

# Chamber Asks 4-Month Test on Parking Meters

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## Torrance Herald

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IN THE HERALD TODAY

Ann Landers	.....13	Obituaries	.....18
Armed Forces	.....21	Society	.....13-16
Comics	.....34	Sports	.....30
Crossword	.....23	Want Ads	.....42-51

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# CYCLIST WINS \$40,000 FROM CITY SCHOOLS FOR ACCIDENT INJURIES

## Jury Absolves Bus Operator

A Torrance cyclist who was injured when his bike was hit by a school bus here four years ago was awarded \$40,000 by a Superior Court jury Tuesday.

A jury in Superior Judge Fred Miller's Long Beach court awarded the damages to Robert James Wilson, 33, of 1763 Marinette St., after deliberating for five hours.

Wilson was injured on Nov. 7, 1955, when a school bus driven by Clyde Beck, entering Plaza Del Amo from the school's maintenance yard in a heavy fog, struck his motorcycle.

Attorney James Kenealy, representing Wilson, said the victim had been hospitalized 179 days and suffered permanent nerve damage.

The driver was cleared of liability in the accident by the jury.

## Santa Plans Six Landings On Saturday

Santa Claus has scheduled a "mass landing" by helicopter in Torrance on Saturday, according to the sponsoring Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Assistant Manager Jim Harmon said the bearded gentleman will make the trip from the North Pole and will land at six Torrance locations, starting at 10 a.m. — at each location Santa will pass out goodies to the kiddies.

Harmon said that the Retail Merchant groups in each area are cooperating with the parent organizations to make the event as successful as it has been in three previous years.

Landings are scheduled at: 10 a.m.—North Torrance Shopping Center, 190th and Anza.

10:30 a.m.—Southwood Shopping Center, Sepulveda and Palos Verdes Blvd.

11 a.m.—Walteria (Food Giant Market) Pacific Coast Hwy. and Hawthorne Blvd.

11:30 a.m.—Foods Company Market, Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw.

12 p.m.—Downtown Torrance El Prado and Cravens (site of old City Auditorium).

12:30 p.m.—Fox Market, 182nd and Arlington.

## Chamber Asks Four-Month 'Meter' Test

The board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce have requested that the City Council remove all parking meters in Downtown Torrance on Jan. 1, 1960 for a four-month "test" to last until April 30, 1960, according to an announcement by President J. H. Paget.

Paget said the board accepted a recommendation from its traffic and parking committee, under chairmanship of Abe Robinson, because of the "tremendous confusion that exists and because of differences of opinion regarding parking meters."

The Chamber leader said he feels the "test" is a period that is necessary, because everyone seems to have a different opinion as to the necessity of the meters.

"THE ONLY WAY we'll ever (Continued on Page 2)

## City's Taxable Sales Up Sharply Over 1958

Taxable Retail Sales in Torrance for the first six months of 1959 are over \$10 million higher than a similar period in 1958, it was revealed in a Torrance Chamber of Commerce survey released today.

Torrance accounted for \$18,989,000 sales in the first quarter, compared to a 1958 total of only \$14,956,000—an increase of over \$4,000,000. The second quarter figures were even more staggering—an increase of over \$6,000,000 over 1958 second quarter figures. Sales were \$23,194,000 compared to 1958's \$17,061,000.

President J. H. Paget of the Chamber added that taxable retail sales figures are vital to a community as an incorporated city receives 1 per cent of the figure, thus Torrance's increase means that the city will receive \$421,830 for the first six months of 1959, an increase of \$100,660 over the 1958 figure.

## Wind Damage Minor Here, Survey Shows

Tumbling tumbleweeds proved to be the biggest headache in Torrance when residents, industries and city departments waged a cleanup of the area following last Sunday's wind storm that reached a peak velocity of 63 miles per hour.

Gales up to 73 miles per hour swept over the entire Southland, doing considerable damage to boats in the harbor, signs and plate glass windows in business districts and downing power lines and trees, but Torrance was spared any heavy damage as the icy blasts wreaked havoc in surrounding districts throughout the afternoon and evening.

TWENTY-ONE trees went down during the big blow, the most spectacular being the giant Acacia in El Prado Park. The Edison and the telephone companies were plagued with lines down during the wind storm, as was the Torrance police department with calls on everything from toppled signs and Christmas decorations to ringing of burglar alarms.

A 35-minute blackout took place in the Southwood area due to power line breaks and Paul's Chevrolet lost out of its plate glass windows.

By and large, damage in Torrance was light with no resulting fires and the airport had but one slightly battered wing tip and no traffic mishaps. The major job on Monday was done by housewives who had to do an early spring cleaning to get rid of layers of dust that came with the wind.

The street department is still hauling off wayward tumble weeds.



BROTHER MEETS SISTER . . . Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wonsik talk in Polish while his sister, Mrs. Russell Fowler, 2703 W. 164th St., acts as interpreter. Mrs. Fowler, 46, saw her brother for the first time two months ago. Regulations in Poland caused Stanley, then one-year-old, to be left behind when parents came to America. Mrs. Fowler, born here, worked 14 years to get her brother out from behind the Iron Curtain. (Herald Photo)

## It Took 14 Years

# Family Flees Poland, Father Now Seeks Work

By BOB WILTON  
Herald Staff Writer

One of the nicest Christmas presents that could be given the Wonsik family is a "prace" which is Polish for the English word job. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wonsik, and their daughters Alicia, 17; Teresa, 11; and Cathy, 7, have been in the United States, and out from behind the Iron Curtain in Poland, just two months. Now this father, who still has an older son, Joseph, in Poland, needs to find work in this "pinkie, wspanialy Amerika"—beautiful, wonderful America, as he describes this country.

The Wonsiks are guests in the home of his sister, Marion Fowler, at 2703 W. 164th St. this sister, whom he had never seen before and who is now 43 years of age, happily told of meeting the brother she knew only as a name of someone living in Poland.

ACTING AS interpreter for her brother, who speaks but few English words, she told of his flight here by Scandinavian Air Lines and of his seeing his mother in Ohio for the first time since he was one year old, fifty years ago.

"My husband, Russell, and I

have been working to get Stanley and his family over here since we first signed the papers 14 years ago. It was not until a year ago that we knew that we had succeeded in getting him cleared to come to America," Mrs. Fowler said, and added, "Stanley has told us many things about conditions behind the curtain—things he would not want repeated, because he still has a son working in a bank in Poland. Although we have filed papers to bring him over here, we want nothing to happen that might cause retaliation and delay in his coming here."

BACK IN Lublin, Poland, Wonsik worked as a mechanic, blacksmith, woodworker and school maintenance man. His pay was the equivalent of \$10 American money and he lived with five others in a one-room house. Despite all of the hardships Stanley has been through he is an exceptionally pleasant man, with a nice appearance and the physique of one 15 years his junior. He has many qualifications for employment, but he also has two handicaps — he is not a citizen of the United States and

(Continued on Page 2)



DISCUSS COMING DRIVE . . . Doug Bird (left), regional chairman of the Red Cross fund drive, and Henry Halverson (right) general chairman of the Torrance Chapter of the American Red Cross, discuss plans for next year's campaign with Dean Sears, newly appointed Torrance chairman for the campaign. Sears' appointment was announced here yesterday by Halverson. (Herald Photo)

## A Penny for your Thoughts

It's that time of the year, and the Herald asked five persons at random:

"What method did you use to finance your Christmas shopping budget?"

Their answers:

Mrs. Harold R. Shaffer, 5121 Milne Drive, housewife:

"I use a combination of things. Sometimes I have to borrow. Gifts are more tokens, really, and it's more fun that way. Christmas is too painful when you wind up owing for it afterward."

Mrs. W. H. Ewing, 850 Avenue "C", Redondo, housewife:

"The Christmas Clubs would be my answer. I suppose. That means you save all year long for your shopping budget, and then you are not hit all at once with the bills."

Mrs. Millie Heatt, 420-31st St., Hermosa Beach, housewife:

"You have to save all year for it. Just take so much out of each check. I do it and that way I don't have to worry about where it is going to come from when I start down my shopping list."

Mrs. E. F. Nason, Palos Verdes Estates housewife:

"My method is sort of a hit-or-miss situation. I try to save some by combining gifts for each family on our shopping list."

Mrs. Franklin Stanko, Palos Verdes Estates, housewife:

"I really do not have a method. The Christmas shopping just has to be done somehow. I go ahead and do my shopping, and then work it out later."

See Page 51  
For "Mad"  
Bargains

# Auto Dealers Plan 'Mad Midnight' Sale