38 Prudential Agents on Strike In Local Office

Thirty-eight district agents of the Prudential Life Insurance Company's South Bay office here are still on strike today, demanding operating expenses and a cost of living wage boost.

The Prudential agents struck Monday morning, and pickets have been on duty in front of the office at 1603 Cravens avenue all week.

The 38 striking local agents are part of the 15,000 Prudential employees in 35 states who have left their jobs. They are members of the Insurance Agents International, AFL.

Nels Lund, president of the Union's Local No. 86, said the agents are asking only increased benefits to meet cost of operating expense, and a cost-of-living wage hike.

Negotiations between the company and union leaders ended October 19. The contract expired December 1.

Harry C. Harper, South Bay district manager, said the company offered the agents an average salary increase of $7.38 per week, plus a $150 lump sum refund of retirement plan contributions. The union rejected this offer, Harper said.

National Guard To Be Sent to Korea, Report

California's 40th National Guard Division, which includes the local 578th Engineer Battalion, will be sent from Japan to Korea, it was reported unofficially this week.

Transfer of the 40th is expected to follow that of the 45th National Guard Division of Oklahoma. Both will be moved into the active theater of war to implement the Army's rotation program to relieve troops exposed to combat, it was reported.

Details of the move are classified as top secret by the Defense Department, who refused to confirm or deny the plans reports said.

It also was reported unofficially that the 40th will be kept on active duty for more than the 24 months required when it was called on active duty. Individual members, however, are expected to be sent home as they reach two years of service.

The 578th Engineers were stationed at Torrance Municipal Airport prior to their call to active service more than a year ago.

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Yule Lights Slated to Be On Tonight

Downtown Torrance is scheduled to be transformed into a glittering Christmas lane tonight, despite gusty winds and rain, when the newly-installed Yule lights are turned on.

The winds yesterday did not slow down workmen from the Jones Decorating Co. of Los Angeles, who began stringing 11 strands of colored lights and decor on Sartori and El Prado.

A company spokesman said yesterday that the work should be finished in time for the lights to be turned on tonight.

Strung at a cost of nearly $2000, the decor will span two blocks of Sartori, from Post to Marcelina, and one block of El Prado, from Sartori to the auditorium.

Money for the lights was furnished by merchants on the two streets.

Merchants Harry Abramson and Archie Wachs, who rounded up funds for the decorations, said that this year's lights will be the best display ever put up in the down town district.

Scouts to Stage Clothing Drive

Torrance Scouts, whose motto is "do a good turn every day," Saturday will attempt to do even a bigger good turn when they set out to collect clothes to provide Christmas gifts for needy families in the area.

Saturday has been tabbed Good Turn Day by the Scouts.

The boys, and adult leaders too, will call on homes to pick up big collection bags that were left there last week. The bags are big enough to hold 10 pounds of clothing.

Scouts will collect the bags, then take them to St. Andrew's church, where they will be picked up by the six welfare agencies cooperating in the Good Turn Day drive. The agencies will process the clothes, then distribute them.

Most need articles are shoes in wearable condition, jeans, sweaters, and T-Shirts for children, and coats and warm clothing for elderly people.

Good Turn Day will be observed Saturday by Boy Scouts throughout the Los Angeles area.

Last Rites Today For Paul Simpson

Services will be held today in Stone and Myers Chapel for Paul Allison Simpson, 45, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Simpson, 1512 W. 216th street. Rev. C. E. Miller of the First Methodist church will conduct the service.

Mr. Simpson was killed November 29 in an accident while working for a construction company in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Besides his parents, Mr. Simpson is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of Sacramento; three brothers, Donald, of Gardena, Charles V., who lives with his parents here, and Richard, of Paradise, California, and a sister, Mrs. Pauline Goodrich, of Bethel Island, California.

Graveside services and interment will take place at Green Hills cemetery.

... FOUR HURT

(Continued from Page 1)

skidded in a puddle of water at the intersection, crashing into the Van Gorder car.

Twenty-four-year-old Alfred Solas of 2227 West 203rd street sustained cuts and bruises when the car in which he was riding rammed into a parked truck on Fifth street near Meyler street in San Pedro on Saturday.

Solas was treated at the San Pedro Emergency Hospital. Driver of the car was Robert Olivera, 22, of 1127 Fiat street, Keystone.

School Board OKs Hiring of Five

Board of Education Tuesday night approved the hiring of five new employees for the city's school system, and authorized the expenditure of $400 to clear old railroad ties and broken tile from underneath the site of a new high school classroom building.

The Board okayed the hiring of Etta M. Brummett as a second and third grade teacher for Fern avenue school on a full time basis.

Hired on a part-time substitute basis for the rest of the school year were Velma Fern Cramer and Inez Torell Hegstrom. Loring L. Bigelow was employed as an instructor in the adult education program, and Lloyd E. Waltemeyer has been added as a probationtry custodian.

The $400 needed for the high school building project will be used to clear an old refuse dump located on the site for a classroom building. This was discovered when construction workers began excavations for footings for the building.

Found in the area were pieces of old railroad ties, rocks, bottles, and other junk. The area must be cleared away, and new fill put in.

Class Aids Typing Skill

The free adult class in personal and vocational typing is open to all adults regardless of residence, and is held three nights each week—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday—in room 205 of Torrance High School.

Both beginners and advanced typists are welcome to join this class, since instruction is mainly on an individual basis, and each student can proceed at his own speed.

Should the student desire, he may get additional instruction in dictaphone operation, in business English, and office practice.

Instructor of the class, Mack Landar, has trained thousands of people to improve in their personal typing and to fit themselves for profitable employment in both defense and non-defense industries. He is always on hand to help students with their individual typing problems.

Adults joining this class may attend one, two, or three nights and may go directly to class at its next meeting to register.

Social Dancing Class Held Twice Each Week

A free adult class in social dancing, taught by a former Arthur Murray instructor, is available to all adults regardless of residence, and is held each Monday and Wednesday nights in the Library of Torrance High School.

Especially appropriate for the holiday season, instruction is given in fox trot, waltz, rhumba, samba, tango, New Yorker, Charleston, and mambo. Both beginning and advanced students are welcome as each student receives individual attention in his or her steps.

Men and women may join the class in couples or individually. Every effort will be made to make the students feel at home and meet other people in the community.

Adults planning to join this class should attend its next regular meeting at 7 o'clock in the Torrance High School.

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Open All Day Saturday and Till Noon Sunday for Your Convenience

Koshak Opens Hunt for Rider, Missing Money

Newly-commissioned 2nd Lt. Jack Koshak, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Koshak of 2334 West 236th street, is a man with two problems.

First, he is hoping to recover more than $150 in checks and cash lost in downtown Torrance Monday.

Second, he is looking for a rider or two to accompany him back East Sunday. His destination is Ft. Belvoir, Ga.

Monday, Koshak, who received his commission in the Army Engineers last month, set out to buy a car. He had two checks totalling $150, plus some cash, tucked in his pocket when he left home.

He said he parked in froht of Paul's Chevrolet showroom. When he got inside, he looked for his money. He hasn't found it yet.

Koshak got his car, however. He had to borrow the money from his folks. The officer, who graduated from Torrance High in 1948 and later attended El Camino College, needs the riders to help defray the costs of the trip.

Koshak's phone is Lomita 320. He's anxious to hear from anyone wanting a ride, or anyone knowing anything about the missing money.

Redondo Man Dies After Hit by Car

Martin C. Diller, 42, died Sunday of injuries received when he was struck by a car while walking at Western avenue near 228th street on Thanksgiving Day.

Diller, of 2221 Clark Lane, North Redondo, died in Harbor General hospital. Driver of the car, Clifton A. Wood, 34, of 1652 Plaza del Amo, was not held.

Funeral arrangements were handled by Gamby mortuary in Lomita.

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Water Tax to Be Cut If Issue Approved

Elimination of certain water taxes plus a slight increase in water rates were pointed out this week by City Manager George Stevens as two of the features of the proposed water election scheduled for January 8.

Approval of the water issue at the polls in January would eliminate the 25 cents per $100 assessed valuation tax in Central Torrance, and the 20 cents per $100 tax in North and South Torrance.

One uniform rate for the new water district would be set up, Stevens said. The uniform rate would apply to those who get their water from Torrance, and would take the place of the 15 different rates which now exist. Such a rate plan would also simplify the procedure of financing new storage tanks, mains, and pumps for the city's out-dated water distribution system.

INCREASE SMALL

"The slight increase in the water rate will cost the average home owner in Central Torrance approximately 4.33 cents a day," Stevens said. His figures were based on the water consumption of a family of five. The increase in North Torrance would be about 1.5 cents a week and in South Torrance about 1.4 cents a day.

The reason that the rate increase is greater in Central Torrance is that it has not been increased to the average consumer since 1939, although the cost of water has materially increased since that time. Stevens pointed out that the Central Torrance rate was not realistic, and not geared to the times. The rates for both North and South Torrance were set in 1947, and are, therefore, subject to much less adjustment.

INDUSTRY PAYS

The lion's share of any increases in rates will be paid by the big users of water—the industrial plants of the area.

The City Manager also pointed out that the slight increase in the water rate is double insurance against unemployment here as water is one of the first reasons for industries locating their plants here.

"More industry means more jobs," he pointed out, "and more jobs mean a more substantial and more secure Torrance. A vote for water on January 8 means more stability for Torrance citizens."

... BONDS

(Continued from Page 1)

day afternoon. Others, including leading industrialists and businessmen, have indicated their approval of the proposal, Dr. Hull told members of the board.

A graphic example of the tremendous growth of the system was cited by Dr. Hull to the Chamber board in a chart comparing the kindergarten enrollment in 1947 and in 1951.

Seven kindergarten classrooms were needed in 1947, Dr. Hull's report showed, while 29 classrooms were needed this year. The enrollment is growing almost daily.

"After this bond issue, if successful, we will have to finance any further school expansion with federal or state aid," Dr. Hull said.

Official date of the election hinges on the decision of the county counsel which must approve such elections, the superintendent said.

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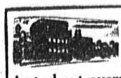

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