

Street Names Link City To Past

In the past six and one half years, the population of Torrance has jumped from 22,000 to over 90,000. Today, Torrance faces the challenge of looking forward to a predicted growth of 160,000 by 1975.

Last year was typical of the city's extraordinary growth as the population jumped 15,000 and a total of \$32,746,410 in building permits were issued for the construction of new single family dwellings.

The face of the city changes daily as new homes, streets, highways, parks, industries, and shopping centers continue to spring up where there were only fields yesterday. To the new residents, and sometimes the older ones, the rapid growth may be difficult to understand. Some may wonder what has brought about this growth and how it started.

The story of Torrance is a varied and interesting page out of history. It starts during the time of the early explorers, runs through the era of the Franciscan Missionaries, passes through the days of the proud Spanish Dons, continues through the rule of three countries, and comes down to the

twentieth century when the town to be known as Torrance was conceived and created by the actions of one man.

A history of the city would go back over 400 years to 1542 and Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, first of the explorers to touch the shores of California. After Cabrillo, others came, but no extensive investigation of this new land was made for over 200 years. It was 1769 before Don Gaspar de Portola's expedition landed in San Diego, and moved up the coast, the first white men to march through the wilderness of California.

A soldier of this expedition, Juan Jose Dominguez, was the first man to own the land that was to become Torrance. Upon his retirement from service in 1784, he was granted an area of 43,179 acres, by Pedro Fages, governor of Alta California, which became the Rancho San Pedro—first of the more than 500 ranchos that were to dot Spanish and Mexican California.

This grant included what is now the present sites of Torrance, Compton, Redondo Beach, San Pedro, Wilmington and Gardena. From the direct descendants of this man the original townsite of Torrance was bought in the early nineteenth century.

Today, the names Cabrillo, Portola, and Dominguez are names of the past, but they are all part of the Torrance story. They have left a land rich in history and legend. The city that now stands in their wilderness of yesterday has not forgotten these men.

Throughout the city are located streets that recall the history of these early days. Cabrillo and Portola were named in memory of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, and Gaspar de Portola. The Streets of Manuel, Mar-

celina, Martina, Plaza Del Amador, Carson, Cota, Engracia, Guadalupe, and Susana were named after members of the Dominguez family.

In the twentieth century, the city took shape under the guidance of man, who in his lifetime was director in over 100 corporations that together represented over \$100,000,000 in capitalization. His interests were varied; oil, timber, cattle, utilities, industries, land, transportation, and banking.

This man was Jared Sidney Torrance who conceived the idea of a modern planned industrial city, and who was directly responsible for putting the city of Torrance on the map of California.

A boom in the value of Los Angeles real estate was the principle cause leading to the creation of Torrance. The Union Tool Company, located in Los Angeles, needed additional acres for expansion. To obtain the land would have cost them the extraordinary price of \$100,000 an acre. Although not associated with Union Tool, Jared Torrance decided to undertake the building of a new industrial center when he heard about the company's problems. He opened negotiations with the Dominguez Estate Company, which resulted in the purchase of 2,800 acres for \$980,000. Shortly afterwards he also purchased an additional 730 acres from one of the other Dominguez heirs for about \$550,000. The Dominguez Land Corporation was organized with Torrance as its president.

Plans for the new town moved forward. The noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead of Boston, was engaged to lay out a townsite. The Union Tool Company made plans to construct an \$800,000 plant in the area. Contracts were let for a vast amount of street work, a water distributing plant, a sewer system, street lighting, and various other improvements.

Construction was also started on a passenger depot and a hundred or more houses. Ample reservations were made for public parks, an athletic field, and for playgrounds. Upwards of 300,000 trees were planted along streets and windbreaks. Several acres were set aside for public schools.

Construction went ahead at a rapid rate and the town was opened for settlement in 1912. People did not flock to the new town, but there was a steady growth. By 1913 there were enough businessmen to establish the first Chamber of Commerce.

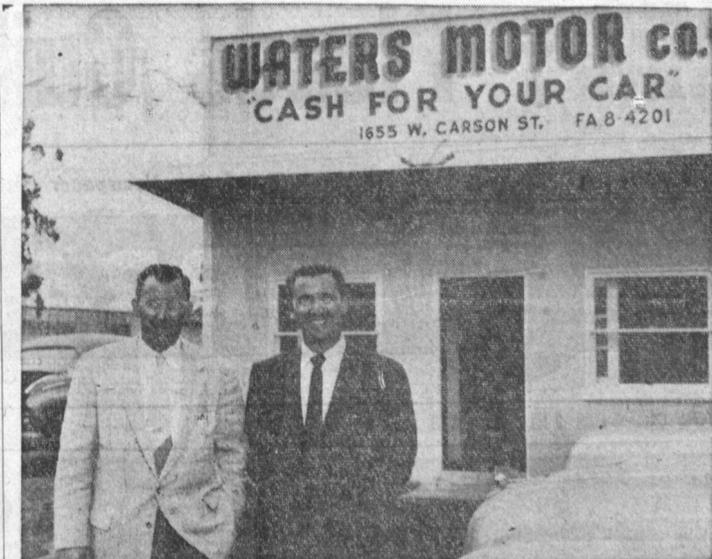
The town continued to grow and on May 12, 1921, when the population of Torrance was 1,800, it ceased to operate under the Dominguez Land Corpora-

tion. Incorporation was passed by a vote of 355 to 11. A year later, when oil was discovered, the city of Torrance was on its way to becoming the fourteenth largest city of California.

Driving through Torrance, we find street names bringing back memories of this period in the city's history. Torrance Boulevard, named after Jared Torrance; Sartori, after Joseph F. Sartori, Los Angeles banker, and one of the first Dominguez Land Corp. officers; Cravens, after Dr. John S. Cravens, another Dominguez Land Corp. official; and Post, after Judge George W. Post, early civic leader, and president of the first bank established in Torrance.

Today, thirty-five years later, a large modern city has taken the place of the small town that was started by Jared Torrance. A good many changes have taken place, but years after he wrote them, the words of this man still hold true: "Residents of Torrance will enjoy an environment which will make for good health, good morals, and industrial welfare and prosperity."

Frank Cowan of Denver did what almost every home-owner has been of a mind to do at one time or another. He dug up his 11,000 square foot lawn and had it laid with concrete, which he painted green. There is only one hitch. It cost him \$4,350. For that kind of money most people will be content to water and mow their lawns for a long time.—Sacramento Bee.



BOB AND JACK WATERS are announcing the opening of Waters Motor Company, 1655 Carson street.—Press Photo

Opening Set For Sunday

Bob and Jack Waters are announcing the grand opening this week of Waters Motor Company, located at 1655 W. Carson st. (on the corner of Carson and Western.)

Bob has lived in Torrance for 14 years, and has been selling cars for nine years, three were spent with Oscar Maples.

He and his wife Dorothy, reside at 1323 Date st., with their four children. Jack, who spent 3 1/2 years in the Navy, is also well known in this area. He spent some time in an automotive school, and is well qualified as a judge of automobiles.

He previously owned a Mobil Service station at corner of

Hawthorne and Torrance blvds., and one at Slauson and La Brea. He and his wife, Patsy, live at 1104 Patronella, and have two children.

Bob and Jack are inviting friends and former customers to drop in and look over the excellent selection of automobiles they will have on the lot at all times.

Researchers Check Smog As a Source of Cancer

There is a growing suspicion that smog may be much more than a mere nuisance, that it may involve more than an annoying irritation of the eyes and an obscuring of visibility. Fear has been expressed both by laymen and medical experts that continuing concentrations of air pollution in this and other areas of the nation may be causing cumulative damage to the public health.

Researchers have been able to produce cancerous growths in laboratory animals by exposing them to heavy doses of certain pollutants found in the atmosphere. In one series of experiments it was demonstrated that mice breathing simulated Los Angeles smog developed a 50 per cent higher incidence of lung cancer than another group of mice breathing filtered air.

When a sub-committee of the California State Assembly held hearings in Los Angeles in September of 1956 on the possible health effects of smog, medical experts testifying before the group agreed that many health disturbances could be caused by air pollution, but that no proof

of such disturbances had yet been established.

The cited deposits of contaminants on tissues of the respiratory tract and the lungs themselves as possible contributors to cancer. These contaminants might also cause a temporary reduction in vital capacity, lower the individual's ability to resist infection, and make him more readily susceptible to specific forms of respiratory disturbances, such as bronchitis and asthma.

REPORT NO DEATHS

In spite of this growing professional concern over the possible consequences of air pollution, State Health authorities testifying before the committee reported that no deaths in the Los Angeles area had yet been traceable to smog.

The State Health Department has kept close watch on nearly 4000 elderly patients in Los Angeles Nursing homes. Since the patients exceed an average age of 65, health authorities believe they would respond more noticeably to air pollution concentrations than other groups in the total population. But no deaths have yet occurred in the group that could be charged to air pollution episodes—even as a contributing factor.

Although there is yet no complete agreement as to the role of Los Angeles smog attacks in producing health disturbances, there is substantial agreement that more research on the subject is necessary.

The Air Pollution Control District's Director of Research, Dr. Leslie A. Chambers, puts it this way: "The obvious nuisance effects of smog may well prove to be like the rash in a case of measles. It is perhaps possible to remove it by skinning the patient, but he will still have the measles."

Dr. Chambers believes that greater scientific attention should be given to the possible health problems arising from contamination of urban air supplies and emphasizes that the elimination of the obvious nuisance aspects of the problem—though worthwhile in itself—may not be the entire answer.

Attempting to produce answers to the many questions posed as to the effects of air

pollution on the public health is the purpose of more than \$3,000,000 in research projects now being sponsored by Federal and State health agencies.

At the Medical School of the University of Southern California Dr. Paul Kotin and his associates are studying the possible effects of the particulate matter in air pollution on the production of lung cancer.

In eight cities of the nation, solid pollutants are being ex-

tracted from the air and sent to Dr. Kotin for laboratory experiments on mice.

In California, the State Department of Public Health is carrying on a long term program involving the surveillance of 50,000 to 100,000 persons. According to Dr. Lester Breslow, Chief of the Department's Bureau of Chronic Diseases, the project will attempt to "compare the mortality of persons who have lived in Los Angeles for ten years or longer with the mortality of persons living here shorter periods of time, and with the mortality of persons who come into California, or are living elsewhere in the State."



WHAT'S DOING

R. S. Pyle, your Telephone Manager in Torrance



The way things are growing around here, we're plenty busy putting in more phones. So, we keep on the lookout for time-savers. Like the little "watchcase" this telephone man's working with. This case connects the wire from a house to certain types of telephone cables outdoors. Makes the job a whole lot simpler. The case has a clamp on the back. So you can put it where you want it in a jiffy. Inside, it has a couple of tiny posts. You tie your wires around them. Then, snap on the top—and the job's done. Takes about 5 minutes. Time-savers like this help us bring more service to more people. In less time, too.



When you hear air hissing out of an auto tire, first thing you do is find the leak and have it fixed. Same thing goes for some telephone cables. They've got compressed air in them. The pressure keeps out moisture. And believe me, we keep close tabs on this pressure, too. When air starts to escape, instruments let us know right away. They tell us just about where the leak is, too. That way we can patch it up before it affects your phone calls.



NEW MAINLAND ARRIVAL — Pacific Telephone's Arnold Stohman is a recent arrival to the Torrance exchange having spent the past three years on Catalina Island. The new plant department installation foreman moves to Torrance with his wife Dorothy, sons Stephen, ten, Douglas, nine and daughter Marcia, six. The Stohman's will reside at 16327 Arlington ave. According to manager Dick Pyle, the foreman's arrival to the Torrance exchange will boost plant department personnel to an all time high with an annual payroll to resident employees of \$1,635,000.

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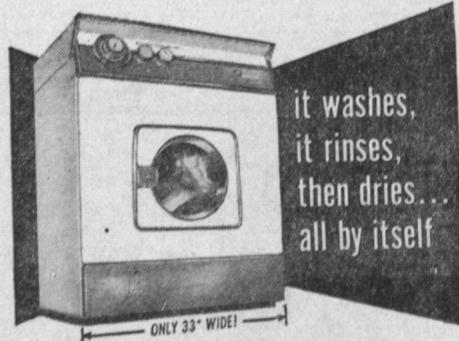
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'Town Hall'

(Continued from page 1)

Warren Low representing Torrance Toastmasters and Junior Chamber of Commerce. Other nominations include Dorothy Sutton (Torrance Art Group), Louise Mangan (JayCetts), and Marilyn Sharp (Torrance Coordinating Council) candidates for vice president; Mrs. J. R. Sanders (North High PTA) candidate for recording secretary; Herma Tillim (Pilot Club) for corresponding secretary; John Barton candidate for treasurer; and George Quinn for federation delegate.

Fitzgerald added that refreshments will be served by members of the Pilot Club, under leadership of President Leola Cork, following the meeting.

The Dentist Says:

ERNEST J. TARR, D.D.S.

Dental Care Available On Credit

"I need quite a bit of dental work done, but cannot afford to pay right now. Do you have a plan whereby I can get my work done now and pay for it later?" — writes Mrs. R. D. of Harbor City.

Yes, my office is set up to give credit to all who desire it. When you first come into the office, I do a complete dental examination on you. Then I give you an exact estimate of what the work will cost. Once we know the fee, we can arrange for you to buy on easy monthly terms, or weekly if you prefer.

Pensioners may come in and receive a written estimate of what their dental work will cost. When this estimate is approved, their work is started immediately and they make their first payment when they receive their additional funds from the State.

DR. TARR

1311 1/2 SARTORI AVENUE (Above Sam Levy Dept. Store) Downtown Torrance Phone: FAirfax 8-0250