

TORRANCE AS VACATION SPOT CAMPAIGN DECLARED SUCCESS AS 65 FAMILIES COME HERE

A check of public service utilities operating in Torrance revealed this week that 40 new families have come to this city to make their homes during the week ending August 1. Attracted by the interesting advertisements which have been running in 10 "hot belt" newspapers, most of the newcomers will remain here from two weeks to a month. Others have definitely chosen Torrance as their home town.

During the week, July 20 to 25, there were reported 25 new families entering the city. These reports are most gratifying, according to officers of the Chamber of Commerce, and point the way to a bigger and better vacation advertising campaign next year. Inquiries Promptly Handled

Most of the new residents have come from Arizona, where the Torrance "cool spot" advertisements have been appearing in the Phoenix Republican and Gazette, Tucson Star, Yuma Sun and Prescott Courier. California "hot belts," such as Bakersfield and Redlands, have also contributed a fine quota of vacationists who are enjoying Southern California's pleasures from the hub that is Torrance.

Every application for information and direct reservations has been capably handled by the chamber, real estate operators and landlords as fast as they are received here. Some of the inquiries have proven hard to fill as accommodations for families desiring six-room furnished houses are limited here according to rental agencies. But so far every reservation has been carried out in a manner that is reported pleasing to both the renter and landlord.

That some of the families now vacationing here probably will make Torrance their home this fall and winter is seen from reports received at the chamber from real estate operators and the families themselves.

Start Earlier Next Year

"Next year we want to start our advertising campaign in the newspapers earlier, broaden it a little more in scope and include the drive with a thorough canvass of accommodations available," President DeKalb Spurlin declared early this week at the Chamber of Commerce office. "We have exceeded our expectations this summer, although we started in comparatively late on the project. I believe that every person in the city who has had business or social relations with the vacationists has derived a genuine pleasure from the contact."

A follow-up campaign may be carried out this fall or next spring which will consist of postal letters to those families who have enjoyed Torrance's climate and accessibility to all of the numerous metropolitan attractions surrounding the city inviting them to return here next summer.

MORRIS REPORTS REAL ESTATE ON UP-GRADE

During the past few weeks, real estate transactions accomplished by G. L. Morris, local agent, totalled \$80,000, he reported yesterday. Many more local deals are in the making in his office, Morris said with cash buyers in the leading—a good barometer that indicates the low real estate market is rapidly climbing upwards.

"The exceptional real estate bargains of today are being realized and are being taken advantage of," he declared. "I am sure that land and property sales have hit the up-grade in Torrance with officers report the same conditions."

Among the transactions listed by Morris as making up the \$80,000 total are transfers of the following properties: Five-room house at the corner of 22nd and Gramercy; duplex at 953 Amador; 160-acre ranch at Williams, Ariz.; 12-unit court in Long Beach; service station, corner of Hallidale and Carson; three lots on Artesia; two lots in Denver, Colo.; five rental income properties in Long Beach; five-room house in Lawndale; seven-room house in Brentwood; 20-acre farm at Pomona; two houses in Portsmouth, Ohio, and one acre on 219th street.

Enforced Sunday Holiday Law For Grocers Wanted

Ordinance Petitioned For By Eight Independents May Be Unconstitutional

An ordinance forcing all retail grocery stores to remain closed Sundays and holidays, as petitioned by a group of eight independent grocers at council meeting Tuesday night, would be invalid and could not stand a court test, according to City Attorney Briney's verbal report.

The petitioning grocers, in their statement, declared: "We have found from our experience that we can serve our trade satisfactorily by closing all day Sunday and feel that an ordinance requiring all retail grocery stores to close Sunday would not only be satisfactory to us, but to all Torrance residents." The signers were B. R. Schroeder, 808 Sartori; A. D. Harder, 1721 Madrid; L. C. Doan, and L. G. Barkdull, 2171 Torrance boulevard; E. H. Shreyes, 1406 Cravens; W. F. Oetkin, 1001 Sartori; George H. Colburn, 645 Sartori; and W. B. Woodburn, 1801 Cabrillo.

Because of Briney's statement that such a law would possibly be unconstitutional, the council took no action on the matter beyond requesting the attorney to bring in a written opinion at the next meeting. Suggestions made by members of the council to Al Harder, one of the petitioners who was in the audience, that all independent merchants get together on the matter and among themselves work out an agreement were said impossible by Harder.

One chain store in the city was said to have instituted a plan to keep open on Sundays but this, it was reported, was founded on a misinterpretation of the store's advertisement. In Los Angeles some of the chain stores keep open on Sundays to combat competition by drive-in markets, according to some present at the meeting, but a canvass of chain stores in Torrance revealed that none of the local markets contemplated opening on Sundays.

ACCEPT DEED TO STREET

A quit claim deed from the Dominguez Land Company, granting to the city part of Santa Clara street, near the Columbia Street, which had never been officially dedicated, was accepted by the council this week. The street was laid out in 1927 but never fully dedicated because of an encroachment of one lot in the thoroughfare.

MEXICAN JAILED ON LIQUOR CHARGE AFTER FIST FIGHT

After he had been involved in a fight at Justice's store on Carson street just outside of the Torrance city line, A. Ortega, 32-year-old junk dealer, was arrested at his home in the Pueblo on a charge of possession of liquor. He will have his hearing late today. Local officers were called to the scene of the fight in which Ortega and a clerk at the store were involved, but because of the conflicting stories of its cause and result, no formal report was made. Ortega's opponent was said to have been the victor in the scrap.

"Old Timers" Will Write City's Story

Old landmarks of Torrance will be preserved—in black and white at least—and other historical data will be compiled by a committee appointed Monday afternoon by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Isabel Henderson was named chairman of the group which will begin at once to collect "The Story of Torrance." Committee members are: A. H. Bartlett, R. R. Smith, Ben Hannebrink, Harry H. Dolley, Hurum Reeve and C. A. Paxman—all "old timers" of this city.

City Pay \$2500 For a Bust? No!

Does the city of Torrance wish to purchase a "most artistic" bronze bust of the Father of His Country at \$2,500 per bust? Emphatically not, the council replied Tuesday night after City Clerk Bartlett had read a letter from a Philadelphia firm which claimed to be the "sole owner of the original mold of Washington."

Signatures of two heirs are needed to secure the right-of-way along the 360-foot frontage of the estate and these heirs are living now in Ireland and Australia. Hyde, old directors of the chamber on Monday.

He said that the public administrator and the attorney for the estate were very much interested in the project to improve the boulevard and that they pledged their hearty cooperation in presenting the matter to the heirs for their signature. The two in charge of the property expressed to the secretary their agreeable surprise that the county had agreed to make the project a cash job at no cost to the property owners, declaring that they had not heard of such a plan before.

Pasadenan Ends Life Beside Sea

These lines tell the story of Paul A. Cooley of Pasadena, whose body was found Saturday afternoon in a sedan near Lunada Bay in Palos Verdes. A hose had been attached to the exhaust pipe and brought up through the rear seat, the car lightly closed and the engine left running. Ralph E. LaRenz reported the suicide and Officers Taber and Neff had the body removed to Stone and Myers at Torrance.

Cooley, who was 44 years old and a veteran, was said by a friend to have been worried over financial matters. He had formerly lived in San Diego, but had recently had an office in Los Angeles. Cooley was unmarried and leaves no relatives except a brother, John, of Seattle, Washington.

Bible Class to Hold "Stag" at Quandt's

Another one of those hilarious stag parties will be held by the Torrance Men's Bible Class Friday evening at the Quandt ranch. Those who attended last year's stag will remember that the class enjoyed what many consider its most outstanding entertainment.

Transportation will be provided those that do not have a way of getting to the Quandt ranch if they will meet in front of Buckler's Shoe Shop on Cabrillo avenue by 7:45 p. m., tomorrow. All are requested to wear old clothes and all men of the community are invited to attend.

U. S. STEEL ADOPTS NEW SALARY SCHEDULE AUG. 15

In accordance with the decision of its board of directors last week, the United States Steel Corporation announced in New York yesterday that a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent in salaries of all salaried employees would become effective August 15. No reduction has been made in wages for mill workers, it was announced.

RACKETEERING CANVASSERS INVADE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Even the city council is not immune to solicitation from peddlers of political worded requests which carried a veiled suggestion of wanting a license to solicit from door-to-door advertisements in a "Property Owners' Guide" was read at council meeting Tuesday night and summarily tabled. The publication was to be printed in Huntington Park.

LOCAL WOMAN MEMBER OF CLARK TRIAL JURY NOW

Mrs. Alice Thomas, 1024 Amador, is serving as a juror in the murder trial of David H. Clark, charged with the double slaying of Charles Crawford and Herbert Spencer in Los Angeles. The jury was sworn on Tuesday afternoon and the case is now progressing with the presentation of state's evidence.

MAY TESTIFY IN CLARK TRIAL



These Los Angeles girls, Lucile Fisher (left) and Billie Rohrbeck, may be called by the prosecution this week to identify Dave Clark as the man who ran from the office of Charles Crawford, where Crawford and Herbert Spencer were shot to death last May. Miss Fisher was Crawford's secretary.

Authority Speaks On City Charter; Manager Plans

Declaring that the charter form of government permits a municipality to deal with civic problems as they arise—and not when they have arisen, Gordon Whitnall, president of the Regional Planning Commission of Los Angeles County and recognized authority on municipal government, gave a thorough presentation of civic administration matters at the regular Kiwanis meeting Monday evening.

Whitnall, an ardent proponent of the city manager form of government, carefully explained the duties of an average citizen in regard to the final decision on the city charter now being drafted for Torrance by a board of 15 freeholders; described the four divisions of municipal government; elaborated on the functions of each and explained the procedure for adopting a city charter.

Citizens Petition Council to Print Official Minutes

Declaring that the publication of the city official council minutes in the Torrance Herald, was of "great convenience and service to which the general public unable to attend council meetings is entitled," 12 citizens petitioned the city governing body Tuesday night to resume publication of the civic information.

The council referred the matter to a general meeting for consideration at the same time as the budget for 1931-32. The petitioners stated that the minutes of the meetings were of vital interest to the entire community and that "the small cost of their publication is more than justified by benefits derived therefrom."

Those who signed the petition were Sam Rappaport, E. A. Lincoln, Edward Clark, Victor Buckler, J. F. Higgins, A. W. Smith, C. L. Holland, J. H. Buckler, E. A. Schwartz, J. M. Christensen, John Mason and Frank Pauer.

Quadrupeds Still Exist

The day of the horse—a quadruped animal fast joining the dodo bird—is not yet past in Torrance.

Purchase of 10 tons of hay for the city's hay-burners was ordered by the council Tuesday night after it had been estimated that the same amount of wheat could be purchased—at current low prices level—for wheat—for nearly the cost of the hay.

San Bernardino Out Of Met. Water Dist.

San Bernardino voted more than three to one Tuesday to withdraw from the Metropolitan Water District. The vote was 3,052 to 872. Besides Torrance there are 14 other cities still in the District.

It was reported that more than a dozen additional Southern California cities, as well as an equal number of rural areas, are laying plans to join the District. Alhambra, Pomona, Newport Beach, El Segundo and El Segundo have filed formal applications for membership. Other cities inquiring about annexing to the district are Redondo, Hermosa, Playa Del Rey, Altadena, La Habra, Topanga, La Crescenta and Tujunga, it was reported yesterday.

Beach At Manhattan Will Be Retained

With the authorization August 3 of the sale of \$376,000 worth of State Park bonds by the State Park Finance Board, the retention of the 2,350-foot stretch of beach at Manhattan, formerly leased by the county for public use, was assured, it was announced today.

The county had the beach area under lease at \$5,810.55 per year with an option to purchase which will be consummated by the State from the funds made available through the sale of the bonds.

Local Legion Post "Going Hollywood"

The mere fact that a man is attempting to raise a mousethache isn't news—but it is NEWS when 38 members of the Bert S. Crossland Post, American Legion, are reported in the first stages of facial hirsute adornment!

Earl Conner, well on the way—although it may take a long time to fully accomplish—to mousethache, indicated today that there was a good story behind the movement but refused point-blank to say what the cause was. It is known that several members are having a difficult time trying to produce a "real" mousethache and are resorting to artificial cultivation.

One Legionnaire, Bob Deininger, is exhibiting a growth that has aroused the envy of his comrades. Others are reported "counting 'em" nightly in a desperate attempt to report progress.

Only 2 Changes In School Staff

Only two changes in the High school faculty for the 1931-32 session will be made when school reopens the last of this month, Principal Herbert S. Wood said this week.

Mrs. Lois Engel will resume her classes in dramatics, public speaking and geography, as her year's leave of absence will have expired. Miss Elizabeth Inglis, who has been substituting for Mrs. Engel, will teach at the Beverly Hills High school. Orchestra instruction will be given by Mrs. Marjorie Eischen beginning this fall. Charles Crawford, who taught music and orchestra last year, will teach elsewhere. There will be no band instruction during the coming term, Principal Wood stated.

Council Shies From Joining Politico Club

Because the idiom of "heavy politics" still clings to an organization of Los Angeles County mayors and councilmen, known as the "Los Angeles County League of Municipalities," Torrance officials will have nothing to do with joining the league.

An invitation to join the organization and enjoy "benefits too numerous to mention," according to the prospectus sent the local council was refused this week. Mayor Dennis and Councilman Smith reported they had attended a meeting of the league several months ago and at that time noted the organization was mostly political, they reported.

Water Suit Due For Court in Ten Days

Within a week or 10 days, the water suit to decide the legality of the \$400,000 bond issue for the construction of a publicly-owned water system will be at issue in court, according to City Attorney Briney Tuesday night at council meeting.

He said that an amended complaint, leaving out considerable excess verbiage, would be filed by attorneys for the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company this week and an answer will be given the court by the city's counsel within five or six days or a demurrer within three days after.

TITLE SEARCH BROADENS

Because the title to the land on which Prairie avenue, McDonald Tract, is located is in such a confusing condition, an old-time title company has been asked to take over the title search and give a report on which the city's suit to open the avenue will be based. City Attorney Briney reported this week to the council. A small title company had been given the search commission earlier in the interest of economy but the job proved too much for them, he said.

CROSSING SIDEWALKS SOON

Temporary sidewalks over the Santa Fe tracks at Sonoma avenue will be built as soon as the fill, put in by the street department recently, settles. City Engineer Leonard told the council this week.

LOCAL SANTA FE AGENT ON JOB AFTER ILLNESS

B. C. Higginson, local agent for the Santa Fe railway, has returned to his duties here after six weeks' absence. Higginson entered the Santa Fe hospital in June for medical treatment, and has now regained his health.

ALL LOCAL TEACHERS SHOULD RESIDE HERE WHILE WORKING IN TORRANCE, CHAMBER SAYS

Re-affirming a policy adopted several years ago to have all teachers and persons connected with local schools reside in Torrance at least during their period of employment here, the Chamber of Commerce directors unanimously voted this week to again bring the subject to the attention of the Los Angeles Board of Education.

A resolution, contents of which follow, was passed and forwarded to William A. Sheldon, secretary of the Board of Education, for presentation to that body at the earliest possible moment. It is hoped that the school authorities will take some action in regard to this important matter before the opening of school the latter part of this month.

Ask Residence in Contract

The resolution addressed to the Board of Education by the chamber directors is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Educational Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has for several years enacted a policy expressing to the Board of Education the desire of the community of Torrance to have all members of the faculty in the Torrance schools reside locally, by virtue of their interest in the various phases of the community's consciousness and life, and

WHEREAS, it is observed that there is an appreciable advantage accruing to the interest of pupils taught by members of the faculty who reside locally, by virtue of their interest in the various phases of the community's consciousness and life, and

WHEREAS, it is desired that a maximum of such benefits should be secured, which can only be realized through the local residence of all members of the faculty, and

WHEREAS, the city of Los Angeles and this county are adopting an obligatory ordinance requesting the local residence of municipal employees, the general provisions of which are in sympathy with the economical advantages thus accruing; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce that it does hereby respectfully request the Board of Education of the Los Angeles Elementary and High schools to take such action as may be necessary to influence non-local residents of the faculty proposed for Torrance schools to cause such proposed faculty members to reside locally, and that such a policy should be made a consideration in the acceptance of contracts by such faculty members for teaching in the Torrance schools.

Men Will Work Out County Aid Part-Time Here

To Exchange Labor for Help They Get From County At No Cost to City

At no cost to the city beyond the payment of premiums for compensation insurance a number of men will be given work without pay here in exchange for aid they are receiving from the County Welfare Division. These unemployed men live in Torrance or adjacent territory and because they have signified a desire to "work out" the help they have been given, will be given part-time jobs on the street department.

Arrangements were ordered made with the county Welfare Division to provide this labor outlet after the city council had received a letter from W. H. Holland, superintendent of charities for the county. The city will reimburse the county for the compensation insurance. Holland reported that he expected about 70 men will be sent regularly to the Torrance street department during the winter. They will each bear a slip from the Welfare Division stating how many days labor each one is to work in exchange for food, clothing and supplies given by the county. No money is involved in any phase of the transaction.

Sepulveda Blvd. Improvement Is Started Tuesday

Half-Million Dollar Public Work Nears Condemnation Proceedings

With the passage of a resolution for the opening and widening of Sepulveda boulevard from the westerly to the easterly city limits and for the same work on Hawthorne boulevard from the job at Sepulveda to Lomita (Weston street) boulevard, a half-million dollar project was officially launched Tuesday night at council meeting.

The largest improvement job in the city in recent years and rivals any county project—consists of 5.1 miles of paving, work that will take a year and a half to complete. This time includes the period that the project will be aired in court in a condemnation suit.

100-Foot Right-of-Way

Sepulveda boulevard will be another direct artery through Torrance. While the engineering department of the city has been at work for the past month preparing maps and data to be used in both the construction work and civic suit, the adoption of the resolution Tuesday night was the formal beginning of the project.

A 100-foot right-of-way is desired for Sepulveda boulevard to provide for a 40-foot paved roadway and six-foot shoulders on each side, making a 52-foot highway. Hawthorne boulevard will be paved 10 feet wider on each side of the existing 20-foot paved roadway, making a 40-foot highway. Present plans provide for a 100-foot right-of-way on Hawthorne.

All paving will be open applications, asphaltic concrete, according to City Engineer Leonard. The assessment district includes property approximately a mile on each side of the two highways.

NELSON ADVANCES CAUSES FOR PROPOSED POLICY

Further discussion of the Chamber's movement to have all local teachers and school staff reside in Torrance during their period of employment here was advanced in council meeting Tuesday night by Councilman Ed Nelson. It was decided that the council, as an official body, would take no action in the matter, but the members unanimously agreed that the subject was worthy of consideration by every citizen in the city.

Speaking of the matter afterwards, Nelson said:

"The Board of Education should realize the importance of creating and maintaining the best possible background for closer contact between the pupil and teacher of our public schools. I believe that we, as citizens, should request that all teachers, instructors, principals and superintendents connected with and allotted to the public schools of Torrance be required to make their residence within the city limits of the community during any school year."

Should Be Policy This Year

"This request should be made for the purpose of having the teaching and managing personnel of our schools become a part of our civic, social, religious and economic activity, as I believe they are better fitted for their work by being a part of the community which created their pay roll," Nelson continued.

"The people of Torrance feel that if such a request is made for this small reciprocity, they will, in a measure, receive additional consideration for the unusually large per capita tax paid annually from this district to the Los Angeles city schools. The amount paid into the district for the year ending June 30, 1930, was

PROMOTING INDUSTRIES

Carl Hyde, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, returned yesterday morning from a short business trip to Sacramento, where he was engaged in industrial promotion activities for Torrance.