

Continued Building, Population Boom Predicted

EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

Greatest Audited Circulation In the Torrance - South Bay Area

Torrance Herald

MEMBER

VAC

VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION

Herald Phone Numbers

- FAirfax 8-5164—For Society.
- FAirfax 8-4000—For General News, Circulation.
- FAirfax 8-4000—For Classified. Ask for Ad-Taker.

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

46th Year—No. 2

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1960

10¢ Per Copy

44 PAGES

VOTERS SPURN CITY WATER 4-1

A Penny for your Thoughts



The HERALD photographer asked the people below this question for today's column. "Now that a definite end of the steel strike has been announced what effect will it have here in Torrance where steel is a major industry?"

Hugo Martinez, 3217 Del Amo, steel worker:

"I lost my pay checks for about three months and with my large family that really put me in a hole. I don't know about the rest, but it will take me at least a year to get back on my feet. Then I hope we don't have another strike."



Mrs. Eric Felsen, 4517 Reese Rd., housewife:

"I am sure the definite end of the steel strike will have a good effect on everyone here. I am always sorry when there is a long strike as I know, from personal experience, that it hurts business."

George Meeks, Los Angeles, real estate salesman:

"Things will really start to pick up now that the steel strike is definitely over. I know it hurt business where ever people connected with the steel industry live. I felt it in my business, for sure."



Jeanne Rippey, Long Beach, cosmetic salesman:

"I have noticed it in my sales since the strike was officially called over. The housewife can't spend money for my products when a strike, or even the threat of one, slows sales down."

(Continued on Page 8)

Family of Six Hit by Year's Meanest Thief

Meanest thief of the New Year hours will probably go to the prowler who entered and took \$85 from a home in North Torrance where the family asked to remain anonymous despite their loss.

The burglar entered the house some time between 12:30 and 1 a.m. New Year's Day, according to the report from the parents, who said they checked on their children, went down the street to visit with neighbors and returned to find the money missing out of a purse left in their kitchen.

The money was to be used to buy food for six children in the family.

The mother, who reported the theft, said, "Whoever took this money probably did not need to buy food for their kids, as we do, but is too lazy to work for their money."

Leaders Predict

1960 to Be Boom Year In Torrance

By BOB WILTON
Herald Staff Writer

A city that can grow from 20 to 100,000 in population in ten years can continue at the same rate, or even an increased rate, for the next five years, according to George Powell, city planning commissioner, who believes there will be 150,000 people in Torrance by 1965 and backs up his belief with impressive facts and figures.

With 12,000 acres left in Torrance to absorb this expansion there is little doubt in the minds of city officials and civic leaders that if a census were taken in 1965 the count would reach the above figure.

The breakdown on available land is 6000 acres for residential increase with 95 per cent already developed in the city's 20-square mile area; 700 acres of commercial, with 78 per cent developed; 3200 acres for industrial, with 65 per cent developed; and 860 acres for agriculture, with 37 per cent considered stable in this use.

OFFICIALS consider the present growth a skeleton and the additional increase will be a fill-in where available land exists and the types of building coincides with the zoning of these areas. In the 20 undeveloped areas the progress of construction depends primarily on the efforts and cooperation of public works with street improvements and sewer drainage facilities.

Chamber of Commerce reports show a number of industrial plants have shown a strong indication to locate within the city of Torrance. Three firms have shown interest in the Lomita Blvd. industrial area although none have made definite announcement. Additional industrial sites are planned in the Howard Annex district at 247th St. and Crenshaw Blvd.

THE PLANNING commission has been advised of the future building of a shopping center at 174th St. and Western Ave., it was pointed out. A furniture store building is planned at 240th St. and Hawthorne Ave., a bowling alley to the east in the Del Amo shopping center and plans have been checked for a shopping center at 174th St. and Prairie Ave. to complete the immediate commercial program.

Deluxe motels and apartment houses will be built in wide-spread parts of the city with indications that Torrance is destined to have a large number of these multiple-dwelling units completed during 1960.

A NUMBER OF tract subdivisions are in process and will be developed for residential use. Officials believe that all land west of Anza will soon be used for residential purpose and a number of these tract plans are now in the office of the planning commission.

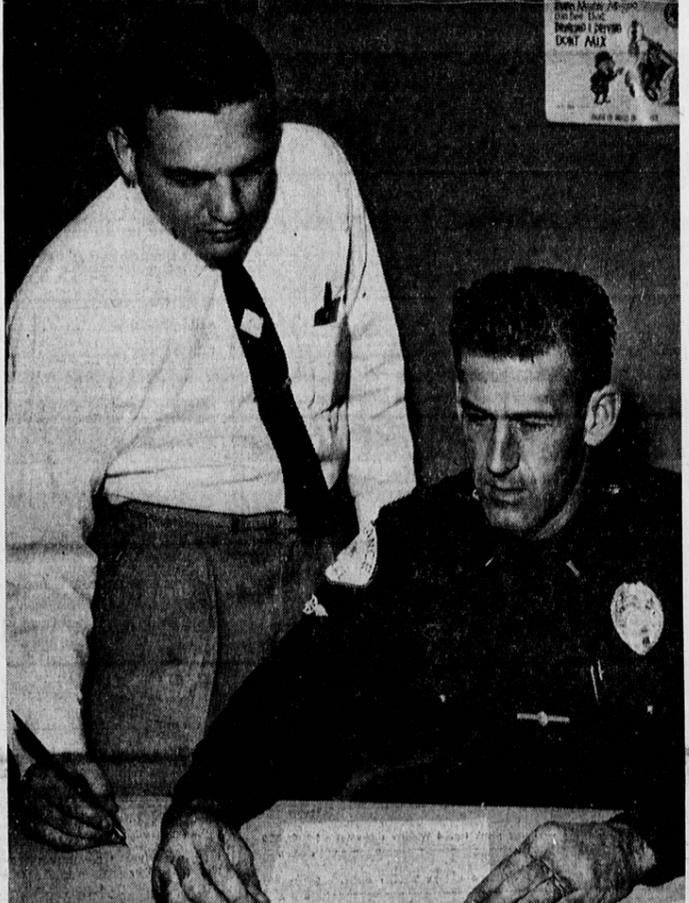
With the terrific growth in the oil field areas due to the existing cleanup program and the solution of water problems, probably one of the greatest building booms in Torrance during 1960 will take place there, Powell said.

Young Demos Ask Probe Of City School System

Any candidate for the Torrance city council who wants to take on the city's school system as a campaign issue can probably get the backing of the Torrance Young Democratic Club, it was announced here yesterday by Club President Hank Carreiro.

The club has voted to support any candidate for city council next April who will "conduct a public and private hearing" into the educational program of the city school system, Carreiro said.

"SINCE CITY council races are nonpartisan, we will work with the candidate as individuals and will not officially endorse any candidate," he added.



HOLD CONFERENCE . . . Jim Whitmer (left), newly appointed Torrance traffic engineer; and Lt. Don Nash, head of Torrance police traffic department, confer on problems concerning both offices. Speed limits and signal installations are major issues being studied for action.

City Traffic Engineer Gets Busy on Problems

When a traffic engineer was added to the City Engineering Dept. last November, the need of such a department was deemed over-due as was proved by the stacks of paper work that has since been channeled across his desk.

The need of filling such a position in Torrance, added to the fact that most cities in the 100,000 population bracket uses a traffic engineer to good advantage, brought on this action by the city's governing body.

The man named to the post of first traffic engineer of the City of Torrance is James "Jim" Whitmer, who came to Torrance from Burbank, where he was assistant traffic engineer for three and one-half years. The new city employee received his civil engineering degree from North Dakota State college.

AS TRAFFIC engineer, Whitmer works in close liaison with the traffic details of the police department and its head, Lt. Don Nash. His duties embrace the engineering problems of traffic signals, speed zones, proper street striping and left-turn pockets, to cite some of top importance in this heavy traffic area.

Whitmer said he planned to spend half of his time in the field studying actual traffic conditions and the balance in his office as soon as this plan can be put into practice. He added that the study of the need of new traffic signal installations and the exchange of older type signals is being made.

ONE OF THE major jobs Whitmer is working on is the coordination of radar police units with existing speed zones. He said that speed limits will be made to coincide with meters in radar patrol cars and will be based on U.S. Standards of normal traffic traveling at reasonable speeds.

Sees Record Set

Harry A. Moore, aviation boatswain's mate second class, USN, son of Mrs. Raymond D. Hawley of 25925 Oak St., Lomita, serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Essex, witnessed the 95,000th arrested aircraft landing Dec. 16.

Other traffic problems and changes in the mill include the proposed removal of the circle park on Carson St. in front of Torrance high school, which involves a park deed; and the Downtown Torrance parking situation with its meters.

On this Whitmer said, "parking conditions in downtown areas, more or less, have to take care of themselves until all persons concerned can reach an agreement."

Chief Bennett said the investigations started last fall when repeated reports of stolen radios and other aircraft equipment were made to Airport Manager Jack Egan and to the police.

EQUIPMENT VALUED at approximately \$1000 had been taken, Bennett said. All has been recovered or accounted for, he added.

Area Okays Annexation To County

Voters in the northern Lomita and southeastern Torrance area voted by a margin of more than four to one Tuesday to annex their area to the County Water Works District No. 13.

Less than 20 per cent of the voters turned out for the special election Tuesday, according to unofficial but complete returns. Final tabulation of the ballots indicated that those voters in the area currently served by District 13 approved annexation 420 to 70.

Voters in the area proposed for annexation voted 446 to 125 for the annexation, and carried with it an authorization to bond the annexed area up to \$800,000 to provide water service in the area. The new area also will assume its share of the debts previously incurred by District 13.

THE AREA to be annexed to District 13 has been served in the past by Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2. Building has been banned in the area by the Public Utilities Commission and by the Torrance city council.

Sale of bonds to finance reconstruction of the water system may be held up by litigation started by the city of Torrance to halt annexation of areas within the city to the county district.

The city's suit was turned down by Superior Court and is being appealed to an appellate court.

ON ANOTHER water front, the city council Tuesday night completed legal steps to form an involuntary assessment district in an adjacent south Torrance area served by Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 3, a mutual water company.

The area, containing about 600 parcels of land, lies south of Sepulveda between Crenshaw and Walnut Ave. Concurrent with approving formation of the district, the council ordered City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer to present an ordinance repealing a building ban in that area.

"BY THE TIME we can put the repeal into effect and the people can get a building ready for occupancy, we will have water for them," Mayor Albert Isen explained.

Three Young Radio Buffs Held in \$1000 Burglary

A pint-sized burglary ring which specialized in aircraft communications systems was taken into custody by Torrance police this week following three months of investigation.

Three juveniles aged 11, 12 and 13 were arrested after an all-out drive headed up by Police Chief Percy M. Bennett led to one of the suspects. He implicated the other two, police said.

Chief Bennett said the investigations started last fall when repeated reports of stolen radios and other aircraft equipment were made to Airport Manager Jack Egan and to the police.

The break came when Dets. Myles Hamilton and Wally Nitz were led to one of the suspects through a description furnished by one of the victims.

Fred Loses Last Battle With Polio

Friends who dropped by to cheer Fred found often that they themselves were cheered. This was the pattern of the life of Frederick William Diesel, who was stricken with polio in 1952.

While fighting for his life during the following seven years and eight months he also finished the balance of his high school education via a home study program and had recently enrolled in a University of California extension course in short story writing.

DEATH WROTE finis to the story Fred did not have time to start and closed another book—his courageous life—last Monday. The former Torrance high school student died in the El Rancho Los Amigos hospital where he was taken when a set-back two weeks ago grew out of complications resulting from the effects of the disease that put him in an iron lung.

Fred Diesel, 22, whose morale was never down and whose courage enabled him to win all but his last battle with polio, held the esteem and friendship of many in Torrance and also in the hospital polio ward.

FUNERAL services were held yesterday at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary and burial was at Green Hills Cemetery.

Fred Diesel is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Diesel, 1608 Post Ave.; grandmother, Verda Hansen; aunt and uncle, Grayce and Fred Hansen; and an aunt Cassie Hansen, all of Torrance.

Three Young Radio Buffs Held in \$1000 Burglary

The three boys taken into custody live in the downtown area of the city, Bennett said. Officers had previously believed they lived in the airport area.

EQUIPMENT WAS being used by the youngsters for radio and communication experiments, Bennett said. The boys were described by officers as radio enthusiasts.

Also cleared by the apprehension of the three juveniles were two thefts involving field phones and the theft of a battery tester from a local service station, police reported.

Detectives turned the three young criminals over to the juvenile bureau for processing. Because of their age, their names were not revealed.