

THANKSGIVING 1955

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\$1,000,000 HOSPITAL PLANNED HERE

98-Bed Facility Will Serve Area

Plans for a new \$1,000,000 community hospital to serve Torrance and surrounding areas were announced yesterday by Contractor Howard Miller and Dr. Norman Shafer, M.D. They have purchased a five-acre site on the north side of Torrance Blvd., between Henrietta and Victor Sts., and will start building in about four months, with completion of the first wing expected within a year, Miller said.

The hospital will be located in the Victor Tract which is proposed for annexation to Torrance. It is located across the street from Torrance, however. "I definitely favor the annexation to Torrance," Miller said.

Although a 98-bed structure is planned, the initial wing will contain space for 60 beds. Complete facilities to serve the patients—four operating rooms for major surgery, one for minor surgery, two delivery rooms, kitchen, and other auxiliary requirements—are planned, Miller said. A 10-bed maternity ward also is planned.

The building will be of a modern design, planned by Architect Herman Charles Light, AIA. It will be similar in design to the Rio Hondo Hospital at Riverside.

Originally proposed for a site on Torrance Airport property, the plan was dropped after the city and Civil Aeronautics Administration failed to agree.

The hospital was planned here, Miller said, because Torrance is listed in the State Progress Report on Hospitals as being a critical area as far as hospital requirements go, along with Covina, Fresno, San Jose, and Marysville.

The report indicated that Torrance was sixth on the list of all California cities with a critical hospital need. The city had only 34 percent of needed bed space, Miller quoted the report.

A staff of about 80 persons will serve the completed hospital, Miller said. Dr. Shafer, now a Los Angeles surgeon, will serve as medical director and resident doctor.

The Howard S. Miller Co. has built a number of houses in this area and within the next 60 days plans to start work on a 48-unit apartment building at 1775 Yukon Ave., at an estimated cost of about \$380,000.

Council to Get Proposal for Parking Lots

A proposal on parking which would assure the acquisition of some lots downtown immediately will be placed before the City Council next week following a meeting of city officials and property owners here this week.

Meeting at the suggestion of Mayor Albert Isen were several property owners of the downtown section who agreed in principle to put up money on a loan basis to start the purchase of off-street parking areas until such a time as the assessment district is formed.

George Binder, who owns a large segment of the downtown commercial property, agreed to match any funds put up by other property owners on a loan basis.

Under the terms of the proposal, the city's \$15,000 parking meter fund and an additional \$35,000 would be made available to the Parking Authority for the purchase of parking sites downtown.

The \$35,000 would be on a loan basis and would be repaid, with interest, from assessment district funds when bonds are sold.

Burglars Steal \$60 From Building Firm

Burglars made off with \$60 in cash from the Contractors Supply Co., Inc., 1820 Pacific Coast Hwy., Lomita, W. A. Horton Jr., told sheriff's deputies Monday.

The intruders apparently gained entrance through the skylight, prying open the door to the office and the drawer where the money was kept, he said.



THANKSGIVING BONNET... Wesley Ann Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Hall, of 2032 1/2, Andreo, shows what the well-dressed first grader is wearing this Thanksgiving. Children in Wesley's class at Torrance Elementary School visited a turkey farm recently, where they got turkey feathers. They used these to make their turkey bonnets.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, since a proclamation will soon go forth, calling for a National Day of Thanksgiving, we pause to thank Thee for those to whom we owe so much.

We thank Thee because Thou art creator and sustainer of our life, and when we falter or fail Thou dost become our redeemer.

We thank Thee for the Pilgrim fathers and mothers who established our nation upon the solid rock of faith in God.

We thank Thee for the men and women who lived and died to provide a nation; built upon the proposition that all men are created equal and possess inalienable rights in the pursuit of freedom and happiness.

We thank Thee for all who have given their lives to maintain these principles. For those who braved the hazards of the frontiers pushing Westward to establish this great empire, in which we live today, the most blessed of all peoples on the face of the earth.

Although we have so much, we pray for one more thing: Thankful and grateful hearts for what we have, and ability to press on to ever higher and better things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Given by Rev. Walter A. Stanton, pastor of the Central Evangelical Church, as the invocation before the Torrance City Council, Tuesday evening, Nov. 22).

TV Celebrity To Head Big Parade

Dick Jones, TV's Buffalo Bill Jr. and the Range Rider's sidekick, will be grand marshal of the Christmas parade, Dec. 2 here, which will kick off a month-long celebration of holiday activities.

Sponsored by the Retail Merchants Assn. and the Chamber of Commerce, the extended celebration will feature a festive Santaland, set up in El Prado Park, an automobile show, street decorations, Christmas programs and awarding of a color television set.

Parade entries have been pouring in. Sgt. D. C. Cook, of the Torrance Police Department, said this week. Coordinator for the parade, Cook said many out-of-town entries have been filed but a greater participation by local groups is desired.

He said entries will be taken for a few more days and urged local civic groups, clubs and organizations to participate. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. In addition to Jones' role in the affair, such outstanding groups as the Huntington Park Elks Motorcycle Corps, Bob Cole's Majorettes, from Inglewood, the Redondo Beach Riders and the Hollenbeck Boys Exhibition Drill team, from Los Angeles, will be featured.

Musical groups entered so far include the North High and THS marching bands and the Torrance Area Youth Band. Bob Howell, Mac McDaniel, Babe Tapley and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Foster are only a few of the well-known riders who will enter the equestrian division of the parade.

Trophies will go to first, second and third place entries in the following divisions: silver pairs, silver single, parade horse, best dressed western man, best dressed western woman, Spanish, Mexican class, Spanish pairs, western pairs, mounted groups, mounted sheriff or police groups, Indian class, fiesta class, best band, best drum and bugle corps, best float, best club entry and best junior equestrian.

Santaland at El Prado will feature decorations depicting Santa Claus at work at his North Pole home. The Jolly Man's reindeer and workshop also will be a part of the display.

Dealers Present Show The parade display will be the scene of various Christmas plays and recitals during the festive season.

Dec. 2 and 3, local automobile dealers will present their showcase of 1956 models at a

Lomita Post Office To Hold Open House

The Lomita Post Office will hold an open house Saturday to celebrate the completion of its new building at 2222 Lomita Blvd., Postmaster Earl F. Fisher, announced Monday.

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Ruling on Airport Lease Due Before City Council

The City Council hemmed and hawed for an hour this week over the status of a lease executed last Feb. 23, with Store Properties, Inc., for the development of the Airport Triangle shopping center and wound up only with the names of the principal interests behind the development firm.

Brought to light during the hour-long meeting last Tuesday evening was the fact that

All Ages Gather For Lions Drag Strip Activities

Everybody from Junior to Grandma takes part in the activities at the Lions Drag Strip at 223rd and Alameda Sts., Manager Mickey Thompson told the Torrance Lions Club Tuesday noon.

Reporting on activities at the newly-formed strip, Thompson told the Lions that things are going well and that procedures there are leading the way among strips in this area. Although drag racing includes mostly young men, he said, there are some older people participating, including a 71-year old grandmother.

One racer at the strip recently broke the world's record set in 1934 by Thompson, with a speedy 151.61 miles per hour over the quarter mile course. Thirty classes of races are available, he said.

Thompson cited a report made by the Pomona police chief, indicating his belief that drag strips help to curb juvenile delinquency. According to the report, accidents in Pomona decreased 10 per cent after the strip was initiated, and police calls on drag racing dropped from three or four per night to two or three calls a month.

Drivers are required to have safety belts, crash helmets, and many other safety devices on their autos, Thompson said. He said that strip requirements in this line are among the toughest in the area.

Great care also is taken to insure the accuracy of the times at the strip, with certified timing devices and inspected distances over the length of the course, Thompson declared.

Future improvements at the strip will include, Thompson hopes, provisions for night driving and a picnic area.

Increased attendance at the races is needed to help the project pay its way, he said. Although the first-day crowd was more than 6,000, the average has dropped to about 1,000. The strip pays \$600 per month rent to the Los Angeles Harbor Department.

Nine Lions Clubs, including Torrance, sponsor the drag strip. Members of the Lads, a car club, were active in working at the strip, and now about 35 of them work when the track is in operation, although without pay.

News Index

- Torrance youngsters give their ideas on crash slogans in the HERALD's big slogan contest. Some of the ideas of local small fry can be found on page 9.
- Pictures of the groundbreaking ceremonies at Hope Evangelical United Brethren Church are on page 14.
- Tartar Skip Smith was named an All-Bay League back after a poll of the coaches. Details are on page 6.
- Other features are as follows: Sports 6-7, Editorial 10, Society 12-13, Churches 14, Classified 16-19.

Seeks Lease Change

The matter was brought before the Council again at the request of Store Properties who asked for minor changes in the lease as drawn last February. Main change, it was indicated, was the assignment of the lease to Swig as an individual to separate it from the estate of Mr. Genis which is now in probate court.

Also on hand to state interest in negotiating a lease for the property were George Binder, owner of extensive commercial property in downtown Torrance and El Monte, and Eugene Rose, representing Mark Tabor, development of Lakewood Center. Both indicated they would be interested in making proposals to the city if the property were thrown open again.

Swig said, however, that he felt Store Properties had a firm lease on the 35-acre site and was planning to develop it. "We could operate under the present lease terms," Swig told the Councilmen, "but without the changes requested, it would delay us if we had to take all of the negotiations through the probate court with the Genis estate."

Ready to Go Swig indicated that he was ready to proceed immediately with the development to cost more than \$10 million and that it would be ready for the 1956 Christmas season.

One change in the plans for the center was announced by Swig—he said the department store tenant they were negotiating with wanted more room, so the plans have been altered to include a department store with 215,000 square feet. The department store was not named, but the same developer have put in most of the new Broadway Stores which have been built in Southern California during the

Chamber Names Nine Nominees In Board Vote

Nine men have been selected as nominees for membership on the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, according to results of recent balloting among Chamber members.

Four of the nine will be picked in balloting which will end next Wednesday. Because there was a tie for the eighth place, nine candidates were chosen. Ballots for the final election were mailed yesterday and must be returned or postmarked by next Wednesday.

The candidates are five incumbents—Donald Armstrong, John A. Ebbinghouse, Darwin D. Parrish, Dean L. Sears, and William A. Zoeller—and four others—C. C. Duncan, Abe Robinson, K. R. Ruffell, and O. R. Trueblood.

Dean Sears served as chairman of the election committee, assisted by Henry W. Creeger, Paul-Loranger, and R. S. Pyle.

Tenants Revealed

Other tenants which have been revealed by the developers include Bond's, Woolworth, J. J. Newberry, C. H. Baker Shoes, a bank, cafeteria, jewelry store, and other retail establishments.

The Council did not hear proposals from other developers this week, but indicated that they would await a ruling by City Attorney James M. Hall on the status of the present lease with Store Properties.

The Council approved the lease last spring and instructed the mayor and city clerk to sign it. Mayor Albert Isen has not signed the lease.

Suit Mentioned While telling the Council that he was interested in obtaining the master lease on the property, Binder said he had brought suit against the city over the lease. At the prompting of his associate, Charles Isaacs, Binder changed his statement to say that he had discussed the lease with principals in connection with other matters.

Hall's ruling on the status of the lease with Store Properties is due before the Council next week. If he rules that they now hold a valid and binding lease, the situation could be settled at that time and the developers given the green light to start construction on the property.

Second Man Hangs Self in Venice Jail

Stanley M. Brummett, 43, of 1542 W. 203rd St., became the second local man to hang himself at Venice Jail in less than four days, when he was found dead Monday by a jailer there.

Brummett, who had been arrested for drunk driving, made a noose out of his belt and threw it over the top bar in his cell. Another prisoner found his body and called the jailer, but efforts to revive him failed.

He had a record of five prior convictions for drunk driving, according to police reports.

Last Thursday, Arthur B. Thomas, 60, of 2537 Via la Selva, hung himself with a mattress cover in the same jail.

He had been detained by Los Angeles police on a drunk driving charge after his car was involved in a collision at Century and Sepulveda Blvds.

GRIFFITHS WILL HEAD CHAMBERS

L. O. Griffiths, Carson businessman, was elected president of the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce and will take office next year. He succeeds Roscoe Sevier, of Gardena.

New vice presidents are Carl J. Hoffman, of Los Angeles; William M. Donohough, of San Pedro; E. L. Johns, of San Pedro; Wallace Reynolds, of Long Beach; and William W. Jones, of Lynwood. Sevier was elected treasurer, while Iva F. MacDonnell, of Gardena, was re-elected secretary.

The group represents a federation of 50 Chambers of Commerce, improvement associations, and public service groups.