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PUBLIC FUNDS, PRIVATE LOT—This sign suddenly appeared on this privately owned property across from the Postoffice on Marcelina avenue where city funds and equipment were used for grading and conditioning the lot for use as a free public parking lot. Needless to say, business is poor, on this newly converted commercial parking lot, as the photo shows. Attendance is in background. (Torrance Press photo).

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CITY'S PROMISE TO V. A. TO CLOSE DUMP QUIZZED

Many Old Derricks Defective

There are 238 instances in which oil derricks in the Torrance field need repair to meet the requirements of the State Division of Industrial Safety, William J. Hobba, safety engineer for the division, told the Press this week.

The corrections involved include additional guy wires, tightening of guy wires, replacement of timbers and other faults. Some of the wooden derricks need much work due to dry rot in the timbers, Hobba said.

Only 80 wells have been inspected to date.

Hobba started checking up on the oil derricks of the area after 11 old derricks were felled in a wind and rain storm earlier this year.

Torrance-Lomita Realty Board asked for a "liability bond" to protect property owners from loss due to damage from falling derricks, and residents of the area demanded that derricks near homes be removed and pumps placed underground.

In his inspection to date, Hobba reports that 11 of the 80 wells he has inspected are not only idle, but have not been in operation for some time. The department for which he works has no jurisdiction over these derricks. Most of the derricks on the abandoned wells are still standing.

Hobba also pointed out that he has no authority over derricks operated only by the owner or not in operation. He can only recommend improvements in such cases, he said. It is up to the city in those cases to enforce the recommendations, Hobba said. The department he represents can only take enforcement measures where there is one or more employees working at a derrick.

At a closed meeting with the Torrance City Council several weeks ago, Hobba reported that the Council pledged its cooperation in the making safe of derricks which the State can take no action.



WILLIAM J. HOBBA, safety engineer of the Division of Industrial Safety of the State of California is shown inspecting a derrick in the Torrance oil field. The one he is inspecting is located at the corner of Narbonne Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd., near a residence shown in the background, and at the present time is not in use.—(Press Photo).

G. I. Approval Involved in Dea

Reports that the City of Torrance more than two years ago gave the Veterans Administration and other Federal agencies assurance that the city dump and private dump adjoining, on Plaza del Amo near Western avenue, would be closed and cleaned up "within two years" were being investigated this week by Councilman Nick Drale.

Drale said that he had been informed that the Federal agencies had required the city to do certain work on the dumps, and also got assurance from City Manager George Stevens that the dump would be closed up entirely, before the loan agreements for the several hundred Kettler Knolls homes to the south of the dump could be approved.

"If this is true, and I have every reason to believe that it is, the dumps should be closed now," Drale declared. "And now does not mean next week, next month or next year, but NOW," he continued with emphasis.

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Hearings For Sewer Projects Set

The North Torrance and Seaside Heights sewer district hearings are set for April 10, according to City Manager George Stevens. Together, both projects would cost more than \$150,000.

The projects, plans and specifications for which have been approved by the city council, would begin within two months following the hearing if ordered by the council. The Seaside improvement would cost \$84,889. The North Torrance job would cost about \$65,989.

Both areas are now served by cesspools, which have been the target of numerous complaints by householders.

Civil Defense Rally In North Torrance Friday

North Torrance residents are holding a Civil Defense rally at their recreation building Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. Motion pictures will be shown. Staff men and women will be present to answer questions during the round table discussion period.

"The North Torrance area wardens are to be complimented for their interest and endeavors in the Block Warden recruitment program," said George Powell, assistant director of Civilian Defense.

Torrance Youth Band Parade Set for May 19

The Torrance Area Youth Band's "Fifth Annual Band Benefit Parade" will take place on Saturday afternoon, May 19th, at 2:30 p.m. This parade is sponsored by the Torrance Area Youth Band in conjunction with its annual drive to raise funds for more uniforms and instruments.

Several hundred invitations and entry forms have been mailed out this week to bands, drum and bugle corps, baton corps, and equestrian units all over Southern California. In hopes of having more local participation in this year's parade, invitations have also been mailed out to all local civic groups, business houses and industries.

Trophies for first place and ribbons for second and third places will be given to winners in the equestrian division. Trophies for first and second place winners in floats, bands, drum corps, and instrumental groups will also be given.

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Thomas May Lose City In Assembly District Shift

High Court Backs Hughes In Law Suit

William J. B. Hughes, well-known Torrance man, gained the support of the State Supreme Court in his false arrest suit against two San Pedro policemen. The Supreme Court decision reversed an earlier local Superior Court verdict which favored the policemen. Hearing for a new trial will be set in about 30 days, according to M. E. Storrie, Hughes' lawyer.

Hughes, who lives at 1318 Madrid Ave., Torrance, filed a \$35,000 suit against Officers O. H. Ledbetter and H. J. Greenwood, who arrested him in a San Pedro night club last Feb. 1. After a trial Superior Judge William S. Baird directed a verdict in the officers' favor.

SEIZED AFTER ROBBERY

Hughes was arrested the day after Nick K. Oreb, owner of the night club, had 100 silver dollars stolen from his home. Oreb called police when Hughes paid for drinks at Oreb's night club with two silver dollars.

Hughes charged that he was held from 2 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1948, until Monday without being given an opportunity to notify his family or his attorney. He alleged he was beaten while in jail, but no charge was brought against him. Later, another man confessed the robbery. During the trial here it was brought out that the officers arrested Hughes without a warrant, that they were in plain clothes at the time and that they booked Hughes on suspicion of robbery when he refused to answer questions.

M. E. Storrie, representing Hughes, is of the law firm of Entenza and Gramer, Los Angeles.

Reshuffling of Assembly districts of Los Angeles County will cost Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, of the 68th District, a total of approximately 25,000 population, and he is fighting to keep Torrance within his district, according to Councilman Nick Drale.

Assemblyman Thomas considers Torrance "the most appreciative area of his district," according to Drale, and he wants this section within the district in which he resides.

Due to the thinly spread population of the 68th district, outside of Torrance, San Pedro and Wilmington, it is assumed that Thomas will have to give up either Torrance or a section of the Wilmington-Keystone area adjacent to the 71st District of Long Beach.

The population of Torrance is about equal to the surplus of population to which an Assemblyman is entitled, according to Drale.

Meanwhile, Thomas is reported to have his eye on the reshuffling of the Congressional Districts, and may find it politically expedient to make the race for Congress should Rep. Cecil King find himself "outside" of the district which would serve this area. Rep. King lives in Los Angeles, and now serves the 17th Congressional District which extends northward from the ocean to Slauson avenue.

City Starts Alondra Park Annexation

The City Council has instructed City Attorney James Hall to prepare the necessary resolutions to bring about the annexation of Alondra Park to the City of Torrance.

The annexation proceedings will include only the park property, which consists of the golf course, a county recreation building, swimming pool, veterans housing project and El Camino College campus. Torrance already is a part of El Camino College district.

There are no property owners resident on the land, and therefore, no election will be necessary. The property involved is in unincorporated Los Angeles County territory.

However, public hearings will be held.

The county will continue to maintain the golf course, it is said.

New Fixture Plant Opens In Torrance

C. Hiebert's Cabinet & Fixture Company, a large Los Angeles firm, has taken over the quarters formerly occupied by the White Manufacturing Co. on Yukon avenue near 171st Street, and is moving in \$35,000 worth of equipment, the Press learned this week.

Councilman Nick Drale said that the company which formerly manufactured at 3053 Treadwell Street, Los Angeles, will make store and office fixtures, partitions, and executive officers' furniture in Torrance.

A large payroll will be involved, Drale said.

Lion Sponsored Magic Show Here April 14

The Magic Wonder Show, "Modern Magic and Old Fashioned Fun" will enhance the stage of the Torrance Municipal auditorium 10:30 a.m., April 14 as the Torrance Lions bring this benefit show for underprivileged children of Torrance.

Audience participation, prizes, beautiful girls, music and good, clean fun for all the family will be featured, along with such spectacular mysteries as "The Mad Doctor's Dream," the extravagant production hailed as the "Fantasy of the Flowers," and "The Magical Mortons," magicians.

One of the highlights of the performance will be a series of contests in which local youngsters and adults may participate for generous prizes. Specially arranged Hammond electric organ music will be provided during the stage show and before the performance begins, and you are invited to come early because a policy of first come, first to the good seats, will be followed.

The Lions Club brings this great stage attraction to Torrance direct from Minneapolis where the show appeared before more than one hundred thousand people during an eight day engagement at the Municipal Auditorium there.

Members of the Lions Club of Torrance are happy to announce that you will be able to get free invitations for this great show, by asking for them from the merchants, the business and professional people in and around Torrance, Harbor City, Lomita and Waverly, who are assisting the Lions Club in sponsoring this Magic Wonder Show.



"THE MAGICAL MORTONS"

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Pat Merola In Front for Queen Title

With only two and one-half weeks remaining before Miss Torrance of 1951 will be crowned, Pat Merola leads the race with 30,166 points, almost 2000 points more than the next highest contender, Sandy Gulbranson, according to William A. Zoeller, certified public accountant in charge of the vote tallies.

So far, Zoeller points out, \$1243.30 has been brought in from the contestants.

Bringing in the greatest number of points, 5283, for this week is Dorothy Sandstrom which wins her this week's 1000 point bonus. Sandy Gulbranson brought in the second highest number of points for the week, 3325, which brought her the 750 point bonus. Winner of the 500 point bonus for the week is Dona Fuller.

Coronation of the queen will be held April 7 at the Torrance Civic Auditorium. The orchestra (Continued on Page Two)

Burglar Hits Four Homes During Night

Torrance was hit by a minor crime wave last week as the homes of four prominent Torrance citizens were burglarized sometime during last Thursday night, March 15, or in the early morning hours of Friday, March 16. An aggregate total of about \$126 was taken from the homes.

Burglarized were the homes of Frederick Cook, 2207 Carson St.; C. T. Rippey, 1611 El Prado; Alma Smith, 1614 Amapola Ave., and Dean Sears, 1635 Post Ave.

VICTIMS SLEPT

Police detectives Captain Ernest Ashton and Percy Bennett, investigating the crimes, say that they believe all the burglaries were perpetrated by the same person or persons as yet unknown. Police also say that all the victims were at home asleep at the time of the burglaries.

Taken from the Cook home was a brief case containing (Continued on Page Two)

Drale Continues Fight for Court Here

The fight to secure a Municipal Court for Torrance, under the Inferior Court Reorganization program adopted at the last general election, has not ended, according to Councilman Nick Drale, and he has appealed to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas for support of a local court to serve the 18 square miles of Torrance and nearby areas.

Councilman Drale said that he reminded Assemblyman Thomas that the action of the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday, in which the Supervisors moved to set up one court of two judges for the whole South Bay area, probably located in the beach district, would deprive the 68th Assembly District of any representation in the new court program. Thomas represents the 68th District which includes Torrance, Palos Verdes, Lomita, Wilmington, San Pedro, the Shoestring Strip and Keystone areas.

Drale said that he told Thomas that the Torrance City Court had handled one-fourth of the entire case load of all courts of the eight communities in the South Bay area (including the Justice court).

Also he declared that Torrance growth in the past few years and potential expansion into its 18 square miles will make Torrance (Continued on Page 10)

Lomita Man Wounded in Korean War

A former Narbonne High School student and father of an 18-month-old boy Pfc. Charles William Lane, 21, of Lomita, was reported wounded in Korean fighting this week by the department of defense. Lane is attached to the Marine Corps.

Pfc. Lane and his wife, Frances, who resides in Torrance, have an 18-month-old boy, William Jr., which the father has seen only a few times.

His aunt and guardian, Mrs. William Alec Newman, 2021 242nd street, Lomita, says that she was notified that Pfc. Lane had been wounded on March 9, the day before his 21st birthday.

The notification said that he was wounded on Feb. 12, 1951. His aunt said that she has received two letters from him since that date in which he says nothing about his wounds. One letter is dated Feb. 15 and the other, Feb. 29 (probably meant March 1). In the latter, he mentions (Continued on Page Two)

Salvage To Be Called For By Salvation Army

71 years of unbroken social service to needy and handicapped men and women is the proud record of the Salvation Army's Social Service Department. "This has been done, and is being done," said Brigadier Ranson D. Gifford, recently installed center manager, "without regard for race, creed or color."

The Salvation Army's annual Salvage Week campaign in Torrance and surrounding area will be held this year during the week of April 9 through 14, when an effort will be made to increase the collection of all kinds of salvage materials which to carry on this splendid humanitarian program.

Chairman J. Hugh Sherfey, Jr., pointed out that used furniture, clothing, shoes, newspapers, magazines, bedding, dishes, home appliances, bric-a-brac, etc., are needed urgently by the Salvation Army's Social Service Department daily and especially during salvage week.



The Torrance Auxiliary Police formed October, 1950, as part of the Civilian Defense program are shown for the first time in their uniforms. Now in the middle of a training course, they meet each Wednesday night at the City Hall and are taught by army and F. B. I. instructors. Director of Civilian Defense, City Manager George Stevens is in the center of the bottom row (not in uniform). Assistant director of Civilian Defense George Powell is not in the picture. Capt. W. H. Haslam will be in charge of the group after the schooling period is over.

Pictured above are, bottom row, left to right: Sgt. W. Haslam, M. Fenwick, F. Schmidt, City Manager, G. W. Stevens, C. Collins, E. Ferrer, L. Peterson.

Second row, left to right: P. Findley, J. Higgins, W. King,

C. Poh, H. Walsch, J. Phillips, J. Fedor, K. Figgins, A. Moore, E. Friberg.

Third row, left to right: J. Wilkes, J. Burchett, A. Hill, W. Fulton, F. Smith, L. Brownlee, S. Schmidt, F. Loranger, R. Borman, R. Cannon.

Fourth row, left to right: P. Osborne, R. Honrath, J. Ashworth, G. Arrasmith, T. Pattishal, D. Whitney, W. Ginder, J. Duger, F. Prindle.

Fifth row, left to right: R. Palmer, C. Demaree, A. Patronsky, E. Hagan, B. Gooler, D. Vorhis, S. Abramson, G. Warburton, G. Alter, L. Pick.

Absent from the picture are M. Cook and A. Gianni.