

"Torrance-On-the-Air" ... In Dramatic Radio Form!



... with music, dialogue and sound effects—all based on facts of proven community record—this city's history from a century ago to today is presented here ... in the technique and style of the world's latest medium of historic expression ... a radio script!

Written Especially for This Souvenir Edition of The Torrance Herald

By MICHAEL STRASZER, City Editor

Pen-and-Ink Illustrations by John Delano

MUSIC: (FANFARE ... FINAL CHORD SUSTAINED)

ANNOUNCER: Torrance on the air!

MUSIC: (SUSTAINED CHORD ... HALF TONE HIGHER)

ANNR: Los Angeles county's fifth city in size, locale of the state's top oil producing area, home of 50 industries and 10,300 happy people takes to the airways to tell its history!

MUSIC: (GUITARS AND VIOLINS PLAYING SPANISH DANCE ... FADE ON CUE)

ANNR: A hundred years ago ... that was 74 years before a man of vision named Jared Sidney Torrance had an idea of building a city ... Cristobal Dominguez rode out from his hacienda one bright spring day and ...

MUSIC: (FADES OUT AS ...)

SOUND: (SADDLE CREAKING ... A HORSE'S HOOVES GOING THRU SAND)

DOMINGUEZ: This land! Worthless! Even Pedro's sheep could not live on it! (DISGUSTED) Nothing but sand, sand and ... more sand! It is the one part of the rancho that will never amount to anything ... and yet, so close to the sea, so cool ... it could be ... No ... we forget this part of the rancho! ... Let's go home, Blanco ... home to Victoria, Manuel, Nasario, Helena, Marcelina and Pedro and see what those chiquitos have been up to since we came out to this ... this ... barrenness!

MUSIC: (GUITARS AND VIOLINS UP AND FADE.)

ANNR: Don Cristobal was a brother of Juan Jose Dominguez who was granted 43,179 acres by Governor Pedro Flages in the name of the King of Spain in 1785. Cristobal inherited the Dominguez San Pedro grant, which included the present sites of Torrance, Compton, Redondo, San Pedro, Wilmington and Gardena. This monumental gift from the King—in return for modest military services—was one of three made in Southern California. Time passed and on Cristobal's death the great estate was divided ...

MUSIC: (GUITARS UP ... THEN FADE)

WOMAN: (GOSSIPING) ... And so Manuel he fought the negotiations we had made with Don Benjamino Wilson and his friends ... He went to the court and next month, September 14 it is—Madre Dios! my little Juan he will be five years old then! ... he was born in 1850 ... we are to sign the papers giving him 24,000 acres for his share ... Manuel is 52 ... he was born, you know, in San Diego ... he is very well known in all California ... Was he not a member of the Ayuntamiento in Los Angeles when it voted \$15 a month for a school teacher and decided to fine anyone who serenaded without a permit a whole dollar and a half! ... (LAUGHS)

ANNR: Yes, Manuel Dominguez was one of the leaders of his time. Married in 1827 to Maria Engracia Cota, he served on the Los Angeles town council two years, was First Alcalde or Judge in 1832 and 1839 and again in 1842 and was appointed Prefect—the highest office known under the Mexican government—in 1843. Under American rule, Manuel was a delegate to the constitutional convention at Monterey—in 1849 and five years later he was elected a Los Angeles County Supervisor.

SOUND: (BLACKSMITH SHOP ... SHOENING HORSES)

BLACKSMITH: (NASAL YANKEE VOICE) Whoa, there! ... Now, I'll have a chaw er that plug, Ike, iffen yore a mind to let me rest a-spell ... What do yuh hear from down to that mud-flat harbor of yourn at San Pedro?

IKE: (ANOTHER NASAL VOICE) Wall, old Missus Dominguez' will is creatin' quite a stir.

BLACKSMITH: She was th' widow of old Manuel who passed in his checks last year, wasn't she? Wall, he left a pritty piece o' propity down yore way.

IKE: Yeah, but he willed it to his wife ... all but \$5 each for his six daughters ... 'n then when Missus died we found she had made her will the same day as old Manuel but she was not as generous to th' gals ... Cut 'em off with only a silver dollar apiece and left it all to her husband.

BLACKSMITH: Then how'd it fin'ly come out?

IKE: Oh, th' state administrator settled it ... He allotted the Dominguez estate in one-sixth slices to the daughters ... One of 'em, Mrs. de Guyer ... she was Ana Josefa Dominguez ... has her share up for sale ... Folks think it ain't wuth much, all sand ...

BLACKSMITH: (SHOUTS) Pump up that fire, Sam!

SOUND: (BELLOWS PUMPING)



BLACKSMITH: Where is her piece o' propity?

IKE: Up north o' th' Palos Verdes hills ... shore is poorly looking land ... never'll amount to anything ...

MUSIC: ("IN MY MERRY OLDSMOBILE" ... THEN FADE TO SOUND)

SOUND: (OLD FASHIONED CAR CHUGGING ALONG ... FADES BUT SUSTAINS)

ANNOUNCER: It was poorly looking land ... but to a New York lumberman, realty operator and banker lately arrived in Pasadena it was rich with possibilities. He had come to Southern California eager for action. The bean fields, potato patches and sand dunes swept by the cooling Pacific winds were transformed in his eyes ...

SOUND: (OLD FASHIONED CAR CHUGGING ALONG)

ANNOUNCER: Riding out with an official of the Union Tool company which was then in urgent need of expansion he spoke ...

TORRANCE: We'll stop at the top of this knoll, Jim, and then I'll tell you what I've got in mind ... We've purchased about 2,800 acres of the Dominguez Estate company—formed by the heirs of the great Dominguez Rancho. We've paid them what everybody says is a good, fair price—something like \$980,000. At the present time we are closing a deal for 730 acres more from one of the heirs for \$550,000. I've been made president of the Dominguez Land company and ...

JIM: But, Mr. Torrance, this doesn't look like farming land? ... If you are going in for crops ... ?

TORRANCE: I am going in for crops, Jim—but crops of industrial projects. Look, here we are ...

SOUND: (MOTOR CHUGS TO A STOP)

TORRANCE: See over there? The harbor is just beyond those hills and we're within 14 miles of Los Angeles. Now, here's the place for a city—a city of industries which can expand and develop away from the high land prices of Los Angeles itself and still be close to your big city and to a harbor that some day will rank among the world's busiest ports. Here workers can build their own homes, have gardens, trees and enjoy the good things of life. (WITH GROWING EXCITEMENT) Here we'll have parks and playgrounds—no slums, no serried rows of jerry-built tenements ... We'll carve a city here that will be a model for industrial communities of the future ...

JIM: Mr. Torrance, I think I understand what you mean. The Union Tool Company is looking for something just like you have visioned here. We can't stay in Los Angeles ... why we're asked to pay more than \$100,000 an acre to get land for our business! ... And we want to improve our plant, get the most efficient machinery and really cash in on this Southern California oil development. Yessir, Mr. Torrance, we'll come here!

MUSIC: (FULL ORCHESTRA ... GROFE'S FACTORY FANTASY ... THEN FADE AND SUSTAINED CUE)

ANNOUNCER: Jared Sidney Torrance from that day in 1910—devoted a great deal of his time and interest to the new community. But the city was not his sole activity ... An officer or director in more than 140 corporations, including such diversified fields as educational institutions, industrial concerns, land, cattle, oil, electricity, transportation, banking, bonds, agriculture, horticulture and various public utilities, Jared Sidney Torrance was one of the Southland's outstanding developers.

MUSIC: (ORCHESTRA FADES OUT)

SOUND: (TYPEWRITERS, FACTORY WHISTLES, BUZZERS, BELLS, CATTLE, POWER SAWS and LOWING MONTAGE CONTINUES.)

OTHER DISTINCTIVE SOUNDS AS THE FOLLOWING (FADING IN ... CROSE-FADE) Union Oil calling Mr. Torrance ... (WOMAN) He's vice-president of the Edison Electric Company ... (MAN) Palomar Land and Cattle Company ... (WOMAN) Your attorney calling you about that Los Angeles Trust and Savings Bank matter, Mr. Torrance ... Pasadena Electric Light and Power wants you ... (BOY) Please tell Mr. Torrance he's wanted at the McKinley Home for Boys ... (MAN) Barlow Sanitarium association is meeting and wants Mr. Torrance ... (WOMAN) Los Angeles Public Market directors want to know ...

MUSIC: (FULL ORCHESTRA ... GROFE'S "FACTORY FANTASY" ... THEN FADE AND SUS-

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