



**CANDY SACKERS . . .** Torrance Firemen yesterday were busy sacking candy, fruit and nuts to be handed out to children at the annual Lions Club Christmas party slated for the Civic Auditorium Monday afternoon.

### Santa Slates Busy Monday at Kids' Party

Santa Claus will make his annual visit to the kids of Torrance at the Civic Auditorium next Monday afternoon when the Torrance Lions Club stages its yearly Christmas Party.

A program highlighted by the personal appearance of Bozo the Clown will get under way at 1:30 p.m., according to Walt Schaefer, general chairman of the party.

Three or four Woody Woodpecker movie cartoons will be shown to the expected throng of 3000 young Torrance citizens.

Sponsored annually by the Lions, with financial help from the city, the party is attracting larger crowds each year.

Torrance Firemen joined the ranks of Santa's helpers yesterday afternoon as they started sacking the fruit, candy, and nuts which will be given to each of the visitors to the Civic Auditorium next Monday afternoon.

Later in the day, the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assoc. will hold its annual Christmas party for the children of North Torrance in the El Camino College gymnasium.

Between 1500 and 2000 are expected to turn out to see Santa at this affair. The candies and treats were sacked last night at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Bates, 17309 Glenburn Ave.

### Eugene Jones Aboard Carrier Valley Forge

Eugene E. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Jones, 122 E. 233rd St., has received a new sailing while serving aboard the attack carrier USS Valley Forge.

He is now an electronics technician third class, USN.

The Valley Forge is the first carrier to complete three tours of combat duty in Korea.

### School Vacation Ends Dec. 29

Vacation in Torrance schools will end Dec. 29, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent, announced yesterday.

Students will return for three days, through Dec. 31, and then take off until Jan. 5, 1953, for the New Year's Holiday.

### Judge Shidler Outlines New Court Procedure

If after January 5 you should receive a ballable traffic ticket you may:

1. Pay in person at the new South Bay Municipal Court in Redondo Beach.
  2. Mail the fine to the court.
  3. Pay the fine to the police department issuing the citation.
- These procedures were outlined this week by Judge John A. Shidler, holder of Office No. 1 in the new court set up.
- At present (and until Jan. 5) traffic violators have to appear on a specific day to pay fines—a procedure which often times costs the person cited a day's pay. Under the new arrangement persons cited under a ballable offense may appear any day except Sunday to pay fines.

**Confusion to End**

Some of the confusion, according to Judge Shidler, will disappear when the new court procedure goes into effect. Heretofore, persons would often appear in city courts when they were scheduled to appear in the justice court and vice versa. After Jan. 1 all cases except Superior Court actions will appear in the new South Bay Municipal Court building at 1231 So. Pacific Ave. in Redondo Beach.

A tentative calendar has been arranged by Judge Shidler and Judge Otto B. Willett, holder of Office No. 2.

**The Schedule**

**MONDAY**—Misdemeanor trials, jury and non-jury for Redondo (Continued on Page 9)

# BANK OF AMERICA TO MOVE INTO STAR FURNITURE SITE

## Gravel Co. Ordered to Clean up Hillside

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# Oil Law Held Unconstitutional In Fight Led by Atty. Jim Hall

## Court Orders Gravel Company To Move Basin

Operators of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. were told yesterday to get their operations back inside the limits of the original variance issued by the City of Torrance.

In a hearing before Superior Court Judge Ralph K. Pierson, the company was given 90 days to move the settling basin back onto the hill away from the homes of Pacific Hills residents who had complained bitterly of the set-up.

Atty. Donald Armstrong, who represented Torrance in the suit, said the trial was halted yesterday afternoon after Atty. Robert Krause conferred with his clients, and stipulated to the terms of the injunction.

Atty. Krause asked for nine months to complete the ordered move, then trimmed his request to six months, but was given only 90 days.

The city filed for an injunction against the operation last September following repeated complaints from residents in nearby Pacific Hills. Investigation by city officials and others indicated that the company had exceeded the bounds of its original variance in putting a settling basin on the hill just above the homes.

This basin must be moved, according to yesterday's court action.



(Herald Photo)

**TEST TAKERS . . .** Soon to be placed under Civil Service is the job of City Recreation Director, the examination for which these four applicants are shown taking during three-hour written and oral tests given in the City Council chambers yesterday. Frank Carpenter, present Director of Recreation by appointment, (extreme right) ended speculation

as to whether or not he would take the exam when he showed up among the eight applicants taking the Civil Service examination. Appointment by the City Manager with ratification by the City Council will be made from among the top three men. Others pictured are (left to right) John Gross, Bob Van Antwerp, C. L. Van Houten, and Carpenter.

## Court Ruling May Force New Legislation

Ruling in a case pled by local Attorney James M. Hall, the District Court of Appeals Wednesday declared the controversial Town Lot Drilling Act unconstitutional, thereby radically affecting the oil well drilling practices here as well as throughout the entire state.

Until the Appellate Court's ruling, it was unlawful to drill an oil well on less than one acre of land. It further prohibited wells from being drilled closer than 100 feet from any public street or highway.

Hall, who serves Torrance as city attorney, says he is prepared to take the case to the



JIM HALL  
... Wins Appeal

Supreme Court if necessary. He indicated yesterday he fully expects the State of California to make a plea for a hearing before the highest state court.

In handing down their decision Judges Marshall McComb, Minor Moore and Turney Fox reversed the opinion of Superior Court Judge Jesse J. Framp-ton.

### Hit Hazy Law

One of Hall's arguments was based on the hazy and confused descriptions of "what constitutes an oil field." Oil fields in existence prior to Aug. 14, 1931 are exempt from the provisions of the statute which is also known as the Well Spacing Act.

The unexpected ruling by the appellate judges lifts all restrictions regarding the spacing and location of oil wells except where controlled by county and city zoning ordinances.

Attorney Hall represented Richard E. Walton and his wife, Natalie, who sought to drill a well on property they owned but which was less than one acre in size. The state had denied them the right to drill the well basing its refusal on terms of the 21-year-old state law.

## One Dies, Three Hurt Furniture Company To Build New Store

One man was dead, two were injured and a small boy was hurt in traffic accidents occurring in Torrance during the past three days, police reports indicated yesterday.

The fatality occurred at 7:07 Monday morning, as a Jacobs ambulance, speeding to the scene of an accident, was struck by a car driven by Georgie W. Rogers, 50, 421 McDonald Ave., Wilmington, at the intersection of Normandie Ave. and Carson St.

Rogers died at Harbor General Hospital within an hour of the collision. Police said he was hurled 40 feet from his car and smashed against a power pole. The ambulance, a total wreck at a cost of \$3200, was thrown 109 feet by the impact.

The ambulance driver, Clarence Rader, 48, 1734 W. 145th St., is recuperating at home with three broken ribs. The attendant, Kenneth Genant, 39, 1654 W. 154th St., is confined to Harbor General Hospital with a fractured leg and two broken ribs. Both are residents of Gardena.

### Siren Wide Open

The ambulance was hurtling down Carson St. with red light blazing and siren wide open, witnesses to the crash said. Rogers apparently failed to heed the warning siren and zipped through the intersection with fatal results.

Little Jimmy Rudnick, 5, 1322 Acacia Ave., was crossing the street Tuesday morning at 11 o'clock when he stepped in front of a slow-moving vehicle driven by Rev. Paul C. Wenske, 2250 El Dorado, pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Torrance. Jimmy was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital with a fractured collarbone, a slight concussion and bruises and lacerations. He is scheduled to go

(Continued on Page 9)

Sale of the Star Furniture Company building to the Bank of America as a future home for the Torrance branch of the bank was revealed this week by officials of both firms.

Dean L. Sears, manager of the local branch for the past 17 years, announced that the transaction which involves the building at the corner of Sartori and Post Aves. as well as a 68-car parking lot, entered escrow earlier this week.

Jacob G. Koch, owner of the furniture building, announced he was starting the immediate construction of a 6000-square foot building, future home of the Star Furniture Company, on the north side of Torrance Blvd. at Cravens Ave.

He also stated he was completing the sale of the business to three partners in March and that the partners, all former employees, will move into their new quarters by April 1. The investment by the Bank of America in property and improvements, will top \$300,000, according to Sears. Officials of the banking concern were hope-

ful of being in the new and larger quarters by the end of fall of 1953.

Present quarters of the bank and adjacent parking lot are owned by the Capital Investment Corp., a subsidiary of the banking firm. There are no plans as to the future use of the present bank building or parking lot, Sears said.

"The bank is investing in one of the best investments of our times—the future of Torrance," Sears said. "We are practically doubling our present capacities. We will have approximately 8400 square feet in our new home. We plan to enlarge all departments of the Torrance branch."

Plans for the new bank, which are still on the drawing board, call for a face-lifting of the exterior and the installation of modern fixtures and equipment on the interior. Attached to the new home of the bank will be a 30-foot frontage store to be leased until such time as the bank may again have to expand.

**Selling Store**

Koch, who has been in the furniture business 26 years with 18 years in the present location, is completing the sale of the business to Frank Higgins, Steve Schmidt, and Kenneth Belles, all of whom started acquiring an interest in the furniture firm four years ago. Belles is currently stationed with the Army at Ft. Ord.

Higgins stated that the new (Continued on Page 9)



**WINDOW WINNERS . . .** Plaques and the new perpetual trophy for Torrance merchants having the best Christmas window decorations were awarded Tuesday night by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the annual event. Left to right are Phil Lisman, Jaycee committeeman; Oscar

Strumwasser, of Strum's, winner of the Class "A" plaque; Mrs. Virginia Yeltema, of the Torrance Flower Shop, winner of the Class "B" plaque and the perpetual trophy; John Hogan, of John's Paint Store, winner of the Class "C" plaque; and Bob Curry, Jaycee committeeman.

