

"MR. TORRANCE" is what City Manager George Stevens is called all over the nation in recognition of his guidance of the city's spectacular growth over the past ten years. Torrance's residents will honor his ten-year

leadership at a testimonial luncheon, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday, January 15, at the Plush Horse. The picture above appeared on the front page of Look Magazine's article about Torrance.

City Manager Predicts 10 Years More Growth

Ten years ago, George Stevens came to Torrance as its first city manager because he had a vision of the city's potential.

Today, his vision more than realized, Stevens looked ahead to Torrance's next ten years and predicted:

- When construction of several shopping centers is completed, Torrance will become the hub of retailing and commercial activity for a 10 to 15 mile area around the city;

- More multiple dwelling units will be constructed within city limits to meet the needs of an expected influx of men and women working in the new commercial, retailing and medical buildings;

- As the rapid population growth of the past ten years continues to taper off, the population of the city will reach 100,000 by the end of the year;

- The city, as a whole, will mature and will develop social and cultural activities and status.

Stevens' predictions were based on the trend of commercial and industrial activity in the city. His conclusions were based on the experience he'd gained from his ten years of close attachment to the city's problems.

His analysis brought this picture of Torrance ten years from now: The city will be interlarded with main highways leading to thriving shopping areas. Certain sections of the highways will be lined with industrial plants; other sections with retail establishments; others with multiple dwellings, and the three will not be intermixed. Many more parks will separate the various distinct parts of the city's life. A new civic auditorium will become the center of cultural and social activity. Little theatres will be close to residential areas to provide cultural stimulation.

Industrially, the city's plants will become more diversified, as more electronic and scientific research firms settle here. With these new plants and with the new hospitals and medical centers already in the planning stage, an influx of high middle-income professional people can be expected.

Ten years ago, Stevens made somewhat similar predictions. He came to Torrance from Culver City because he saw "a great potential" in Torrance.

His friends, he admits now with a smile, thought he was daffy to give up his job as assistant city manager in Culver City.

"Everyone thought Culver City would grow rapidly, and that Torrance would remain a hick town at the end of the road," he said. Hawthorne blvd., he recalled, was the only road going through Torrance and it

was a two-lane rutted street. Western and Crenshaw avenues stopped just at the edge of town.

"I wasn't too good in my predictions," Stevens explained. "I didn't quite foresee such a rapid growth in the city." In his ten years as city manager, he watched the city grow from 14,000 to almost 94,000.

But Stevens shunned credit for his work. "The only reason I'm here is because of the wonderful cooperation of all city councilmen, all the city employees and the city itself," he said.

"I'm particularly grateful for the help of all the councilmen I've worked with," he added. "No matter what political differences existed among them, they put aside the differences when the best interests of the city were at stake. They have had the best interests of the city at heart and were always united in their aim to promote the growth of the community."

He singled out Torrance's industries for praise, as well. "They were the foundation of the city. They made our growth possible," he explained. "They didn't ask for free rides, but contributed their share to the advance of the city."

"All in all," he concluded, "our city is just tremendous. It is one of the best rounded-out cities in the country. We have industry, commerce and people. That's what makes up a city."

National Supply Votes Merger With Steel Firm

Realtors to Install Haggard as President

Robert Haggard, former mayor of Torrance, will be installed as president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board at a dinner to be held 7:00 p.m. Tuesday at the Plush Horse.

Assisting Haggard in administering the affairs of the local board will be Harry Bowker, who will be sworn in as vice president.

Roy Shaw, who will step down as president of the Realty Board, will be chairman of the evening's program, which has been prepared by the program committee headed by Edith S. Smith.

Shaw will introduce the guests at the dinner and give the retiring president's report. Rose Craig will present him with a plaque in honor of his services to the group.

After the salute to the flag by Del Wright and the invocation by W. E. Bowen, Mayor Albert Isen will give the address of welcome and will introduce William Ritter, the regional vice president for the 21st district. Ritter will present Mildred Hards who will direct the installation of all new officers and committees.

After being presented by the new president, William H. Tolson Sr. will introduce the guest speaker, Rev. J. Whitcomb Brougher, Jr.

COMMITTEES
The following committees will also be installed during the evening:

MULTIPLE LISTING: Jack C. Clayton, chairman; Paul Hill, Delmar Wright, Perry L. Connett, Kenneth M. Miller.

CARAVAN DIVISION: R. D. McEwen, director; Don Wolf, assistant.

COURT OF ETHICS: Robert H. Tolson, chairman; Robert W. Clayton, Jca WkittPtl. Clayton, Jack W. Pettit, C. J. Ryan, Red Hansen, E. M. Patterson, Edith S. Smith.

MEMBERSHIP: Robert J. Baldwin, chairman; Robert J. Trujillo, Irene A. Baker, Geneva Meara, Frances Dimitri, Carol I. Neldson, Robert Oster, Royal W. Sinderson.

FINANCE: W. E. Bowen, chairman; Howard M. Jacobs, Harry B. Bowker, Gretchen M. Earle, Rose Craig.

BY LAWS: H. J. Osborne,



Robert Haggard

chairman; Edna Reed, Eliza Travioli, Eleanor Meyers, Edith S. Smith.

EDUCATION: Lee Dawson, chairman; Howard J. Percy, Halile P. Crow, Delbert Vaughn, Zeker Alter, Mill Tombach, Kenneth Peters.

ATTENDANCE: Brad L. Barfield, chairman; Marjorie A. Krogmann, Lawrence V. Fritz, Harry Moritz, Helen M. Andrews, Don L. Houston.

PROGRAM: Alyce O'Rourke, chairman; Eulalia Thomas, Billy J. McEwen, William H. Tolson, Sr.

PUBLICITY: Lee Wilson, chairman; Torrance Herald, Torrance Press, Lomita Progress, Lomita News; Pearl Jacobs, Howard Jacobs, Horace B. Hobbs.

INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE: Gerald L. Alter, chairman; William H. Tolson, Sr., Elmer H. Epperson, Nick Draie, E. J. Sorensen.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND BLUE BOOK: Thomas Delaney, chairman; William H. Tolson, Jr., Kenneth M. Miller, Nita Barfield.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL: Geneva Meara, president; Edna Reed, vice president; Georgia Marlow, secretary; Katherine England, treasurer.

CREA DIRECTORS: Harry B. Bowker, William H. Tolson, Jr., Paul D. Cameron, Raymond Moyer.

Gilmister, executive secretary; BOARD OFFICE STAFF: L. J. Joan Wilkinson, clerk.

Offer Radio Acting Class For Youths

The Torrance Recreation Department is initiating a new program that is somewhat unique to most recreation departments. Beginning Thursday, January 16, the department plans to begin a radio acting course for teenagers.

The program, which will be divided into an eight week series, is designed to give experience and background in radio to interested boys and girls. The group will meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the foyer of the Victor E. Benstead Plunge each Thursday evening.

The program is to be under the supervision of Ed Novak of the Recreation Department. Novak comes well-qualified in this area having had extensive experience in radio drama and stage productions in New York.

Novak plans to work with the group on scripts to give an understanding of radio drama. Such things as sound effects, and the use of the microphone will be covered before actual acting begins.

The group will record on tape the script they finally decide to do. The department plans to use the final product on the parks and playgrounds for the benefit of the children. For those who participate in this program, new scripts will be started as soon as the class evaluates the ones just completed.

Novak stated one of the many experiences from this type of program is to give boys and girls another mode of expression.

Directors Approve Tie to Armco Steel

National Supply Co. directors unanimously voted this week to merge forces with Armco Steel Corp., A. W. McKinney, president of the company, announced.

McKinney, in a letter to employees, said the merger of the two major companies would not affect the jobs of the 1,500 men and women working in the local plant of the oil well drilling equipment firm.

McKinney expressed the hope that the board-approved merger would "be achieved early in 1958." However, he added, final decision on the plan rests with the stockholders of both companies.

The National Supply Co. president said in praise of the plan that it would assure his firm a "continuing" and expanding supply of steel. "Moreover it would provide 'extra financial strength for future diversification' which, he pointed out, 'may later be deemed advisable.'"

According to the terms of the proposed agreement, National Supply Co. stockholders would receive 85 hundredths of a share of Armco common stock for each share of National Supply common.

The National Supply Co. is the world's largest manufacturer and distributor of oil drilling equipment. In addition, it manufactures heavy machinery for basic industry. It has six plants and 128 oil field supply stores.

The company was established in 1912 as the Union Tool Co. which became Torrance's first major industry. Since 1920 is has operated as the National Supply Co.

Armco Steel Corp. is the seventh largest steel producing firm in the U. S. and ranks 43rd among all American corporations.



John Tweedy

John Tweedy In New Post At Southwest

John A. Tweedy of Torrance was named manager of Southwest Savings and Loan's Torrance office and vice-president of the association. A veteran of some 27 years in the banking business, Tweedy's affiliation prior to his new position, was with the Bank of America where, for the past five years, he was assistant manager of the Torrance branch.

Since 1930, interrupted only by his participation in the armed services, Tweedy was steadily engaged in banking during which time his experience covered a wide and varied range of activities, 21 of these years in California.

Tweedy served in the army from 1943 to 1946, and saw action in Europe. He was attached to the Fourth Infantry Division and was twice wounded in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart with cluster along with the Bronze Star "for heroic achievement."

Although a Canadian by birth, Tweedy was raised in Idaho and Washington state. With their sons John Allen Jr., ten, and Michael Jay, eight, Mr. and Mrs. Tweedy live at 1325 Arlington in Torrance. The Tweedys are active in the Torrance Rotary Club and Elks Club as well as the Community Chest, Red Cross, Y.M.C.A. and Little League.

Ralph Willits Promoted at GP

Ralph M. Willits has been promoted to the position of mechanical engineer at the Torrance refinery of General Petroleum corporation. It was announced this week by C. M. Reading, engineering department manager.

Willits, who joined General Petroleum in 1946, was a job engineer at the refinery prior to his promotion. A native of Santa Barbara,

Town Topics

COMMERCIAL GROWTH of Torrance, about which City Manager George Stevens speaks in a story on this page, is graphically indicated in statistics released by Dun & Bradstreet, the nationally known credit reporting firm. Dun & Bradstreet reported that the number of manufacturing, wholesale and retail firms in the city had increased from 413 in 1951 to 733 in November, 1957. This is a partial list of all commercial companies since service firms, such as barbers and real estate offices, are not included. The rate of growth of Torrance commercial activity was greater than any of the other Bay and Harbor area cities.

A CHANGE of meeting place for the South Torrance Lions Club was announced by Dave Tanner, president of the newly formed organization. From here on in, the club will meet at 7 a.m. (that's right, 7 o'clock in the early morning) at Coffee Dan's in Hollywood Riviera. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 8. Members are advised to bring toothpicks to prop up their eyelids.

TORRANCE and Longren Aircraft Co. received worldwide attention last week after the company announced its plan to give its 1500 employees three and four-day weekends. Soon after the story was reported in local newspapers, Associated Press picked it up, rewrote it and sent it to newspapers all over the country and the world. The story was published in the Paris edition of the New York Herald-Tribune last week.

COMPANY OFFICIALS said calls also began coming in from all corners of the nation. The Hamilton Manufacturing Co. in West Haven, Connecticut phoned to get more specific information on how the plan worked. The west coast representative of General Motors arranged an appointment so that the company could get an on-the-spot view of the plan. The Korody Manufacturing Co. of Inglewood called to announce that employees of the firm voted to adopt the plan. In all, a couple of dozen calls were received. Among the other callers was Fortune Magazine which wanted a picture of Mrs. Christina Wentworth, Longren vice president who announced the plan, and NBC which wanted Mrs. Wentworth to make a tape recording of her announcement. Maybe Torrance will now become known as the "All-America Three-Day Weekend City."

Bank Names Asst. Manager Turner Smith Retires at GP

The promotion of Bruce Jones to assistant manager at Bank of America's Torrance branch was announced this week by Harold G. Frenz, manager. Jones is the successor to John A. Tweedy, who is leaving the bank for another field of endeavor.

Jones, a 20-year man with Bank of America, was formerly operations officer at Beverly Wilshire Branch, Beverly Hills, where he was in charge of personnel and interior operations.



Bruce Jones

He began his career as a night clerk at the bank's Los Angeles Clearing Office. After a series of promotions and three and one-half years of army duty in the European Theatre during World War II, he became an officer of the statewide bank in 1946.

While climbing the promotion ladder he attended night school at American Institute of Banking, earning the standard certificate of the school and completing many graduate courses as well.

He is Quartermaster of the V.P.W. post at Manhattan Beach and a member of the bank's public speaking group, The Squires. He and his wife Bernice have a daughter, Marsha, 9, and a son, Robert, 6.

GP Worker Has Stroke, Dies

A 51-year old General Petroleum worker, Robert G. McLeod, of 1408 S. Sloan st., Compton, suffered a stroke and died a few minutes after falling into the street at Post and Sartori last week.

Sloan was going into a bank on the corner to cash his paycheck.

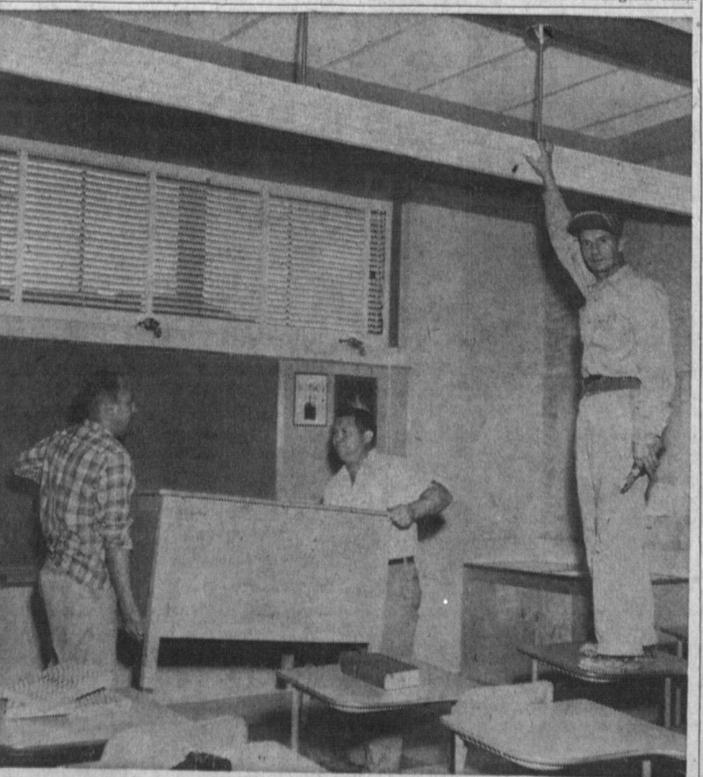
Turner Smith Retires at GP

Turner C. Smith, chief structural engineer at the Torrance refinery of General Petroleum Corporation, retired this month after 32 years of service. He started with the company as a draftsman in 1926.

During 1952 and 1953 he worked with Socony Mobil Oil Company on building design and construction in Caracas, Venezuela. General Petroleum is the western affiliate of Socony Mobil. His son, Turner C. Smith, Jr., is presently employed by Socony as division engineer at Worland, Wyoming.

Smith is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society for Metals, the American Concrete Institute, the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, and is a former national vice president of the American Welding Society.

A native of Arkansas, Smith received his BS degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arizona. He retired under General Petroleum's annuity plan. He resides at 813 East Philadelphia st., Whittier.



FINISHING TOUCHES to South High School were being made this week as the new school opened. Kenneth A. Riley, of 1555 W. 203 st., and James L. Wade, of 23110 Huber ave.,

set a desk in place in one of the school's 16 classrooms while Howard Lutz, of 2443 Cabrillo ave., straightens out one of the modern electrical fixtures in the room.