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FREE PARKING
COURTESY
City of Torrance



NEW PUBLIC FACILITY—This off-street parking lot at Craven and El Prado is expected to be a popular place next week when the city's new traffic ordinance limiting parking to one hour in the central business district goes into effect. City Water Department installed the signs recently and additional parking movement has been spurred by Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce. (Herald Photo.)

Two Southwest Civic Groups Ask School Showdown

Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos parents called for a showdown today with the Torrance Board of Education as to why better progress is not being made on the construction of new schools for their area and filed a joint petition with Superintendent J. H. Hull signed by the officers and executive boards of their homeowners' associations. They request:

1. Immediate erection of a temporary eight-classroom unit on the new South Torrance (Walteria) school site, or on the Walteria city park.
2. Enlargement and expedition of plans for permanent buildings for a maximum capacity school site not later than February, 1950.

Paint Factory Building Bids Ready Shortly

Construction of a multi-million dollar paint manufacturing plant on Crenshaw boulevard in Torrance, disclosed exclusively by the Herald last Sept. 30 will get under way in approximately six weeks, it was learned today.

The Pittsburgh Plate Glass company made the remainder of its payment on the site at the head of Dominguez street for the construction of a plant with 200,000 square feet of floor space for its paint division.

A two-story office building, raw material storage building, a varnish and resin plant and a finished goods warehouse will be the principal buildings.

INJURED IN CRASH

Bruce Rugg Russell, 22, of 1646 1/2 Cabrillo avenue, Torrance, was seriously injured in a traffic accident on Redondo Beach boulevard last Saturday night when his car was in collision with another driven by J. H. Nichols, of Redondo Beach. Occupants of Nichols' car were uninjured.

- A. Preventing an emergency which without immediate attention will present itself in the early fall.
- B. Relief of overcrowded conditions at Walteria School to an extent that would enable expected growth to be absorbed.
- C. A salutary effect upon voters.

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LABOR PEACE AIM OF NEW AREA COUNCIL

A new organization streamlined to cope with labor problems between retail merchants and clerks, was perfected Tuesday evening of this week by adoption of a constitution and by-laws of the Harbor Area Employers Council with headquarters in Torrance, it was announced by L. E. DeLaney, secretary-treasurer.

Leading merchants and other business men from San Pedro, Torrance, Wilmington and Gardena are participating in the organization of the new Employers Council, according to DeLaney. Other temporary officers chosen are: A. J. McCown, drug store operator, president; H. W. Smith, owner of A-1 Photo Supply Co. of Torrance and San Pedro, vice president; Tom Ware, Gardena; Leon P. Ferrer, San Pedro; Paul Diamond, Torrance and John Caldwell, Wilmington, directors.

Purpose of the new council is to represent members in labor matters, including negotiations of labor contracts, adjustment of employee grievances and to generally promote harmony and peace between employers and employees engaged in retail trade in the harbor area.

A staff of labor relations experts headed by the Los Angeles law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and James M. Nicolson, labor relations counselor, has been engaged as legal advisor, DeLaney stated. Nicolson was formerly the chief counselor of the National Labor Relations Board.

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Clerk's Union Facing Suit for Damages

McCown Drug Stores, operating in Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City and Gardena, charged this week in a Superior Court suit that Haskell Tidwell and his Retail Clerks Union, Local 205 of the A.F.L., had violated its contract and seeks total damages of \$100,800.

The complaint charged that employees of the company's four harbor area stores were called off the job for two hours Dec. 21 in an "unwarranted and unjustified" violation of a contract executed Feb. 17, 1947.

The strike was called at the height of the pre-Christmas season.

The pact, according to the suit, provided that disputes arising between the employer and the union must first be submitted to arbitration before a strike can be called.

The company also requested it be awarded \$112.22 for wages it said it was compelled to pay employees while they were off

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CITY'S NEWEST SUBDIVISION—Homes for another 116 families are provided by this newest Torrance subdivision in the lower left foreground where the last eight dwellings passed final inspection this week. Dotted white line shows the path of the Western Avenue extension, which traverses the easterly edge of the tract.

More than half of the houses have already been sold, and construction was approximately 50 per cent complete when this aerial photograph was taken for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce by Pacific Aid Industries.

City's Nix on 'Transit' Bill Has Big Echo

Torrance Chamber of Commerce directors fired a shot that echoed around most of the perimeter of Los Angeles Tuesday as result of their adoption of a resolution opposing the proposed tax-eating rapid transit district.

Other cities around Los Angeles who desire to avoid the taxation that this project would involve merely to get back and forth to the downtown section of Los Angeles faster, indicated they would follow this city's footsteps. In fact, the Chamber's outspoken attitude may well spell defeat of the measure, according to Assemblyman Vicent Thomas, who received a copy of it Tuesday morning and promptly forecast its doom in an interview.

Thomas told newsmen that what goes for Torrance goes for his entire 68th assembly district: San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City and Lomita as well.

Thomas said: "Our people feel rapid transit would take business out of the suburbs, just to benefit big downtown stores."

The resolution follows: Whereas, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce the "Rapid Transit Act," as proposed, contains many features deemed inimical to the interests of the City of Torrance,

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of

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Deputy County Assessor Here 2 Days Weekly

Torrance now has the services of a deputy county assessor available two days a week at the City Hall.

Mrs. H. V. Stewell, the deputy, is prepared to take personal property declarations from veterans and to answer questions pertaining to the assessing of personal property.

Tuesday and Thursday are the days, and the hours are 9 to 5. Mrs. Stewell will be here to and including April 14.

This is increased service for local citizens, as in previous years a deputy has been here only one day a week.

Torrance 'Y' Kick-Off for Support Set

Stanley W. Briggs, general chairman of the YMCA current support fund campaign, announced that the advanced gift committee will hold its kick-off meeting tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at Daniels Cafe.

The Torrance "Y," like most of the other YMCA's, is no longer affiliated with the Community Chest and must now rely on local contributions for support of its activities on behalf of the youth of this vicinity.

Chairman for the advance drive is W. T. Tillotson. Division chairmen are R. L. Ploemer Jr., industrial; Dr. John Beeman, professional and Herb Cohn, commercial.

Advance chairman workers are Al Jackson, Jim Hall, Don Hyde, Karl Hansen, Stanley Briggs, Reed Parkin, J. H. Sherfy, William Tolson, Russell Lund, Dr. Rollin Smith, Dr. A. Berke, W. E. Bowen, Dr. Kurt Shery, John Ott, Bernard Lee, D. L. Sears, John Melville, Blaine Walker and Charles Jones.

The goal, announced by the local financial committee, George Johnson, Dr. John Beeman and W. E. Bowen, is \$11,340 for the current operating fund.

During the last year the YMCA, with Milton Isbell as secretary, had 15 boys' clubs with a total enrollment of 359 boys, held 349 athletic sessions with attendance of 5292 and conducted a "learn to swim" campaign with attendance of 501.

It sponsored one-day trips to interesting spots in the Los Angeles area, took boys to mountain camps and sponsored the organization of the Torrance Industrial Management Club.

Other activities have included parties, hikes, movies, field days, special interest groups, father and son activities and individual council to parent and boy.

Mostly Residential

Torrance 12th Among 48 Areas in Valuation of 1948 Building

Torrance, experiencing its greatest population growth in its history and with the new industrial plants just over the horizon, placed 12th among 48 leading Southern California localities in value of new construction during 1948, according to a compilation made by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

This city led the entire southwest section of the county, with the single exception of Redondo Beach, because of the new steam generating plant built there. Torrance topped such other "white spots" as Beverly Hills, as well as Inglewood, Bakersfield, Santa Barbara and Culver City.

In the matter of new dwelling units Torrance ranked 18th with a valuation of \$5,697,888 in 1948 against a total of \$4,686,357 for the year 1947. The number of dwelling units issued in 1948 was 1039 as against 799 in 1947.

Southern California's building construction industry took a big bite out of the housing shortage in 1948, with building permits showing 100,277 new dwelling units during the year.

These dwelling units, in turn, will provide housing facilities for 315,872 persons, or homes for 155,872 persons already in the southland in addition to a population increase of 150,000 persons during the year.

The 1948 record compares with 87,375 new dwelling units provided in building permits during

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County Leases Locally-Made Beach Cleaner

Rental of the new Torrance-made beach cleaning machine manufactured by Victor Chatten, to remove refuse and debris from the sand on the county-owned beaches was authorized this week by the board of supervisors.

The county is entering into a contract with the manufacturer, Sanitized Beaches, Inc., for rental of the machine at 3 1/2 cents per square yard, with a specified figure of 280,000 square yards of beaches to be cleaned, at a cost of some \$9800.

Chatten said he would begin at once to build additional machines, to be available for hire by cities. Since demonstration of the machine several months ago he has received inquiries from as far away as Australia.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby, in urging use of the machine at the board meeting, pointed out that it is the only one of its kind in America, and repeated demonstration has proved its efficiency.

Under the contract, the owners will operate the machine and clean the beaches, thus keeping the county free of any responsibility incurred by mechanical breakdowns.

OVERHEAD ON MADRID AVE. IS PROPOSED

Several new developments showed up this week in the matter of the Santa Fe Railroad's use of the Madrid avenue right-of-way and its right to continue to operate there, in preference to a new route along Madrona avenue.

First, title search disclosed that the Santa Fe actually owns the so-called right-of-way in fee, according to City Attorney C. Douglass Smith.

Second, the Santa Fe has proposed "one or two overhead pedestrian crossings for children" over the Madrid avenue line.

Third, the railroad has suggested a wig-wag signal at the Crenshaw boulevard and Cabrillo avenue crossings.

Exhaustive search of land records made for the city by the Title Insurance and Trust Company show that the railroad acquired its strip of land down Madrid avenue by purchase from the Dominguez Land Company, developers of the original townsite, and that the city is powerless to do more than regulate the operation of the rail line, Smith explained.

The Title Company also stated that the city actually owns none of the streets in the original townsite, but merely has an easement from the Dominguez Land Company. Further, that the streets are actually owned in fee by Remco Corporation, which purchased the assets of the land company some time ago.

Santa Fe officials conferred with city officials on Jan. 13 and followed it up with a letter this week.

"We think it is most unfortunate that some of the residents along our Madrid avenue line apparently constructed their homes with the understanding that at some future date the right-of-way occupied by our tracks and in active use was to be made into a city parkway," Attorney Robert W. Walker of the Santa Fe wrote the City Council this week.

"The Santa Fe was in no way responsible for the creation of that misunderstanding and I might say that we never at any time had any idea that such a misunderstanding existed until we were advised about it at our Jan. 13 meeting with you," Walker continued.

The attorney in his letter also explained that the Santa Fe constructed its harbor line through Torrance in 1923 at the express invitation of Torrance city officials, and attached a copy of the proceedings before the state Railroad Commission.

"This bears out the statement made at the Jan. 13 meeting that the city officials of Torrance in 1923 actively sought the building of the line in its present location and grade to serve the needs of the city," Walker wrote. "Our initial plans were to build our line along the perimeter of the city rather than in its present location."

Attorney Walker also said

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Torrance Boy Voted Honors at El Camino

Mark Groves, 1437 Post avenue, Torrance, has been honored by the student body of El Camino College by election to the vice-presidency of the Associated Student Body. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Groves, and was graduated from Narbonne High School in June, 1947. He played football in high school and was a letter man at El Camino this last year.

Toshio Honda, son of Mr. and Mrs. Unzo Honda of 1139 West Ocean street, Torrance, was re-elected commissioner of publications.

John H. Nessley of Los Angeles was elected president of the Associated Students. He served last semester as president of Associated Men Students.

Nessley, Groves and Jerry Witt will represent El Camino College at a state convention of Associated Students and Associated Men Students to be held at Santa Rosa March 31, April 1 and April 2.



ELECTED — Mark Groves, of Torrance, who was elected vice president of Associated Student Body of El Camino College. (Dick Friend Photo.)



INVITATION TO DISEASE—City and county health officials are becoming concerned, along with Torrance officials, over dumping of rubbish along the city's thoroughfares. Dogs have been observed eating the decayed garbage, afterward licking the hands of children, who pass food to their mouths before

washing their hands. The county supervisors now are considering a \$5 reward for information leading to persons dumping rubbish on the open road. This photograph was taken at the easterly edge of Torrance, on one of the main approaches to the city. (Herald Photo.)