

COLUMBIA BUYING ALCOA

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1947: A YEAR OF RESULTS Vision: Fulfilled!

(AN EDITORIAL)

Each year, at the beginning of the New Year, the Torrance Herald devotes one of its seldom written editorials to a review of the progress of the community during the past year and to an outline of the needs of the City.

We would be most happy if we had the space to print each of the three editorials, one published on Jan. 11, 1945, entitled: "Torrance Needs Men of Vision"; the second published Jan. 3, 1946, entitled: "Vision: Fulfilled?", and the third published Jan. 2, 1947, entitled: "Happy New Year, Vision: Fulfilled".

Space limitations do not permit such republication, but in order to present the continuity of the program suggested by the Torrance Herald in its original editorial of Jan. 11, 1945, we shall present it briefly, as follows:

1. Torrance, the fourth largest incorporated city in total area in Los Angeles County, is exceeded in size only by Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Long Beach; in per capita wealth, Torrance is the third richest City in the County; its total assessed valuation, Torrance is the 10th largest City in the County; Torrance has nearly 60 basic industries within its boundaries and a factory payroll which (if all employees should reside in Torrance) would require twice as many housing units as now exist in Torrance; Torrance has room for nearly a half million residents; and Torrance needs to grow into its long pants.

2. The editorial cited need for vision in the City Hall; the need for water; the need for ambitious planning; the need for homes; for recreation facilities; the need for locally controlled schools; the need for adequate bus transportation; the need for highways and streets—the need for "men of vision who can sit in the City Hall and see the boundary at the bluffs of Hollywood Riviera; who can see the boundary of Torrance at Redondo Beach boulevard; who can encourage the growth of this community to its fullest to fill to its boundaries this vast area with homes, factories and stores."

The first year saw the launching of the first of two important water districts; the start of plans for the second district; the offer of a good recreation program; the birth of the successful program to take over the schools from Los Angeles; the initial expansion of local bus lines; the start of an ambitious street improvement program; a tremendous interest shown in the City affairs by the people.

The end of the first year witnessed the accomplishment of many of the outlined needs, but in the second annual editorial, the important objectives were outlined as: Sewers for districts not served; commercial parking facilities; "shop in Torrance" campaigns; cultural and athletic programs, indoors and out, during appropriate seasons; adequate highway direction signs; all telephone service through the Torrance exchange; unification of mail service through the Torrance office, encouragement of home building programs on mass scale.

We predicted "1946 will be a year of action." True, it was a year of action, for it saw the people vote to assume control of its schools by adoption of a City Charter; it saw the formation of the two municipal water districts covering a great area of the City of Torrance; it saw new factories launch programs here, and paved the way for the accomplishments of the year 1947 which we consider an outstanding period for Torrance.

The following year, on Jan. 2, 1947, the Torrance Herald predicted that "1947 will be a year of results," reiterating certain needs, and in a review of its program, we are proud to present the following:

1. The City Charter was ratified and the new City School District formed and in operation.
2. The new Junior College was located at Alondra Park as urged by this newspaper in a vigorous campaign. Torrance joined the district.
3. The City Engineer's office reorganization was accomplished.
4. The first definite step toward the City Manager form of government was made with the appointment of George W. Stevens as administrator and city engineer.
5. Unification of the school districts under one Torrance City Board of Education, was launched.
6. Buses were purchased to enable the establishment of municipal lines to North Torrance, Southwest Torrance, Hawthorne and Long Beach.
7. Nearly 1,000 new homes were started in Torrance, with 2,000 more planned.
8. Progress toward the unification of the mails was made, with the establishment of a new rural route through North Torrance and city delivery through Southwest Torrance (Seaside Ranchos).
9. The former Army airport was acquired through right of entry and interim permit, by the City of Torrance.
10. New industrial development was undertaken here, the largest being by American Radiator-Standard Sanitary Corp.
11. New off-street parking lots were provided through the cooperation of members of the Chamber of Commerce with the City Council of Torrance.
12. Water districts covering most of Torrance had been formed, and new sewer districts planned.
13. A Community Concert Association was formed to bring fine artists to the equally fine Torrance High School auditorium.

There were many other accomplishments, such as bringing about a thorough understanding between the City Council and the Chamber of Commerce from which nothing but progress and sound civic development could result.

All of this has been accompanied by a population growth such as Torrance never has experienced in a similar period.

The average population gain for each new home in Torrance is 3.6 persons. Thus, with 1,000 new homes being completed, the gain can be readily estimated at 3,600 new residents.

This year, according to plans on file by single family and multiple unit dwelling projects, 2,000 more homes will be built, and

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CHAMBER ELECTS RIPPY . . . Charles T. Rippy, prominent attorney, property owner and leader in the move to amend the City Charter to provide for the City Manager form of government, was installed Monday night as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Reed Parkin, who had been president for three years. The above photo shows the directors at the installation meeting as guests of R. I. Plomert Jr. in the Pacific Coast Club, Long Beach. Upper row, left to right: Grover C. Whyte; J. Henrich Hull, superintendent of schools, a guest; Bob Haggard; Parkin; B. C. Buxton, and Plomert. Lower row, left to right: Blaine Walker, executive secretary; Charles Ver Jones, Rippy, W. T. Tillotson, and Dean L. Sears. Photo at the left shows President Rippy holding the heavy tradesman's mallet presented him by Parkin, in his left hand, and gavel, also given by Parkin, in his right.

COOPERATION NEEDED TO PROMOTE GROWTH OF CITY, NEW CHAMBER HEAD SAYS

Continued growth and development of Torrance will depend upon a sincere understanding and close cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council, the Board of Education and all civic leaders and organizations, and the opportunity facing us should be seized now.

This was the declaration of Charles T. Rippy, attorney and well known civic leader and property owner as he accepted the office of president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at the annual election Monday night.

Rippy succeeds Reed H. Parkin who declined the office for another term after serving in the office for three years.

Picked as first vice president was Charles Ver Jones, of Torrance Hardware; second vice president, W. T. Tillotson, of American Rock Wool Co.; secretary and manager, Blaine Walker.

The officers and directors of the Chamber were guests of Robert I. Plomert Jr., manager of the tax department of General Petroleum Corp., and a director of the Chamber, at the dinner and installation meeting Monday in the Pacific Coast Club in Long Beach.

Retiring President Parkin was presented with an inscribed Parker 51 desk set as a token of his three years' service as president, and he added a bit of mirth to the meeting when he presented Rippy with a well-worn tradesman's mallet, and later with an inscribed hard wood gavel of office.

Other directors are Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald; Bob L. Haggard, realtor; B. C. Buxton, realtor and City Councilman.

During the past year that President Rippy has served as a Chamber board member, he has given unstintingly of his time; doing much of the re-

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO HEAR TORRANCE SCHOOLS UNIFICATION CASE FRIDAY

Hearings will be conducted by the California State Board of Education meeting in Los Angeles tomorrow on the petition of the Torrance City Board of Education and more than 2,000 voters of the community for the formation of Torrance Unified School District.

Unification of the schools, if approved by the State Board of education tomorrow and voted by the people on an election which will be called for Jan. 23, means that Torrance City Board of Education will become Torrance Unified Board of Education and assume control of Torrance High School from Redondo Union High School District on July 1.

Since this is in accordance with agreements worked out by the two boards, and no opposition is anticipated, officials of the State Board said.

Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull and Dr. Howard A. Wood, president of the Torrance City Board of Education, will be the principal witnesses at the hearing, it was said. Other board members and officials will be present.

"Unification of the schools is more important to the taxpayer," the Commission denied a petition of R. B. Ball for change of zone from light agricultural to general commercial of lot 47, McDonald tract, which faces on Crenshaw and Redondo Beach boulevards, directly across the street from El Camino's new campus.

The planners held up a petition of developers of the 180-home development tract known as Torrance Manor to rezone 225 feet on Crenshaw and 265 feet on 174th street from light agricultural to retail commercial. Stores proposed there would serve the residents in the new subdivision and nearby areas, it was said. Also included in the petition, but apparently not opposed, was the request that lots facing on Crenshaw between 170th street and the north boundary of the proposed commercial zone be classified for two-family residential use. Another subdivision of some 200 homes is proposed directly across the street, on

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SCHOOLS OFFER \$780 FOR \$14,600 BUILDING

The Torrance City Board of Education Tuesday night voted to offer the Federal Works Administration \$780 for a double unit building on the Torrance Elementary School site which cost the government \$14,600 to build. The price offered was the minimum set by the F.W.A.

The structure has been used as a child care center by the school district this year and previously, since construction during the war emergency, by the Los Angeles district. The center was made necessary to care for children of working mothers.

The \$780 price offered includes a range, refrigerator, space heaters and other personal property.

It will be in continuous use as a child care center until the program is abandoned, and then can be reconverted into classrooms for general use, it was said.

\$30,000,000 Cold Rolled Steel Unit Will Employ 1200

That the Columbia Steel Co. has purchased the government-built aluminum plant at 190th street and Normandie avenue for a reported sum of \$4,331,000 was announced in Washington, D. C. officially yesterday as a result of inquiries originating in the office of the Torrance Herald.

G. W. STEVENS TAKES NEW CITY OFFICE

Torrance administrative and engineering affairs came under the control of George W. Stevens on Friday when the former Culver City and Santa Barbara administrator and engineer took over his duties for the City of Torrance.

Stevens was named as Administrator-Engineer of the City of Torrance by the City Council several weeks ago in a long-contemplated move brought to a head by the resignation of



GEORGE W. STEVENS City Administrator-Takes Office

Glenn M. Jain as city engineer. Jain now is engineer of Redwood City.

The appointment of Stevens was made to bring about coordination and efficiency in city management, relieving the members of the City Council of much of their administrative responsibilities.

A permanent appointment as City Manager, it is said, must await the amendment of the City Charter, probably in April to provide for the appointment of a City Manager.

Stevens is being paid \$900 a month, and members of the Council were unanimous in their opinion that he will be able to save that figure many times over in streamlining and coordination.

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Postal Receipts Show Big Gain

Torrance postal receipts reflected the general growth of Torrance during the past year, showing a gain of more than 12 percent over the receipts for the year 1946, according to Postmaster C. Earl Conner. Receipts for the year 1947 were \$120,982.65 as against \$107,532.90 for the year 1946. The final quarter receipts for 1947 were \$40,526.26 as against \$32,486.82, a gain of nearly 25 percent. December receipts were \$19,232.68 against \$15,778.79 for December of 1946, a gain of about 22 percent.

PLANNERS PAVE WAY FOR NEW \$3,000,000 HOUSING PROJECT FOR TORRANCE

After pledging to provide sites in their new \$3,000,000 multiple unit housing project for a school, fire and police station and a branch of the Torrance postoffice, Sunhaven Properties, Inc., Tuesday night won the approval of the City Planning Commission and a nod from the City Council on their petition to

abandon the east 105 feet of Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway, known also as Catalina avenue.

The parkway is 225 feet in width and never will be used, it was admitted, and the land reverts back to the dedicators for development use by Sunhaven and the Huntington Land Co.

Sunhaven has acquired 2400 feet of the area, and Huntington Land Co. owns 600 feet of the frontage.

Some 400 units, beautiful in arrangement, design and construction, will be erected on the area west of the parkway, to ward the ocean from Hollywood Riviera.

Oliver Clark, attorney for Sunhaven, and Rudolph Mayo, the president of the company, both attended the meeting of the planning commission and four members of the City Council were in the audience. As the planners prepared to give approval, Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy, Jr., Councilmen W. H. Tolson, B. C. Buxton and A. L. Jackson each

said that the Council will concur.

"The F.H.A. requirements will be met," Clark said, "and we will provide for police, fire and school sites as well as for a branch Torrance postoffice as you request."

"We want Sunhaven's development to be one of the outstanding recreation areas in Southern California."

Mayer, who was present, joined Clark in his pledge to the planners, and City Administrator George W. Stevens as well as Superintendent of Schools J. Henrich Hull and Postmaster C. Earl Conner will confer with the architects on the necessary layouts to provide for the estimated 1400 persons who will reside ultimately in the Palos Verdes parkway project of Sunhaven as well as for the 2000 persons who will reside in the California-Nevada development nearby.

* Columbia, it was reported by J. Lester Perry, president of the company, will spend \$30,000,000 on new buildings and expansion of the plant which will employ 1,200 men.

The purchase ends speculation as to where the Columbia cold reduction plant announced on Sept. 12 for the "Los Angeles area" will be located. Local information had been to the effect that it would be in the Torrance area, probably on Columbia property on Western avenue and Torrance boulevard, but the official announcement cleared this question.

Columbia is paying approximately one-third of the cost to the government of the property involved in the Alcoa transaction, but more than 90 percent of the government's present appraised value, it was said.

Being purchased by Columbia are 55 buildings and 226 acres of land, on the Alcoa site at Torrance.

The total investment of the government in the Alcoa plant was \$25,000,000, of which some \$12,000,000 was in electrical equipment. Approximately \$6,000,000 worth of the electrical works has been sold and some \$6,000,000 worth now is on bid.

After persistent investigation, the Torrance Herald was able to secure release through the United Press, of which the Herald is a member, of the official announcement of the purchase, and this was followed immediately by a statement of President Perry of Columbia, reading as follows:

"Columbia Steel Company has offered to buy surplus property owned by the War Assets Administration located at Los Angeles, California. This property consisting of land, improvements and buildings, originally was a part of an aluminum reduction plant built during the war."

"The original plant, idle since 1944, was unsuccessfully offered for sale by the Government a year ago, after which the dismantling of its facilities was authorized. A large portion of the original machinery and equipment required for the production of aluminum and which represented the major portion of the cost of the facility, already has been removed."

"If acquired, the property will be utilized to house the new cold reduction sheet mill which Columbia Steel Com-

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Planners Fail To Approve Sherfy Deal

The City Planning Commission could not see "eye to eye" with Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. Tuesday night on the matter of rezoning the southwest corner of Crenshaw boulevard and Torrance boulevard from single family to a commercial classification to permit the building of a service station there.

Sherfy and others petitioned for the change of zone and work already has been started toward construction of the service station, but the planners could not agree and decided to send the petition to the Council "without recommendation," after several members had urged that protesters be upheld.

Appearing in opposition to the change of zone were A. K. Hill, Edward Goldfort, W. C. Higden and John Rankaitis. A written protest was filed by Everard W. and Emille E. McManus, Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company approved the application.

Whether or not Sherfy, as a member of the Council, would be disqualified from participation in the consideration by the Council of the zoning change, was a matter of conjecture among observers at the meeting Tuesday.