

BUILDING ACTIVITY TOPS ALL RECORDS

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SCHOOL BOARD PUTS OKAY ON TWO PROJECTS

Torrance Board of Education this week decided approximately how it would expend the proceeds from the \$1,504,000 school bond issue voted last June, and authorized the architects to prepare working drawings on two initial projects:

1—The North Torrance Elementary School, now estimated to cost some \$350,000 instead of the \$250,000 originally estimated.

2—The controversial administration building and service unit, for which it is planned to expend \$36,000.

Third, the board also authorized preparation of new cost estimates on the North Torrance School, the administration and service unit, cafeteria for the Torrance Elementary School, a similar unit for the Fern Avenue School and, mentioned last week, the high school cafeteria.

Total of these projects was estimated to cost \$528,000, and by the time the architects fees are deducted, the board expressed the belief that two more elementary schools could be built at Seaside Ranchos and at Walteria.

The rising costs of construction were reviewed for the board by Phil Daniel member of the architectural firm of Daniel, Mann and Johnson.

"Standard classrooms now are costing between \$10 and \$12 a square foot, areas with plumbing \$15 to \$16 and areas with kitchen facilities, such as cafeterias and domestic science classrooms—way out of sight," Daniel said.

Reviewing his preliminary sketches for the North Torrance school, Daniel said it was planned to utilize radiant heating from copper pipes imbedded in the floors, acoustical material in classroom ceilings and covered walks connecting the several buildings.

The school plant would accommodate 300 children and would include a cafeteria, kindergarten room, offices for the principal, a school nurse, and provision for a home economics and shop building where trades would be taught. At an estimated cost of \$350,000, excluding the site, this

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Bids Due Soon on Paint Plant

Representatives of the architectural firm preparing the plans for the new Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's paint plant to be erected on Crenshaw boulevard conferred with City Engineer George Stevens last week to clear up several points concerning the city's building regulations.

Working drawings for the multi-million-dollar project now are in the final stage and indications are that bids will be called for shortly.

The architects, representing the firm of John C. Martin and Associates of Los Angeles, said the Torrance plant recently purchased would be almost identical with another paint factory which the Pittsburgh company is erecting in the east.

Actual construction is expected to start in January. Surveys of the site were made two months ago at the site, which backs up against the Santa Fe railroad line.

Motorcyclist Leaves Seat; Brakes Lock!

Attempting to avoid a truck, Kenneth Clarence De Weber, 1920 West 208th street, sustained multiple injuries including a possible fractured skull Monday noon when the motorcycle he was riding was out of control and threw the 24-year-old rider to the pavement. The accident occurred at Torrance boulevard and Sartori avenue.

Francis M. Roberts, 1558 West 215th street told police he witnessed the accident and believed that the wheel locked when the rider applied the brakes. Arthur L. Barnett, 815 Cota avenue, driver of the truck believed to be the one with which the rider nearly collided, was not held by the police.

34th YEAR—No. 50



APPOINTED Gordon Northington, who has been appointed a captain in the Torrance Fire Department following a recent civil service examination.

Northington Appointed as Fire Captain

Effective next Dec. 16, Gordon Northington will become a captain of the Torrance Fire Department, by action of the City Council in approving the recommendation of Fire Chief John McMaster.

Northington, who has been a member of the department for approximately 11 years, will receive the usual probationary six months before receiving his permanent appointment. His compensation will be \$316 a month.

The new appointee was one of 14 who took the recent civil service examination for the position.

Two new members were added to the Torrance Fire department effective Dec. 1, on recommendation of Chief John McMaster. Robert Moffitt, engineer, will receive compensation of \$304 per month, and Robert Lucas, also an engineer, is receiving \$277 per month at the start of his appointment.

Both men passed civil service examinations recently for the positions.

Legion Isn't Back of Any House and Lot

The young woman wearing a Legion cap who was reported making house-to-house calls in Torrance this week selling chances on a house and lot in order to raise money for a building has no connection with Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion, according to Commander Tom Babbitt.

Post 170 has raised its own funds and is not now nor ever has sponsored a fund-raising campaign, Legion officials said.

He'll Be Here Santa's Coming to Town for Big Christmas Party Dec. 23

L. Milton Isbell, program chairman for the annual Torrance Lions Club Children's Christmas Party, received word yesterday from Santa Claus that he will be on hand personally for the giant affair to be held in the Civic Auditorium Dec. 23 from 2 to 4 p. m., according to Paul A. big program of Christmas carols, a Yuletide motion picture and band numbers will augment the appearance of Santa Claus in Torrance to entertain 2500 children expected at the party.

Chairman Diamond said that candy, nuts and fruits have been purchased in sufficient quantities that each child in the Torrance area who comes to the party will be assured of his share. Members of the Torrance Fire and Police departments, as in past years, will cooperate in sacking and distributing the sweets, Diamond said. They are working in cooperation with Capt. J. R. Winters of the Fire department, and Capt. Ernest Ashton of the Police department, both Lions.

Herald's Home Thronged for Formal Opening

Friends of the Torrance Herald turned its new home into a veritable flower garden for the formal opening last Saturday, when more than 1000 persons from all walks of life responded to the publisher's invitation to the open house.

Many of the city's early residents, including several who knew Jared Sidney Torrance, the city's founder, called during the day and evening hours to be shown through the new plant.

Most of these among the "old timers" have been subscribers to The Herald since its first issue. Two came from as far as Glendale, and many Los Angeles business firms had one or two representatives.

Visitors counted 47 bouquets of flowers, but the most novel bouquet of all was a large layer cake baked especially for Publisher Whyte by Alma's Pastry Shop on Carson street. Alma's cake was served at the staff party given by the publisher on Sunday afternoon.

On Friday newspaper publishers from all over the Southland visited the new home and declared it to be one of the most modern plants they had ever seen, a compliment which is shared with Edwin B. Brown, business manager, because he collaborated in the design of some of its features.

But The Herald's first edition in its new home was not without its trials. It was the mechanical department's first run with the huge 32-page rotary press.

There were other events, too, in about this order. . . . Friday afternoon one of the shop staff became a papa. The staff presented Publisher Whyte with a clock for his new office. It showered a little. A flower shop had to close at noon Saturday because it was sold out of flowers. At the height of Saturday's crowd of visitors the earth's crust adjusted itself. By 9 o'clock's closing time so many people had been shown through the plant that the staff lost count.

Sunday, the day of the staff party, Publisher Whyte presented the newspaper's senior employe, Miss Lute Fraser, with a chair and an ottoman on behalf of the employes. Miss Fraser, the staff all thought, actually was caught off guard for the first time. She tells about it elsewhere in today's Herald.

Census Fund Is Allotted by City Council

Preparations are being made today to start the special census of the city, as recommended recently by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The City Council has authorized \$756.44 to start the special count, the funds to be allocated from the unappropriated reserve. Estimated cost of the census is \$250, which the Council has agreed to make available.

The count is to begin early in January, City Engineer Geo. Stevens has been advised.

Darby to Lose Some of Area

A survey is to be launched for new boundary lines separating the various supervisory districts, but Torrance is not expected to be directly affected.

Raymond V. Darby, supervisor of the Fourth District, said that while he wasn't trying to get rid of any part of his area, it was beginning to get top heavy. His district now has a total of 521,084, or nearly 100,000 above what the total should be if all districts were equal.

Solution Two Plans on 'Five Points' Offered City

Two possible solutions to the Five-Point intersection of Carson street, Cabrillo and Cravens avenues were forwarded to City Engineer George Stevens this week by Chief Engineer E. E. East of the Auto Club of Southern California.

Both plans call for construction of a traffic "island" in the center of the five-way intersection, to afford protection to pedestrians and to channel traffic so that collisions will be practically impossible.

Vehicles turning into Cravens when eastbound on Carson would be required to go completely around the island by making a left turn into "Cabrillo" and turning left approximately 80 feet further north, thereby going around the north side of the island.

One plan calls for painting double white lines to the street to guide traffic, and the other more elaborate plan calls for construction of asphaltic concrete ridges in the street. The second plan also calls for long narrow traffic islands in Cabrillo designed to facilitate traffic.

Way Cleared for Armory

After months of delay the way was at last cleared today for the erection of an armory adjacent to City Park for the use of the California National Guard units.

The site is a triangular parcel of land 193 acres in area lying between Lincoln avenue, Cabrillo avenue and the Santa Fe Railway, across the tracks from the city ball park.

A quitclaim deed to the parcel, executed last week by the Torrance City Council, was forwarded this week to the State of California.

Move Into Walteria's Library Due

Walteria's branch of the city library will move into its new quarters some time during the next weekend if present moving plans materialize, Mrs. D. H. Jamieson, librarian, said yesterday.

Exact date that the library building, located on the grounds of the Walteria playground, will be opened to the public for the first time will depend upon the schedule that the county library movers are able to follow, Mrs. Jamieson said.



CANDY ROSES—Shelley Rene Baldwin fills her sweet tooth with a piece of cake offered by Grover C. Whyte, publisher of The Torrance Herald, at a party for employees held in the newspaper's new home last Sunday. Shelley picked one of the four dozen roses fashioned in frosting on the multi-tiered sheet-cake for her first try. The cake was a gift to the Herald from Mrs. Alma Schultz, owner of Alma's Bakery, 1925 Carson street. Shelley is the 14-month-old daughter of the Herald's photographer, Jack Baldwin, who takes most of the local pictures for this newspaper, including this one, which are usually identified by . . . (Staff Photo).

Stores to Stay Open Evenings Starting Friday

Beginning tomorrow (Friday) all Torrance stores will remain open evenings until Christmas, according to Chas. V. Jones, chairman of the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce.

And if you haven't been downtown lately, the business district now is gaily decorated with colorful Christmas wreaths, most of which have been put up within the last week. Work of hanging them was delayed briefly by last week's wind.

Man Who Selected Groceries for Five Hours Had Gun on Hip

John Carrol Gray has 30 days to consider the high cost of living!

Monday afternoon the 26-year-old resident of Gardena walked into the Torrance Food Center, 2223 Torrance boulevard, at 1:40 hours later he was still shopping and had amassed \$57 in groceries at the checking stand.

In the meantime Manager Jack Schumers became suspicious of the man's actions and told Officer Harold Trezise, who was shopping in the store during his off-duty hours.

Lund Returns From Funeral

Russell Lund, local business man, returned this week from Shenandoah, Iowa, where he was called last week by the sudden death of his father, I. Albert Lund, at the age of 71.

Surviving the father in addition to his son in Torrance is the widow and mother, Mrs. Gertrude Lund, and a daughter, Mrs. Lucille Hoyt, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Drive-In Parcel Postoffice to Be Inaugurated Here

An innovation in mailing of parcel post during the Christmas season will be tried out in Torrance this year with the inauguration of a drive-in parcel mailing service, it was announced last night by Postmaster C. Earl Conner.

The plan will permit patrons to wait their turn to mail their parcels while sitting in their automobiles instead of standing in line with parcels in their arms, which should appeal to mothers of the household particularly, he believes.

"This also will permit mothers to be their own baby-sitters and should enable them to mail their parcels earlier," Conner said. The idea is similar to that of the drive-in theater and the drive-in eating places on the highways.

Postmaster Conner said the drive-in mailing service will be inaugurated today (Thursday), and the location will be the city-owned parking lot at El Prado and Cravens. Entrance will be from the alley leading in from Post avenue, or from the alley leading in from Arlington, and automobiles will exit on to Cravens avenue.

Hours will be from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. daily except Sunday until further notice, Conner said. Only parcels addressed to this country will be accepted and it will be necessary to mail all foreign parcels at the main office on Marcellina avenue.

No stamps or money orders can be sold at the drive-in parcel post office.

Man Who Selected Groceries for Five Hours Had Gun on Hip

Police arrested the man, who was subsequently sentenced to 30 days in the county jail on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon. The sentence was handed down by City Judge Otto B. Willett Tuesday morning.

Trezise surveyed the huge stack of groceries and agreed with Manager Schumers and phoned the police station. When Officer Leonard Beal arrived on the scene the suspect started for the rear of the store. Officer Beal commanded him to "reach" and searching of

Year End Retains Top Pace

Issuance of \$574,000 in building permits for new dwellings on the hill top east of Seaside Ranchos put Torrance's city building valuations well over the \$8,000,000 mark for 1948—the highest in the city's history.

Previous all-time high mark was \$7,670,000, established in 1942 and which was mostly industrial installations. Permits up to Nov. 30 fell just short of exceeding this total, amounting to \$7,370,690.

Total valuation of permits issued in November was \$499,840, just short of the half-million-dollar mark.

Early this week permits for \$51,800 in new dwellings in a new tract on the west side of Hawthorne boulevard between 234th street and Alhambra avenue were issued. The location is at the head of Lomita boulevard.

Among those permits granted recently were 115 issued to the Palisades Builders for more than half a million dollars — \$574,000 for small homes on the hill east of Seaside Ranchos.

The Security Construction Company, 176 North Martel avenue, Los Angeles, was granted permits totaling \$51,800 for 10 resi-

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State Attorney's Aid Invoked in Cemetery Plan

Interested property owners have appealed to the State Attorney General's office for an opinion on the controversial matter of the proposed Weston Ranch cemetery, according to Harold Streight, vice president of the Palos Verdes Corporation.

"It is understood that the California League of Municipalities also has been asked to look into the matter," he stated in a prepared statement.

Streight said he is acting in the matter on behalf of nearby property owners who are opposing the plan to establish a 100-acre burial ground on the property which adjoins Crenshaw boulevard south of Pacific Coast highway within the City of Torrance.

His statement followed on the heels of an opinion of City Attorney C. Douglass Smith that "the City is without legal authority to act in the matter," and that all K. Sande Senness, cemetery developer, had to do was to have the property necessary for his cemetery dedicated for cemetery purposes exclusively.

"It is the feeling of opposing property owners that if the City Attorney's opinion is correct all that one need do in Torrance or in any other city or locality in California to establish a cemetery for any race, color, or creed

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Sister Kenny Visits Harbor General Today

Sister Elizabeth Kenny is scheduled to arrive at Harbor General Hospital this morning at 10:30 o'clock to review the course of treatment being given polio victims there.

Seven Sister Kenny technicians—two graduates and five students—now are assigned to Harbor General. The technicians are in the employ of the Sister Kenny Institute, located at Minneapolis, Minn.

Coma Going on Tenth Day

Entering her tenth day at Harbor General Hospital, Dorothy Ruth O'Brien, former Torrance High School student, was still in a coma yesterday as the result of injuries suffered in a horseback riding accident.

Miss O'Brien, who is 20, was hurt last Nov. 28 when she was spalled by her horse on Crenshaw boulevard about 300 yards north of Palos Verdes Drive, North.