

# VISION: FULFILLED?

One year ago, the Torrance Herald, in one of its few editorials, published an appeal, "Torrance Needs Men of Vision," and set forth a number of requirements which must be fulfilled if Torrance is to grow to be the city she, by incorporated area and natural advantage, is entitled to be.

To review, briefly, the editorial set forth facts which few realize: (1) Torrance, in total area, is the fourth largest city in Los Angeles County, exceeded only by Los Angeles, Long Beach and Pasadena; (2) In per capita wealth, Torrance is third wealthiest city in California; (3) In assessed valuation, Torrance is the 10th richest community in Los Angeles County; (4) Torrance, with more than 50 basic industries, has twice as many industrial, commercial and professional workers as can find homes to live here; (5) Torrance has room for a population of half-million persons within its present city boundaries.

Then to sum up the situation, the assertion was made that Torrance has "long pants" but needs "men of vision" to show her how to wear them.

The fact that private defense housing virtually ignored Torrance during the war was made. The acute shortage of dwelling units was mentioned.

**PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.** While Torrance still is dogged with the housing problem, units being needed both for her workers and the returning veterans, the year has developed the prospect of subdivision of more than 600 acres of land, room for from 1800 to 3000 homes. Both are in the Southwest section of Torrance, to which the city must expand, and while one of the big subdivisions is definitely being prepared for the market, neither would take a step until assured adequate water supply. Several others are in prospect, and the Realty Board and the Chamber of Commerce are seeking out available land.

"How are we going to expand without water?" This question was asked. The need of water throughout Torrance was expressed; the utilization of the Metropolitan Water District supply was urged that the community might get some advantage of the 50 cents per \$100 tax rate being paid for MWD, and that the ground water supply might be protected.

**GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.** On Tuesday, Jan. 15, the people of Southwest Torrance, with the center of population in WALTERIA, will vote on the formation of a water district, together with a bond issue for its development. Without this, those 600 acres would not be subdivided. Metropolitan water supply will be utilized. This will be the "making" of that section of Torrance, with its beautiful residential property, its airport and potential industrial lands adjoining the airport. In North Torrance, a movement to form a water district got under way, but it has been stagnated by the attempt of a few politically ambitious and unfair minded persons to force the City Council to include General Petroleum's vast properties within the new district when General already has a fine, adequate water system. Unfortunately for North Torrance and for all Torrance, the water issue there is "dead" unless the North Torrance residents agree to set the south boundary at 190th st., for the City Council never will agree to include General Petroleum, which already pays a third of the city's taxes, in the district.

The need was mentioned for an ambitious recreation program, and cited the need for taking care adequately of the needs of young and old alike.

**YES, PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.** The people soon will have an opportunity to vote upon a recreation building program which will keep this city in the position among others to which it is rightfully entitled.

That Torrance should not have to be under the thumb of Los Angeles city schools and its politics was mentioned, together with the assertion that the finest school system in the west, with every educational advantage to which our children are entitled, awaits with Torrance control of Torrance schools.

**PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.** Before the City Council is a request of a group of leading citizens that a City Charter be written by the Council embodying the present city government setup plus the addition of provisions for Torrance to have its own schools. By writing and voting upon a charter in this manner, the clear-cut issue of school control will be decided, and in addition the way will be cleared for forming in Torrance the kind of a government which a growing city needs, whether it be city manager government; council-warrant government or whatever form is chosen. First of all, the issue of the schools must be decided on its merits alone, then the charter can be amended in a dozen ways to create a good, progressive government.

Torrance cannot expand without transportation adequately serving all parts of the city, the editorial stated.

**YES, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE.** Bus lines were extended to WALTERIA and Harbor City, to West Torrance, out Western ave., to 203rd st., contemplated is a service to North Torrance, Hollywood Riviera and Redondo Beach.

Torrance cannot grow without streets and highways serving its wide expanse of territory, was the Herald's assertion.

An ambitious street improvement program is in the minds of city and county officials: completion of Western ave., cutting through of Crenshaw Blvd., improvement of Sepulveda Blvd., extension of Lomita Blvd., extension of Carson st. **PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.**

Yes, 1945 has been a year of advancement for Torrance; her city leaders have raised their vision, and people in outlying districts have "found the City Hall." Delegations from all sections of Torrance, from the Pacific Ocean's bluffs at Hollywood Riviera to the water-minded citizens of North Torrance; from the progressive community of WALTERIA, and from the central district are on hand at nearly every meeting. Things are being done to promote Torrance's growth.

The year has seen the commercial district of Torrance grow with the addition of many new stores; several factories have moved to Torrance in the year 1945.

And many new problems have presented themselves, to promote and insure growth of Torrance. Among them:

1. Sewers for districts not now served.
2. Adequate parking facilities in the commercial district.
3. Periodic "shop in Torrance" sales promotion campaigns by the merchants to advance Torrance shopping center.
4. Periodic athletic, entertainment and cultural programs to draw people to Torrance. We have two, the annual Torrance Rodeo and the American Legion Southern California Championship Baseball tournament. We need an out-of-doors Christmas cantata, with children and adults of the city lending their voices and instrumental ability to the songs of the season. We need other events to attract our neighbors and encourage our own people to "stay at home" for entertainment.

5. If a stranger were to travel the highways in the vicinity of Torrance, he would find road signs pointing to every community around here, except "Torrance." Directions and distances are given to Gardena, to Wilmington, to Redondo Beach, to Hawthorne, to Lomita, and even to Harbor City, but where does Torrance come into the picture. Eight major highways, several of them military roads, some state highways and others maintained by the county and city, are adjacent to Torrance, running north and south, with an equal number running east and west. On how many can you travel and find a direction sign to Torrance? You can get to Los Angeles and Long Beach when you are right in Torrance, but which way to travel to reach central Torrance is not given. This is definitely a Chamber of Commerce-Automobile Club proposition. The Lions club has proposed that Rotary, Kiwanis, the Woman's Club, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars get together and mark the entrances to Torrance with clusters of signs at nine points. This is a commendable

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## Vandals Who Break Lights Draw Criticism

Everything from hiring plain clothesmen to appealing to school teachers and parents would be tried to save the city's street lights from vandalism of thoughtless youths, according to the City Council.

Each night, several of the lights are broken, and they cost from \$7 to \$8 each. In addition, rendering them useless is a threat to traffic and pedestrian safety.

The street lights which suffer most are in front of and near the high school, those on Torrance Blvd., and Crenshaw Blvd.

Hiring of plain clothesmen to stop the vandalism is one means, Chief of Police Stroth admitted, but he said he already is short of officers. "It is just as much up to the citizens and schools to stop this as it is to any one else," he remarked.

Most of the lights are broken by boys throwing rocks from jallopies, he said.



**CAFETERIA OPENS AT NAVY BASE . . .** Facilities for feeding the 350 employees of the Naval Material Redistribution Center in Torrance were completed recently and dedicated at a holiday party of officer and civilian personnel. Managed by Herbert C. Allen, under a Navy contract, the cafeteria will serve 60 persons at one time. Allen, in the foreground, left, is seen serving Lt. (jg.) A. R. Todd, labor and transportation officer at the base, as other officers and civilian workers follow. Allen, a local restaurant operator, is completing a new building to house Allen's Cafe on Cravens ave. (Torrance Herald photo.)

## King Asks Building Of Harbor Tunnel

The 17-year-old dream of having a vehicular-tube connect Long Beach, Terminal Island, San Pedro and Wilmington has been revived by Rep. Cecil King, 7th Congressional District, who has introduced a resolution to the House, which calls for immediate construction of such a project by the Navy.

The resolution was referred to the naval affairs committee. The resolution would have Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal authorized to construct the huge tube project, estimated in prewar days to cost approximately \$25,000,000.

If original plans for the T-tube are revived, the project would call for the building of three tunnels. One would connect Long Beach with Terminal Island paralleling the route of the present pontoon bridge. Another tunnel would be built beneath Cerritos Channel at Ford ave. A third would be constructed on the west side of the island to connect with San Pedro.

An estimated 15,000 feet of tunneling would be needed in the three tubes. It would require from 18 to 24 months to complete the total project.

## Veterans Enroute Home

Among high-point servicemen returning to the States having boarded the "Magic Carpet" at Pearl Harbor are S/Sgt. Sylvan O. Hansen, 2716 Eldorado, and T/4 Joseph J. Banco, 1621 Beech ave.

Sgt. Hansen is reported to be sailing aboard the USS Montrose and T/4 Banco on the USS Tryon. Both ships are scheduled to dock at San Francisco.

## Torrance Airport Will Be On Feeder Airline Service For Mail, Express

Torrance airport will be on a feeder line service providing air mail and air express connections direct with transcontinental airlines, it has been revealed by James G. Ray, vice-president of Southwest Airways Company, who said that plans to establish a helicopter air service in the Los Angeles area, including Torrance, will be revealed in a meeting at Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, tomorrow.

While it appeared a few months ago that Torrance would be bypassed by air line feeder service it has been revealed that a brief filed by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has resulted in Torrance airport being placed on the airline map of the company to provide both air mail and express service direct between the Torrance port and major air line terminals.

Prior to the filing of the Chamber of Commerce brief, Torrance airport would have been eliminated as a port of call on the proposed service because it is too close to Mines field, Inglewood, known as the Los Angeles Municipal airport. However, with the filing of the brief, followed by local activity relative to the acquiring of Torrance airport by the municipality, the

## ALTERNATIVE PLAN TO GIVE WALTERIA MORE WATER IS PRESENTED; VOTE JAN. 15

Residents of Southwest Torrance, from WALTERIA north to Sepulveda Blvd. and east to the city boundary, are preparing to vote on Jan. 15 on the question of formation of a municipal water district to solve the age-old problem of the area involved.

Included on the ballot is the proposal that \$150,000 in bonds be voted by the area to finance

laying of lines, piping in of Metropolitan Water District supply, and for other developments.

Only such existing facilities as are serviceable will be utilized in the new district, it is said.

Plans call for building a pipe line from 240th st. and Oak st. in Lomita, or an alternative plan calls for serving the upper areas by transporting water through the Palos Verdes Water Co. mains and the lower areas by building a pipe line at Crenshaw Blvd. northwesterly along the Weston ranch property border to Madison ave.

While the original plan calls for building of a 10-inch main from 240th and Oak sts., in Lomita, only to Newton st., WALTERIA, the new plan will provide a 14-inch main to the top of Hawthorne Hill and dropping of a smaller main into WALTERIA. The second line for the lower areas will be 10 inches dropping to eight inches at WALTERIA.

Use of the alternative plan, it is said, will save some \$11,000 which can be spent on development of the water system in WALTERIA area where most of the consumers reside. Likewise, it will provide water for some 600 acres of land in the vicinity of WALTERIA which would be untouched by the original plan.

The original plan for the 10-inch main from 240th and Oak st. would not allow for new development, but the alternate plan would allow for growth for some years to come.

Subdivision of some 600 acres in the WALTERIA area now is proposed.

## PARENTS VISIT

Rev. and Mrs. Paul M. Wheeler have as their house guests for several weeks Mrs. Wheeler's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Patterson, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Torrance Herald Observes 32nd Birthday; Established In 1914

The Torrance Herald had a birthday anniversary on New Year's Day, its 32nd.

For on Jan. 3, 1914, Volume 1, Number 1, of the Herald was published, just three years after the townsite of "Torrance" was born.

And the Herald, through these 32 years, has grown with Torrance to the point where, while Torrance is the leading community of Southwest Los Angeles County, the Torrance Herald is the leading newspaper.

The first editor of the Torrance Herald was B. M. Knutson, of Gardena, who installed a printing plant in a small room on Cravens ave., in the Brighton Hotel building. He later moved the shop to the Erwin hotel building on El Prado.

On March 24, 1922, Knutson sold the newspaper to C. P.

## Plane Crash Brings Death To Local Woman

A two passenger monoplane crashed Sunday near Rosecrans ave. and Crenshaw Blvd., bringing death to its two occupants and narrowly averted further tragedy to a family backing out of a driveway in their car at 13932 Lemoli st.

The dead were identified as Dr. W. M. Syfrit, chiropractor of 11900 So. Broadway, the pilot, and Harriette Van Lovingham, 21, 2117 Torrance Blvd.

It was disclosed that Miss Lovingham had gone to the airport with a friend, John Babousky, recently discharged from the Army. Babousky told deputies that he had asked Dr. Syfrit, a total stranger, when he observed his preparing to take off, to take Miss Lovingham for a ride.

The pilot was reported to have been instantly killed and Miss Lovingham died after being removed from the wreckage. Reason for the crash has not yet been determined.

## Col. Matthews Post Surgeon At Ft. Lewis

Col. Stanley W. Matthews, former commanding officer of the Torrance Army hospital, is now post surgeon at Fort Lewis, Wash., it was announced this week.

Col. Matthews went from Torrance to Hammond General Hospital, at Modesto, Calif., a few months ago.

Col. G. A. Owsley is now commanding officer of the hospital.

## \$400 Theft Is Reported Here

Carl Burcham, 814 Sartori ave., reported to police Monday the theft of \$400 from his apartment during his absence. Burcham said that the theft must have occurred shortly before midnight Sunday and the money stolen had been hid under his mattress.

## PETITIONS SEEKING POSTAL SERVICE THROUGH TORRANCE CIRCULATE IN WALTERIA

Striking at a time when the WALTERIA residents have under way postal service through direct Torrance post office, petitions are in circulation

## Hilarious Greeting For New Year

The year 1946 is three days old, and it finds merchants in the midst of inventory, and almost everyone starting to consider such first-of-the-year problems as income taxes, automobile registration and the like.

For Torrance, the New Year started hilariously, as far as the Lions club and Veterans of Foreign Wars benefit dance in the Civic auditorium was concerned, but quietly insofar as Chief of Police John Stroth and the sheriff's office report.

There were no accidents involving injury on that night of fog.

More than 1000 persons crowded into the Civic Auditorium for the New Year's Eve dance, and it promises to become an annual affair, so successful was the dance.

J. W. Stedman, of 1207 Rose ave., Long Beach, a driver for the Golden State Co. on a wholesale route, was awarded the first 1946 Ford car received by Schultz & Beckham, local dealers, and turned over to Torrance Post No. 3251 by the dealers for the benefit of the VFW building fund.

Merchants of Torrance reported that the year 1945 brought an increase of business ranging from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. Several new stores opening here during the year, as well as the volume as well as the kind of local business by their inducements to shop in Torrance.

Postal receipts continued high. Postmaster C. Earl Conner reported. They have been showing a constant increase each year for many years.

## Missing Sergeant Returns to Home

S/Sgt. Claude W. Mitchell, 819 Portola ave., reported missing last week by his distraught parents following his discharge from the Army at San Pedro, has since arrived at his home here.

Sgt. Mitchell, was said to have boarded the wrong bus and shortly after fell asleep. The bus put him off in Santa Barbara where Mitchell sent a wire to his parents. The delay in the delivering of the wire was believed contributory to the sergeant's missing report.

## Taxi Operators' Use Of Sidewalks, Curbs Draws Fire From Merchant

Use of the sidewalk and curbs intersection of Cabrillo and Sartori aves., as "taxi stands" has been hit by Alden Smith, jeweler at 1603 Cabrillo ave., in a communication to the City Council.

He added that, while he was stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, while in the Army, he had read of the taxicab problem in Torrance and had, out of interest, looked into the methods used there and found that the taxicabs had been ruled off the streets entirely and were required to have their own places of business from which to operate. As a result, he continued, the taxicab business was operated smoothly and without complaint, so far as he knew. He appealed to the Council to give this matter careful consideration.

The taxicab business will be regulated by an ordinance now being considered by the City Council, it was pointed out by city officials.

Smith said that the corner of Sartori and Cabrillo is being used as a "hot spot" by the various taxicab companies in the City of Torrance, to the extent that the businessmen in the vicinity cannot park their own cars in front of their places of business. He said he had made the acquaintance of a number of the cab drivers with the thought that an amicable agreement might be reached, and with no injured feelings. However, he said, he had been told, in effect, to mind his own business and was threatened with bodily harm if he parked his car in front of his place of business, as it interfered with the taxicab parking space. He said there are usually from three to six cabs parked there.

He pointed out that, although he felt sure the Council did not want to foster a bunch of hoodlums, the situation can very readily get out of hand because a great

many of the cab drivers are assured of success, known to have their costly and expensive Redondo Beach office replaced which would throw the whole area of Southwest Torrance into Torrance postal service, including the Army Airport which now is served by Lomita post office.

WALTERIA postoffice would retain its identity. It is proposed in the petitions, to be known as "WALTERIA Station," and the post office there would be blanketed in under United States Civil Service.

Civic leaders in WALTERIA said that the institution of direct postal service with Torrance would be a boon to development of the area, aid property values and provide the type of mail service which is needed there.

The Torrance office already is equipped and prepared to serve the area, Postmaster C. Earl Conner said when told of the program, but he declared that the move must come from the people to be served.

The petitions are directed to the first assistant postmaster general, in Washington, D.C.

Similar action by North Torrance residents is contemplated. Moneta, Gardena and Redondo Beach postoffices serve some sections of North Torrance.

The action follows the recent appeal of residents of West Torrance and WALTERIA for direct Torrance telephone service. A large part of Torrance is served by Associated Telephone Co., in Redondo Beach.

The petition reads as follows: "We, the undersigned residents, property owners and post office patrons of WALTERIA, Torrance, Calif., do hereby petition the First Assistant Postmaster General for postal service through the postoffice at Torrance, California, and that the WALTERIA postoffice be known as WALTERIA station of the postoffice."

"The following supporting reasons for this petition are set forth:

"1. WALTERIA is a part of the City of Torrance and patrons experience much costly delay in mail service under the present arrangements.

"2. Considerable development of the area is taking place and the convenience of the residents will be greater served by the Torrance postoffice.

"3. With the assumption of possession by the City of Torrance of the Army Airport, direct mail service will be necessary and to speedy handling of city government affairs.

"4. Formation by residents of the district of a Municipal Water District, now taking place, requires direct contact by mail with the Torrance City Hall, for convenience of the people and the city government."

## Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: Most magicians pull a rabbit out of a hat. Why this? Answer: To show folks they still have a little hare.

