

Jaycees Open Annual Home Display Contest

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\$30 MILLION TRACT OKAYED

Biggest Ever Development 'On Its Way'

Torrance's largest single subdivision—794 single family residential dwellings—has received the first green light from the City Council and marks the first phase of development of the huge Marble Estates property south of Sepulveda Boulevard, west of Crenshaw.

Tentative tract maps for the huge development were submitted by Don Wilson and Ray Watt as joint developers and gained approval of the councilmen at their regular meeting Tuesday evening.

"THIS IS Torrance's biggest development and could well be the biggest in Southern California," Mayor Albert Isen said after approval had been granted.

The vote to approve the maps came after Stan Wilson and Bill Watt, representing the developers, agreed that a

(Council Brief on Page 13)

five-acre park site included in the master plan of the area would be offered to the city with a four-year option at the average "raw land" price. Although City Attorney Stanley Rempel warned that such an agreement could not be made a condition of the tract approval, the Council voted to include it on the grounds that "Wilson and Watt have never gone back on their word."

BOTH DON Wilson and Ray Watt, principals in the development program, have built more than a thousand homes in the Torrance area in recent years. Wilson is best known for his several Southwest subdivisions and Watt for the Sun-Ray Estates developments.

Approval of the tentative tract carried 24 conditions placed on by the city engineer and other conditions placed

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Loan Firm Loses Cash To Gunman

A lone armed bandit held up a downtown Torrance savings and loan firm Tuesday afternoon and escaped with nearly \$1,000.

The suspect walked into the Southwest Savings and Loan Assn. at 1600 Crenshaw Ave., about 12:30 Tuesday and displayed a revolver at the counter.

"This is a holdup, give me all your money," he told a teller. When one cash drawer was emptied the suspect told the teller to open the next drawer. He became angry when told it was locked and the key was unavailable and hurried out a rear door.

THE FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation was on the scene in addition to Torrance police. Company officials said the suspect, described as white, male adult, wearing a brown hat and suit, white shirt and tie, escaped with from \$600 to \$1,000. He was last seen driving a light blue vehicle.

In Lomita early Monday, (Continued on Page 13)

Boy Hurt As 'Bomb' Detonates

A 12-year-old boy was injured at his home Tuesday night after an explosion allegedly caused by placing a jar of sodium in a bathtub partially filled with water.

Bruce Chapman, of 1204 Hickory Ave., was taken to a private physician for treatment of burns on his left eye, left leg below the knee, shoulders and back.

Force of the explosion blew out the bathroom window and covered the ceiling with debris. The youth was knocked down. A small fire also erupted as a result of the explosion, police said.

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Winners Get Trophies in Two Classes

Entries for the fourth annual Outdoor Christmas Display Contest to be judged between Dec. 19 and Dec. 20 are now being accepted by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, it was announced yesterday by President George Brewster. The contest will be divided into two categories, religious and novelty, and a trophy will be presented to the winner in each division.

Medical Self-Help Plan Urged

A meeting to discuss plans for initiating a medical self help program for the city of Torrance has been scheduled at Torrance Memorial Hospital at 7 tonight, it was reported yesterday by Gertrude E. Tooker, member of the city's Civil Defense and Disaster Commission.

The medical self-help program is designed to teach families how to survive in event of an emergency and would be an invaluable service to the community, Mrs. Tooker said.

A course to prepare persons for such emergencies has been set up as the result of recommendations made by a special study committee of the American Medical Assn. The course is designed to teach people what to do "in place of immediate medical services to which we are accustomed."

The planning board of Area G Civil Defense and Disaster has outlined the course which will include studies of sanitation and vermin control, water and food, shock, bleeding and bandaging, artificial respiration, fractures and splinting, burns, nursing care, infant and child care, and emergency childbirth.

Cooperating with the program is the U.S. Public Health Service and the California Disaster Office.

Harold Lindborg has been named chairman for the Jaycee-sponsored contest. He said all residents of Torrance are eligible to enter the contest. Entry blanks are available at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office, 2204 Torrance Blvd. Deadline for entry is Sunday, Dec. 16.

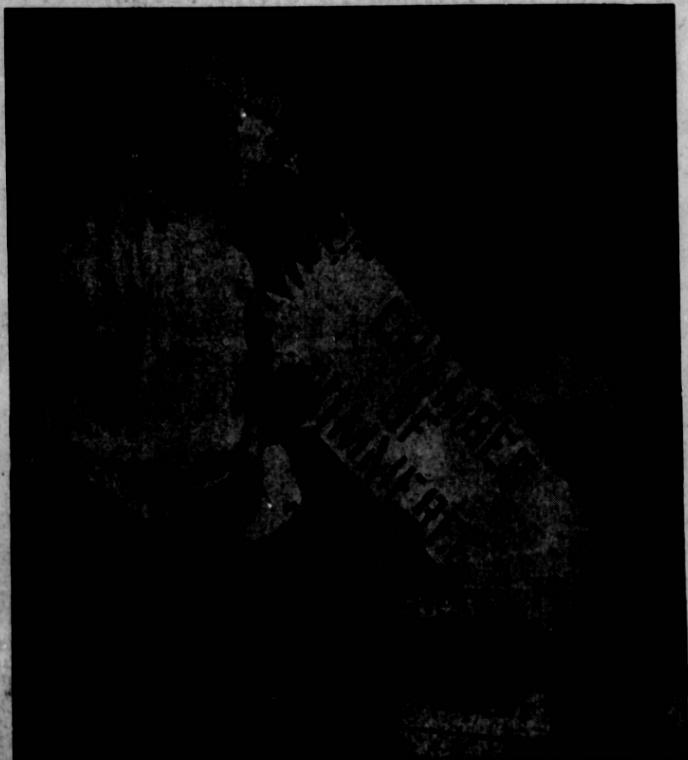
Members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce will judge the entries on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 19 and 20, and awards will be made on Friday, Dec. 21.

Cycle Cop Hurt in Collision

Torrance police motorcycle officer Ronald Nicolai, 32, was injured early Sunday morning in a collision of his motorcycle and a sedan at Torrance Boulevard and Anza Avenue.

Driver of the car, Kenneth E. Gabehart, 37, of 4823 Carmelway St., was booked on suspicion of felony drunk driving. Officer Nicolai suffered two broken legs.

The accident was investigated by the California Highway Patrol. Gabehart was making a left turn onto Torrance Boulevard when his vehicle collided with the officer's motorcycle.



NEW QUARTERS... Lomita Chamber of Commerce Secretary-Manager Eileen R. Hurling stands off a chamber sign and goes about the busy task of putting the chamber office in shape after moving into new quarters at 24634 Narbonne Ave. The move from the old quarters at 2314 Pacific Coast Hwy. should be completed by late this week. The Chamber is now more centrally located in Lomita, in its new office, he said. (Herald Photo)

Lomita Chamber to Elect New Officer Slate Today

New Lomita Chamber of Commerce officers will be nominated and elected today.

A president, first and second vice presidents and treasurer will be named at a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. Outgoing president is Ed J. Gregory.

Plans for installation of the new officers will also be made at the breakfast. The installation will be in mid-January at a location to be decided on at a later date.

Six directors were recently elected for two-year terms. They were Jim Cole, news editor; Dr. Odie Rich, a dentist; William Badenius, owner of a restaurant; Ray Allen Parthing, an attorney; William Becker, bank manager; and Linden Chandler, businessman.

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(Continued on Page 13)

Arsonist Hunted in Store Fire

Two fires broke out Sunday night at a department store in Redondo Beach, just outside the Torrance city limits.

Approximately \$75,000 damage was done to the store at 1413 Hawthorne Ave. Redondo Beach detectives said the fires were apparently the work of an arsonist.

The first blaze broke out in the clothing stockroom but was checked by spray from automatic ceiling sprinklers. Four hours later a second fire was discovered in the rug section of the main sales floor just before firemen were ready to leave the scene after putting out the blaze.

The second blaze was quenched about 6:10 a.m. Detectives said they discovered where a third fire was attempted by burning a packing case.

Customers were evacuated from the store when the first blaze was discovered.

Bicycle Auction Slated Saturday

Approximately 40 bicycles will be auctioned Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Torrance Park. Torrance Police Officer Bob Such will serve as auctioneer.

Decides to Quit

She Spends 35 Years Feeding Steelworkers

By DARRELL MADDOX
Herald Staff Writer

A large Torrance industrial firm has had its ups and downs in activity over the years, and with it a small-business located across the street has seen its business fluctuate with the larger company. The end of this month will mark the end of 35 years in the restaurant business for Mrs. Mary Mickie who has owned and operated Mick's Cafe at 825 Border Ave., across the street from the Torrance Works of the United States Steel Corp. Mrs. Mickie is retiring.

HER CAFE has been located across from U.S. Steel the entire time, but was in a structure next door to the present cafe until 1956.

Mrs. Mickie perhaps knows as much about the local industrial firms history, policies, and working procedures as some of its workers and executives. Recently Don Hyde, superintendent of U.S. Steel's industrial relations, awarded Mrs. Mickie the company's 40-year pin which she wears proudly.

"I'VE HEARD people say and I feel like I could walk into the plant and do any job there. I hear the men talk steel, steel, steel so much," Mrs. Mickie said.

She has seen U.S. Steel employ lists range from 1,200 men in 1927 to 1,500 during the war. There have been good years and had ones, such as about four strikes and an explosion in a slag pot about 12 years ago. The firm now employs about 600 men.

A faithful employee, Mrs. Ruby Butts, also recalls much of U.S. Steel's Torrance history. She has worked for Mrs. Mickie for 30 years.

"I guess she's a good person to work for in the reason for my staying so long," Mrs. Butts said.

"I'VE MANAGED to stay open but I have had my ups and downs with the company. If the steel mill was going good I had a good business, but if it wasn't, then my business was down," Mrs. Mickie said.

Bean soup seems to be one of the most popular items on the cafe menu. "These men are working men and eat like working men. They want a meal that will stay with them. They only have about 30 minutes to eat and everything has to be ready so you can dish it out," she added.

"WE GET pretty much the same customers all the time. It gets so that it's kind of home like. It gets so that you know this fellow and that one and can talk to them," Mrs. Mickie claims. A few of the original customers who started coming into the cafe when she first opened up still eat there but most of them have retired.

"I cook for the working man," she says, and this is apparently one of the secrets of her successful business which she operated with her husband until his death in 1948.

Mrs. Mickie has no particular plans after leaving the restaurant. "I'm getting to the age that I think I've put in enough time here. I want to do a lot of things I haven't been able to do while I've been working," she said.

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What is your opinion of the Christmas Office Party?" the Pennies inquirer asked.

Paul Kaufman, Encino: "I think the employer and the employee are entitled to one little celebration throughout the year. I emphasize, a little. Christmas I think is the celebrating should be done at home parties."

Ryan Jabosky, Torrance: "They are good because usually once a year the office should have a party. They usually exchange gifts. It is good relationship. If my office has one I will definitely go."

Angie Fogget, Torrance: "They have always had them. Why stop now. I like them. I think the employer and employee should have a good time once in the year when they can get together socially."

Mrs. Connie Holland, Gardena: "Some get out of hand. Not so much in the smaller office but in the bigger offices. I don't see anything wrong with them. I like them. I don't really look forward to it but they are nice."

Mrs. Peggy Grewell, Lawndale: "It really doesn't make any difference to me. I have been where they had large parties in the past. I enjoyed them then. We always had a nice time."

PUNJABS
by gumparty

TOEING THE MARK

READ IT AND WEEP... Developers in the Torrance area accustomed to paying out cool cash in bundles as large as \$40,000 (and more) for an acre of land should figure out a way to transfer some of this \$150-an-acre Nevada County, Kans., land to Torrance. It would best a tax-free gold mine if the freight wasn't too high. The above clipping is from a recent issue of the Southwest Daily Times of Liberal, Kans. (Herald Photo)