

New Airports
Brazil's airports increased from 140 to 270 in five years. Glazier fields.

POPULATION HUB
One half of the people of the world live in eastern Asia.

Permits Lag For October

Cutbacks in construction brought about by the current strike against sand and gravel operators, held down the building permits in Torrance during October, city officials related this week.

Permits issued totaled a valuation of \$3,441,743. This figure compares to \$5,365,616 issued for the same period a year ago.

The 1955 total, through October, still is ahead of the 1954 figure for the same period. So far in 1955, \$40,698,611 have been issued in building permits, as compared to \$36,696,458.

A majority of the October permits went to Milton Kauffman Construction for new housing in the area.

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READY FOR FLIGHT . . . Back in 1906, "Madame Thornberry" flew through the air as she parachuted from a balloon clad in her serpentine dress. She was mistaken at times for an angel or an evil spirit. Nowadays, she is just plain Cordie White, Torrance housewife and she hasn't been in a parachute for 46 years.

HEAVY RAINS
Rains total as much as 200 inches a year in the tropical Amazon jungles.

FIRST STATE
New York state ranks first in the production of talc and gypsum.



THE GOOD OLD DAYS . . . Mrs. Cordie White, of 2117 Torrance Blvd., tells her daughter, Mrs. E. J. Hund, of Huntington Park, about her experiences as a parachutist in her younger days. Mrs. White thinks she may be the oldest living person who has used a parachute.

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Hilborn Charges 'Politics' to Airport Group

Robert B. Hilborn, member of the city's Airport Commission since it was formed by the City Council in 1954, submitted his resignation last week with the charge that the commission was too concerned with political matters.

"When I accepted the appointment I was under the impression that the function of the commission was purely advisory and in no way political," Hilborn wrote to the Council. On this point I find that I was mistaken.

Hilborn told the Councilmen that his prime interest in Torrance "has and always will be the building of a bigger and better airport and to this end I will always strive."

Hilborn, who lives at 24229 Hawthorne Ave., is employed by the Civil Aeronautics Administration and told the Council that it had been determined that he was prohibited from participation in such activity as the Commission by policies of the CAA.

Four Police Added Here

Four new patrolmen were added to the Torrance Police Department roster Tuesday, Nov. 1, after authorization for the additional personnel was okayed by the City Council.

The four qualified for positions of patrolmen by registering high marks on physical and mental tests given by the TPD earlier this year.

New Medical Director

Clifford F. Hood, president, United States Steel Corp., yesterday announced the appointment of Dr. Robert B. O'Connor of Boston, as medical director for United States Steel, effective Jan. 1, 1956. Dr. O'Connor will succeed Dr. J. Huber Wagner, who will serve as chairman of a United States Steel Medical Advisory Committee upon his retirement next January.

Woman Recalls Parachute Days

"Oh, she flew through the air with the greatest of ease. But she wasn't the girl on the flying trapeze."

A recent trip to visit her son in Fort Smith, Ark., brought back fond memories of Mrs. Cordie White, of 2117 Torrance Blvd., as she recalled the days when she used to fly through the air, almost like a bird.

For four years, Mrs. White made her living by making parachute jumps from a balloon. She made appearances at fairs and other gala occasions in various parts of the South, and last visited Fort Smith with her act in 1906.

Her usual procedure was to go into the air suspended from a hot air balloon and, at about a mile high, cut herself loose and parachute to the ground.

Mistaken Identity
"Madame Thornberry," as she was called then, at various times was mistaken for an angel and an evil spirit, and menaced by Indians as she fluttered to the ground. During her career, she made more than 1000 jumps.

At one time, she also dropped handbills as she descended and local businessmen would pay \$5 for the first local citizen who brought the handbill to their stores. Mrs. White had a struggle to get away from an Indian who misunderstood the offer, and thought that he was supposed to carry her to the store for the reward.

Thought "Evil Spirit"
"The Indians thought I was a spirit coming down from the sky," she declared. "They watched me and tried to find me when I landed. Cowboys rode to find me before the Indians did, to protect me, I suppose."

Another time, she lit in a backyard just as a housewife was carrying out some trash. The housewife dropped the trash, threw up her hands, and exclaimed, "Honey, are you an angel from heaven?"

Her late husband, Albin White, also made balloon ascensions. Although he died six years ago, he was nearly killed during one of his flights when he fell about 5000 feet inside a cannon before he could get out and parachute to safety.

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Torrance Area Has 8 Cases of Disease

Torrance and the Torrance health area were pretty healthy during the week ending Oct. 22, with only eight cases of disease reported, according to the County Health Dept.

One case each of measles, mumps, and scarlet fever were reported in the city of Torrance while the area as a whole had two cases of polio, and one case each of encephalitis, infectious hepatitis, and mumps.

Gr-Y Breakfast Set For Leaders Nov. 20

A breakfast meeting of the Torrance YMCA Gr-Y Leaders was held at the home of Dick Brown, 823 Faysmith Ave., recently. Leaders present included Jack Breglio, Vikings Gr-Y; Bob Long, Golden Eagles Gr-Y; Bill Herrmann and Jack Bynum, Bobcats Gr-Y.

The group outlined a tentative program of interclub events. Events scheduled for the Gr-Y clubs are a touch football league, monthly "Pow Wows," week end snow trip, bombardment league, and talent and stunt nights.

A discussion was held on club program and how to enrich it. The next meeting was set for Sunday, Nov. 20, at the home of Jack Breglio, 22426 Shadycroft Ave.