

City Repeals Parking Meter Law

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

37th Year—No. 35

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1951

24 PAGES

5¢
Delivered By Mail
\$2 Yearly



HONOR STUDENTS . . . If anybody ever learned the rabbit business overnight, it was Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Goettsch, of 2266 Torrance boulevard. Marvin "won" Able Mabel a few hours before she gave birth to 10 little bunnies. The gimmick was used to spur a membership drive in the Junior Chamber of Commerce here. (Herald photo).

Stork Visits Able Mabel

Two Torrance residents have learned a whole lot about raising rabbits during the past week. Taking the sudden interest in the care and feeding of rabbits were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Goettsch, of 2266 Torrance boulevard. Mrs. Goettsch got into the act innocently enough—she just happened to be married to Marvin who was the "lucky" holder of Able Mabel, the Junior Chamber of Commerce rabbit who "killed" a litter of 10 little rabbits last week. The Goettschs came by the rabbit last Wednesday evening

when Jaycee member Howard Percy passed the expectant doe on to Marvin during the current membership drive under way among the Junior Chamber members. Early Thursday morning, the stork had visited Mabel, and the Goettschs were suddenly in the rabbit business. Seven of the little tykes have survived the first week of life, the Goettschs report. They are now about strong enough to be moved, so someone else will be in the rabbit business in the near future. Able Mabel came into the picture recently when the Jaycees

decided to use the rabbit to spur their membership drive. She has already been given the kudos for bringing nine new members into the organization. They include Jack Vinik, manager of Torrance Upholstery; Lewis Jenkins, manager of the John Wiley Jones Company; Frank Norris, of National Home Appliance; Donald G. Loy, Torrance fireman; Clifton Lackey, Mayfair Creamery; Arlen Charter, Schwartz Men's Store; Edwin Hatter, North-American Aviation; Joe Dismondi, Auto Club of Southern California; and Cliff Taylor, of Farmer Brothers Coffee Company.



MAX N. FELKER
... Accepts Washington Post

Felker Appointed Government Advisor

Torrance's No. 1 commuter has just added the nation's capitol to his itinerary. With the announcement that he had accepted a "Dollar-a-Year" position with the Government's National Production Authority, Max N. Felker, owner and general manager of the Felker Manufacturing Company here, clinched all claims to the title of Torrance's "travelin' st" resident.

Just back from a trip to Europe in connection with his manufacturing business, Felker revealed this week that he had accepted the position as Government Diamond Consultant and Advisor to the Metals and Mineral Bureau, Miscellaneous Metals and Minerals Division, Natural Abrasives and Clays Branch, and Industrial Diamonds Section of the NPA.

"That's a real title for you, isn't it?" he asked.

Services Held For Young Flyer Killed in Crash

Funeral services for the young aviation enthusiast who crashed to his death at the Torrance Municipal Airport Sunday were held in the Stone and Myers Chapel here yesterday afternoon. Killed Sunday on the maiden flight of a boxlike plane of his own design was James Parker Martin, 34, of 14732 Dublin street. He crashed from an altitude of about 250 feet while his wife and his father and mother watched.

Burial in Roosevelt Cemetery followed final rites conducted by Rev. Arthur E. Bello of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Martin leaves his widow, Gracia Nicole Martin, whom he brought from Casablanca after serving with the tank corps in North Africa.

He also leaves a son, Eddy William Martin, 4 and a daughter, Jean Pierre Martin, 3. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martin, live at 1028 West 104th street and a sister, Mrs. Geraldine Chodwell, lives at 762 E. 134th street.

A veteran of World War II, Martin served for nearly six years with the Tank Corps. He won the Bronze Star during the African campaign.

Martin, who was employed at the Gardena Valley Airport for the past three years, had been building his small craft over a period of several years.

Decision Due On Helicopter Mail Deliveries

Whether or not regular helicopter air mail service from Torrance to the Los Angeles Terminal Post Office will be resumed is to be disclosed today by postal officials, according to Mrs. Clara Conner, Torrance postmaster.

The daily deliveries were halted promptly Monday, following a crash of one of the flying mail-cars in Lynwood, which claimed the life of the 'copter pilot.

An investigation as to the cause of the crash, the third fatal accident since helicopter mail service was inaugurated here, was ordered immediately. Officials are expected to release a statement today regarding the probability of resuming the air service.

Pickups from Torrance are made three times daily when the planes are operating on regular schedules.

CITY OPENS CAMPAIGN ON WATER BOND ISSUE

Council Adopts Tax Rate of 96 Cents

Torrance's municipal tax rate for 1951 will be 96 cents, or one cent higher than 1950, per \$100 assessed valuation, it was decided by the City Council Tuesday evening.

The annual tax ordinance adopted also includes an additional twelve cent levy to cover payments under the California State Employees' Retirement System. The pension plan was not in effect last year.

However, reductions on other items on the property owner's tax bill show reductions totaling 31.41 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, which more than offsets the 13-cent municipal increase.

These reductions include: 29.60 cents in the County rate, 1.55 cents in the Torrance Unified School District, .73 cents in flood control, and one cent in the Metropolitan Water District rate.

County Sanitation District No. 5 shows a slight increase of 1.47 cents over 1950.

Last-minute opposition to the proposed tax ordinance was voiced by Councilman Nick Drale whose motion to reduce the general tax by 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation died for lack of a second.

Drale sought to have the \$100,000 reserve fund of the city applied to the city's expenses and the tax rate reduced accordingly. City Manager George Stevens pointed out that the reserve fund was considered necessary to tide the city over until the new tax monies are made available in December.

Stevens said the city had not had to borrow money to operate on for the past three years because the reserve fund had been built up. The savings effected in interest payments make the fund worthwhile, he said.

Drale remained adamant and when a vote was called for the approval of the tax ordinance, he refused to vote.

No Drizzles for 3-Day Weekend, Weathermen Say

Although sprinkles dampened the streets throughout the area Tuesday and early yesterday morning, good prospects for "normal weather" over the Labor Day weekend are in the offing, the weather bureau announced last night.

The forecast calls for cloudy mornings, clearing about noon, with temperatures in the low 70's. Rain clouds are expected to leave the Southern California weather scene sometime today.

Tuesday's rainfall figures were listed as .03 inch for Torrance and .04 inch for Lomita.

Counseling Office to Be Open For New High School Students

The counseling office will be open beginning next Tuesday to assist new high school students in the district with planning their programs for the fall semester, it was announced this week by Principal John Steinbaugh.

The office will be open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. through Friday, September 14, Steinbaugh said. It will not be open on Saturday, September 8.

The staff of counselors will be on hand to assist all new students coming into the district from other schools, according to the principal. Students already in high school here or transferring in from the eighth grade of a Torrance elementary school need not see the counselors now, he said.

It would be helpful in planning a program if the new student would have his former school send a transcript of grades to the counseling office at the Torrance High School, Steinbaugh said.

School will be open in Torrance on Monday, September 17.

Release Driver On Writ After Fatal Collision

(See photo Page 8)

Truck Driver Roy O. Loyd, 17016 Glenburn avenue, is still free from custody on a writ of habeas corpus today, following a hearing in a Los Angeles court late yesterday.

Loyd, who was booked on suspicion of manslaughter after the heavily-laden gasoline tank-truck he was driving collided with an ambulance and two other cars at Figueroa and 190th street Thursday evening, is out on the writ until September 13.

The courts will decide at that time whether enough evidence has been presented by the State to warrant holding the suspect for trial.

Attorney Donald Hitchcock, of the local firm of Willett and Hitchcock, is representing the 30-year-old driver.

Loyd, who failed to hear the siren of the speeding ambulance, was not injured in the accident.

\$2 Million Bond Issue Proposed

Petitions to which the city will seek at least 1000 signatures asking for an election on the proposed \$2,000,000 Water Bonds were slated to be in the hands of local officials sometime today to start the campaign for the approval of the needed bonds.

Faced with the problem of expanding, extending and improving the city's water distribution system, the city has spent more than two years gathering data for a bond issue which would finance the necessary program.

"Present water distribution facilities have become inadequate as a result of continued expansion of old industries, construction of new industries, and the tremendous increase in the residential population," City Manager George Stevens said in

response to the petitions.

(Continued on Page 4)

Herald Offices To Be Closed On Labor Day

The business and editorial offices of the Torrance Herald will be closed all day Monday, September 3, in the annual observance of Labor Day.

The offices will again be open at the regular time Tuesday morning.

Council Repeals Meter Law

The question of whether Torrance should have parking meters was settled for the time being Tuesday night when the City Council repealed the recently adopted ordinance which set up a central traffic district to install parking meters on Torrance streets.

Reason for the sudden repeal of the ordinance was said to hinge on recent legislation passed by the State of California which would increase the marketability of revenue bonds for the purchase of off-street parking.

Under the 1949 Parking Authority laws of the State, the bond buyers were not too eager to buy such bonds, according to City Attorney James Hall. The new state laws are designed to make the bonds much more attractive.

PERMISSIVE ONLY

Inasmuch as the repealed ordinance was an enabling ordinance only—did not require the installation of meters, only gave the city the authority to do so if desired—no material change in the status of parking meters for Torrance was effected. If, after the state law becomes effective, the city wants to reenact the ordinance restoring the traffic district and setting up the authority to install meters, it can be done at any time.

Repeal of the ordinance nullified the efforts of a number

(Continued on Page 4)

Bids Awarded For Madrona, Riviera Schools

Contracts for the construction of the Madrona and Riviera elementary schools were awarded the George Carter Company on its bid of \$407,350 for the two jobs, at a special meeting of the Board of Education last Friday.

The lowest of six bidders, the Carter Company will have 150 days to complete the job, according to the terms of the contract.

The new school buildings will be of the precast, concrete, tilt-up type of construction, and will cost \$10.90 per square foot, according to Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. Dr. Hull said this cost is quite reasonable compared with the state average of \$14 a square foot. The cost includes site grading, and all construction including plumbing.

If completed within the 150 days, the school will be ready sometime in February, Dr. Hull said.



CULINARY CUTIES . . . Getting in a few practice stirs and tastes before frying up 135 chickens for the combined Rotary-Kiwanis picnic tonight are the chefs of the day (left to right) Carl Pagan, Bob Peckham, Harold Mellen and Bob Leech. If the boys are rained out, they'll serve the stuff in the Civic Auditorium. (Herald photo).