

# SPOT ZONE LAW SOUGHT

## Realtors to Back Ruling

Torrance realtors, faced with a possible blanket law demanding that all homes in this city be 1,000 or more square feet in floor area, this week went on record as opposed to the proposed ruling and offered an alternate solution.

The Torrance planning commission received this week a letter from the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board suggesting that the city might accomplish more by spot zoning certain areas of the city to protect developed areas from having cheaper homes built on adjacent property.

**Hardships**  
The realty board points out in their communication that to impose a blanket minimum of 1,000 square feet would create a hardship on the working man, of which this city is largely composed.

The letter, signed by Howard J. Percy, president of the organization, urges that control be exercised by dividing residential zones according to the number of square feet in a proposed home. For instance, the letter states, R-1 zone would permit houses of 800 square feet or less, R-1A would permit houses between 800 and 1,000 square feet, R-1B would permit all houses over 1,000 square feet.

**Commission Voice**  
The planning commission several weeks ago declared itself opposed to the 1,000 square foot minimum, which was being urged by a majority faction on the city council. Both the planning commission and the city council have referred the matter for further study.

## Prizes Offered in 'Count the Dollar' Contest

A total of \$14,500 in free prizes and gifts will be awarded in the "Count the Dollar" contest being sponsored this week by Town and Country Television and Appliances, 1344 El Prado Ave. Vern "Red" Gochneaur, co-owner of the Town and Country chain, announced that any person over the age of 18 is eligible to enter the contest.

Procedure is simple. Just count the number of dollars in the Town and Country contest ad in this issue of the Torrance Press, and bring or mail your entry to the store. Entries may be brought to the store today, tomorrow or Saturday. Mailed entries must be postmarked before midnight Sunday.

Prizes include a television set, kitchen range, deep freeze, clothes washer, refrigerator, and a clothes washer and dryer combination. In addition there will be 3000 gift certificates given as door prizes, Gochneaur said.

## Meter Count Now 11,324

The Southern California Edison Company disclosed this week that there is a total of 11,324 commercial and domestic electric meters in use in this city as of Jan. 1. Meters in residences account for the 10,573 number. The remaining 751 meters are in commercial structures.

The meter count of January 1, shows an increase of 1,474 over a count taken one year ago, indicating a growth of 15.1 per cent.

## New Kiwanis Officers Installed

The Virginia Country Club in Long Beach was the scene of the installation of new officers of the Torrance Kiwanis Club last Saturday night.

Charles H. Ragsdale accepted the gavel being relinquished by outgoing President Paul Loranger. A five-year Kiwanis member, Ragsdale is co-operator of Ragsdale and Newell, local wholesale petroleum distributors. He has served the Kiwanis Club as a director and as both first and second vice-president.

Also installed at Saturday's ceremonies were Byron Scotton, first vice-president; Dr. Gerald Eastham, second vice-president, and Kenneth Anderson, Joe Doss, Dr. E. Knutson, William Lester and Darwin Parrish, directors. Installing officer and master of ceremonies was District Lieutenant Governor E. L. Lynn, it was reported.

CHARLES RAGSDALE  
... incoming president

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# CITY MOVES TO ANNEX EL NIDO AND VICTOR TRACTS

## Gain 400 Acres By Council Act

Torrance will be larger by some 400 acres in the very near future if action taken by the City Council last Monday becomes effective.

The Council sneaked under the gun in passing resolutions of intention to annex portions of the El Nido area and a strip of the Victor area, located between Torrance and Del Amo blvds. and the eastern boundary of Redondo Beach.

Both communities, Redondo Beach and Torrance, have been eyeing the two tracts very possessively recently. When word leaked out that Redondo would act to annex the lands Monday night, Torrance simply met at noon Monday and did the same thing.

### TICKETS IN STORE FOR J-WALKERS

Jaywalkers, beware!  
This was the warning issued this week by Police Chief John Stroh, who revealed that a campaign to halt illegal crossing of downtown streets will get underway here.

"Before we have a tragic accident, we are going to institute a drive to stop citizens from darting across streets in the middle of the block," he declared.

Shoppers, often heavily laden with bundles, find it more convenient to cross anywhere, rather than walk to the crosswalks at each intersection, he said. Although we have had no fatal accidents downtown, he continued, as the city grows and the business district becomes busier, there is a greater possibility that someone will be struck by a car.

The chief expressed the hope that local service clubs would contribute their help in publicizing the "halt jaywalking" campaign.

## Classified Ad Proves Wise Investment

"I rented my apartment the first day I advertised it in the Torrance Press classified section. That small, inexpensive ad was really a wise investment," said Mrs. Frank Carr, of 1748 Andree Ave.

Here is the ad that brought Mrs. Carr a number of calls and a good tenant:

2 BEDROOM duplex Apt. Close to Garage. Inquire 1748 Andree. Phone: Torrance 3099.

Your returns can be just as good if you advertise your rentals, sales, and services through fast-acting Torrance Press classifieds. Just call Torrance 1185 to place your ad.

## PERCY TAKES GAVEL AS REALTY HEAD

C. J. "Paddy" Ryan Friday night ended two years as president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board when he turned the gavel over to incoming president Howard J. Percy.

Percy and other new officers were installed in ceremonies held Friday night at the YWCA building.

Ryan, a World War II veteran, was presented with a past president's pin and a gold pen and pencil set as he retired.

Installed with Percy were Edith Smith, vice-president; Perry L. Connett, secretary-treasurer; W. E. Bowen, H. B. Bowler, G. M. (Continued on Page 12)

## Plan to Make Sartori Traffic One-Way Told

It may not be too long before you find yourself driving only one way on one of the principal business streets of this city.

Police Chief John Stroh, who is chairman of the city's traffic commission, disclosed this week that the commission is considering making Sartori avenue a one way street from Torrance blvd. south to Cabrillo avenue.

If the proposed plan is enacted, all traffic would flow south from Torrance blvd. Parking along the avenue, the Chief stated, would be parallel. Diagonal parking is being used now.

The Chief declared that the move would expedite traffic and make control easier for traffic officers.

If traffic moved faster, he continued, the turnover in parking spaces would be greater, so the merchants would gain by the change.

Other members of the traffic commission include Councilman Nick Drale, City Manager George Stevens, and City Attorney James Hall.

## Little Girl's Attacker Hunted by Detectives

An intensive investigation is being carried out by Torrance police detectives in an effort to track down the sex degenerate who kidnaped and criminally attacked a 10-year-old Torrance choir girl last Sunday morning.

The child, abducted as she walked to Sunday school, has viewed photographs of all known sex deviates in this city. As yet no concrete leads have been obtained because the child did not get a good look at her abductor, police report.

The girl told police that a man about 35 years old blindfolded her and drove her to a house after forcing her into his sedan at Cabrillo Ave. and Santa Fe St.

She said he brandished a monkey wrench and warned her, "Be quiet or I'll kill you."

The child was taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment, then returned to her home.

He made her lie on the front seat of the car while he drove for a considerable distance, the child related, adding:

"When he stopped the car, he blindfolded me and led me up a cement walk and some steps and into the house and in a bedroom."

He criminally attacked her while she was still blindfolded, she said, and "threatened to kill me if I didn't be quiet."

Then, she said, "When I put my clothes back on, he led me out of the house, still blindfolded, and we drove around again for a long time."

The girl made her way home after being let out of the car at Plaza del Amo and Carson St. and sobbed her story to her parents. They called the police.

The child said her attacker has light brown hair, is about 5 feet 7 inches tall and is of medium build.

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CAMPUS, BEFORE AND AFTER—Top, senior student officials lend a hand in the school-wide campus cleanup campaign at Torrance High School. At left, holding black flag signifying dirty campus are Arline Smart, Tartar Lady Queen; Marca Wright, commissioner of records; Lee Mortenson, student body president, and Ted Marcous, senior class president. At right, the two gallants hold white flag as girls add finishing touches to newly-cleaned staircase. Reward for clean campus is a few extra minutes off on Friday afternoon, it was reported.

## Propose Opening Arlington Avenue for Through Traffic

A proposal to open up Arlington avenue to provide an arterial through the downtown business section of Torrance was made Tuesday night by City Councilman Nick Drale. Arlington ave. now ends at 190th st. It resumes at 203rd st., and runs into Border ave., at approximately 211th st. Border ave. in turn runs into Cabrillo ave., which edges the main business district of town.

Drale proposes that Arlington be developed between 190th and 203rd st., and that the remaining portion into town be improved for through traffic.

He declared that downtown merchants lose business because both north-south arterials, Crenshaw blvd. and Western ave., completely bypass the shopping center.

He points out that he does not feel that Arlington should be opened to heavy truck traffic, but rather for light vehicles only.

The council concurred in Drale's suggestion that a committee be established to investigate the feasibility of his recommendation.

## Ex-Governor To Seat New Officers Here

Former California Governor Frank Merriam will serve as installing officer tonight when top officials of the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce are seated in ceremonies at the Lone Pine Inn.

Wallace Reynolds, executive of the Dominguez Water Co., will be re-installed as president of the organization.

The Carson Chamber of Commerce is hosting all harbor district chambers at the function.

At a recent meeting of the Carson Chamber, Lew Griffith, chairman of the transportation committee, reported that 25 recommendations for implementing traffic safety in the area have been received.

He stated that County Supervisor Ray Darby informed him that approximately half of the recommendations will be acted upon immediately. The remainder are still under consideration, he said.

## Three Large Tracts Get Underway

Building permits for almost \$1,500,000 worth of homes were issued this week by the city building department.

Largest is a 129-home development to be built near Walteria by the January Co.

The tract, valued at \$926,500, is to be located east of Crenshaw blvd. and south of 101 Hiway. It is the second unit of the Weston Hills subdivision begun by the firm last year.

At the same time, Truman Browne took out permits to begin construction on 25 more homes near the Seaside section of Torrance. This tract is valued at \$260,000.

A third block of permits issued this week went to the New House Building Corp., who will begin work immediately on a 25-home tract in South Torrance. The \$236,700 development will consist of two and three bedroom stucco homes.

## City to Star On Television

The City of Torrance will be honored on a special television program originating from the Wilmington Bowl on Monday evening, Feb. 2, it was announced today by Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber is cooperating with the Wilmington Bowl management in making this program available to the thousands of persons who regularly tune in to this program.

Isenberg also disclosed that the management has made all seats available to Torrance residents at (Continued on Page 12)

## YMCA Fund Drive Dinner Set Jan. 28

The annual fund drive of the Torrance YMCA will get under way this year with a kick-off dinner to be held Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the American Legion Hall, Stan Roberts, executive secretary of the Y, reported today.

Harold Wagner, general manager of the Los Angeles YMCA, will be guest speaker at the dinner, which is open to the public.

**Chairman Bowen**  
General chairman for the Torrance Y 1953 current support campaign will be W. E. Bowen, long time insurance broker and community leader, Roberts said.

Bowen will head an organization of approximately 125 volunteer workers who seek to raise \$13,605 for support of the local YMCA's extensive youth program during 1953.

**Increasing Activities**  
A. C. Turner, chairman of the "Y" Campaign Steering Committee, who made the announcement, pointed out that the goal was

adequate to carry on ever increasing activities of the YMCA in the Torrance Area.

Bowen, accepting the appointment said, "Achievement of the goal will enable the YMCA to continue improving its service to our community."

**Youth to Benefit**  
"I am sure all citizens of Torrance area will get behind this drive for our youth."

He added that initial plans for organizing the campaign will be complete within a few days.

The Torrance Area YMCA now regularly serves more than 1,032 boys from 9 to 18 and sponsors many character-building clubs and activities throughout the area.



Howard Percy, well known Torrance Realtor, accepted the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board President's gavel last week. Ceremony took place at a dinner, held last Friday night. Percy succeeds C. J. (Paddy) Ryan who served during the past two years.