

# Young and Old Make the Most of City's Unprecedented Snowfall



WELL LOOK WHO'S HERE . . . One of the first stubby little gentlemen made his appearance in Torrance Monday evening was this fellow having his pipe lighted by Louis Lisoni Sr. The little man made an overnight visit to the Lisoni residence at 1732 Martina avenue. Mrs. Lisoni and Billy Floyd, a neighbor, helped make the red-nosed gentleman comfortable. In



second photo from left "Brad" Bradbury, 21325 South Harvard, Gail Cox and Bill Spangler, neighbors of Bradbury, frolic in the snow for the benefit of the photographer after a bathing beauty got cold feet and failed to appear. The two little fellows were guests at the Bradbury home at the Harvard boulevard address. Treatment afforded only a king was re-



ceived by the portly effigy in the photo third from left, who is wearing dad's (Burt Locke Jr. of 1404 Crenshaw boulevard) favorite fedora and drawing on his best pipe. The skeletonless chap is perched on the lawn of the Lockes and was made by (left to right) Mary and Kathryn Schott, neighbors of Nancy Locke, on right. Strictly "Torrance" was the be-



spectacled character in the photo at extreme right, who is wearing a Factory Frolic cap. Standing nearly five feet high, he is the product of the workmanship of Jerry and Charles Codd, 1406 West 220th street, on whose front lawn he was posed. All scenes were photographed during Monday night's unprecedented snow flurries.—Herald Photos.

## Ermine-Robed City Becomes Fairyland for Two Long Days

Ermine-coated Torrance, an icicle-bejeweled Cinderella city, shook its head today as if waking from a dream and like the story-book character prepared to return to the humdrum of a more normal California climate after living for two days in a fairyland of white.

The event, which will go down in the city's history as the "snow scene," will be well-remembered for posterity—the community was the target of the greatest number of picture-takers ever seen. Camera shops and drug stores reported film was in greater demand than Hekets to the Rose Bowl.

Officially reported as 1.25 inches of precipitation, the "Big Snow of 1949," wrought many changes in the lives of local citizens during its two-day visit.

The population of the city jumped suddenly about 25 percent as many householders called the Torrance Herald to report they had a visitor who thrived much better outdoors than in.

### Temperatures on Toboggan?

Official reports on the week's weather were as follows:

Jan.	Max.	Min.	Rain	Snow
5	61	37		
6	70	29		
7	67	36		
8	61	37		
9	56	37	0.25	
10	49	39		.03
11	49	28	1.00	.45
12		32		

The storm brought the rainfall for the season to 3.57 inches as compared to 1.77 for a year ago.

### Appeals Heeded

## Sister Kenny Polio Treatment Continued at Harbor Hospital

Denial that Sister Kenny treatments for polio patients are being discontinued at Harbor General Hospital was made this week by J. E. Smits, hospital director. Confusion has followed the notification given families of patients being cared for at the hospital that private facilities now are available.

"We have Sister Kenny technicians here who will continue treatments to patients who cannot be discharged," Smits said. "However, the hospital has urgent need for the wards originally set aside for the polio emergency and we hope to have one ward cleared shortly."

Ann Louise Murray of Waller was one of the patients who got a "Christmas present" in the form of a release from the polio ward. This week she was permitted to resume school work. Other children have been released to private institutions, where parents are financially able to arrange it.

But while all seemed peaceful at the middle of the week,

## Eight Named to Planning Commission

Appointments to the City Planning Commission for one, two, and three-year terms were made by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

Appointees for three-year terms are Morton Gilbert, R. S. Whitcomb and Charles T. Rippey. Two-year terms were designated for Robert J. Delinger, Comm. Byron Johnson and A. D. Gianni, who was designated as president. One-year appointees are John Salm and W. A. Felker.

John Patrick was designated as secretary and Ladene Hamman assistant secretary.



"HERALD" VISITOR—Supervisor Ray V. Darby paid a visit to the Herald's new home last week as this community's representative on the County Board of Supervisors.—Herald Photo.

## Torrance Man Hurt as Blast Rocks Locality

Concussion from the explosion of two 35,000-gallon tanks of high test gasoline was felt in Torrance at 5 p.m. Tuesday, after a bolt of lightning from a snow-laden sky had struck the Union Oil Company's Wilmington refinery.

Everett Briskin, 1523 West 214th street, Torrance, who was loading gasoline a half-mile away, was thrown off a platform and sustained a broken leg. He was the only casualty, however.

The gasoline was being allowed to burn itself out and was still burning Wednesday afternoon. Damage was estimated at \$350,000.

## Railway Eager To Cooperate, Says Attorney

Santa Fe Railway officials are eager to further in every way the sound development of the city of Torrance, according to a letter received by Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr.

Referring to "your desire to bring about a residential development in the western section of the city, I feel confident that you will find officials of both the railway company and the CCMO are not merely interested but eager to further it in every way," the letter signed by its general counsel said.

Santa Fe officials indicated they wanted to meet with city officials to discuss the new ordinance regulating operation of their trains in the city.

## Water District Will Up Rates In July, 1950

On July 1, 1950, a year and one-half hence, the rate for natural Colorado river water delivered to Torrance, Lomita and constituent areas by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will be increased to \$10 from \$8 per acre foot.

The rate for softened and filtered Colorado river water which Torrance receives, will be increased to \$20 from \$18 per acre foot.

Action to authorize the rate increase was taken by the District Board of Directors. Several months ago the Board author-

## Notification Lacking Here

W. H. Stanger, superintendent of the Torrance Water Department, said he had received no official notice of the increase yet this week. The only alternative, he added, will be for the city to increase its rates.

ized an increased rate for softened and filtered water to \$18 from \$15 per acre foot. All of the District cities and areas located in Los Angeles and Orange counties receive softened and filtered water.

The increased water rate authorized by the District Board of Directors was made on the recommendation of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds. An acre foot of water, Hinds pointed out, is equal to 326,000 gallons. He also stated that the \$20 rate, which is to be effective a year and a half hence, will amount to a rate of about four and one-half cents per 100 cubic feet.

The District delivers water wholesale to its constituent areas and they, in turn, distribute the water to their consumers.

## New Ordinance on Traffic Now Effective Here

All-night auto parking on the streets of Torrance now is prohibited under the provisions of a new traffic ordinance adopted at Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

Specifically, the new ordinance prohibits parking between 9 and 5 a.m. when the streets of the city are cleaned, and the law is effective immediately, says Police Chief John Stroh.

Signs giving notice of various other parking regulations have been posted on the streets for several weeks. They are now effective, since the ordinance contains an emergency clause.

**MONETA PAVING JOB**  
C. E. Arnold, county surveyor, has recommended that the Board of Supervisors award a contract for paving Moneta avenue in the East Torrance area to the Triangle Contracting Company, Laguna Beach, whose bid of \$9820 for the job was lowest received.



NEW PRESIDENT—Paul Diamond, new president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

## Retail Group Puts Diamond In as Leader

Paul Diamond, proprietor of the Gay Shop, was elected president of the Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting of the new board of directors Tuesday.

J. H. Page of the J. J. Newberry Company was named vice president and Blaine Walker of the Chamber will serve as secretary-treasurer.

The five other members of the Retail division's board of directors, elected by popular vote on Monday, are Harry Petro of McCown Drug; H. J. Gilmore of A-1 Photo Service, Paul Jacobs of Chaney's Department Store; Harry Abramson of National Home Appliance, and Herb Cohn, of Torrance Men's Shop.

## Stevens Made City Manager As of Jan. 1

George Stevens today became Torrance's first city manager under the new amendment to the city charter approved late last week by the State Legislature.

Stevens was formally appointed at Tuesday night's council meeting, on motion of Councilman Al Jackson, to be effective as of Jan. 1. The vote was unanimous, following a second by Councilman Nick Drake.

Salary of \$10,000 annually was provided in Jackson's motion, to compensate for the added duties and responsibilities that the new position carries with it.

Stevens had the title of city administrator until last July 27, when he was given the title of city engineer, at the same salary, until such time as the charter amendment adopted by the voters last spring should be ratified by the Legislature.



SPEAKER—Charles McKeand, director of public relations for the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, who will be moderator at the Torrance Management Club dinner on Jan. 24. (Story on Page 3)

## FIRST MAN BORN HERE NOW LIVES IN TUJUNGA

The first child born in the City of Torrance was located this week, after having practically dropped from sight for 36 years! To be exact, he located himself—through a cordial letter to the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

He is Edward J. "Torrance" Gull, recently returned from six years of Army duty. He was commanding officer of a photo unit of a bomb group and now is associated with the Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation.

"I lay claim to the distinction of being the first child born in the incorporated City of Torrance. At the request of the newly-formed Chamber of Commerce, I was christened John Edward Torrance Gull, born Feb. 22, 1913. The first girl born in the city was Mary Brown, born July 4, 1913, and as a result we were both called "patriotic babies."

"Having returned from six years Army duty, I am curious to know just how my home town has grown. I was a member of the Atom Bombing Squadron, and as a photographer was privileged to photograph the Bikini Atom Bomb tests, becoming a commanding officer of a photo unit of the 509th Bomb Group.

"I am now resuming civilian life, however, and my association with the Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation. I would appreciate very much some information about your city's development."



GONE WITH THE SUN . . . Was the snow and the date that Torrance experienced its first snowstorm. The date never returned, however the snow did for the second day. Carol Lee Malloy of 2266 Dominguez street stands on a fallen fence which served as her writing slate.—Herald Photo.

## CENSUS SHOWS 17,100 PEOPLE RESIDING HERE

Preliminary figures on the special census completed late yesterday show a total of 17,100 persons now living within the city limits of Torrance.

This is an increase of nearly 4000 since the last special census two years ago, it was pointed out by George Stevens, city manager, when the official count was 13,160. The 1940 count was 9350.

Stevens emphasized that the new figure is only preliminary, and subject to changes that may be necessitated in re-checking.

"This has been a rapid and efficient job," Stevens said, in commenting on the work now being double-checked by Edward C. Dornacher, special census supervisor, and his staff. Another census of the city will be started one year hence, and several thousand new homes will be completed and occupied by the time Stevens pointed out.

Torrance now has 6852 registered voters, as compared with 7745 persons eligible to vote at the November general election, according to figures released this week by County Registrar of Voters Ben Hite.

## Santa Fe Land Considered in School Plans

Five acres of land now owned by the Santa Fe Railway across Plaza del Amo from the present high school site are being considered as a possible addition to the local school plant, it was disclosed this week by the Board of Education.

The acquisition is merely being considered, Sup't. J. H. Hull said in bringing the matter before the board, and although desirable in some ways it has the big disadvantage of being across the street. This would perhaps necessitate the construction of an underpass at some time, and would be costly, Hull said.

The matter came up in discussion of the master plan for the ultimate development of the

## Medical Kit Stolen, Found, But Not Dope

Dope valued at approximately \$100 was missing from the recovered medical kit which was stolen from the automobile of Dr. Eugene L. Cook last week, according to Torrance police reports.

The kit, found under a pile of lumber at the site of the new construction work at the Torrance Memorial Hospital, contained all the other medical equipment in the case, the police said.

(Continued on Page 3)