



## City Electric Users Up 150% In 6 Years

During its forty years of community leadership the Torrance Herald has played an important part in the development of this Southern California industrial center, according to L. E. Jenkins, Southern California Edison Co. district manager. "Together with the progressive leaders of the community this newspaper has helped account for the record industrial, commercial and residential development here," Jenkins said.

"The number of electric meters connected to Edison lines serves as a good yardstick in determining the extent of growth," he said. "At the close of 1945 there were 4108 electric meters in Torrance. By the end of last year this figure has grown to 10,293, an increase of more than 150 per cent in six years. In Edison territory as a whole, the increase for the same period amounted to approximately 57 per cent."

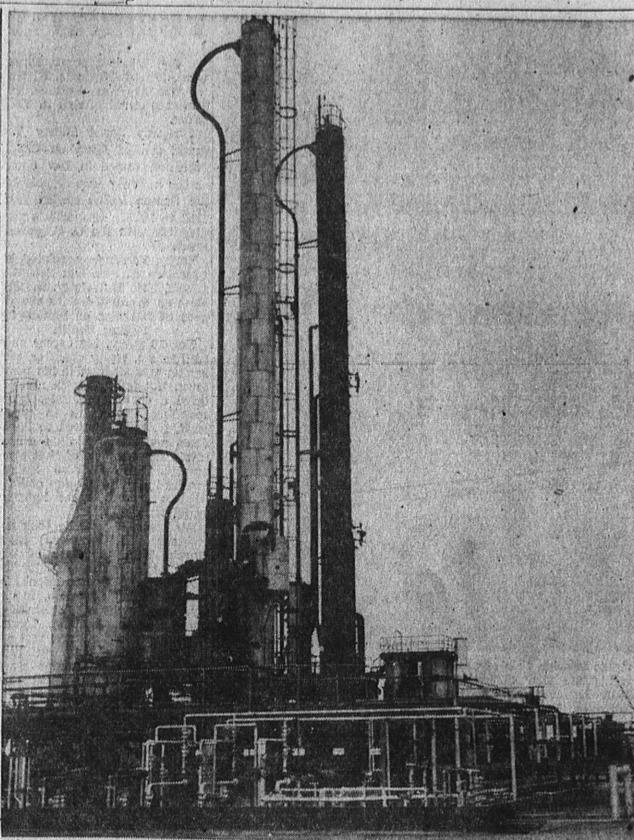
Jenkins said that in order to keep pace with record demands for new electrical services and increased use of electricity by all customers, the Edison Co. has undertaken a plant expansion program never before equalled in its history. For the seven-year period 1946-1952 the company will have spent more than \$400,000,000 to improve and enlarge its electrical facilities and service.

**\$38 Million Plant**  
In 1949 the company's Redondo steam station was completed. Built at a cost of approximately \$38,500,000, the plant added 285,000 kilowatts of capacity to the

company's generating facilities. Edison's sixth hydroelectric powerhouse and thirteenth major dam at the famous Big Creek development in the High Sierra began operation in 1951. The new \$22,300,000 powerhouse and dam project added 91,000 kilowatts of generating capacity to the Big Creek system, now rated at a total of more than half a million kilowatts. The company's new Etiwanda steam-electric generating station, now under construction near Fontana, is scheduled for completion next year. To cost approximately \$35,000,000, the plant will have a generating capacity of 250,000 kilowatts and will be capable of producing approximately 1,800,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

Edison electricity today is generated in four steam-electric stations and 25 hydro-electric plants. The ever-increasing supply of Edison electricity has been an important factor in the development of Torrance and all of Central and Southern California, Jenkins said, and will help make possible the future expansion of this area which is now in the making.

**GROWTH SEEN . . .** "Huge increase in Torrance population means that we now can offer industry greater inducements than ever," declared Bob L. Haggard, former mayor and for seven years director of the Chamber of Commerce. Haggard, who has been in the real estate business since 1927 and in Torrance since 1941, pointed out the fact that proximity to the harbor, highways and rail facilities, plus increase in skilled workers, will continue to attract industry, especially since availability of acreage in Los Angeles and Vernon areas has decreased in the past few years. Haggard has two associates in his real estate office, Bill McEwen and Bob Owens, who divide their time in industrial, commercial and residential properties.



**CRACKING PLANT . . .** One of the four units of Sunset refinery's 21000 Figueroa St. plant in Torrance is shown here. Now under construction is an additional plant to produce high octane gas for mixing with regular grades. The new unit is scheduled to be finished during the early part of 1953.

## Spanish Air Of City Is Heritage From Dons

If the click of castanets and the sibilance of a "Si, señor," sounds faintly in your ears, don't worry—it's just the Spanish heritage of Torrance being played against the backdrop of history.

For 148 years the land upon which stands Torrance and Compton, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington and Gardena—was held by the direct descendants of one family, that of Juan Jose Dominguez, who in 1785 received a grant of 43,179 acres south of the Tehachapi region from Governor Pedro Fages in the name of the King of Spain.

From the day of the grant, a Dominguez held title to at least some of the lands until the death in 1933 of Mrs. John F. Francis, who was born Maria de los Reyes Dominguez. Her title was held in Northwest Torrance, and with her demise, the property finally passed from the hands of a direct descendant of the original Juan Jose Dominguez.

### One of Three

The Dominguez grant was one of three, which embraced the territory now known as Greater Los Angeles area. The other two were the Nietos, which contained all the land between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel rivers, from the foothills to the ocean, and the Verdugo, from the left bank of the Los Angeles river to the Arroyo Seco.

The history of Juan Jose is shrouded in the depths of the past. Evidently he was a soldier, since the bulk of the Spanish land grants in California were given as the result of military endeavors. Other than the fact of the grant, and the date of his death in 1822, the pages of his past are blank.

By the time Juan Jose died, California was ruled by the Mexicans, and Governor De Sola renewed the grant, this time to Cristobal Dominguez, a brother of Juan Jose.

With Cristobal's death, in 1854, the land passed to his widow and six children, Victoria, Manuel, Nazario, Helena, Marcelina and Pedro. While the estate was still in probate, the first inroads of strangers on the land began.

### Attacks In Court

The property now known as Wilmington was sold to Benjamin B. Wilson, William Stanford, John G. Downey, Henry R. Myles and Joseph L. Brent. Not all the heirs participated in the deal, since Manuel, in December, 1854, attacked through the courts.

After almost a year of litigation, the decree was entered in which Manuel, having purchased the interests of some of his brothers and sisters, received 24,000 of the original 43,179 acres. His brother Pedro, and various other relatives were allotted the balance. Date of the court order was Sept. 14, 1855.

Manuel, with his share, founded the Dominguez Estate. He lived in California under three flags—Spanish, Mexican and United States—and was one of the few prominent native Cali-

ornians who sided in with the Americans during the struggle for California.

He was born in San Diego on Jan. 26, 1803, and married Maria Engracia Cota in Los Angeles in the year 1827. The couple had six daughters, who later were to divide the land equally.

### City Councilman

Don Manuel was a member of the Los Angeles Ayuntamiento (city council) in 1828 and 1829. He was first alcalde and judge in 1832, second alcalde in 1839, again first alcalde in 1842, and was appointed prefect in 1843. Under Mexican rule, prefect was the highest appointive office in California.

When California came under U. S. rule, Don Manuel was a delegate to the constitutional convention in Monterey, which drafted the first charter of the state in 1849, and was elected county supervisor in 1854.

He died Oct. 11, 1882, leaving an estate valued at \$400,000 to his widow, with each of his daughters being awarded \$5. Five months and five days later, she died, leaving her estate to her husband, but with \$1 each to the daughters. In effect, this rendered the will invalid and she was ruled to have died intestate.

### One Sixth Each

Thus it was that the daughters each received one-sixth of the land.

The basis for the Dominguez Estate Co., the corporation from which Jared Sidney Torrance and associates purchased the Torrance tract was the de Guyer property, held by Mrs. Ana Josefa Dominguez de Guyer.

Other heirs included Mrs. Susana Del Amo and Mrs. Francis, last survivor of the original Dominguez. Their lands included properties now within the city limits of Torrance, but at that time somewhat to the west.

The Spanish heritage of the city lingers, not only in tradition, but in many street names. Of the Dominguez family, these streets perpetuate their memory.

**ANDREO**—For Andreo Dominguez, son of Manuel.

**CARSON**—For Dominguez de Carson.

**COTA and ENGRACIA**—For Dona Maria Engracia Cota de Dominguez.

**GUADALUPE**—For Guadalupe Dominguez, daughter of Manuel.

**MANUEL**—For Don Manuel.

**MARCELINA**—For Marcelina Dominguez, daughter of Manuel.

**MARTINA**—For Martina Dominguez, daughter of Manuel.

**SUSANA and PLAZA DEL AMO**—For Mrs. Susana Dominguez del Amo, daughter of Manuel.

### High Morale Reported

Torrance laborers "are 15 to 20 per cent more efficient than in the East and have an exceptionally high morale," the Jan. 1, 1914 issue of the Torrance Herald reported.

### HIPPO WEIGHT

An average adult hippopotamus weighs about 5000 pounds.



**15TH ANNIVERSARY . . .** Torrance Lumber Co. is observing its 15th year of operation in the community. A. H. (Sillig) Sillig and his wife Helen, (above) are officers of the corporation, which is located at 1732 Border Ave. Sillig purchased the yard in 1837. Previously, it had operated under the name of the Montgomery Lumber Co.

### What Ever Happened To 'Courting Hour'

Should the church approve the "Courting Hour" will be the subject of a preliminary discussion by the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Torrance. This discussion will be followed by the sermon, "Why Does the Bible Chronicle the Great Sins of Its Characters?" You are welcome. The time is 7:30 sharp. (Mar. 31, 1922.)



**PIONEER STEELMAN . . .** Otto A. Kresse, retired general superintendent of Columbia Steel, once said: "Why, I shot Indians to find limestone and dolomite for the first heat." Kresse has the distinction of being the first man to make steel in California. He tapped the first heat of steel in the state at Pittsburg, Calif., on Nov. 23, 1910.

Congratulations to Torrance On Its 40th Anniversary

## Oil Transport Co.

W. J. HAMILTON  
D.B.A.

Terminal 4-2285  
Nevada 6-2907

243 East Lomita Blvd.

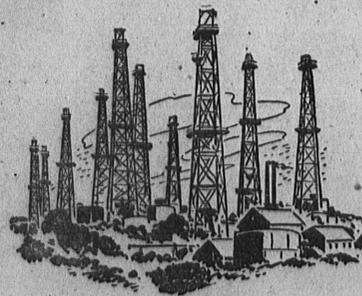
WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THIS CITY'S GREAT INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS ESTABLISHED IN TORRANCE SINCE 1928

# D & M MACHINE WORKS

L. Frank Dalton, Owner-Manager

2304 ABALONE AVE.

TORRANCE



The City of Torrance is congratulated on the anniversary of its founding with best wishes for continued success and prosperity

Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Co.  
Torrance, Calif.