

## HULL URGES STUDY OF SCHOOL BUILDING PLANS

By J. HENRICH HULL  
Superintendent of Torrance City Schools

One of the problems which we are facing in Torrance educationally is: "How far should we go in the original investment in public schools for the expansion of Torrance to meet future needs?" The program which the superintendent and the board of education have tentatively considered includes the most essential of schools in each of the areas, that is, classrooms and administrative offices and a minimum of supply space, but, essentially, classrooms which are flexible and usable for a number of purposes assuming that each building provides some opportunity either through a kindergarten unit which has considerable space or through having one pair of classrooms constructed in such a way as to make it possible to combine them into one room for auditorium facilities for small school areas. This, however, does not take care of the next essential in public school operation. It has come to be rather generally conceded that as soon as classroom and administrative facilities are taken care of the next important item is cafeteria facilities in a modern educational plant.

The program which has been considered does not include cafeteria facilities because a school plant can be operated successfully gradually from a "pay as you go" plan, based upon items that would be available from normal operational budget without special taxes. Experience may not prove this to be true. However, at the present time it is felt that a considerable fund can be built up from surplus, particularly the first few years, before we get too large a group of children so that some funds can come from normal operational costs that would be set aside for building purposes.

It would be possible, based upon our present valuation, to take care of cafeteria facilities in the initial outlay and that would of necessity make the initial outlay for schools in the form of school bonds well over a million dollars.

Whether or not the people of Torrance want this particular item in the original outlay is something the school superintendent is not yet able to answer. The board of education is concerned about extra cost just the same as any other citizen and would hardly be in a position to answer this question until some representative citizens and people who have been thinking on the problem have expressed themselves.

One question which was raised at the recent meeting of the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee was "How can the school building program be delayed until the present facilities can all be provided with cafeterias?" The answer to that question goes very much along with our policy in the construction of new schools. If people are anxious enough for cafeteria services in each school so that they want that additional service added to the original cost and the original investment, it probably should be done at once rather than waiting until classrooms and principals' offices are constructed so that there will be a complete unit ready to operate from the beginning in each new building.

One argument in favor of waiting is that the total enrollment which the school of a given area will be asked to accommodate will have a great bearing upon the size of the cafeteria facilities which should be supplied and as the community develops and the school program develops, certain areas will be asked to accommodate larger school enrollment than others, and with that thought in view it might be the part of wisdom to delay the cafeteria construction until after the classrooms are provided and the community begins to develop in certain areas.

That argument is not completely sound, however, because if it is possible to determine enrollment sufficient to warrant an investment in classrooms, it is also possible to determine enrollment sufficient to warrant an investment in cafeteria facilities.

Another reason which has been presented is that it is wise not to utilize the full bonding capacity of the district so that it will not be in a position to meet emergency situations which may arise in connection with the building program. That argument also does not necessarily stand alone because, if a school system is as certain of expansion, well beyond its present capacity—in fact, doubling its present capacity—within the next few years as is Torrance, then it should be advisable to use such funds and bonding capacity as are available in order to be prepared for the influx of population which is rapidly filling in the Torrance area.

Other specialized facilities, such as some shop facilities and home economics facilities which should go with 7th or 8th grade programs if we are under any setup, regardless of whether we use the junior high plan or not, should come along soon after the original construction and the order in which these things are done depends to a large extent upon funds available and the importance which the community places upon them. Expressions from the community on these various items to members of the Board of Education and to the members of the Educational Advisory Committee who have had an opportunity each month to present ideas to the Board of Education are welcome.

Another problem which this community faces and which it cannot dodge for any great length of time is that of recreational facilities. It is becoming more and more apparent that it is a waste of public funds to have buildings sitting idle during vacation periods and summer periods which could well be utilized for recreational programs for children.

Parents are more and more anxious that public facilities and public supervision be provided for their children during recreational time when they are not directly under the school educational program. Whether or not this attitude is desirable is not the question. The question is that a problem exists which is easier to control through educational and supervisory practices than it is through courts, policing and legal machinery after children have become delinquent. Individual court cases arise frequently which are so expensive as to warrant any community in having an annual budget set aside for a sound recreational program, a preventative program. Whether or not the schools are to finance the recreational program, or the city is to finance the recreational program, or they are to combine in financing a recreational program, whether the supervision of the recreational program is to be under the schools, or under the city or the combined sponsorship, it is an important decision—one which the leadership in Torrance should soon settle and take action on.

This business of sparring around to see whether a board of Education or a City Council is going to finance the recreation program and neither one of them feeling that it is their most important function, therefore sidestepping it when it comes to the matter of financing it, has been practiced in too many towns to the detriment of

## Berry Gets Cab License

Board of Supervisors has granted Charles T. Berry, a license to operate two taxicabs in the county unincorporated areas near Torrance.

Berry will have no regular stands and his territory is bounded on the north by Dominguez street, 190th street and Victoria street; on the south by Ocean street, and Sepulveda boulevard, on the east by Main street, and on the west by the City of Redondo Beach.

He will operate as Chuck's Cab Service. His business address is 1512 Cabrillo street, Torrance.

The recreational program, Torrance should meet the thing fairly and squarely and make a decision on the matter, and then carry it out. The major item is the salary of supervisory personnel. Most of the facilities that would be used would not require great investments if the school facilities were made available under proper supervision. It is hard for a Board of Education which is somewhat in need of funds under a beginning organizational situation, as the Torrance Board of Education is, to see its way clear to financing a recreation program completely, but that is the matter which is facing the people of Torrance at the present time.

What other towns do is not nearly as important as what we do to solve our problem.

## GOLF FANS WORRIED AS AVAILABLE LINKS FADE

In the year 1944 Major George W. Braden, nationally known playground and recreation authority, recommended to the people of Torrance as represented by the City Council that, if they wanted a municipal golf course to serve the 19 square miles of area which is Torrance, they should select a 100-acre site "now."

Last week the Board of Supervisors took cognizance of a similar but more widespread situation—that of all Los Angeles County.

Chairman Raymond V. Darby, who represents Torrance and nearby areas, reported on the matter as it involves all of Los Angeles County, as follows:

"Where the county had 47 golf courses, 17 have been eaten up by subdivisions in 17 years—one a year—and only 30 golf courses are left for public use. 123,000 persons per golf course at present population rates. In 30 years, at the same rate, 'NONE' in Los Angeles County."

Chairman Darby, who was instrumental in activating the County Advisory Golf Committee for the purpose of preserving recreational facilities for the golf-minded public, pointed out that only those able to afford membership in private golf clubs would be able to indulge in the sport unless public links are built before land is taken up in development projects.

Frank Doherty, attorney, spoke for a strong recreational and park program, stating that more land purchased by the county for such purposes, would

## OILFIELD ACTIVITY IN TORRANCE AREA NOTES NEW WELL

One new oil well was started in the Torrance area during the week ending Dec. 20, according to the State Department of Natural Resources.

The well, the Chocolate Sunday is being drilled by Campbell and Shell. According to the department's report, this was the only activity in the Torrance fields for the week.

Elsewhere in the state there were 33 notices of intent to drill new wells and 25 deepening or redrilling jobs. Total new wells for the state this year is 2074 as compared with 1777 at the same date last year.

## COST OF LIVING

Cost of maintaining the "commonly accepted standard of living" this year rose 85 percent for San Francisco executives and 70 percent for wage earners and white-collar men over prewar levels.

## INDIANA CITIES

The city of Evansville, Indiana is the largest hardwood center in the United States, while the city of Gary is called the "Steel City."

## BRIDGE DATE

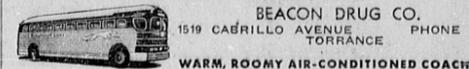
The regular Monday bridge parties of the Woman's Club will be resumed Monday, Jan. 19 instead of Jan. 5, as previously announced, according to Mrs. Dean L. Sears.

**That's Mighty Low!**



and so's the Greyhound fare to PALM SPRINGS, CALIF., \$2.25 Plus Tax

Low is right! You save on every trip by Greyhound. Besides the savings... you get extra comfort, convenience and sightseeing pleasure. Wherever you go, go Greyhound... to see more, enjoy more and save more!



BEACON DRUG CO. 1519 CABRILLO AVENUE TORRANCE PHONE 1390  
WARM, ROOMY AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES  
**GREYHOUND**  
There Are No Lower Fares...Anywhere!

## WE FINANCE OWNER-BUILDERS NOW!

LOW PAYMENT LOANS ON A CLEAR LOT ONE — TWO and THREE-BEDROOM HOMES PRE-CUT HOMES

BLONDIN & DELANEY

14320 Hawthorne Blvd. Open every day except Friday. (JUST SOUTH OF ROSECRANS)



## Listen to the NEW YEAR Bells

... and you shall hear our pledge to you. Our promise to give you the best in service, quality and values in the new year! The bells also chime our wishes for health and prosperity to everyone.

DURKEE'S

**OLEO 33<sup>¢</sup> lb**

LARGE GRADE "A"

**EGGS 67<sup>¢</sup>**  
Every Egg Guaranteed in Cartons!

GERBER'S ASSORTED

**BABY FOOD 19<sup>¢</sup>**  
3 CANS FOR

TREESWEET

**Grapefruit Juice 16<sup>¢</sup>**  
LARGE 46-oz. CAN

SHOULDER CUT

**Veal Chops 29<sup>¢</sup> lb**

MORRELL'S PRIDE

**Picnic Hams 49<sup>¢</sup> lb**  
5 to 7 1/2-lb. Average

FANCY

**Hen Turkeys 45<sup>¢</sup> lb**

EASTERN PORK

**Spare Ribs 43<sup>¢</sup> lb**

**GREATER TORRANCE MARKET**

We Cash Pay Checks

FREE PARKING

2153 TORRANCE BLVD., TORRANCE



HAPPY NEW YEAR

and thanks a lot for your patronage, it is more than appreciated. Your loyalty and confidence in the Merrick Nurseries and our product has been wonderful and we are grateful to you indeed. Each of our 55 employees say thanks again and wish you and yours a very happy New Year.

MERRICK'S AMERRICKAN NURSERY

15212 S. VERMONT  
845 Redondo Beach Blvd.  
Gardena. MElo 4-1022