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CENSUS SOUGHT AS AID IN GETTING COURT HERE

Count to Support New Bill

The city council next Tuesday night will hear a proposal by City Manager George Stevens that plans be made to take special census to determine the exact population of this city.

The possibility of Torrance getting its own municipal court, or even a court session here, is contingent upon a bill to be introduced before the state legislature by local Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

The Thomas measure would assure either a court or a court session for all cities over 40,000 population.

In the event that the bill passes, Stevens told a Press reporter, the city will press for a special census immediately.

He pointed out, though, that even if Thomas' bill is vetoed the city will still seek the census. Additional gas tax revenue and other monies from both county and state would be forthcoming from year up-to-date population figures, he said.

Assemblyman Thomas has pledged his support in the drive to get a court in Torrance.

The Torrance city court was dissolved this week when the new South Bay Municipal Court officially opened. The new court consolidates the city courts of seven local communities, and serves approximately 180,000 persons.

Store Robbed On New Year's Eve

The new year got off to a bad start for Nick Kalinen, owner of Cap's Poultry and Egg Market, 1615 Cabrillo Ave.

On New Year's eve burglars entered his market and had a picnic breaking eggs all over the place and making off with \$2 in pennies.

Police theorize that the job was the prank of some very small boys, because entry was made through a rear window hardly large enough to permit entry of an older person.



UNFENCED SUMP FENCED—Last week the dangerous sump shown above was totally unfenced in violation of this city's "Kathy Fiscus" law. A Torrance Press photographer spotted the sump and took the above picture. A man, presumably associated with the oil company using the sump, saw the photographer taking the picture. Two days later iron fence posts had been erected around the danger spot, located at 227th st. and Pennsylvania ave. The city supposedly is responsible for having all oil sumps fenced so that animals and children especially will not be trapped in the sticky mire. It appears though that the only way to get the laws of this city enforced is to have all violations recorded on film.

County Seeks Greater Share Of Revenue from New Court

The extent to which Torrance will lose money under the inferior courts reorganization plan which became effective this week cannot be determined exactly at this early date.

However, it became evident last week that this city's court revenue would be hit and hit hard.

Forfeitures
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors at last week's meet-

ing signified their intention of asking the state to double their share of the forfeitures and fines collected by the new South Bay Municipal Court.

According to local Supervisor Raymond V. Darby the county now wants a full 50% of fines collected from arrests made here because of violations of the state penal code or city ordinances.

City Share
Under the city court system, which became obsolete here as of Monday, the county has received 25% of the fines collected. The remaining 75% has gone to the city collecting the fine.

The supervisors claim that they

should get a greater share because they now finance the court. Previously, each city had maintained its own city court.

Greater Cost
It has been pointed out, however, that the new justice system will cost each of the seven communities being served by the central court a great deal more than it cost to maintain the local courts.

According to Torrance Chief of Police John Stroh, it will take at least two or three months to determine exactly how much more it will cost Torrance to administer justice and maintain law and order.

He predicted, however, that Torrance would lose a considerable portion of its annual court revenue. Total revenue from our local court for the past 18 months was \$105,759, according to the city auditor.

\$150 Gifts to First Infant Born Here

Tiny Kurt Lee Marsteller is Mr. Torrance 1953. Kurt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Marsteller, of 1314 Amapola Ave., was the first baby born in Torrance in the new year.

As the first baby born here, Kurt will receive more than \$150 worth of clothing, furniture and baby equipment from Torrance merchants who participated in a "First Baby" contest sponsored by the Torrance Press.

Kurt arrived on the scene at 3:10 a.m., January 1, at Torrance Memorial Hospital. He weighed six pounds, 15 ounces. The Marstellers have two other children, Neal, 6, and Gary, 3.

Merchants who contributed generously to give the first infant born here a terrific start in life are Frank's Furniture store, a

Bloodmobile Visit Set for Feb. 9

Local Chairman Urges Citizens to Make Early Appointments; Stresses Great Need

The Red Cross bloodmobile will visit Torrance, located at the Civic Auditorium on Monday, February 9, to recruit life-giving donations of blood for the wounded of Korea and local civilian hospitals.

So announced Mrs. Don Hyde and Mrs. Mel Howard, Blood Bank co-chairman, yesterday in a message urging all local citizens to sign up now for appointments to meet the mobile unit. Appointments to donate blood "to save lives of wounded Americans overseas" can be made by calling Torrance 3447 or Torrance 3448.

Need Told
"Our blood is urgently needed now," the local chairman said.

1952 Retail Sales Set at \$19 Million

Taxable retail sales in Torrance in 1952, exclusive of food items, increased nearly 25 percent over the year 1951, according to preliminary figures released by Jack Hallanger, city accountant.

While total figures for the calendar year 1952 will not be available for some time, it is indicated that total retail sales subject to the one-half cent Torrance city sales tax may reach \$19,000,000.

Homeowners Organization Being Formed

In an effort to reach a unified solution to some of the problems confronting residents of Torrance and Torrance Gardens, residents of that area are forming a homeowners association, it was reported this week.

A public meeting of the homeowners will be held at the Fern Avenue School at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13.

At this organizational meeting Rev. Cecil England, pastor of the Christian Church and resident of the area, will briefly discuss various aspects of homeowners associations.

Ralph Schmidt has been elected temporary chairman of the young organization, and will preside at Tuesday's meeting.

Adoption of the Articles of Association and election of permanent officers will be preceded by a discussion of improvements needed in the two residential areas, a group spokesman disclosed.

Quick, Sure Ad Results Win Praise

"Sold them both before 10 a.m.," said Mrs. Ann Crossmeyer, of 1538 Marcella Ave., who advertised two items for sale in the Torrance Press Classified pages.

Quick, sure results are what you want when you advertise. Quick, sure results are what you get when you advertise in Press Classifieds. Mrs. Crossmeyer sold her items the first day from this small, inexpensive ad:

HOSPITAL BED, A-1 cond., tray & bed table \$25. Double French glass door, good cond., \$25. Phone: 275-W or see 1538 Marcella.

If you have something to sell, rent, buy or serve, your best bet is to advertise, and the best place to advertise is in the Torrance Press Classifieds. Just call Torrance 1185 to place your ad. Call today.

C. of C. Board Holds Election Dinner Meet

The board of directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce met last night for their annual fellowship dinner and the election of officers for 1953.

Results of the election were not available in time for publication. However, it was predicted that Robert I. Plomert, General Petroleum tax expert and current president, would be re-elected.

Plomert told a Press reporter last week that he would accept another term in office if the board named him.

Last night's meeting was held at the Jonathon Club. Honored guests at the meeting were members of the City Council, City Manager George Stevens, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull. Members of the board sponsored and financed the dinner, according to Dale Isenberg, executive secretary.

Storm Drain

Grading will begin this week on a storm drain system to be installed along the west side of Normandie Ave. near 220th st.

Land Owners to Pay Assessment

A possible solution is in sight for the serious parking problem that has hampered the growth of the downtown business section for the past five years.

George Binder, owner of considerable downtown business property, is spearheading a drive to form an assessment district to partially finance the purchase of off-street parking lots.

MASONS INSTALL OFFICERS

Mark A. Wright was installed as Worshipful Master of Torrance Lodge No. 447 Masons in ceremonies held Saturday night at Masonic Temple.

Other new officers installed in the evening ceremony included Chris A. Bartsch, senior warden; Frank Schmidt, junior warden; Gordon A. Mothersell, treasurer; Frederick Cook, secretary; Paul Burns, chaplain; Raymond O. Lougee, senior deacon; Frank Thompson, junior deacon; Floyd E. Mead, marshal; Thomas N. Foster, senior steward; Robert E. Starks, junior steward; and William Gallareto, tiler.

Fred O. Bacon, a past master, was master of ceremonies and Leonard D. Babcock, also a past master, served as installing officer.

Ralph Marzullo and Custer Hawley were ushers, and Marca Wright was in charge of programs.

The invocation and pledge of allegiance to the flag were conducted by Rev. Homer Miller.

REALTORS TO INSTALL NEW OFFICERS

Howard Percy will accept the gavel of president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board in ceremonies slated tomorrow night at the YWCA clubhouse, 2320 W. Carson St.

Other new officers to be installed at the dinner affair are Edith Smith, vice-president; Perry Connett, who succeeds himself as secretary-treasurer; and W. E. Bowen, Elmer H. Epperson, Gretchen Earle, H. V. Peterson and Harry B. Bowker, directors.

C. J. "Paddy" Ryan is out-going president. Gerald Alter is out-going vice-president.

The installing officer will be Howard Towle, regional vice-president of the 21st district of the California Real Estate Association. W. E. Bowen will act as master of ceremonies.

Entertainment and door prizes will be furnished by the Title Insurance and Trust Company of Los Angeles.

MASONS INSTALL OFFICERS

Additional financing will come from one or all of three other sources: parking meters, special levy against merchant-tenants, and contributions of the city.

Meters
There seems a strong likelihood that parking meters will be considered seriously.

According to prominent businessman Sam Levy, who is throwing his weight behind Binder's drive, a petition to form the assessment district will be drawn up and circulated immediately. The petition will then be presented to the city council for their action, Levy said.

See Approval
He indicated that the Torrance Parking Authority is favorable to the idea and would recommend approval of the plan.

The use of parking meters in this city has been a highly controversial issue. In the past, opponents of the plan took the stand that parking meters did not bring sufficient revenue to justify their use. Proponents of their use claim that the revenue would be adequate to aid in the purchase of off-street parking lots.

Supports Meters
J. H. Paget, member of the parking authority and local businessman, declared today that if parking meters will help solve the off-street parking problem, by all means they should be used.

He pointed out that under state law, all monies collected through the use of parking meters must be used to benefit the driving public. Parking meters for this reason cannot become a political football, he said, and Torrance residents may be sure they will gain returns for their parking pennies.

New South Bay Court Opening Held

The official opening of the South Bay Justice Court took place Tuesday when opening ceremonies were held at the court house.

A number of dignitaries from seven communities in the South Bay Judicial district as well as Los Angeles county and city officials were present at the 11 a.m. function.

Judge Edward T. Bishop of the Appellate Division of Los Angeles County Superior Court, officiated. The South Bay District Bar Association sponsored the affair.

James M. Hall, Torrance city attorney, was in charge of arrangements. He was assisted by John P. Berry, Hermosa Beach, Irving Lessin, Torrance, and A. T. Bush, Redondo Beach.

South Bay Judges John A. Shidler and Otto B. Willett were introduced by Judge Bishop.



FIRST SCOOP—Frank Higgins (right) and Steve Schmidt, partners in the Star Furniture Co. of Torrance, scoop out first shovelful of dirt at the site of the new Star Furniture store to be built at Cravens ave. and Torrance blvd. The new store will be ready for occupancy by April 1, it was announced by Jacob Koch, another partner in the firm. Ultra modern in both exterior and interior design, the building will contain approximately 6,000 square feet of floor space. Schmidt and Higgins stated that the policy of service, courtesy and quality that has made Star Furniture so popular here will be continued. The company was established here 20 years ago.



MR. 1953—First baby born in the Torrance area this year was Kurt Lee Marsteller, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Marsteller, of 1314 Amapola ave. The infant will receive more than \$150 in gifts from Torrance merchants, who participated in a "First Baby of the Year" contest staged by the Torrance Press.