



AERIAL VIEW — 200 ACRE PARCEL RANCHO LOS PALOS VERDES

- H. TRUMAN BROWNE, DEVELOPER
- A Tract 13028—150 homes now being built — VA—5% down — \$8500 to \$10,500
 - B Tract 16831—48 lots proposed development
 - C Tract 16832—179 lots proposed development
 - D 100 acre parcel — unimproved
 - E New Grade School
 - F Seaside Ranchos—over 500 homes — From \$10,000 to \$12,500
 - G Sepulveda Blvd
 - I Hawthorne—La Brea Blv'ds
 - J Pacific Coast Highway (Highway 101)
 - K Hollywood Riviera—500 acre residential development — \$15,000 to \$25,000

Browne Wins First Round with Torrance

Threats of a suit against the City of Torrance by Truman Browne, subdivider of a 150 home development on Sepulveda, west of Hawthorne haven't faded yet.

However, Browne did win an important round with the city over his contention that he could install his own water mains. Tuesday of this week, the city gave him a permit to excavate across public streets for water installation purposes, City Attorney Jim Hall revealed today.

Chief Vanishes; Takes Vacation

Chief of Police John Stroth has disappeared again. This time, however, our elusive constable is not away on business. His last absence was urgent business in Sacramento. This time the Chief gave notice that he was going on his vacation.

Stroth wouldn't or couldn't reveal his destination. He said, "I'll have to check with my wife before I know where we're going."

W. H. Haslam is acting chief while Stroth is on his vacation.

Xmas Lights Ready Dec. 7

Torrance is going to be one of the best illuminated cities in Southern California this year, according to Harry Abramson, Chairman of the Christmas decorating committee.

Aluminum garlands and gaily colored lights will brighten four blocks along Sartori and El Prado. The decorations, to be suspended over the street, are expected to be in place by the end of next week. They will be lighted December 7.

Abramson said the business merchants of Torrance are going all out to make this year's decorations the best ever. Last year unlighted post decorations were used. They were unsatisfactory, particularly at night, so the merchants association decided that something better must be done this year.

The Jones Decorating Company has been contracted to do the \$2,000 job. The Jones Company has been doing a large part of Southern California's Christmas trimming for the past twenty-five years.

According to Michael Lawrence, sales representative for the company, there are twenty-five local cities using decorations similar to Torrance's. Santa Monica, Lynwood, Compton, Covina, Florence Ave. in L. A., Sherman Oaks, North Hollywood and Van Nuys are among the cities using the same scroll-type ornaments.

The Jones Company is also constructing the Hollywood parade and the Tournament of Roses street trimmings.

Jim Wood, of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, announced that a contest would be held to judge the best dressed window in the downtown stores.

This is the first such contest to be held in Torrance, it was revealed.

Wood stated that there will be four classifications: 1. women's, men's and children's stores; 2. furniture stores; 3. jewelry stores; 4. all other stores not classified above will be classed as miscellaneous.

Meets Today

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the West Basin Water Association will be held this evening at 6:30 at the Palos Verdes Country Club.

A report from the group showed that engineering work by the Metropolitan Water District is now in progress on 16 million dollars worth of new distribution lines.

NEWS FLASH!

Harry W. Harper, South Bay District Manager for Prudential Life Insurance Co., headquarters at 1603 Cravens Ave., Torrance, announced yesterday that he had been appointed official spokesman by Prudential on negotiations between the Prudential Life Insurance Co. of America and the Insurance Agents in the National Unions A.F.L. on a new contract covering 15,000 District Agents in 35 states. Negotiations were discontinued Tuesday after failure to reach an agreement.

The union had terminated the existing contract effective December 1 and has threatened a strike if its demands were not met.

The union had originally demanded increases totaling \$64,000,000 per year. Later, reduced them to \$35,000,000 per year which amounts to about a \$45 per week increase for each agent; and finally notified Prudential that the union would call a strike if Prudential did not substantially improve its offer.

Prudential offered higher commission rates which would near \$3.45 weekly increase for its average agent in addition, offered to change its present retirement plan whereby the agent would be relieved of a weekly contribution of \$3.14.

"We sincerely hope that none of our agents will be led into a strike based on such unreasonable grounds. The District Agents are among the best compensated in the entire industry; receiving an average of over \$110 weekly in cash earnings and Co. paid welfare benefits," according to the Company, "with some agents as high as \$10,000 per year or more."

Engineer Joseph Ouster Proves to be Unpopular

Jacob Joseph, well-liked in the community and apparently one of the most efficient city engineers that Torrance has ever had, is being forced out of office by a minority at the City Hall at the close of business tomorrow as the Press disclosed exclusively last week.

Today Joseph has something to gloat about. All of his reports signed by City Manager George Stevens on file at City Hall showed that he did an excellent job.

Not only that, the entire Planning Commission went on record expressing their regrets that Joseph was leaving. "He was efficient and very cooperative,"

was the general attitude of that body.

Even so, Stevens told the Press that Joseph did not understand the "small city" picture. The City Manager also said that the engineer wanted to retire from the engineering field.

A check with Joseph today brought out a different story. He is being employed in atomic energy engineering in the Los Angeles area. He said that due to the classified nature of the work, he could not reveal the firm.

At the Planning Commission meeting, A. K. Hill moved that a letter of appreciation to Joseph be addressed for the excellent job he has done.

"I'm sorry to see him leave," said Hill. "He has at all times been very helpful. I was hoping that he would be here tonight so that we could thank him in person."

Official To Lose City Job

Action will be taken soon to vacate the office held by City Treasurer Mrs. Margaret Fordyce, Jim Hall, City Attorney, revealed today.

Hall said that according to the State Political Code, Section 1770, a position may be declared vacated if a person is absent from his job for 90 days or more.

A check with city officials showed that Mrs. Fordyce has been absent from her job more than 90 days.

"There's no question in my mind that the City Council will raise a question as to Mrs. Fordyce's right to hold her position," said Hall. "I'm sure I'll be compelled to do something in the near future."

Mrs. Fordyce was elected by an outstanding vote at the last election, having served a previous term.

Drainage Stymies Council

Unsolved drainage problems in the Hollywood Riviera area brought a delegation to the City Council Tuesday evening.

Spokesman R. F. Jones, 134 Paseo de Gracia, said: "What is the Council doing about our drainage problem. We're afraid that we'll be flooded out this winter."

Included in the delegation were L. M. Barnes, 146 Paseo de Gracia. He pointed out to a reporter following the meeting (Continued on Page 12)

Walker Retires Jan. 1

It is authoritatively reported that Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, will retire Jan. 1, 1951.

The oft-reported rumors of the past appear to be true. Walker refused to comment on the retirement. However, it is known that he only spends part of his time here now. A good deal of his time is spent in Newport Beach.

Walker is a retired movie cameraman. He is a reputedly wealthy land owner and is believed to have extensive holdings in various Southern California communities.

Stevens In Saddle

City Manager George Stevens revealed today that quite some time may go away before a new city engineer is appointed.

"You know it means establishing a new eligible list," said Stevens. "That always takes lots of time."

When asked who would handle the position, Stevens replied: "I have a license as an engineer. As a matter of fact, I've been a city engineer in a couple of places."

He said that he would handle the position until a new man was appointed.



COLUMBIA STEEL receives National Safety Award. Shown in picture left to right: O. A. Kresse, Don H. Hyde, Joe Kaplan, H. P. Dotson, Charles Monaghan, Tom Burke, L. C. Burger, and Victor Teer.

City Attorney Hall Enters Navy as Lieutenant on Feb. 7

Politically-wise residents had one thing on their minds this week—who will replace Jim Hall, City Attorney, when he reenters the Navy as a Lieutenant on Feb. 7.

One thing was certain, Hall has traveling orders to be in Washington, D.C. on that date.

"Unless they cancel my orders, I'm in," said Hall.

He said that the government even sent him a map showing him where the various Armed Forces dispensaries are located.

"I'm sweating it out," declared Hall. "You're guess is as good as mine."

In the meantime a check of records at City Hall showed the original civil service list has expired. The list was established December 23, 1948, and expired December 23, 1950—at the end of two years.

Of the four men who took the examination, the late Douglass Smith, number two on the original list, died in office. Tom E. McNary who placed number one on the list is now a deputy district attorney under Los Angeles County District Attorney Ernest Roll. W. E. Kalbfleish was third on the list and Jim Hall placed fourth.

"I wouldn't be interested in the position under any circumstances," declared McNary, "as long as the present clerk is in charge in the city council. Besides," he pointed out, "I've seen seven more years to serve before my retirement means anything with the County."

W. E. Kalbfleish who placed number three on the original list, said: "They bypassed me once. I was higher on the list than Jim Hall. There's no reason why they won't do it again."

When Jim Hall took over the position, the City Attorney's job paid \$350 for a part-time job. (Continued on Page 12)

School 'Super' Is New Father

Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull has been passing out cigars lately. The event, of course, is a new baby. Mrs. Hull gave birth to a boy, November 20. Hull first announced the baby excitedly as a healthy eight pounds four ounces. Later, at a Board of Education meeting, he stated that the boy is an even healthier eight pounds six ounces. It seems the fostered father overlooked the extra ounces.

The Hulls have named the infant John Heinrich. He will be known as John to the family and to his many friends.

North Torrance Group Meets

The North Torrance Improvement Association will hold its regular business meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 5th, at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at McMasters Hall, 174th and Prairie near Crenshaw.

Deaf Ear Turned To Home Owners

Members of the Pacific Hills community near Walteria can thank the four ruling Councilmen for an oil dump that has been officially placed in their backyard. At the Council meeting Tuesday evening, K. Sande Semmes, applied for a permit to operate the Walteria oil sump which has been closed for the past few weeks.

The permit was granted four to one—Councilman Nick Draie dissenting. The dump had been closed after the Torrance Press waged a year-long fight on behalf of the Pacific Hills community.

Residents of that area had complained about the oil tankers and trucks that had made bus line schedule trips into the area before the Council closed the dump on motion of Councilman Draie.

Tuesday evening it seemed as if the fight would have to be waged all over again. Pacific Hills residents will again be faced with dust kicked up by the oil dump trucks.

In regular steamroller fashion, Ed Karlow moved that a check of \$24 from Semmes be accepted and he be granted permission to operate the dump. Harvey Spelman seconded the motion.

DRALIE OBJECTS
Draie objected: "I think it ought to go to the Planning Commission. Besides I wouldn't be surprised if Ordinance 316—providing for an agricultural zone doesn't permit licensing of dumps in this area. How about it, Mr. City Attorney?" (Continued on Page 12)

Building Sags in Nov.; 11-Month Receipts Up

Building permits for the month of November so far do not seem to be holding their own as compared with November, 1950. Up to Nov. 19 of this month, the total building permits issued were \$215,905. For the month of November, 1950, the total figure was \$1,853,121.

Even with the decline within the last two months, the amount of building will probably exceed the 1950 figures once the permits for the last eleven days are computed, it is believed.

At present, the 1950 figure through November 19 was \$12,256,240. For the 1951 period through the first 19 days of November, the total receipts are \$12,216,323, only \$39,917 short of the total receipts through the entire eleventh month of last year.

DRESSER'S REPORT
Reports received from Building Inspector James Dresser's office indicate that one of the large tract subdividers may apply for a permit before the end of November which would send the anticipated building permits away ahead of the 1950 figure.

Here are the construction permits issued during November of this year:
Robert W. Wratz, 3335 Newton St., convert garage to bedroom; \$150; Snider, 3327 19th St., contractor, Commonwealth Company, new fence; \$200; Duane A. Stewart, 3652 18th St., private garage; \$750; Cal Stanger, 413 Calle de Aragon, contractor, H. B. Hobbs, retaining wall; \$500; Pricella Childress, 4116 Sepulveda, barn; \$500; J. P. Thomas, 1621 Amapola, 3T's Construction, private garage; \$500.

MORE BUILDING
J. Rambo, 2401 Apple, contractor, T. A. Ryness Co., residence; \$5870; Robert L. Pettenger, 3141 Opal St., fence; \$50; E. T. Slocum, 1317 Florwood, contractor, Harbor Homes Co., fence; \$325; Paul J. Unruh, 24227 Park, tool shed; \$50.

Zill H. Carter, 3424 W. 182nd St., addition to residence; \$600; Ed Edwards, 4340 Redondo Beach Blvd., footings for future building; \$400; Ole Moen, 2801 182nd St., contractor, Tailored Homes. (Continued on Page Four)

Registrants Slump in Off-Year
Voters' registration for the water bond issue on January 8, 1952, closed on Nov. 15. A check with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett revealed that the total figures will be available in the next few days.

Latest figures computed by Registrar of Voters Ben Hite on September 25 showed Torrance had a total registration of 8,307.

The present figures are over 1700 short of the number registered here during the 1950 general election.

Hite said that he anticipates Torrance to go far in excess of the 1950 general election registration before the General elections of next year. He said that he is basing his prediction on the basis of the large number of housing units constructed in this area.

He reported that on Sept. 25, the registrants in Torrance were distributed as follows: 5,237 Democrats; 2,667 Republicans; 21 independent progressives; 4 prohibitionists; 14 miscellaneous, and 364 declined to state.



PAPA G. H. Hull proudly looks at newborn son, also named G. H. Young John was born at Torrance Memorial Hospital.



TORRANCE TURNS ON ITS CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Dec. 7. The whole Sartori-El Prado business area will be illuminated.