CITY SHOOTS FOR 30,000 IN CENSUS

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STARTING POINT . . . City Manager George Stevens and Kenneth G. Spiker, of the Federal Census Bureau, look over a map of the city. Spiker arrived on the job yesterday to map plans for the special census that officials hope will show that Torrance now has more than 30,000 residents. (Herald photo).

Top Brass Get Steel Walkout Problem; Meeting in 17th Day

Census Official Opens Office for Special Count

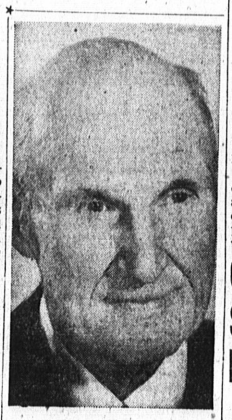
A representative from the Federal Census Bureau set up shop here yesterday to map preliminary steps for a special census which city officials hope will show that Torrance's population has increased past the 30,000 mark.

Kenneth G. Spiker is the census official on the job here. He has made his headquarters in the Civil Defense office, 1754 Torrance boulevard.

Spiker's first job will be the selection of local workers to handle the job of census taking. Personnel selected will be given a special training course before the actual work begins.

If the census shows that the Torrance population has jumped past the 30,000 mark; the city will receive approximately $60,000 per year more in revenues from the state and county.

The last official census, taken in 1950, showed the local population at 22,241. City officials feel that the population has grown to more than 30,000 in the past year.



DAVID L. ROBERTS
. . . Buried Here Monday

Final Tribute Paid Monday to David Roberts

Masonic funeral rites were held here Monday afternoon for David Lester Roberts, 68, secretary and treasurer of the United Concrete Pipe Company for many years. Mr. Roberts died January 17 following an extended illness.

Mr. Roberts joined United Concrete a number of years ago after working with Stone and Webster, nationally known contracting firm.

A native of Marine City, Michigan he had made his home in Palos Verdes Estates for the past 20 years. He lived at 3715 Via Palomino. He was a member of the S. Ward Lodge No. 62 in Marine City, an honorary member of the Torrance Rotary Club and a member of the Torrance Masonic Lodge No. 447.

He leaves his widow, Alice and a son, Bob, of the home address; a son, David L. Jr., of Long Beach; a grandson and a granddaughter of Long Beach and an aunt, Mrs. Gladys Rendall, of East Lansing, Mich.

Active pallbearers at the services Monday were T. P. Polich, Donald Findley, A. H. Silligo, T. W. Long, H L. Guttenfelder and R. A. Bingham. Honorary pallbearers included Bernard Bunje, Ted Michaels, H. E. Appenzeller, Steve Kral, R. R. Smith, D. J. Ukropina, O. B. Willett and Otto A. Kresse.

Interment in Green Hills Memorial Park followed final rites. Stone and Myers Mortuary handled funeral arrangements.

Club Governor To Visit Lions Club Next Week

Lions Club Governor of District 4D-1, Dr. Floyd Cregger, will pay a formal call at the Torrance Lions Club in the Ding How Cafe next Tuesday, according to Paul Diamond, president.

DR. CREGGER

Dr. Cregger will show a film taken at the 1951 convention of Lions International held in Atlantic City.

Active in a wide capacity, Dr. Cregger has served on every committee and held practically every office in the home Lions Club. (University).

He was president of the University Lions Club from 1944 to 1945; zone chairman of the district from 1945 to 1946; deputy district governor of District 4 from 1946 to 1947; chairman of the Student Speakers' Contest, District 4D, from 1948 to 1949.

Cregger has been active in organizing and participating in club activities since 1923 when he organized the Men's Club of the Presbyterian Church, of which he was president.

He was a chairman of the trustee board and member session. He is a past member of the American Legion Post 715, and was an officer of the National Chiropractic Association for 13 years.

Weather

Partly high cloudiness today. Some rain Friday. Should have "pretty good" showers sometime during the weekend.

Phone Company Moves Into New Building Today

Torrance business office operations of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company will be conducted starting today in the newly-completed telephone building at 1307 Cravens avenue, it was announced by Manager A. B. Smith.

Providing increased floor space for personnel and records and for future growth, the new quarters replace the old business office at 1307 Post avenue where Torrance subscribers have paid their bills and conducted telephone business for nearly six years.

The new two-story building was completed recently at a cost of a quarter-million dollars as part of Pacific Telephone's huge expansion program for Torrance.

City Taking Steps to Clear Bond Red Tape

The city began snipping this week at the yards of red tape wrapped around the package of $2,000,000 handed to it by the voters at the recent water bond election.

Spending $2,000,000 is not easy especially when the money belongs to somebody else.

For instance, here is what the city will have to do before it can plank down a single dollar bill for a piece of pipe, a valve, or a hose washer.

The city council will have to pass a law (an ordinance) setting forth the method by which the Water Department will operate.

The law must provide that all of the water districts operated by the city shall be operated as a single system.

The ordinance must make provisions for a separate fund into which will go the money collected from the sale of water.

And finally, the law must provide a manner by which the money is to be spent.

For help in unraveling some of the red tape, the city will have to call upon the courts.

Back in 1933 a California State Court judge created some uncertainties in a dicta he wrote when he handed down a decision in the case of Wilcox v. the City of Torrance.

In that case the city successfully defended a property owner's suit which sought to block the city from taking steps to issue and sell bonds voted for Municipal Improvement District No. 1. The court held that such sales could not be restrained.

Jim Hall, the city's red tape unwinder, claims that the ribbons can be untied in court within 90 days — long before other legal requirements regarding the bond issue are written, voted, and recorded as laws.

Also, there must be passed a city law ordering the water bonds be issued and sold.

The city was able to unwind some of the legal red tape as early as June of last year. It was then that the city was able to obtain an amendment to the Government Code which clarified the state law.

Within 10 days, City Attorney Hall claims, he will meet with James Beebe, unchallenged authority on bond matters and a member of the legal firm of O'Melveny and Myers, to discuss the drafting of the necessary ordinances.

READY TODAY . . . The business office of the telephone company will transfer headquarters today from 1307 Post avenue to the new building at 1307 Cravens. Here two Torrance operators, Helen Pearson and Jean Grieve, grab a peek into the building. They won't be included in today's move as the exchange will continue to be at the Sartori avenue office until the dial equipment is ready. (Herald photo).

KONRAD OEFINGER
. . . Poses with Friend

Nothing Settled In Mass Meeting

The job of breaking the deadlock in the 17-day-old walkout at Columbia Steel appeared today to be in the hands of top brass of the CIO and U. S. Steel.

Officials of the United Steelworkers Union (CIO), Local 1414, said the matter was in the hands of Phil Murray, CIO president, and admitted that negotiations on the local level had bogged down.

A mass meeting of the 1250 Columbia steelworkers was held Monday in the Civic Auditorium. It was hoped that the meeting might result in a return to work movement, but the meeting ended without the matter being put to a vote.

Meanwhile, 3600 steelworkers of the Pittsburg, Calif. plant of U. S. Steel staged a 24-hour meeting Tuesday, but were back to work yesterday morning.

Rumors that the Geneva plant of the steel company had been shut down by a walkout which were making the rounds here yesterday were denied by company officials who said the Geneva plant was in full production yesterday afternoon.

A grievance among miners in the Geneva area caused members of the United Mine Workers to walk out yesterday, which might have been the source of the rumor, some believed.

Eighty-seven officer workers at the Torrance plant were laid off this week because of the walkout, officials reported. One company spokesman said that the work stoppage in the mill had shut off the paper work, too, so the office employees were "out of work."

While at one time a strike at Columbia as long in duration as the present "meeting" would have crippled the city of Torrance, the effects of the current layoff have had only a mild effect here.

At one time nearly 50 per cent of the residents in Torrance were dependent upon Columbia payroll checks. Today, with only 1250 workers at Columbia and the town population estimated at 31,000, the shutdown has had far less of a secondary reaction.

Ten years ago only approximately 5000 persons were employed in manufacturing here. Today it is estimated that nearly four times that number are employed in manufacturing in the area.

Woman Shooting Victim Charges Cabin Was Looted

Norma Peerson, 38, injured in a shooting at a 2472 Pacific Coast highway motel Jan. 3, charged this week that her cabin was looted while she was being rushed to the hospital in critical condition.

Mrs. Peerson and a friend, Cecil Byron Huffine, 38, were wounded in a fusilade of bullets. Her estranged husband, Fay, 44, described by acquaintances as a "good guy," is out on bail and awaits preliminary hearing Feb. 13 on two charges of assault with intent to commit murder.

The woman said that a total of $29 in small bills and change were removed from her dressing table and a kitchen drawer after the 3:30 p.m. gun play.

When her brothers, Russell, Bob, and George Flowers arrived at 9:30 p.m. the same day, the money was gone, she informed Lennox station deputies. Investigating officers said that there were several persons in the cabin during the excitement which followed the bullet barrage.

Karlow Reports Junior Chamber Members Now 80

Ed Karlow, state director of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, reported at a district meeting of the Jaycees last night that Torrance's club had jumped from 37 members to 80 members within the last year.

Attending the district meeting which was held in the Riviera Beach club were representatives of other Junior Chambers of District 12, which includes Wilmington, San Pedro, Redondo, Inglewod, El Segundo and Torrance.

Karlow, a past president of the local group and a member of the present City Council, told the group that the Torrance club "would be there" to answer roll call at the state convention to be held at Catalina in May. The local club is charged with providing entertainment and music for the conclave.

Holdup Suspect Nabbed in East

A suspect wanted for more than a year in connection with a $5000 robbery in Torrance, was arrested yesterday in Lansing, Michigan, Det. Capt. Ernest Ashton has been advised.

Taken into custody after a nation-wide hunt by the FBI and other law-enforcement agencies, was Harold G. Smith, 30. Smith is wanted by local police for questioning about a dairy robbery at 3400 Del Amo boulevard on August 30, 1950.

Two men already have been convicted of participating in the dairy robbery, which netted them $5006. Smith is also wanted for questioning in a gas station robbery at Hawthorne and Redondo Beach boulevards on August 10, 1950.

School Bond Election Set for February 26

The date of February 26 has been confirmed by the county counsel's office as the date for the $3,000,000 school bond election. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, has announced.

'SIMBA' THE CAT STILL LOOSE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Cousin Bob Falls in Battle

A cat-trapper who certainly knows more about hunting than he does about the sleeping habits of a reporter, did three things when he planted a short-tailed bobcat in Konrad Oefinger's backyard Tuesday night.

First, he rolled a reporter out of a warm bed at quarter to one on a cold morning.

Secondly, he started a neighborhood to buzzin'.

And thirdly, he fibbed.

It wasn't "Simba" as the caller suggested. Proud and cagey "Simba," who no doubt still roams the green grassy slopes of Palos Verdes Hills, is a mountain lion. What Oefinger found in his backyard at 2020½ Arlington ave. was a bobcat.

And it wasn't killed with a slingshot while perched on a fence in the backyard. First of all, it was trapped. There were wounds on the legs. Secondly, Oefinger doesn't own a slingshot.

How it came to be in his back yard, Oefinger can only guess. He has a host of friends at the Pacific Electric shops where he works as an electrician leader and many of his friends have a fine sense of humor.

The very dead (but not for too long, thank heavens) Mr. Bobcat measured exactly 36 inches from north to south and weighed about 25-30 pounds.

"What's worrying me," Oefinger said, "is not WHAT to do with it, but WHEN. If I don't get it buried pretty soon it will begin to take on some of the characteristics of another member of the cat family—a skunk."

The sleepy-eyed reporter who kept backing farther and farther away, had to agree.