

MAYOR 'CALLED' ON AIRPORT DEAL

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STANDING ON A NEW THRESHOLD—is Adrian Swain about to open the door to the residence built by the Torrance Area Youth Band, Inc., at Sonoma and Elm avenues, to raise funds for additional

instruments, uniforms and other expenses of the band. Adrian's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Swain, shown at right, bought their new home through Howard J. Percy, wearing dark hat, and Delbert

Vaughn, left, of the Howard Realty Co. who donated their commission to the band. Mr. Swain holds Adrian's twin brothers, Oliver and Owen, or was it Owen and Oliver. (Herald photo)

Public Hearing on New School Budget Is Fixed for August 3

Increase in the assessed valuation will enable the Torrance unified school district to stay within the \$1.65 maximum tax rate this year, including a mandatory levy of \$17,830 required for the State Retirement Fund, according to figures compiled by Emmett W. Ingram, business manager.

This sum includes a general reserve fund of \$50,000 which is to be available next June 30 to carry the district over until the following year's tax collections come in.

Tuesday evening, Aug. 3, has been set for public hearing on the school district preliminary budget, following its adoption by the board of education.

This budget represents minor changes from the tentative budget adopted June 22, which would have necessitated a tax rate of \$1.6984.

Free chest X-rays will be given next week by Health Department.

Free chest X-rays may be obtained by anyone over 15 years of age in the Torrance health district beginning next Monday morning according to the Los Angeles County Health Department.

No appointments are needed as the X-ray is completed in less than a minute, health of-

Principal change in the budget was the inclusion of the \$17,830 allowed by the School Code, Ingram explained, to take care of the State Retirement Fund which will be in effect about Sept. 1, and also affects all other school districts.

Assessed valuation of the school district will be around \$37,833,780, including secured property and public utilities, Ingram said he learned. In addition, Torrance has \$2,373,150 in unsecured property this year, making a grand total valuation of \$40,206,930, according to county figures. This is approximately \$5,000,000 greater than anticipated.

The levy in the Torrance school district for the new State Retirement Fund will be between four and five cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, it was estimated.



RE-OPENING ATTRACTS THROUGHS—Re-opening of the J. J. Newberry store following the settlement of a clerk's union dispute with chain store

operators in the Bay Area brought crowds of shoppers to the local store to take advantage of sale items offered by the concern during the re-

Youth Band to Aid Dominguez Event Saturday

The Torrance Area Youth Band will make its first public appearance in several weeks when it plays in the parade at the Dominguez Festival Saturday afternoon. Two other engagements also have been scheduled by Director James H. Van Dyke.

The senior band will leave the Torrance Civic auditorium at 2:30 p.m. Saturday to participate in the Dominguez event at 4 o'clock.

On Aug. 12 the band will play a concert in Blkby Park, Long Beach. A concert for Torrance residents will be given in Torrance City Park on Sunday, Aug. 15.

'Match Trick' by Youngster Causes Blaze

Matches in the hands of a four-year-old son caused a fire that destroyed drapes, curtains and burned an overstuffed chair in the apartment of Mrs. Agnes Traw of 1920 Torrance boulevard last week.

Mrs. Traw had left her two children, Homer 4 and Lonnie Lee 8, alone in the apartment while she was at work. A baby sitter was due in shortly after she left.

The mother, warned by police, secured the services of a full-time watcher after the incident.



RE-OPENING ATTRACTS THROUGHS—Re-opening of the J. J. Newberry store following the settlement of a clerk's union dispute with chain store

opening sale last Thursday. Photograph shows part of the crowd that filled the aisles of the store on opening day. (Herald photo)

SCHOOLS TO MOVE INTO NEW OFFICE

Administration offices of the Torrance Unified School District will be moved next Thursday from Torrance boulevard to renovated buildings on Plaza del Amo, it was announced today.

The temporary offices on Torrance boulevard will be relinquished and in so doing a considerable economy will be effected for the district, according to Emmett Ingram, business manager.

The new offices will be in two bungalows formerly used as classrooms, which have been remodeled and which will serve until a permanent building can be erected. The move will eliminate completely the office rental item in future budgets.

Also being completed on school property near the new bungalow offices is a non-set-type fireproof building which will be the district's warehouse for the storage of school supplies.

Materials for the building cost approximately \$500, but it necessitated some \$2500 in labor to erect it, complete with concrete slab, Ingram said. The building is 80 by 125 feet in area, large enough to serve the district for some years, it is estimated.

New \$40,000 Refinery Unit Tops Permits

General Petroleum Corp. has let a contract to the C. F. Braun Co. to construct a vacuum flash tower and unit to cost approximately \$40,000, according to building permits issued by John Patrick, city building inspector.

Also under construction at the Torrance refinery is a \$50,000 coke handling and dewatering facility.

Two other permits totaling \$7,000 were issued recently by the building inspector. One for \$52,000 was for the construction of the Stadium Theater, now well under way at the corner of Cravens and Gramercy avenues. The second, for \$15,000, covered the construction of a greenhouse at the American Plant Co. at 24500 Walnut avenue.

Torrance Play Program Wins Chief's Praise

A healthy reduction in juvenile delinquency in Torrance is credited by Police Chief J. Stroff to the city's recreational program, since only three cases have come to his attention so far this year as against 33 for 1947.

This statement was made to the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee meeting by Chief Stroff, who spoke in connection with the report given in charge of Coach Eddie Cole. John Steinbaugh, new high school principal and Charles E. Wallace, new vice principal, were introduced to the board members by J. Heinrich Hull, school superintendent.

Emmett Ingram, business manager of the district, gave a report on the progress made in the reorientation of the high school stadium.

McGuire New City Manager at Montebello

Thomas F. McGuire, former mayor of Torrance, has been appointed city manager of Montebello, it was learned last night from Mayor Robert C. Capps. McGuire, who resigned approximately a year ago as personnel manager of the National Supply Company to enter business in Glendale, will take office Aug. 1.

Council Adopts New Budget Subject to Further Reductions

Calling for a total of \$591,939, the City Council voted unanimously at its meeting Tuesday night to adopt the 1948-49 budget, subject to possible revisions that may be made when the city's new assessed valuation is learned next month.

'Smoked Beans' Found Newest 'Smog' Source

Smoke pouring from a kitchen in the Hickory Apartments, 1508 Hickory, promoted a call to the Torrance Fire Department Tuesday afternoon.

Firemen found a pot of beans on the stove giving off volumes of dense smoke.

Mother and son, discovered in the bedroom, were taking a nap and were aroused by a neighbor attempting to ventilate the apartment.

William Walker Named on Rent Advisory Board

William M. Walker, well-known Torrance business man, has been appointed "public interest representative" on the Rent Advisory Board No. 15, which serves Long Beach, Harbor City, Waltham, Torrance, Palos Verdes Estates, Lawndale, Monsta, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach.

Clige E. Woods, housing expediter, announced the appointment at a meeting Tuesday.

Walker succeeds Bronson C. Buxton, Torrance realtor, who resigned because of other interests. The new appointee attended his first meeting this week.

C. J. Kelly, another Torrance resident, also is a member of the advisory board. Earle E. Parkhurst of Palos Verdes Estates, a manufacturer who has been a member of the board since it was created, was elected chairman of the four-member board, the other member being Parker D. Hanna Jr., Gardena newspaper editor.

Attendance at Play Areas on Increase Here

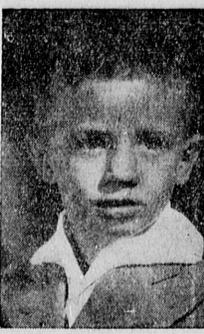
Not including parents who have visited playgrounds with their children, figures released by Eddie Cole, summertime director of the School-City sponsored program, show that since June 21 there have been 11,117 children who have attended one or more of the five local playgrounds in the city.

Softball proved the most popular activity at the play areas, followed by shuffle board, story telling, touch football, teterboard, jump rope and the more quiet games such as checkers and chess.

Court Reports Cash Receipts Totaling \$2396

From June 1 to and including June 30, 1948, the city court of the City of Torrance received \$2,396 net from fines and fees, according to Judge Otto B. Willett. Of this sum \$1,109 are general fund monies, while \$1,287 came from vehicle violations and these are road fund monies.

General fund monies were collected from the following cases: Drunkenness, \$349; boulevard stop, \$104; parking and U-turn, \$86 and miscellaneous criminal violations \$480. Road fund monies were derived from the following cases: Drunk driving, \$315; speeding, \$665 and miscellaneous traffic violations \$407.



YOUNG MAYOR—Harry Burton Lewis Jr. has the distinction of being the first mayor of Carnation, Texas, at the age of 6. Carnation is near Seminole, Texas, and was named in honor of Seminole's annual "Carnation Day." Mayor or Lewis is a former resident of Torrance.

Fire Hazard, Weed-Burning Warning Given

Exceedingly dry conditions this summer resulting from a shortage of rainfall require unusual care with incinerators and fire hazards, according to a reminder from Fire Chief J. E. McMaisters.

Careful inspection should be made of homes, back yards where dry rubbish may have accumulated, stores and even manufacturing plants. Weeds should be removed from around fences and buildings. Don't use your garage for a catchall, warns the chief.

Owners of vacant lots are required to obtain a fire permit from the local fire department before burning off their own lots. Burning hours are from sun-up to 10 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to sun-down in an approved incinerator only.

A permit must be obtained to burn at any other time.

Reaches for Door; Crash!

Attempting to close the door of her coupe while driving near 207th street and Western avenue, Mrs. Betty Marquardt, 27, of 2633 Torrance boulevard lost control of the car and smashed into a tree Tuesday afternoon injuring herself and her two-year-old daughter, Patricia.

Another daughter, Roberta, was unhurt as the car skidded 300 feet into a field.

Greyhound, Torrance Lines Increase Service for Area

Changes in two bus schedules announced this week indicated local residents were to benefit considerably by a step-up in the Greyhound service and a re-routing of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines to include service to Hollywood Riviera.

M. A. Chamberlain, newly-appointed bus superintendent, announced that effective Monday, July 19, the Waltham line would be extended from Seaside Ranchos to Hollywood Riviera and would make three round trips each day.

Increasing the number of buses for Long Beach and Redondo Beach from 24 to 33 schedules daily has reduced the interval between the Greyhound runs to 30 minutes, according to L. L. Prince, Torrance agent for the interurban line. All of the Long Beach and San Pedro runs will connect at Lomita.

Prince also pointed out that the new schedule provided 20-minute service during the peak load hours in the morning and evening and included the addition of a later bus from Long Beach that will leave at 11:30 p.m. and one from Redondo Beach bound for Torrance that will leave the beach city at 11 p.m. Earlier service in the morning for Long Beach and San Pedro was also added to the new schedule, Prince said.

In addition to the step-up in service of the Greyhound Lines the local agent stated that baggage of passengers bound for the more distant points of San Diego and San Francisco can be loaded at the local depot for the same fare as from Los Angeles. Buses of the Municipal Lines bound for Hollywood Riviera will leave from the Beacon Drug depot at 8:55 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 4:40 p.m., and will arrive at the Riviera area 35 minutes later. They will then leave for highway 101 and Narbonne avenue, according to Chamberlain of the city lines. Fares for the Riviera run will be 10 cents one way, 5 cents for children under 12 years. Between Riviera and Waltham the fare will be 5 cents, Chamberlain announced. No increase in any of the Greyhound fares was announced. The Torrance agent for the Greyhound stated that with the increase in the number of buses making connections at the Beacon Drug depot, Torrance terminal for the Greyhound and the city lines, that the number of buses leaving the local depot each day now stood at 240.

LEGALITY OF ACTIONS IS QUESTIONED

Assertions that the mayor is acting not only contrary to the best interests of the city but in wilful disregard of the new city charter in one instance is made in a letter addressed to Mayor J. Hugh Sherrey Jr. last night by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith.

Mentioning the municipal airport deal and the proposed 10-cent levy for parks, music and advertising as two specific instances, Smith said he now wanted to make a public record of these instances in which there was either no action at all or, in the other case, action which he asserts would be illegal. I firmly believe there is no proper legal authority and which will ultimately reflect on yourself.

Because these procedures involve the expenditure of the taxpayers' money and probably will result in taxpayers' suits against the city, I now want to make a matter of public record the oral opinions and warnings I have previously given you.

I would consider myself negligent in the discharge of my duties to the city if I did not call your attention to these admonitions which you have so conveniently embalmed and laid away.

First there is the matter of the city airport. This is not primarily an instance of a questionable action but a case of no action at all to enhance its income to the city. Here is a facility which in this age is conceivably worth \$2,000,000—the United States government alone invested \$1,500,000 in it.

Hereafter I have received telephone calls from War Assets Administration attorneys asking what was delaying the recording of the instrument by which title was transferred to the city. Certainly this city's officials did

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Price Increase Follows Wage Boost in Steel

New—higher—prices for finished steel products, quoted as "F.O.B. Torrance," became effective yesterday with an announcement by the United States Steel corporation. The increase approximated 9.6 percent.

The company also announced that delivered prices reflecting actual transportation charges to destination would be quoted to customers upon application.

The new prices as quoted this week apply to carload lots. New prices likewise were set for steel products available at the company's Pittsburgh and Geneva plants.

Last Friday "Big Steel" granted its employees a 9 percent wage increase.

Propose City Rubbish Law

The collection, storage and removal of combustible rubbish in the City of Torrance will be regulated by ordinance if the City Council adopts a measure now being prepared by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith.

Purpose of the ordinance is to require proper storage containers for such rubbish until such time as the collection truck makes its rounds. The fire hazard also is being considered, according to George Stevens, city administrator.