

New Civic Center to Relieve City Hall Jam

With construction started on the city of Torrance's new city hall and police station, this community's \$1,000,000 Civic Center is underway.

City officials and administrative personnel can at last look forward to the end of one of the worst cases of working space shortage in the state of California. Also, Police Chief, W. A. Haslam, and his staff are now within reach of a modern establishment. At present, the total space available for administration, and that covered by the jail, is less than the area of many Torrance homes.

The almost unbelievable growth of this community has put pressure on the city's seams

since 1950 when an influx began that has trebled the population to its present 65,000. Also, the influx continues at the rate of 1600 people a month.

The mechanical problems raised by this administrative task have been large and they have been compounded by a building-permit valuation that in 1954 exceeded \$45,086,552.

Grading of the 27-acre site situated at Madrona avenue and Torrance boulevard was completed during the week of July 25th and on August 1st, construction was begun on the city hall and police station. These structures together with an Olympic-Games specification swimming pool and a very large athletic field will com-

prices the civic center for the present.

Torrance now embraces 18-88 square miles and it is one of the few communities in Los Angeles county that can expand onto additional land through annexation. It is believed by state officials that Torrance will ultimately be a major city of at least 100,000 people, ranking in size with Long Beach and Pasadena. Much of this growth will be attributable to a large industrial potential yet to be developed, according to local business leaders.

The site will also provide ample area for the erection of a civic auditorium, California State building, and county and municipal court buildings, according to Mayor Albert Isen.

In laying the groundwork for the project, the Torrance city council examined the qualifications of a number of architects and decided to retain Marion J. Varner, of Pasadena, who has established a reputation for doing very outstanding civic work and within the allotted budget.

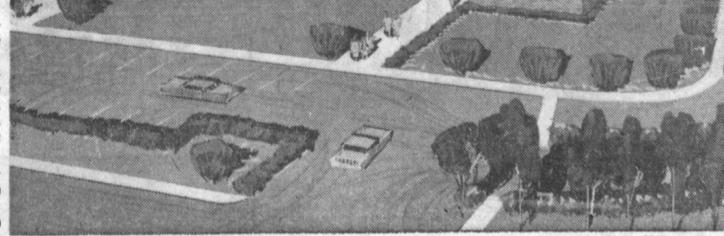
During the last week in September of last year, Architect

Varner's preliminary designs, specifications and cost estimates were approved by the Torrance city council, headed by Nickolas O. Draie, who was then mayor. Members of the city council were: Willys Blount, Victor Benstead, Mervin Schwab, Nick Draie, and the present mayor, Albert Isen.

Varner's plans call for a two-story city hall embracing 20,000 square feet and a one-story police station containing 10,000 square feet. Both structures make use of the most economical combination of reinforced brick and pre-cast, reinforced concrete panels.

Combined with styling requirements, the architect was also faced with the necessity of providing maximum durability against the usual hard usage inflicted upon civic buildings by the public. This meant that every feature of the building's interior had to be considered from the standpoint of staying abilities and of economy of maintenance.

While the basic design work was in progress, every piece of material and every item of equipment had to be weighed



NEW CIVIC CENTER... Torrance's new city hall as it will look when completed next April. Provision has been made in the structure for the addition of a second floor and for more wings, according to Marion J. Varner, Pasadena architect, who designed this structure and

the adjoining police station. The building will contain 20,000 square feet and will be constructed of reinforced brick and pre-cast, reinforced concrete panels. Work has begun and the city's administrative staff is looking forward to moving into the completed structure.

Public Recreation Week Set

On August 15, Mayor Albert Isen issued a proclamation designating "Public Recreation Week" in Torrance as the week of August 22 through August 27, 1955.

In his proclamation, Mayor Isen called attention to the wonderful accomplishments that have been made in recreation during the past year. Construction of much-needed recreation facilities has already begun at El Retiro, McMaster, and Seaside parks and construction at Walteria Park is expected to begin in the near future.

Also, work has begun on the new municipal swimming pool at Torrance boulevard and Madrona avenue. All of these facilities are being built with money derived from bond issues approved by the citizens.

Mayor Isen also called attention to the City's recognition of ever-expanding recreation programs throughout the city. Over \$100,000 has been budgeted for recreation during the present fiscal year.

The range will be fitted with its own forced-air heating and ventilation system with walls of pre-cast, reinforced concrete and a reinforced concrete roof slab.

According to estimates furnished to Mayor Isen, City Manager George Stevens and to Mr. Varner, the architect, it is expected that the city's administrative and clerical staff will move into the new quarters by next April.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the

TORRANCE PRESS

on your fine

Progress Edition

El Camino College

A Tuition-Free Community Enterprise

against budget limitations to provide maximum style and beauty along with maximum durability—at minimum cost, according to City Manager George Stevens.

The ground floor of the city hall will be done in terrazzo with some portions in concrete. Vinyl floor coverings will be used on the lobby. The lobby will have a glare and heat-resistant, all-glass front in combination with stone and reinforced concrete. Leading to the second floor will be a concrete cantilever, circular stairway.

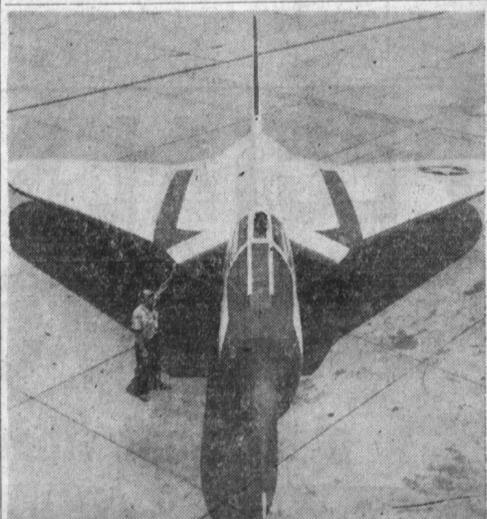
In the principal offices and in the council chamber, the woodwork will be in combinations of caldeo, black walnut, African red cherry and ash.

Forced-air heating and ventilation will be provided. Fluorescent, slimline, high-frequency lighting will be used.

What now shows on the blueprints as a civil defense area has been changed to house an employee's lounge and Park and Recreation Department work rooms. Projecting from one side of this part of the structure is a car-parking shelter roof.

Civil defense quarters have been moved to the basement of the building. Covering this space, which will also serve as a disaster center, will be a blast-proof, reinforced concrete slab. These rooms will be fitted with emergency radio and telephone circuits as well as an emergency power generator which will also serve the police station.

The new police station will embody the latest developments in administrative layout and



SUPERSONIC... Holder of historic world speed records F4D Skyray jet interceptor flies supersonic in level flight for combat operations from decks of Navy carriers. The speedy planes, produced at the Torrance Douglas plant, are currently being delivered to the fleet as fast as they can be produced.

PACIFIC SMELTING COMPANY

PRODUCERS OF

ZINC

AND ZINC PRODUCTS

SLAB • BAR • ANODES • ZINC • OXIDE • ZINC DUST

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY GROW

EVERYTHING YOU NEED COMES FROM THE PAGES OF THIS BOOK!

A savings book is the answer to all your financial needs and dreams. With a savings account, you can have a strong and safe future!

START SAVING NOW!

... for next year's vacation with weekly deposits.

3 1/2%

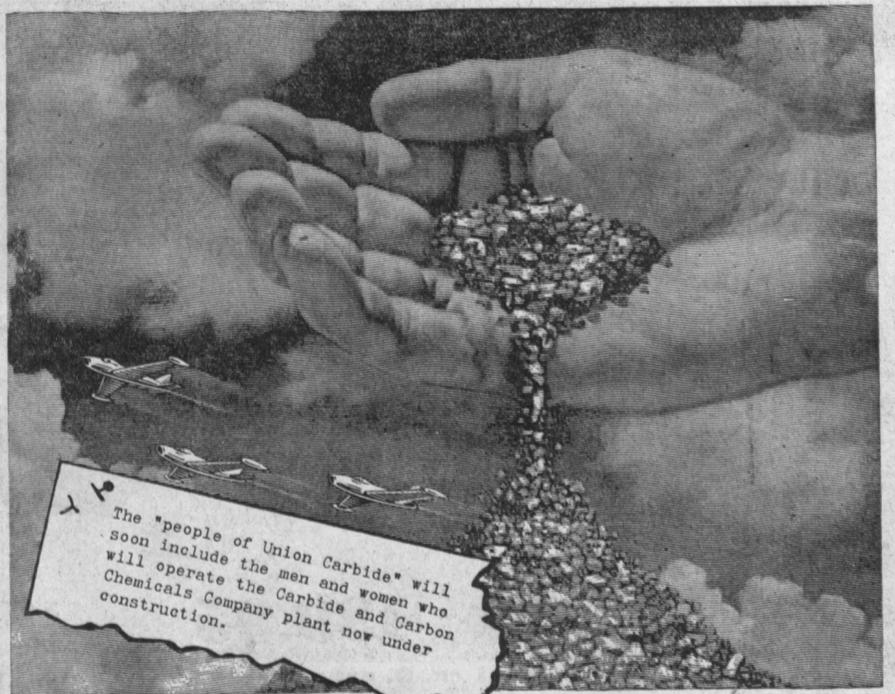
CURRENT SAVINGS RATE PER ANNUM

SOUTHWEST SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION

1439 MARCELINA, TORRANCE

Fairfax 8-6111

MAIN OFFICE: INGLEWOOD, CALIF.



The "people of Union Carbide" will soon include the men and women who will operate the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company plant now under construction.

It's new... It's strange... It's filled with promise for you.

It's time to meet titanium

TITANIUM METAL promises to be one of the outstanding developments of our time. It is already in jet planes and airliners, combining strength and lightness with an amazing resistance to heat and corrosion. Its future seems unlimited.

TITANIUM METAL IS RARE even though production has skyrocketed from three tons in 1948 to over 5,000 tons last year. And the Government is encouraging industry to produce still more.

AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH, Union Carbide has developed a new production process and is building a plant with an annual capacity of 7,500 tons of crystalline titanium sponge. This product will then go to processors to be melted and formed into sheets, plates, and bars suitable for use by manufacturers.

PRODUCING TITANIUM is a natural for the people of Union Carbide. For over 50 years, one of their many important jobs has been extracting rare and useful metals from nature's ores. Now their goal is to improve and speed the production of this exciting metal, titanium, so that it can fulfill its promise.

FREE: For the story of the everyday miracles made possible by metals such as titanium, vanadium, and chromium, write for the illustrated booklet, "Hot-Metal Magic." Ask for booklet MD.

UNION CARBIDE AND CARBON CORPORATION

30 EAST 42ND STREET NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
In Canada: UNION CARBIDE CANADA LIMITED

UCC's Trade-marked Products include

- ELECTROMET Alloys and Metals
- NATIONAL Carbons
- ACHESON Electrodes
- SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICALS
- HAYNES STELLITE Alloys
- PREST-O-LITE Acetylene
- PYROFAX Gas
- PRESTONE Anti-Freeze
- Dynel Textile Fibers
- UNION Carbide
- EVEREADY Flashlights and Batteries
- LINDE Oxygen
- BAKELITE, VINYLITE, and KRENE Plastics
- LINDE Silicones