

# Survey Shows 1957 To Be A Busy Year for Torrance

The last year was a time of the "big change" in Torrance, as the city paused to shift gears in its drive toward bigger and better things.

After nearly 10 years of a mad rush of residential construction in Torrance, building totals fell to their lowest point since 1952 and for the first time more apartment units than houses were built in the city. At the same time, the city retooled for a rush of a different kind—commercial and industrial expansion, which should send building totals soaring again in 1958.

After a record-smashing year in 1956, when building totals hit \$46,932,600 and 2925 new homes were built, the totals dropped to \$18,923,679 and only 447 homes went up, compared with 464 apartment units.

During the year, the population grew from about 85,000 to more than 93,000, a smaller rate of growth than the previous year's 15,000 gain.

The reason for the slowdown in residential construction was the simple fact that most large plots of available land in the city already are filled with houses.

Officials estimate that under present zoning requirements, an additional 2000 homes can be built, but the 1958 home building is expected to continue at about the same rate as that in 1957.

A significant item in the building total marked improvement plans of homeowners, with some 2300 fences worth \$740,000 built in Torrance.

Commercial buildings during the year amounted to \$1,521,541, while new industrial building accounted for \$1,488,609. Plans now on the drawing boards indicate that this year's figures will dwarf these totals.

Work will get under way in earnest soon on the \$40,000,000 shopping center at Hawthorne and Sepulveda, and the first units of work will begin on the Airport Triangle shopping center. The new Del Amo Shopping Center is expected to boom commercial construction all along Hawthorne.

The need for new commercial development in the city is shown by the fact that while the city has gained more than 300 per cent in population since, 1951, the number of businesses in the city have increased only 77 per cent. Latest Dun and Bradstreet figures indicate that the city now has 733 businesses, compared with 413 six years ago.

The entire South Bay area has gained 62 per cent in the number of businesses over the same period, but has gained considerably less, percentage-wise, in population.

A number of new industrial firms, as reported in Thursday's HERALD, also are making plans to build plans here, adding both to the tax structure and to the availability of jobs close to home.

Census officials taking the special census here last year reported an increase in the average size of local families, with about one more child for every five houses than was expected.

A survey by Torrance Memorial Hospital showed that it has more babies per bassinets than any other hospital in the county. Each bassinets at the hospital was used 94.3 times during the year, while all but one other hospital in the country reported theirs were used less than 70 times in 1957.

The number of children born in Torrance increased to 2430 during the year, compared with 1883 the previous year. Torrance Memorial Hospital reported 2023 children born, while Riviera Hospital had 407 new babies during the five months of its operation. The number should zoom next year with expected completion of the 150-bed Little Company of Mary Hospital and work slated to start on the Torrance Community Hospital. During the same period, the local mortuaries

(Continued on Page 13)

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## Torrance Herald

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1958

IN THE HERALD TODAY

- Ann Landers . . . 6 Society . . . . . 9-10
- Comics . . . . . 7 Sports . . . . . 4
- Crossword . . . . . 13 Star Gazer . . . . . 6
- Editorials . . . . . 6 Want Ads . . . . . 13-15

16 PAGES

A Penny  
for  
your  
Thoughts

With juvenile delinquency making headlines these days, the HERALD inquiring photographer asked:

"Do you think parents should be held responsible for the actions of their minor children — especially to pay property owners for damage?"

Sam Benson, Los Angeles, owner, Benson's Shop:

"Property owners should be reimbursed. The child should be reprimanded two or three times and the parents should be notified. That's a hard question."

Mrs. Hazel Vaughan, Redondo Beach, housewife:

"Yes. I think parents should be held responsible. The children should pay the parents back if they are old enough to earn money for themselves."

C. G. Morse, 980 Arlington, retired:

"Absolutely, parents are responsible. Parents would keep better control over the kids if they had to pay, but it's up to the family whether the children should pay for the damage."

Mrs. Alma Williams, 1749 W. 257th St., housewife:

"I think parents should definitely be responsible if property is damaged. It would be a terrible thing if a person's property were not safe. Children should pay the money back and a good spanking wouldn't hurt them either."

Rev. Johnnie Ransom, 616 E. Carson St., pastor, Miraloma Church:

"The delinquent today is the child who roamed the streets while his parents worked in the shipyards in the last war. There's gross neglect on the part of the parent. When I was a child I didn't see my mother working or in a beer joint. Parents should pay and children should be spanked to help them learn."

# COURT TO OPEN TOMORROW

## Slow Building Year Recorded

Last year was the slowest building year in Torrance since 1952, with \$18,923,679 in permits issued, according to Evelyn Coles of the Department of Public Works.

Figures dipped sharply from the 1956 record total of \$46,932,600, but are expected to climb again sharply this year with considerable commercial and industrial building on the drawing boards.

## Anti-Narcotic Educational Program Set

Civic and fraternal organizations are expected to send representatives to the kickoff of an anti-narcotic educational program Thursday night.

The meeting, which begins at 8 p.m., will be in the local Elks Lodge, 1951 W. Carson St.

Under the sponsorship of the Torrance Elks Lodge, the educational program is being led by Joe Yates, past exalted ruler.

In addition to civic leaders and group representatives, the public is invited to attend. Teenagers will be welcomed if accompanied by adults.

Thursday's meeting is the first in a series designed to prevent the use of narcotics, especially by teenagers.

## THS Graduate Wins Post in San Fernando

Charles W. Montague, graduate of Torrance High School, has been named principal of the Hubbard Street School in San Fernando.

The brother of Ralph and Parke Montague, of Torrance Plumbing Co., the educator formerly was with the Los Angeles city school system for 10 years as a teacher in the Morningstar Elementary School.

He also was principal of Mt. Signal School in Imperial Valley for five years and elementary principal in Calexico for two years.

Since coming to San Fernando he has served as administrator in the city system at Camellia Avenue School and the past three years at Lankershim Elementary School in North Hollywood.

He received his bachelor of science in education from UCLA and his master's degree from USC.

Together with his wife, the former Vivian Knudsen of Lomita, and three sons, Jim, 17; Chuck, 14, and Art, 9, the family lives at 1965 Lucas St., San Fernando.

## Boy Robbed of Money

Two 15-year-olds were arrested last week by local police in connection with an armed robbery of another youth.

According to police, the two used a switch blade knife to force a 14-year-old to hand over his money.



A WINNER! . . . Torrance's "Rocket to the Moon" float in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade on New Year's Day was awarded third place in its division—cities between 50,000 and 100,000 population. The float was designed and constructed on slightly more than 30-day notice. (Herald Photo by Bill Robinson)

## Judge Shidler Assigned Here

A years-long struggle for establishment of a municipal court in Torrance, the largest city in southwest Los Angeles county, will be climaxed at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow when the doors of the new branch court at 1511 Cravens Ave. will swing open for business.

Sitting on the bench will be Judge John A. Shidler, a veteran jurist of Torrance who first occupied the bench here in 1941. Judge Shidler, one of three judges of the South Bay Municipal Court District, will sit here while Judges Otto B. Willett and Donald Armstrong will sit in Redondo Beach.

A full calendar has been planned for the new court and a total of 20 jury trials have been scheduled for the first month, Judge Shidler told THE HERALD yesterday.

Quarters Inspected  
Judges Shidler and Willett along with Court Clerk Ernest Stout and others inspected the new facilities yesterday and approved them.

"The old city hall makes a fine court building," Judge Shidler said after looking over the refurbished quarters.

Cases originating with Torrance police will now be referred to the new local branch of the court. Criminal preliminary hearings, traffic cases, small claims, and misdemeanor trials will be held here.

Clerks Move Over

Transferring to the Torrance location with Judge Shidler will be his court clerk, Stephanie Smith, and Bailiff Frank Gompert. Also ready to set up offices here tomorrow will be a representative of the marshal's office and filing department clerks. The district attorney has an office in the building, also.

Establishment of a Torrance court was set up by the board of supervisors through the efforts of Supervisor Burton

## Motorist Cited in Accident

Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd. was the scene of two accidents, two injuries and the arrest of one driver on drunk charges.

James Leo Powell, 26, of 2016 Caddington St., Lomita, was taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment of cuts and bruises early yesterday morning following one of the accidents.

Powell's German-made car was totally demolished when it collided with one driven by Franklin George Burton, 44, of 25530 January Dr.

Burton was booked by local police on drunk charges following the accident. Both cars were towed away from the scene.

Thick Fog Blamed  
Thick fog was blamed by a motorist for an earlier accident at the same intersection. Edward Robert Lee, 24, of San Diego, told officers he did not see the traffic signal as he proceeded east across Pacific Coast Hwy.

Lee's car collided with a truck driven by John Ohodnicki, 27, of Redondo Beach, who reportedly was crossing the intersection, north on Crenshaw, with the green signal.

Ohodnicki was treated for cuts and bruises at Harbor Hospital and released to a private physician.

Youngster Hurt  
A 4-year-old girl was in Riviera Hospital yesterday with a possible concussion after being hit by a car at Calle Mayor and Via Los Altos.

Driver of the car, Hampton Lansden Fancher, 53, of 19326 Flavian Ave., told police he did not see the youngster dart out into the street.

The driver was not held, police reported.

## Realtors to Install Haggard During Ceremonies Tuesday

Bob Haggard, former mayor of Torrance, will be installed as president of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors during ceremonies at the Plush Horse Tuesday evening. Harry Bowker, veteran Lomita realtor, will be installed as vice president.

Presiding over installation ceremonies at the dinner meeting will be Mildred Hards, who will be introduced by William Ritter, regional vice president for the 21st District, California Real Estate Assn.

Speaker for the evening will be the Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougner Jr., who will be introduced by William H. Tolson Sr. following Haggard's acceptance.

Committees to be installed during the evening include: Multiple Listing—Jack C. Clayton, chairman, Paul Hill, Delmar Wright, Perry L. Connett, Kenneth M. Miller.

Caravan Division—R. D. McEwen, director, Don Wolf, assistant.

Membership—Robert J. Baldwin, chairman, Robert J. Trujillo, Irene A. Baker, Geneva Meara, Robert Dimitri, Carol I. Neldon, Robert Oster, Royal W. Sinderson.

Finance—W. E. Bowen, chairman, Howard M. Jacobs, Harry B. Bowker, Gretchen M. Earle, Rose Craig.

By-Laws—H. J. Osborne, chairman, Edna Reed, Eliza Travoli, Eleanor Meyers, Edith S. Smith.

Educational—Lee Dawson, chairman, Howard J. Percy, Hallie P. Crow, Delbert Vaughn, Zeke Alter, Milli Tomback, Kenneth Peters.

Attendance—Brad L. Barfield, chairman, Marjorie A. Krogmann, Lawrence V. Fritzen, Harry Moritz, Helen M. Andrews, Don L. Houston.

Programs—Alyce O'Rourke, chairman, Eulalia Thomas, Billy J. McEwen, William H. Tolson Sr.

Publicity—Lee Wilson, chairman, Pearl Jacobs, Howard Jacobs, Horace B. Hobbs.

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Womans' Council—Geneva Meara, president; Edna Reed, vice president; Georgia Marlow, secretary; Katherine England, treasurer.

CREA Directors—Harry B. Bowker, William H. Tolson Jr., Raymond Moyer.

Board Office Staff—L. J. Gilmeister, executive secretary; Joan Wilkinson, clerk.

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