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THAT'S THE GUY . . . Claims Gus Drake, manager of the vegetable department at the Ideal Ranch Market, as he identifies a photograph of a man who is alleged to have swindled him out of \$2000 in a phony diamond deal last October. Holding the photo is Chief John Stroh, who aided deputy sheriffs and district attorney investigators in tracking down the "bunco" artist. (Torrance Herald photo)

## MAN WHO BILKED MARKET OWNER OUT OF \$2000 ON DIAMOND DEAL CAUGHT

Recognizing a man from a photograph published in a metropolitan newspaper, Gus Drake, owner of the vegetable department in the Ideal Ranch Market, 2067 Torrance boulevard, was able to finger one of two men who he claims swindled him out of \$2000 in a bogus diamond deal last October.

Accused by Drake is Herbert Gordon, who was arrested Monday morning by deputies of the district attorney's and sheriff's bunco squads as a member of a race track touting gang which is alleged to have fleeced a Los Angeles resident on a phony "hot tip." Gordon's picture appeared in a metropolitan newspaper and Drake, recognizing Gordon, called the Torrance police department, who contacted the district attorney's office. Drake was unable to identify the second man involved in the diamond deal, but will attempt to identify him in person if he is among the four men arrested in Los Angeles.

The local merchant claims he was swindled out of \$2000 last October by two men, one a foreigner who spoke Greek, and Gordon, who was posing as a "Dr. Miller."

Approached by the Greek-speaking stranger, Drake tried to aid him find his brother, supposedly living in Torrance, so that the man could give him some diamonds he had brought from overseas. He represented himself as a sailor who had to get to San Francisco to catch his boat. Drake located a "Dr. Miller" in Santa Ana who claimed to be the missing brother's physician. He came to Torrance and taking one look at the diamonds became very enthusiastic. The "doctor" told Drake to buy the diamonds for him while he went back to Santa Ana to get some money. Drake went to a local bank and drew out \$2000, which he gave to the Greek sailor.

Drake had two of the 24 diamonds appraised by Irving Wieder of Allan's Jewelry store, who estimated the value of the two stones at \$900 and \$700 each, but during the transaction the stones were given a fast shuffle and Drake ended up with 24 pieces of Mexican cut glass.

Wieder also identified the man known to them as "Dr. Miller" as the "doctor" who accompanied Drake to the jewelry store.

Gordon is out on \$5000 bail pending a preliminary hearing Feb. 9.

## COLUMBIA DENIES SMOG CHARGES BY COUNTY

Charges by the Air Pollution Control District that Columbia Steel Company has "failed to cooperate" in helping to abate

## Appeal Board On Smog Violations Aim Of County

Creation of an appeal board to hear cases pertaining to enforcement of the air pollution control regulations of Los Angeles County was approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Named were Herbert Walker and Frank Doherty, attorneys, and a third member will be appointed later.

The appeal board will hear such cases as that of Columbia Steel Co. from an order recommending that its operating permit be revoked due to its alleged heavy contribution to "smog" in this area, a charge which has been denied by the company.

smog nuisance in the Los Angeles area are contrary to facts borne out by meetings with representatives of the District, according to J. Lester Perry, president of Columbia, a United States Steel Corporation subsidiary.

## Internal Revenue Offices To Open In Local Area

Archie N. Vance, chief field deputy of the Southern California Bureau of Internal Revenue, today announced plans for the opening in Torrance and Lomita of temporary revenue offices to assist residents with their 1947 federal income tax returns.

On Feb. 16 and 17, the office will be open in Lomita post office.

In Torrance, the office will be open in the City Hall from March 1 through March 5.

All offices will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday of each week, including Lincoln's Birthday. "Again this year we will send deputies to numerous industrial organizations, but the number will have to be materially reduced because of our shortage of available working personnel," Vance declared.

## New Teachers Are Authorized By Schools Here

Torrance City Board of Education Tuesday night authorized the employment of Fern Hulka Springer as a teacher, effective Jan. 26, at a salary of \$300 per month.

The board also authorized the placing on the substitute teacher list of Stella Elizabeth Thompson.

Yvonne Marie Willson was employed as Child Care Center teacher in the nursery school at a salary of \$1.02 per hour, effective Jan. 19, 1948.

## BOND ISSUE FOR SCHOOLS BEING FORCED ON TORRANCE DUE TO RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

Torrance voters will be asked in the near future to approve a bond issue for new schools of from \$1,300,000 to \$1,600,000, due to the rapid expansion of residential districts of the area, it was revealed Tuesday night by the Torrance City Board of Education.

With the enrollment in Torrance schools, grades, kindergarten through eighth, now standing at 2067, the present school plants taken over from Los Angeles and Perry districts are approaching their saturation point.

New students are being added weekly in large numbers, as new homes are completed and occupied. Each new home is providing six-tenths of a child, and with nearly 1000 being completed now and with plans filed in the City Hall for 1624 more homes, the elementary school population within a year will increase approximately 1574 pupils, to an estimated 3600, it was said.

This is double the elementary population under Los Angeles schools in the year 1945-46, according to figures.

R. I. Plomert Jr., tax manager for General Petroleum Corp. and chairman of the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, addressed the Board of Education Tuesday night and said that he had assurance that a bond issue of \$1,300,000 would be approved.

However, with new home tracts being announced almost daily, it was felt that this will be insufficient to handle the problem—but that the entire picture is dependent upon the cost of building at the time the bids are requested from contractors.

"Torrance, with its tremendous assessed valuation, has been getting a break for many years," Plomert told the board. "All say that the taxes are too high, but we realize that each new home brings responsibility in the way of school housing and municipal services." He recognized that the school tax on the individual home does not educate the child in that home, and that industry and other heavy taxpayers have to bear the burden of the cost of schools beyond that point.

It is estimated that building costs are now between \$12,000 and \$13,000 per unit.

A minimum of four new elementary plants of 15½ units each will be needed, it is estimated, and each unit will cost, at present day prices, an estimated \$253,800.

One must be provided in Southwest Torrance, one in Waverly area, one in South Torrance, and one in North Torrance.

Each plant would contain eight classrooms, a library, kindergarten rooms, administrative offices and a cafeteria (cafeteria and auditorium combined). The cost of each site, minimum of 10 acres, would be approximately \$30,000, and architects' fees, supervision and incidentals would cost an estimated \$22,000. Equipment would cost \$21,000.

In addition to the four new plants, each of which will accommodate 400 students, a primary unit is needed at Fern Avenue School, which will cost an estimated \$180,000; cafeteriums will be needed at Fern and Torrance Elementary, each costing \$50,000, and a new four-classroom building with other facilities will be needed at Perry school, costing an estimated \$140,000.

There are 31 steps which must be taken in providing for the

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## Schools Bid For Nursery Building In FWA Hands

Torrance City School District's bid to purchase the Child Care Center building on the Torrance Elementary School grounds built by the government during the war has been sent to Washington, D.C. for final approval by the Federal Works Administration, Emmett W. Ingram, assistant superintendent of schools, told the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Torrance has bid \$780 for the building which cost the government an estimated \$25,000.

The structure now is being used as a nursery school for young children of working mothers, financed by the state but operated by the Torrance schools.

Even if the bid is approved, the district will not have to pay for the structure until after July 1, Ingram said that he had been informed.

## DELAY IN AREA CURRENT CHANGE TOLD

A four to five months' delay in a scheduled electrical change-over which will affect users of many types of appliances here, was indicated this week by officials of the Southern California Edison Company.

Announcement of the delay in the scheduled "out-over" from 50 to 60 cycle current, brought protests from local appliance dealers and a letter inquiring into the situation was to have been prepared by Mrs. Joseph Bauer, secretary of the Lomita Business Association. Executive Secretary Blaine Walker of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce requested a copy of the L.B.A. letter.

Due to engineering reasons the scheduled standardization of current in the Redondo Beach district, which includes Lomita and Torrance, has been postponed from May to September and October, Assistant District Manager J. L. Fitch stated.

Among the appliances affected by the change in current are clocks, phonographs, washing machines and refrigerators.

Fitch said that while the Redondo Beach and Pomona districts are the last to be changed over, being last has its advantages in that company has gained efficiency in the "out-over" procedure.

He said that accurate information to all persons concerned in the change will be given well in advance and that no one should suffer any great inconvenience.

The job of standardizing electric current will cost the Southern California Edison Company \$27,000,000, he said.

## CONCILIATORS STUDY HARBOR CLERKS ISSUE

A letter was issued yesterday by the San Pedro Business Men's Association to merchants in the harbor area stating that a meeting was held Tuesday evening, Feb. 3, at the request of Commissioner Earl Ruddy, of the U. S. Conciliation Service, and E. N. Fagg, of the State Conciliation Service, to solve the dispute over contract conditions in the labor negotiations between the association and the Retail Clerks' Union, Local 905.

Commissioner Ruddy said late yesterday that the union had agreed to submit to its members the employer proposals for revision of the union shop clause and an arbitration plan which calls for a no-strike, no-lockout agreement during the life of the contract.

Torrance members of the negotiating committee expressed hope that the issues involved would be settled peacefully as there had been a general agreement on the matters in principle. Wages and hours are not involved as these had been previously agreed upon.

It was understood that a second meeting would be held following the union's vote on the employers' proposal.

## TORRANCE POLITICAL POT BOILS AS DATE FOR FILING FOR COUNCIL POSTS NEARS

The biennial political pot of Torrance is boiling, with several candidates for the April 13 municipal election fanning the blaze with their hints at possible participation in the feast.

At stake are three posts, the majority of the City Council. Also, although the election has no connection with City of Torrance affairs, three posts on the new Torrance City Board of Education will be filled.

Early campaign interest shows that the City Council election, together with the proposed City Charter amendments, will hold the center of interest in the coming pre-election weeks.

Official note is made of the following dates:

First date to file nomination papers for candidates for the City Council and Board of Education is Feb. 13.

Last date for filing of nomination papers is March 4, at 12 noon.

Last date to register to vote at the April 13 municipal elections, March 4, 12 midnight.

Not less than five nor more than 10 qualified electors may sign nomination papers for any candidate.

As the municipal campaign swings into action, several potential candidates have said that they are in the running, others have smiled or have not denied the fact, and still others, particularly the incumbents, have said that they have not made up their minds.

As preparations are being made for the municipal election as provided by the City Charter, the Board of Education and local citizens were declared to be preparing a petition to the City Council asking that a charter amendment be placed on the ballot of April 13 to separate the school elections from that of the city government.

Under the Charter, school elections must be held jointly with the city and Torrance school board is seeking to have its election held in accordance with the education code, which this year provides for selecting of members of the various Boards of Education on May 21, for installation on June 30.

There is no possibility of the change being made this year, authorities said.

Announced potential candidates for the City Council are

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## PLANS FOR 1657 NEW HOUSING UNITS IN TORRANCE FILED WITH BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Plans for 1657 new housing units in Torrance have been filed in the City Hall and each project has tentative tract approval of the Torrance Planning Commission, it was announced yesterday.

These are in addition to the nearly 1000 new units which already are under construction in Torrance.

## Columbia Will Finish New Mill In Late 1949

The new cold rolled strip mill which Columbia Steel Company is installing at the wartime Alcoa plant in Torrance will be completed and in operation during the fourth quarter of 1949, according to the United States Steel Quarterly, now being distributed to 228,000 stockholders.

Columbia will spend some \$30,000,000 on conversion of the aluminum reduction plant operated during the war by Aluminum Company of America, at 180th street and Normandie ave.

The steel company paid the government \$4,331,000 for the plant, which will employ 1200 men.

The unit is one of 12 new major facilities being built throughout the nation by U. S. Steel subsidiaries, and they include a new cold rolled strip mill at Pittsburg, Calif.

The filing and approval of new plans caused officials to forecast a population in Torrance of 25,000 persons within the next year, with a school population of 3500 in elementary schools and 1000 in the high school.

The total value of building permits involved would be between \$6,000,000 and \$8,000,000, it was said.

New tracts approved include:

1. Jack Strauss, 122 homes north of 101 Highway and west of Wilmington street, in Southwest Torrance.

2. Jack Pine, 66 units, duplexes, at Dominguez street and Crenshaw boulevard.

3. Homer Bale, 20 units north of 1700th street and west of Crenshaw boulevard.

4. L. J. Shanahan & Son, 73 units, between 164th and 166th streets and Arlington and Granmercy avenues.

5. Dike, Driggers & Lownes, 148 homes north of 228th street and west of Western avenue.

6. John Kettler, 122 units of Kettler Knolls No. 3, between Walnut and Western avenues at Pittsburg, Calif.

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## NEW 'MIRACLE MILE' IN TORRANCE ANTICIPATED DUE TO HOME BUILDING

The "Miracle Mile" of the Southwestern area of the county will be located in Torrance, along 101 highway from Hollywood Riviera to Waverly.

This was the prediction of civic leaders yesterday who studied the subdivision maps of a half-dozen developers on file in the City Hall.

Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance will "come into its own" with full police, fire and postal service, and with schools to meet the need, as new development projects promise an increase of some 800 housing units in the next year.

The addition of the new homes will require that the school, municipal and postal services due such a community be installed at a pace which keeps stride with the development, it was declared.

Also along 101 highway, just east of Hollywood Riviera, the Seaside Ranchos development has announced plans to enter its second phase, with some 93 homes to be added to the 200 units already completed. Some 600 homes ultimately will be built there.

Seahaven Corporation, companion home with Sunhaven Properties, is negotiating with the Ellinwood estate for property north of 101 highway, opposite the 207 acres which were sold to Seaside Ranchos, and two other tracts are under development at this time in the area in and adjacent to the Meadow Park tract in Waverly involving some 500 homes.

Since no commercial area is permitted in Hollywood Riviera, and since none is allowed along the highway in Redondo Beach, it long has been a foregone conclusion of developers in the Southwestern Torrance area that a fine shopping district

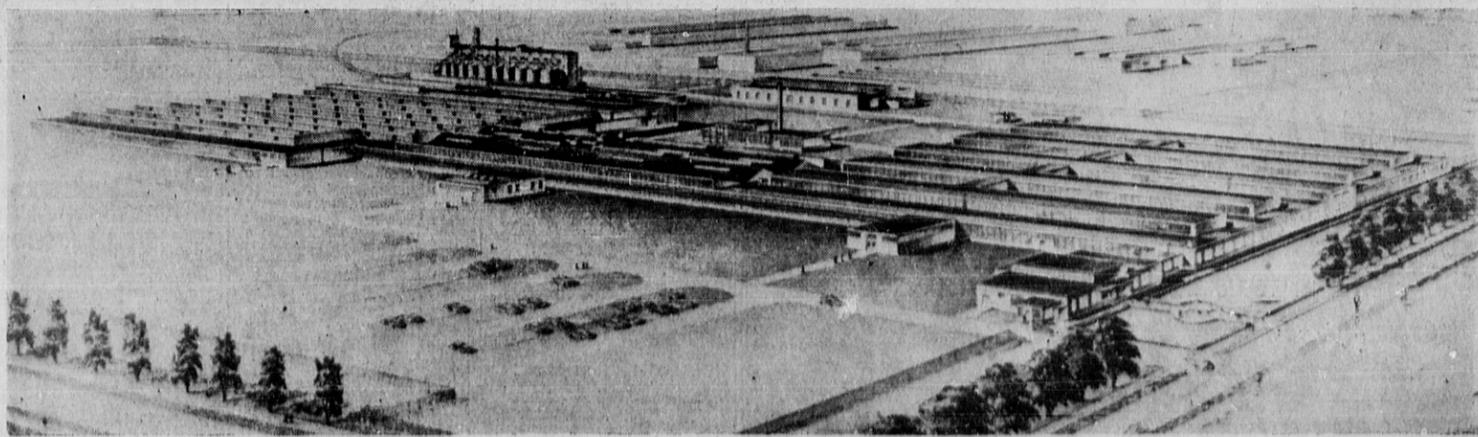
## 'Y' Membership Drive Getting Under Way Here

The Torrance Y.M.C.A. is out to raise \$4,000 in its annual membership enrollment which started Tuesday night when some 35 workers met for the "kickoff" dinner to hear Loren Bell, executive secretary of the Pacific Southwest Area Y.M.C.A.

Von Bergen, enrollment chairman, announced that 800 sustaining members would be needed to achieve the goal.

Milton Isbell, "Y" secretary, stated that in 1947 the local "Y" sponsored 12 boys and young men's clubs with enrollment of 368, and a total attendance of 5,418; a teen-teen that met 53 times and was attended by 15,243 young people. The "Y" organized 15 teams for athletic competition, held 119 sessions with attendance of 6,344. Eighty-eight special events were held in 144 sessions with a total attendance of 5,378. One hundred and hrete boys attended Y.M.C.A. summer camp.

The \$4,000 will enable the Y.M.C.A. to sponsor more younger boys clubs and activities, set up an adult recreational program, have an industrial program and sponsor youth city-wide religious projects, Isbell said.



NEW AMERICAN-STANDARD PLANT NEARS COMPLETION . . . Here is a reproduction of the drawing of Architects Prack and Prack, of Pittsburgh, Pa., of the new \$1,500,000 Torrance Pottery of American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Corp. Located on Crenshaw boulevard just south of 203rd street, the pottery with its great ovens turning out vitreous china products for the southwest market, will be in full operation in early summer, employing some 700 persons.

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