

# Torrance Senses Need to Promote City's Culture . . . .



## TORRANCE PRESS

### EDITORIAL PAGE

W. R. ZAPPAS, Publisher

HARRY KLISSNER, Editor

#### EDITORIAL

Like frontier America, Torrance still finds itself on the outskirts of cultural activities. The city has no distinguishing measure to attract tourists, but it is still a good place to live. Taxes are comparatively low, and this is due to the foresight of Torrance city officials who have strived to keep a balance between homes and industry.

But now civic-minded leaders would like the city to be known for a unique project. Several of the councilmen and the mayor have expressed this desire on different occasions. Mayor Albert Isen suggested the Air Museum which would house outdated planes as one possibility in a recent council meeting.

Councilman J. A. Beasley has proposed some concrete steps which would make Torrance a wonderland for visitors. He recommends the cultural program be initiated through the Torrance Beautiful Committee.

Torrance now has more than 111,000 people, and it is time the community can show neighboring cities it has

gained a cultural reputation in some area.

As we look about us, we see much smaller areas which foster projects of world-wide interest. On the Peninsula we have Marineland. In Redondo Beach, King Harbor is rapidly nearing completion.

In some ways we are perhaps fortunate that our special project is late in arriving. At least we are not infested by the gambling interests as is Gardena.

But while we would not want to be a gambling haven, that does not mean that we should sit on our hands and not promote some worthwhile project.

During its early years, Torrance had some negative distinctions, such as oil wells and sumps dotting the community. City officials worked out a program whereby the eyesores were removed.

If a similar program could now be instituted to make Torrance attractive as a cultural center, then the city will arrive at a new milestone in its growth.

## LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Because I am greatly concerned about the welfare of the Torrance public schools and the coming bond election, I am writing this letter. I sincerely hope you will be able to find space to publish it in the Torrance Press.

It seems to me that the Torrance Board of Education and its administrative staff needs a verbal spanking for failing to toot their horns and keep the public of Torrance informed on at least one matter.

Out of a dozen parents I recently talked to only two were aware of the fact that there were no double sessions in any of the Torrance schools, nor that there have not been any for over two years. The credit for this somewhat unique situation, in my opinion, goes to the voters of Torrance, who in 1958 expressed their confidence in the schools' predictions of population increase by passing a \$15,000,000 bond authorization. This enabled us to build enough classrooms to adequately house all of our school children and place them on full-day schedule.

If predictions of a population increase recently released by the Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission materialize, Torrance may well double its population in two decades. One thing seems certain — the present classroom space will not take care of this increase.

While those of us who attend the monthly Torrance Educational Advisory Council meetings have been aware of many of these facts, please keep in mind that not all of the 100,000 people or the 40,000 voters of Torrance have been able to attend these meetings. If the schools are to continue to provide for the ever growing number of school children, many new classrooms must go on the drawing board now so they can be built in the near future.

I am confident that if all the people of Torrance are informed of the needs and given the facts the \$8,000,000 bond issue to come before the voters in September will pass. I don't believe our citizens want to see elimination of kindergartens and return of double sessions to Torrance, as was recently proposed in a neighboring school district after their

bond election recently failed. How about it, Mr. Torrance Schools — give all of us the facts.

Mrs. Kenneth McVey

### Regulating Law Sought by Hahn

An ordinance regulating the use of seven pesticides in crop dusting has been ordered by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, reports Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Hahn pointed out that the board acted on recommendation of County Agricultural Commissioner Kenneth L. Wolff.

The pesticides to be regulated are in the chlorinated hydrocarbon group, including DDT.

Purpose of the ordinance is to prevent drift from crop dusting planes or other distributing methods onto properties used for livestock forage crops.

**NOT FOR ALFALFA**  
The pesticides are not used for growing alfalfa, but are sometimes applied to other crops growing nearby, Hahn pointed out.

"According to the agricultural commissioner, the areas most concerned are the Antelope Valley, where alfalfa hay is the major crop, and the Saugus-Newhall district," he noted.

"In those areas we already have the finest cooperation of growers using the pesticides for other types of crops in the vicinity, and have thus far avoided any contamination of the hay."

#### APPROACH PROBLEM

"But since people in the dairy industry are insisting the hay be tested and certified as free from pesticide residue, the problem can best be approached by fortifying existing cooperation of growers with an ordinance," Hahn said.

The ordinance will restrict the discharge, by plane or otherwise, of pesticides containing aldrin,

## Factory Workers' Earnings Increase

Average weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan area moved up 81 cents from April to an all-time high of \$111.52 in May, reported John F. Henning, the Director of Industrial Relations. The May figure was 5.3 percent higher than in May of last year.

Henning stated that the purchasing power of the May average factory earnings (after allowing for federal and State taxes and the upward climb of consumer prices over the year) was 3.0 percent greater than a year ago.

#### HOURLY EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings in the area pushed up two cents from April to set a new high of \$2.74. This average was above May of last year by eight cents, or 3.0 percent.

The average workweek in manufacturing remained at the April length of 40.7 hours, but was nearly a full hour longer than in May of last year. Largest over-the-year increases in working time were reported in autos, lumber, leather, rubber-plastics, apparel, electrical equipment, and machinery.

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BHC, DDD, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, or heptachlor, under specific conditions of wind speed and direction, distance and proximity of dairy pasture or forage crops.

Violation will be a misdemeanor.

County Counsel Harold Kennedy was asked to prepare the ordinance.

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