions

Plans started rolling this week for the big Merchants and Industrial Fair to be staged in Torrance September 15 to 19, sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce.

First step in the plan was the appointment of Jim Lynch and Mrs. John W. Beeman, at a special luncheon held Wednesday noon, to head up the committee in charge of concession space on the large midway.

The midway will extend from Torrance boulevard southeasterly into the business district, occupying a solid row of parking lots, and will provide space for a series of new rides.

The fair will encompass many more attractions than the Factory Frolic held several years ago and many free events are expected to be provided for a fun-loving public.

About 70 booths for exhibits, display of merchandise, church fund-raising and entertainment are expected to be available.

This week the Chamber sent out letters to retailers, distributors and manufacturers all over Southern California setting forth plans for the event, which is expected to draw thousands of persons daily for its five-day run.

Committees named this week were:

(Continued on Page 2-A)

Stores, Public Offices Will Be Closed Monday

All Torrance and Lomita retail stores, as well as banks and public offices including the postoffice, will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of the Fourth of July.

July 4 is a holiday for all federal employees, as well as city, county and state employees, and since the nation's favorite summer holiday falls on Sunday, the following day automatically becomes a holiday. There will be no mail delivery July 5.

Offices of the Torrance Herald and Lomita News also will be closed on Monday, but will remain open till Saturday noon in order to receive news items from local residents. The need for getting this news in early is emphasized because next week will, in effect, be a day shorter than usual.

Since no downtown markets will be open Sunday or Monday, householders would do well to buy accordingly for the long week-end.

Slowest Bike Rider to Win

A slow-poke bicycle race will feature a morning of bicycle racing events planned for tomorrow morning at the City Park. Prizes will be given for the best decorated bike and for winning events in the tricycle and bicycle divisions.

Columbia Steel Given Time to Reduce Smoke

A four months' variance to allow the Columbia Steel Company time to complete plans for corrective equipment and improved methods of operating its open-hearth furnaces was granted Tuesday by the Los Angeles Air Pollution Commission.

The improvements are aimed at correcting the discharge of a prohibited amount of contamination into the atmosphere, according to Chairman Herbert V. Walker of the commission, which heard Columbia's representatives on June 10 and 11.

The company requested more time to put into effect additional corrective measures and because present compliance with air pollution laws would result in virtual closing of open hearth operations, the variance was granted, it was explained by the Commission's engineers.

The variance limits the discharge from any one of the open hearths for a period aggregating 35 minutes in any two hour period. One provision limits the size of particulate matter to eight-tenths of a grain per cubic foot except during the first two hours of any heat, when the matter discharged shall not exceed 1.5 grains per cubic foot.

The variance also states that "in any event, the discharge from the open hearths shall not constitute a nuisance."



PRIZE ESSAY WINS CHECK . . . William Brady, student at El Camino College, receives a check for \$100 from Millard Thorpe, president of the National Supply Management Club. Brady won the \$100 scholarship for his essay on "How to Make the Management Team in Industry." (Herald Photo).



FIRST OF ANOTHER 118 NEW HOMES . . . Kettler-Western Corporation this week started the foundation of the first home in another tract of 118 two-bedroom low-cost homes. Inspecting the job is John Patrick, city building inspector, left, P. I. Wilsey, Jr., center, and J. E. Kettler, builders. The first home in the new tract, which is located between Western avenue and Walnut street and between Sepulveda and 235th street, will be ready for occupancy in approximately 60 days, the builders said. (Herald Photo).