TORRANCE
PRESS
Formerly Peninsula Press
Serving Torrance, Lomita, Shoestring, Harbor City and Keystone
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1951
SECOND YEAR 54 No. 43

11,190
Guaranteed
Circulation
Phone Torrance 1185 - 1186

NEW GROWTH RECORD SET

SHUN OIL DERRICK PLEA

Torrance Gets $650,000 Dial Telephone System

PACIFIC TELEPHONE'S new communication center for the Torrance exchange, scheduled to be constructed starting February 19 at the southwest corner of Cravens and Engracia avenues, is shown in the architect's drawing above. The new structure will contain nearly 13,000 square feet of floor space for equipment and facilities designed to provide Torrance subscribers with dial telephone service.

Redondo Takes New Territory

Redondo Beach councilmen Monday night voted unanimously for annexation of a 26-lot shoestring strip across the easterly boundary of the Clifton Heights district, adjacent to Southwest Torrance.

No written protests were received and only a few questions were raised by residents of the area being surrounded. No one spoke from the shoestring strip just about annexed.

Acting under provision of the Uninhabitated Territories Act of 1939, Redondo Beach council officially introduced an ordinance declaring the territory annexed. Next week the ordinance will be approved and sent off to the Secretary of State in Sacramento.

Once the approved bill is received and filed, Redondo is 26 lots larger and Clifton Heights will have been surrounded on four sides by Redondo Beach.

Next step, which may take years, is to persuade residents of the tax-rich county unincorporated territory that they should vote for annexation to Redondo. At an election several years ago the idea was turned down flat.

By surrounding Clifton Heights, the beach city cuts off the territory from Torrance on the east and makes any attempt to annexation by that city impossible.

NINE REGISTERED VOTERS

The 26 lots stretching along the easterly border of the Clifton District run from Ave. A to Ave. H and make up the Clifton-Torrance border.

The shoestring tackle was possible under provisions of the Act of 1939 which allow annexation of territory containing less than 12 registered voters provided owners of more than 50 per cent of the assessed property valuation do not object.

Redondo Beach City Clerk Fred Arnold found only nine registered voters. Owners of 18 of the 26 lots, the Huntington Land Co., were in favor of the annexation.

Educators To Attend Conferences

The School Board Tuesday night approved that the elementary principals: Earl Eckert, Lester I. Foster, D. Boone Kirks, Ronald C. Henderson, Robert C. Morton, Donald Robinson, be authorized to attend the California Elementary School Administrators Conference at Berkeley, California, March 18-21, 1951, inclusive, for the benefit of the school district, with all necessary expenses paid.

It was also approved that John K. Steinbaugh, Torrance High School principal, and Charles Wallace, high school vice-principal, be authorized to attend the California Secondary School Administrators Conference at San Jose, California, March 17-21, 1951, inclusive, for the benefit of the school district, with all necessary expenses paid.

Emmett Ingrum, school district manager, and board members, Bill Tolson and R. R. Smith were authorized by the School Board to attend the State School Business Convention to be held May 30 to June 2, inclusive, in Northern California.

DIAL PHONE BUILDING PROJECT SET

Construction work on a modern new telephone building, designed to house dial switching equipment for the Torrance exchange, has been scheduled to start February 19 at the southwest corner of Cravens and Engracia avenues in Torrance, it was announced today by A. B. Smith, manager of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The overall project, including the property, building and equipment, involves gross plant construction expenditures to the company of more than $650,000, he said.

Smith said the building will be two stories high and will be of steel frame and masonry fire resistive construction. The modern functional structure, measuring 103 by 62 feet, will front on Cravens avenue. Architecturally designed by the firm of Parkinson, Powelson, Briney, Bernard and Woodford ,the building will be built by Eschrich Bros., Inc.

The manager stated also that the new central office building is scheduled for completion late this year and that the company plans to start installation work on the huge, new unit of dial switching equipment shortly thereafter contingent upon its availability and the effects of the government's control program of vitally needed materials.

The new building will advance Pacific Telephone another step forward in its continuing program to convert the Torrance exchange to dial operation just as soon as possible consistent with economical operation and

(Continued on Page Nine)

Councilmen Cool to Board Demand

City Councilmen offer little hope that liability bonds will be required to protect adjacent property from damage due to collapse of old oil derricks in the Torrance field, nor that the derricks not being used be demolished.

Four members of the Council were interviewed by a Torrance Press reporter on the subject of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board's letter asking for liability bond insurance, and on the widespread additional demand that the old derricks be taken down and hidden pumps be installed in productive wells in residence districts.

The action of the Realty Board on the insurance and the demands of residents whose homes are adjacent to oil wells for removal of derricks came within a few days after recent heavy wind storms toppled 11 derricks, causing heavy property damage.

This is the way Mayor Bob Haggard and Councilmen Nick Drale, Ed Karlow and Willys Blount feel about the matter which will come up before the Council meeting next Tuesday night:

COMMENT—

MAYOR HAGGARD: "Most of the companies have liability insurance. The state governs oil operations. I don't believe it's up to the city to do anything about it. We can't forget that the oil wells were there before the residential districts of the city nearby."

KARLOW: "I haven't given enough thought to the problem. I think that there is a city ordinance requiring that the derricks of oil wells not in operation for six months be taken down. I don't know the legal status of active wells. The difficulty with the liability bond insurance is that a great deal is a matter of determining who

(Continued on Page Nine)

Supply Depot Here To Be Main Store

With the reactivation last week of the U. S. Navy supply depot in San Pedro, the Torrance annex too is being primed to be the storage place of the large bulk of naval stores, announced Capt. Emmett E. Sprung, commanding officer of the reactivated San Pedro yard.

Sprung said that by July 1, 1951, he expects that the Torrance annex will be ready to handle hundreds of carloads of supplies. Also, he said that by that date, he expects 100 persons, including storekeepers, laborers, and mechanics, to be employed at the Torrance annex.

"We're building up the personnel of the recativated San Pedro yard and the Torrance annex gradually. With 560 now employed in San Pedro, by July 1, we hope to have 1000 persons employed here and 100 employed in Torrance," reported Sprung.

Burglary Of Church School Here Attempted

Would-be burglars broke into the Nativity Catholic school at 2371 Carson St. sometime between 5:30 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m. Tuesday morning. After rifling through lockers and desk drawers, the alleged burglars received nothing for their efforts. Rev. Patrick McGuinness reported that nothing had been taken.

Investigating detectives Captain Ernest Ashton and Percy Bennett have not as yet determined how the unknown persons entered the building. Once inside, however, they smashed a hole in the door panel of a first story office door.

Finding no reward for their evening's plight, they chalked the following sign on the black board of one of the school rooms:

"Cheapskates, leave some gold laying around. We will be back for some money NEXT time." It is signed, The Prospectors.

SGT. SWAYNE JOHNSON

S. Johnson Leaves Sat. For Service

Leaving the Torrance Police Department for service in the U. S. Navy Saturday, Feb. 10, is Sgt. Swayne Johnson, ten-year police veteran.

Popular and well known in Torrance, Johnson, who resides at 1726½ Martina Ave., is scheduled to report at San Diego February 13.

Receiving a royal send-off, the men of the Police Department gave Johnson a farewell party last Friday night at the party room of the Verburg Dairy where they presented him with an engraved silver identification bracelet.

Johnson served three years in the Navy during World War II as a 2nd Class Metalsmith with a Repair Unit.

During his many years on the police force, Johnson has managed the Torrance police baseball team for two years.

He and his wife, Laddie, have a seventeen-year-old daughter, Jacquie, who was Miss Torrance of 1950. She is a junior at Torrance High School.

6000 MORE ESTIMATED POPULATION

It just grows and grows—. The City of Torrance, that is! !

Since the U. S. census taken last April, Torrance has had an increase of 6,128 persons, according to an estimate released by Blaine Walker, secretary manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

Total population of Torrance as of Feb. 1 has been estimated at 28,329 persons.

This estimate was computed on a conservative average of three

(Continued on Page Nine)

Building, Postal Records Forseen

Torrance is the fastest growing city in the Southwest. Let anyone challenge that statement!

Figures obtained by the Torrance Press during the past week reveal that building permits in the city continue in the million-dollar a month category. The figure for January, 1951, was $1,303,980, compared with $553,040 for the same month of last year.

Postal receipts for the month of January were 56½ percent greater in January, 1951, than they were in January, 1950, Postmaster Clara A. Conner told the Press. The January, 1951, total was $17,695.56 as compared with the January, 1950, total of $11,299.86, a gain of $6395.70.

Forced by the rapid growth of the area, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company has announced the starting of a new two-story exchange for this area at once.

Population growth of the City has increased from 22,201 in April, 1950, to 28,329 in January, 1951, according to Blaine Walker, secretary-manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

GROWTH REPORTED

One hundred and eleven dwelling permits were issued in Torrance in the month of January, 1951. This compares with 77 single dwelling permits issued during the same month of 1950.

(Continued on Page Nine)

Post Office Receipts Show Vast Increase

A 56½ per cent increase in postal receipts for Torrance was reported last month as compared with January, 1950, according to figures released by Mrs. Clara A. Conner, postmaster.

Postal receipts for last month totalled to $17,695.56. Receipts for January, 1950, amounted to $11,299.86, showing an increase of $6,395.70 for this January over that of last year.

Officials attribute the vast increase of postal receipts to the increase of population here as well as the expansion of industry.

TURN ON PORCHLIGHT

Dimes Drive March Of Mothers Tonight

"Turn on your porchlight tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and the more than 200 mothers joining in the fight against infantile paralysis will stop at your home to collect your donation for this worthy cause," announced Mrs. Clara Conner, postmaster, and chairman for the local March of Dimes campaign.

Members of local P.-T.A.'s and girl scouts of Troop 610 will join in the March of Mothers tonight to help combat the disease which attacked 60 victims in Los Angeles County alone last year. A Fire Department siren, arranged by Lucille Stroh, will start the March of Mothers.

DIMES TAPED

Last Saturday, when girl scouts of Troop 610 under the direction of Mrs. Rose Jones taped dimes they collected from citizens on the pavement in downtown Torrance, $238.81 was collected toward the March of Dimes goal.

Collecting dimes in front of the Bank of America were Marilyn and Connie Revell, sisters. Members of the Torrance girl scout troop. The girls had a good reason for wanting to see a successful March of Dimes compaign in Torrance. Their brother had died of infantile paralysis.

(See Picture Page 10)

Storage Room For School Library Talked

Discussed by the School Board Tuesday night was the addition of 1600 needed square footage as a storage facility for the school district library.

Emmett Ingrum, business manager of the school district, suggested that concrete block type of construction be utilized for the addition. It was also mentioned that the library storage room would be at a minimum cost as no plumbing is needed and no children will be using it.

No action was taken by the Board as yet.

Also mentioned was a change in the administrative unit at Perry School after the eight classroom unit, now being prepared, is completed. Modernization of the Torrance Elemen-

(Continued on Page Nine)

12 Free Movie Passes Offered Every Week

If you live in Torrance, Lomita, shoestring, or Keystone your name may be one of the 12 lucky names scattered in our classified section. Each winner will receive a family pass that entitles a whole carload to a free movie at the nearby San Pedro Drive-In theatre. Passes are available at the Press office, 1628 Gramercy Ave.

NEW HOUSES—But poor streets are found on Border Ave. in the Norden and Johnson home tract adjacent to Kettler Knolls. The photo above illustrates the standing water in front of homes on Border Ave., about which many residents have complained. This picture was taken five days after the rain storm last week. At the heighth of the storm, the pool of water was curb high. Press Photo

High School Students Start Athletic Fund Raising Drive

The Student Council of Torrance High School voted last week to sponsor a fund-raising campaign for the Athletic Fund of Torrance High School.

Through the cooperation of Richard Brayton, Educational Director of the Crowell-Collier Co. whose office is in South Gate, the student body of Torrance High School will be able to accept new or renewal subscriptions to 75 national advertised magazines and the Athletic Fund will receive a liberal commission of from 30 percent to 50 percent on all subscriptions, new or renewal.

The dates of the drive will be announced as soon as approval is received from John Steinbaugh, principal, and the members of the Board. In its drive for the Athletic Fund, Torrance will be in competition with a majority of the county high schools during its National Salesmanship Week campaign for the trophy awarded to the County Champion.

Grand prizes for the entire campaign include a Westinghouse clock- radio and a 17-jewel Bulova watch. These will be given to the high salesmen. However, the student council has arranged the drive so that all students may earn prizes.

The high room each day will receive a box of Hersheys; the high teacher for the drive will receive a Parker '51 pen and pencil set. The high salesman for the drive will receive a Crowell-Collier Salesmanship Trophy and each student who participates in the campaign which is on a voluntary basis, will receive a button in school colors. These prizes are furnished by Mr. Richard Brayton, Educational Director of the Crowell-Collier Co.

Ann Stevens has been selected by the Torrance High School Student Council as the Business Manager for the drive with Ann Bishop, Commissioner of Finance for the student body assisting her. Miss Stevens and Miss Bishop are responsible for the advance publicly which includes a display of the Grand Prizes in the lobby of the school.

Glynn Boyce, president of the Student Council and also president of the Senior Class, will be in charge of the assembly where the Plan is presented to the student body for final approval.

(Continued on Page Nine)

Section 34.66
P.L.&R.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Torrance,
Calif.
Permit 17

Hearing Today Of Bookmaking Suspects

Preliminary hearing will be held 2 p.m. today for the two men arrested late Saturday afternoon in a local cafe on suspicion of bookmaking.

One of the men, William H. Speck, owner of the cafe, 1511 Acacia St., was charged by investigators of taking wagers at various places in Torrance and then turn them over to the other man, Max Winsberg of Los Angeles in the cafe at 1327 Cabrillo Ave.

Bids for Carson St. Signals Opened

Two bids were opened at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday for installation of traffic signals on Carson Street at four of its intersections, according to Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

The high bid was submitted by Electric and Machinery Service

(Continued on Page Nine)

Civil Defense Recruitment Planned

Details of the city's civil defense organization, which will ultimately consist of about 10,000 volunteers, were announced this week by George Powell, assistant director civil defense here, and plans for a large scale recruitment campaign are being made.

The city has been divided into five districts—north, south, west, central, and industrial. Within these districts will be a total of five zones and an as yet undetermined number of neighborhood groups. Leaders for each of these divisions are to be appointed within the next few weeks, Powell indicated.

Offices and training headquarters for the defense organization are being established at 1754 Torrance Blvd. To consist of city-owned buildings being moved from the former Fern Ave. park, they are due to be ready for use within the next two weeks, Powell said.

CHUCKLING AT A VALENTINE—from one of fans is Harold Hall of Hall's Five and Ten Cent Store in Lomita. In the letter displayed in Hall's store window, the avid fan refers to Hall with such loving terms as "snobbish pip squeak" and "third class heel". Under this "complimentary" Valentine, Hall remarked on the letter with the following: "Note! I just paid a phsychaitrist $50 to tell me the same thing." —Press Photo.