

927 HOMES STARTED HERE

Ministers Ask Marble Game Ban

Churches Join Fight On Gambling

Irked at the failure of the City Council to enact the ordinance prepared to abolish marble games from the city as gambling devices, ministers of local churches will take a hand in the issue and demand immediate passage of the ordinance, the Press was informed this week.

The ministers will throw their weight behind Parent - Teacher organizations who for months have sought to have the games banned because they are used for gambling and because children are permitted to play them.

Rev. Arthur Bello, rector of St. Andrews Episcopal church, said that he had written a letter to the City Council urging that the ordinance banning the games be adopted at once.

Rev. Cecil J. England, pastor of First Christian Church, declared that he will lay the matter before the Torrance Council of Churches for immediate action. Parent - Teacher groups also were planning to write letters to the Council asking that the games be banned without further delay.

The games, particularly the "one-balls" are used for gambling openly, with pay-offs made from cash registers by operators of the places of business although the machines can be converted in a few minutes to "kick out" nickles to winners.

They are no different from the slot machines, it is said, and give possession of this type of machine now is banned by California law.

\$2700 For Improvement On Airport

The following recommendations from city manager, George W. Stevens, were approved by the City Council.

Funds, in the amount of \$2,700 derived from sale of Surplus Airport Equipment, were transferred from the General Fund to Airport Improvement Fund.

Payment to George Green, the sum of \$1,340.25 for new accounts started between July 1, 1949 and May 31, 1950, as provided under the terms of the contract for refuse collection was made.

The purchase of a Water Softener for City Garage, the cost of \$400.00 was authorized. The City renewed the contract with the South Bay Humane Society for pound operations and dog licensing, under the same terms as the 1949-50 contract.

The City entered into a contract with the County of Los Angeles for library service for the fiscal year 1950-51.

Well Testing Shows Rise in Water Level

The experimental spreading plot located near Seaside Ranchos has been covered with water for the past week and measurements indicate that about four acre feet per day is now percolating.

One of the test wells immediately south of the plot has already shown a rise in water level, indicating that some water has reached the main water bearing formation from surface spreading.

At the start of the operation 7.5 second feet of water was applied, and as the sands became saturated, the volume of water applied had to be gradually reduced. Forty-eight hours later 2.2 second feet was being used and absorption at about that rate has continued for the past several days.

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SECOND YEAR No. 11

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1950

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(An Editorial) "Moss Backs" Take A Back Seat!!

The fact that Torrance can grow and is growing can be credited with a few exceptions to newcomers who recognize an opportunity to progress. Those who have watched Torrance finally spread her wings after a virtually dormant existence from the time it was established until 1945 admit this to be true.

The Press is new to Torrance, but its publishers are Torrance home-owners who came to Torrance to promote Torrance, to help Torrance grow and to grow with Torrance.

An investigation of a few weeks ago reveals that the "old-timers" as late as 1945 said that Torrance had no place to grow. They pointed out that oil fields prevented its expansion, and that there was no hope for district expansion except down town.

One "old timer" was one of those who fought the opening of Western avenue and delayed the completion of the great "mountains to the sea" thoroughfare for some 25 years. Western avenue is bringing more traffic to Torrance area in a single hour than used to come through in 24 hours.

John Kettler exploded the theory of the "old timer" that Torrance had no place to grow. He capped his non-productive oil wells and built hundreds of homes where "Torrance could never grow." Homer Bale, at 174th and Crenshaw boulevard, was converting agriculture land and dairy farms into a residential area, where "Torrance could never grow."

Hundreds of homes have been built in Hollywood Riviera, and Ben Haggott was another who showed that Torrance could become a "big city," while others said "Torrance has no room to grow."

Came Sande Seness, and he showed that Torrance has room to grow.

The unassuming William H. Tolson brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to Torrance in home development in areas where "Torrance had no room to grow."

We mention Tolson as one of the "old-timers" who did have faith enough in Torrance to know it has room in which to grow. Another is John Kettler. Another is Albert Isen. Another, Sam Levy. Another, Jack Koch. Another William Stanger, manager of the water department who knew that Torrance would grow while others were saying "Torrance has no room in which to grow."

There are others who we are told have contributed to the growth and expansion of Torrance, but our point in bringing up this matter is to remind our readers that the "Johnny-Come-Lately" element finally is aware that we have a big city in the molding here.

The "old - timers" who drove the Pacific Electric main line from Torrance, who blocked Western avenue, who said "Torrance has no room to grow", and who do not want the business district to expand beyond the limits of its present few square blocks are having to run and catch up with Torrance. And some of them appear feeble.

Energetic, enthusiastic, far-sighted and progressive minds have taken the helm, and joined forces with those who know we have a city here. The city needs this new blood.

Let the moss-backs keep their back seat. Watch the town grow.

Lomita Zoning Attempt Opposed by Association

LOMITA—First organized attempt to zone Lomita since a "postcard plebescite" was conducted last year on land use laws for the entire area, began last week with a circulation of petitions to zone Pacific Coast Highway, and an area of Ebony Lane near Lomita Blvd.

Mrs. Victoria Phillips, spokeswoman for the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Association, Inc., said her organization, which is opposed to zoning of the community as a whole, is "watching these latest developments closely."

"We are not opposed to the principle of zoning," she said, "but we believe that Lomita will not be ready for protective zoning until Crenshaw is extended through the community and Lomita Blvd. is widened."

Mrs. Phillips said the association will fight this movement if it turns out to be a part of an organized effort to "spot zone" the community here and there as a method of "imposing zoning on the rest of Lomita before it is ready."

Her organization stopped a zoning movement about a year ago after a stormy public hearing on the plan by the county board of supervisors.

At present, the community is classified as an M-3 manufacturing area. This means, zoning pro-

Border Ave. Job Started By City Crew

City crews last week started cutting Border avenue through from 222nd street to Plaza del Amo, the first step in the program to give residents of the new Kettler Knolls district another access to the downtown district of Torrance. Likewise, it will give several residents on Border a street in front of their homes.

Only one-half of the street is being graded, the west side, presumably because the Pacific Electric right-of-way is involved on the east side. This will be worked out later, city officials have assured.

Also, the paving of Border avenue for its full width from Plaza del Amo to Santa Fe avenue, is in the offing, as residents of the new Kettler Knolls now have only a "half street" to reach on Lincoln avenue and Cabrillo avenue to get to town.

As residents of the area work to get the new Border avenue, demand for the opening, widening and paving of Plaza del Amo from Border avenue to Western avenue has been made. Since Western's opening a few months ago, it is carrying more and more traffic, and Plaza del Amo would give residents of West Torrance and the Vista Highlands district an access to Western avenue without having to travel through Torrance central district on Carson street or Torrance boulevard.

All this fits into the program (Continued on Page Two)

El Nido to Have Election For Lighting

The El Nido District is scheduled to have its election for formation of a lighting district on August 1, 1950.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby stated Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors' meeting that the polling place will be at 18311 Mansell Avenue, and the election officers are Kristina D. Coffey, John A. Middleton, Emma S. Kicheloe, and Arthur B. Wagner.

The Lighting District will comprise all of the area bounded on the west and north by the City of Redondo Beach, on the south by the approximate extension of Ralston Avenue and by Hawthorne Avenue on the east.

Peak Hit During First Six Months

Building permits for 927 new dwelling units were issued in Torrance during the first six months of 1950, according to the City Building Department.

If Torrance continues to expand at the rate established in the first half of the year, and there is every reason to believe it will, the population of the city will be nearly 30,000 by the beginning of 1951.

The population increase provided by the 927 homes started this year is 3060, according to government figures. This would give Torrance a population of 25,300 when the dwellings are occupied.

Building permits for the first six months total \$6,298,807. June's approximate total was \$618,798.00, and it included 79 dwelling units.

In January, permits reached a total of \$459,000, with 79 dwelling units.

In February, they totalled \$1,100,500, with 171 dwellings started.

In March, the total was \$1,418,350, with 256 dwellings. April saw a total of \$1,364,775 in building started, with 248 dwellings.

May's total was \$518,502, with 81 dwellings authorized.

Ground will be broken today on the first of 470 homes north of Torrance boulevard west of Crenshaw boulevard.

Torrance has 8300 acres of land available for residence construction, sufficient for a population of 170,000 at the present rate of density of population.

If building such as experienced in the past few years continues year after year, that figure will be reached in 30 years.

That it will continue is predicted due to the fact that Torrance is the only city in Southwest Los Angeles County with that amount of moderately priced, good to choice residence land.

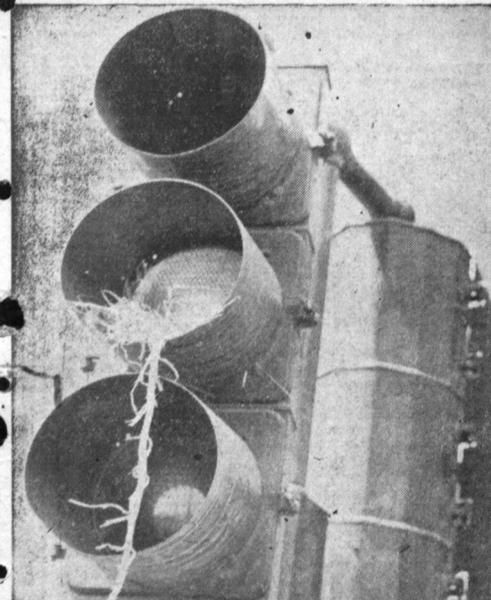
Best July 4th In 26 Years

Torrance enjoyed one of the safest Fourth of July's in 26 years, according to Chief of Police John Stroh. Only one accident occurred at Sepulveda and Western with one minor injury, and one major injury.

Those involved in the accident were Andy Olano, 525 S. Kenmore, Los Angeles, and Ila Rose Smith of 1803 N. Mariposa.

Drama Course

Courses in Theater Production and Fundamentals of Acting are being offered at Harbor Junior College this summer. Actual experience in plays will be gained by all students who are enrolled. A major production is planned for the last week in July.



SPRING VISITORS in Torrance—Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow, yearly visitors in the convenient stop light located at Hawthorne Blvd. and Redondo Beach Blvd. Neighbors report that this is the second year the little family has inhabited this particular location. Photographer waited for several minutes in the hopes of catching the little family at home, but unfortunately they were out on a shopping spree. —Press Photo

Groundbreaking To Open 450 Home Tract

Ground breaking ceremonies today will mark the beginning of one of the largest housing projects in Torrance, and one of the biggest steps forward for the West Torrance area. Over 450 homes are being planned in addition to the first large shopping district to be constructed outside of the already established shopping area.

Sixty-five percent of the homes will be three bedroom, and the rest two bedroom, with no two homes alike on the same block. Many have been planned with fireplaces, and all will feature the modern indoor-outdoor living theme. Patios with barbecues are planned for each unit, with built in upholstered breakfast nooks, dishwashers, garbage disposals, thermostatic heat, and complete indoor decorating with etch wood wainscoting and wallpaper in the living room.

Homes will be on the modern and more formal motif, and will be available to veterans at no down payment.

The shopping district, which will be composed of a large supermarket, drug store, and general family store, is expected to be completed concurrently with the project. First homes are expected to be completed by early December.

Ground breaking ceremonies will be attended by City officials, including Mayor Bob L. Haggard, City councilman, and City Manager George W. Stevens. Sales will be handled by a local real estate concern.

Auto Dealer To Sponsor Plane Meet

Torrance area model plane enthusiasts intending to enter the Southern California Plymouth Model Plane Meet, Los Angeles, July 8 and 9, were advised today by Andrew Peterson, contest director for the event, that full information and entry blanks can be obtained from the automotive showrooms of Thatcher & Ott, 1600 Cabrillo Ave.

Local Plymouth dealers have joined forces with over 200 of their Southland associates, and as the Plymouth Dealers of Southern California, are sponsoring the Southern California event in the state's modelers can be picked to represent this area in the Fourth International Model Plane Contest, to be held in Detroit later this year.

Nine Southern California youngsters will qualify for the expense-paid trips to the International Contest where they will compete with 500 modelers from all sections of the United States and abroad for 127 trophies and \$7000 in U. S. Savings Bonds.

In addition to the nine trips set as top prizes in the Southland meet, over 50 trophies will be awarded winners of the twenty-four events. Events are scheduled for all types of model planes including control line, free flight and rubber, and indoor models.

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Police Nab Marijuana Growers

Following 10 days of work by local police officers, four South Bay youths are held on suspicion of violating state narcotics statutes.

They are: Arthur Harry Burnell, 19, 501 S. Juanita St., Redondo Beach; George Michael Ames, 18, Hermosa Beach; Michael Lopin, 20, of 205 S. Helberta St., Redondo Beach, and Lawrence Benjamin Brazil, 19, 728 Ave. C, Redondo Beach.

Acting on an anonymous tip, officers D. C. Cook, Hyman Fischer and Don Miller went to a grove of eucalyptus trees near Sepulveda Blvd., and Susana St., where they found eight carefully nurtured young marijuana plants among the trees.

They watched the grove until Ames and Burnell appeared last Friday to water the plants.

Sheriff's deputies were called in after the two youths assertedly led local officers to two more plants in the El Nido unincorporated district.

Ames and Burnell implicated Lopin, who in turn implicated Brazil, police said. The plants would have brought several thousand dollars if allowed to mature for processing into cigars, officers said.

The State Department of Education Child Care Centers have requested School Districts to revise their budget and make certain economies within the scope of the budget without disrupting the Child Care Center program for the seven and one-half month period 1950 - 51.

They informed the school that they are recommending that no personnel in the Child Care program receive the automatic increment set up by the District in its salary schedule.

In view of the desire to cooperate with the State in curtailing the cost of operating their program, and at their suggestion, that:

The personnel at the Child Care Center do not receive an automatic increase in salary for the year 1950-51, in Torrance unified school districts.

Realtor Joins Torrance Firm

Broker Harry Peterson, real estate man in Hollywood and Los Angeles for many years, and recently in property management in north Torrance, has joined the firm of Percy & Vaughn, Realtors of Torrance, according to a company announcement.

Peterson replaces realtor George Neuman who accepted a new position with a Torrance industrial firm, the release stated.

Peterson now resides at 174th & Crenshaw blvds., Torrance, and is very active in the Torrance Toastmaster club.



Jack Phillips, "Dutch" Horlander, and Bill Croak, owners of the Paramount Builders, Torrance's new Building Supply Co., are shown moving equipment into their new location at Torrance Blvd., and Madrona. The new business is in step with the sudden growth of the West Torrance area, and is located near the new 450 home tract which will be under construction this week.—Press Photo.