



**EVEN THE PRESIDENT . . .** of El Camino College, Forest G. Murdock, pitched in with a dust rag to help spruce up the new cafeteria for the 2400 persons who attended the open house on the new campus at Redondo Beach and Crenshaw boulevards last Sunday. Story and additional photos on page 6A.

## TORRANCE LEGION POST TO BUILD MODERN CLUBHOUSE

Construction of a modern new clubhouse building will be started soon by the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, American Legion, Torrance, it was learned last night.

The new building, to be located in the 1100-block on Border avenue, will replace the original clubhouse damaged by the earthquakes of 1933 and 1941 and subsequently declared unfit for public gatherings. Facilities will be provided for meetings and dances, while a kitchen installation will enable luncheons and dinners to be served. A large lounge will be provided.

Pumice stone blocks, a comparatively new and light construction material, will be used for the walls of the building, which will be 70 by 40 feet in area, with a trussed roof. Cost will be around \$10,000 for the initial phase of the construction.

Funds for the project were obtained from the sale of scrap from the old clubhouse on Carson street which was damaged and torn down following the 1941 earthquake. Sale of the property and funds derived from the operation of the canteen at the city park also swelled the building fund.

A committee composed of Charles V. Dunham, Les Fix, L. J. Madsen and Edith White met with members of the Legion Auxiliary and worked out some of the construction details for the interior.

Ethelyn Sears, president of the auxiliary and Velora Murphy, past president, represented their organization at the meeting. J. Sherwood Dresser is the architect for the undertaking.

## School Officials Reveal Plans For Increase In Teaching Staff

Plans for additions to the educational facilities of Torrance Unified School District have been discussed and tentatively agreed upon for the coming year, it was learned yesterday. Preliminary discussions have been held by Miss Harriet H. Hardy, girls' vice principal at Torrance High School; Earl W. Eckert, Junior High principal and J. Heinrich Hill, superintendent of the Torrance Unified District.

Additions to the staff at the high school for next year will include an additional home economics teacher, three additional industrial arts teachers, one additional member to the coaching staff, and one additional science teacher. Prospects of increased enrollment have made it necessary that the Torrance Elementary School add one kindergarten teacher; that the Perry School add one kindergarten teacher, and that the Walteria School add one kindergarten teacher.

It was recently necessary to divide a combination fifth and sixth grade combination at the Walteria School and make it into two separate grades. There is need for an additional third grade teacher also at the Perry School, to be employed for the coming year, Hill said.

Three schools will go on double sessions in September. There will be several double sessions at the Perry and Walteria Schools, and probably at least one at the Fern Avenue School. Walteria School will need an additional second grade teacher and an additional third grade teacher.

## Ford Dealers Right In Step On Centennial

George Peckham and Charles C. Schultz, local Ford dealers, got their share of attention at the Pacific Coast Ford dealers preview of the new 1949 models when they visited Oakland Monday and Tuesday, making the trip up and back by special train.

Right in step with the theme for the California Centennial, all California Ford dealers went to the meeting dressed as Spanish Dons of Early California. Some 1300 dealers from the seven western states were guests of the Ford Motor Company and were royally entertained during the two-day meeting.

"Curiosity about the new Fords exceeds anything in the industry since the Model A was introduced," Peckham said. "They'll be shown locally for the first time on June 16, but company employees and their families will see them at Family Day celebrations in the Long Beach and other plants on June 13. The Long Beach plant already is turning out the new line.

Styling of the new cars has not yet been disclosed by Ford. Not so secret are some other details. These include wider and deeper windshields and broader rear windows; lower silhouette; wider front and rear seats, the latter 80 inches; new "hydracoil" front springs; more luggage space

## 20-30 Club's Cancer Fund 'Over The Top'

Collecting more than their goal, John Linton, chairman of the 20-30 Club's "Block of Quarters" reported this week that the drive for funds for the American Cancer Society netted \$1,000.50.

Linton stated that canisters placed in stores throughout the city netted \$320.50 while contributions brought in \$193. The largest portion came from the "Block of Quarters." This amounted to \$487.

## May Seek Dust Bowl Injunction

With additional petitions in circulation demanding alleviation of dust conditions created east of the so-called "Santa Fe Dust Bowl," City Attorney C. Douglass Smith today was under instructions from the City Council to seek relief for the afflicted residents, who brought the matter to a head last week.

Secondly, owners of the property, the Santa Fe Land and Improvement Company, are to be advised of the dust conditions which are being created through cultivation of the land which is under lease for agricultural purposes.

These steps were ordered after Mrs. R. C. Brown, 1004 Crenshaw boulevard, presented petitions bearing 600 names to the Council Tuesday night. She asked the Council, on behalf of the people living in the afflicted area, to "prohibit cultivation of the land and permit it to return to soil by keeping it watered, and erection of a high board fence against the trees as a temporary measure."

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## STORES SHOW DISAPPROVAL OF TIDWELL'S NEW MOVE

Leading retail store operators in Torrance are looking with suspicion and disapproval upon the overtures being made this week to the San Pedro Business Men, Associated, by Haskell Tidwell, secretary of the Retail Clerks' Union No. 905, purporting to offer "settlement" of the current dispute over contract conditions, which dispute since January has been marked with lawsuits and picketing.

A three-point program proposed by Tidwell and the union, includes:

1. That the present union security clause now in existence with certain merchants in the San Pedro-Wilmington area remain in effect for a three-year period.
2. That the remainder of the contract with the exception of the proposed arbitration clause remain as is.
3. That the union submit its proposal for an arbitration clause and that the association present its proposal of an arbitration clause to an impartial arbiter. Let the arbiter determine what shall constitute the arbitration clause and that both sides be bound by the decision of the arbiter.

Torrance merchants have presented a united front in opposition to the tactics of Tidwell, and are reported to be seeking a solution of the clerks' dispute here. A leader among Torrance retailers stated that what ever action is taken here will include the reopening of chain stores, which have been closed since July, 1947.

Tidwell's proposal to the San Pedro Business Men, Associated, followed closely after his reelection as financial secretary of Local 905. Also elected last Thursday evening was the complete slate of officers who are supporting Tidwell.

Shortly before the union election, Max Beardon, who had been conducting a fighting campaign against Tidwell and was a candidate for the secretaryship of the union, did an abrupt "about-face," withdrawing from the race and endorsing Tidwell.

Motions of Defense Attorney Alexander Schullman to postpone the trial and transfer it to another court were both denied. Deputy District Attorney Harry P. Amstutz is in charge of the prosecution.

Edwin B. Brown, business manager of the Torrance Herald, testified as a witness concerning the reading of the allegedly libelous document which was said to have been read at a meeting in Torrance on March 1, 1948. Other witnesses subpoenaed, but who did not testify because of lack of time were: Charles V. Jones, Sam Levy and Paul Diamond.

After cross-examination of Brown, the case was adjourned until 9 a.m. Monday, June 7. The complaint charges Tidwell with violation of Section 242 of the State Penal Code which has to do with wilful intent to injure by causing publication of the libelous statement.

The object of the libel was L. E. DeLaney, a leader of the retail merchants of San Pedro with whom Tidwell's union is currently engaged in a dispute. The complaint against Tidwell includes a copy of a defamatory typewritten statement that Tid-

well made concerning DeLaney. It is expected that his talk will be of special interest here.



**DON SCHULTZ AND DON PECKHAM . . .** otherwise known as Charles and George, respectively, and two Don good Ford dealers use a mirror-like hub cap to spruce up a bit before leaving for Oakland early this week. Ford dealers throughout the 11 western states attended the unveiling of the 1949 models, dressed in the costume of the Spanish Dons—the dealers that is, not the cars. (Staff Photo).

## Tidwell Goes On Trial For Criminal Libel

Shortly after Haskell Tidwell, secretary of the Clerks Local No. 905 in the Harbor area, went on trial yesterday morning in



**HASKELL TIDWELL**

the Justice Court in Gardena as defendant in a criminal libel case, the jury was dismissed and Judge John A. Shidler announced that the case would be tried before him without a jury. This agreement was reached following a conference in the judge's chambers.

Motions of Defense Attorney Alexander Schullman to postpone the trial and transfer it to another court were both denied. Deputy District Attorney Harry P. Amstutz is in charge of the prosecution.

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## California's First Steelmaker Tells Trials Of 38 Years Ago

Some of the problems of the pioneer steel makers were recalled this week by Otto A. Kresse, general superintendent of Columbia Steel who was named "Man of the Month" in a recent article in Western Machinery and Steel World.

Otto Kresse has the distinction of being the first man to make steel in California. He tapped the first heat of steel in California at Pittsburgh on November 22, 1910, from a 20-ton basic open hearth furnace which he also constructed.

It was 44 years ago that Kresse started his career in steel, in his home city of Milwaukee, Wis., now better known for the manufacture of a much lighter product than steel. Working in various eastern and mid-western steel plants he joined the engineering firm of Wellman, Seaver and Morgan.

When his firm obtained a contract to build a steel foundry for Columbia Steel at Pittsburgh it was Otto who was elected to supervise the work. Kresse well remembers that there was no drought that winter, for the flood waters from New York slough would sink their tracks and they had to start all over again.

"If you think housing is bad now, it isn't the problem it was on that job," Kresse recalls. "For the first several weeks I slept on the floor of a house boat in the little Italian fishing village, and fought some of the biggest mosquitoes this side of Florida."

"We got the plant completed in November, 1910, and we tapped the furnace for the first heat of molten metal on November 22. When Columbia offered me the job of first smelter foreman I accepted and kept on working there."

It was in 1923 that Columbia Steel bought the Llewellyn Iron Works at Torrance and Kresse was transferred here a few weeks later as open hearth superintendent, and a year later was named general superintendent.

Kresse, California's first steelmaker, is active in civil affairs. He is a director of Torrance Hospital, a member of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the F.A.M. and past master of the Lodge #1709, Torrance.

He also is a member of the Torrance Rotary Club, the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Pacific Coast Club, American Society for Metals and the American Foundrymen's Association.

Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy, Jr., read a report on a Superior court decision in which the Los Angeles city property owner was enjoined from selling separately the units of a court, each unit on a plot of ground approximating 25 by 38 feet.

"This appears to be a situation comparable to Spurlin Court," the Mayor said. Spurlin Court, located on Cota and Portola avenues at Mariposa has recently been split up into units and sold to various owners.

Councilman Bob Haggard said he believed the local situation was different because the Spurlin Court property already had been sold. Mayor Sherfy was of the opinion that the Los Angeles property also had actually been sold before legal action was started.

"If one of these houses should burn down, it could not be rebuilt," the Mayor said. Councilman Haggard agreed "the situation is bad, but what can we do about it?"

At the Mayor's suggestion, and with Haggard's second, the matter was referred to Smith for check and report.

## School Site Is Granted

Acquisition of a 10-acre elementary school site in the Hollywood-Rivera district was assured today following the action of Sunhaven Properties, Inc., in agreeing to deed school and civic center sites in exchange for vacated area along the western side of Hollywood Palos Verdes Parkway.

Approval of the school superintendent was given to the proposal Tuesday afternoon, and concurring action was taken by the City Council Tuesday night. Formal approval still is required by the Board of Education.

Under the agreement entered into Tuesday night, Sunhaven Corporation is delivering to the city a deed for two and one-half acres of its best ocean-view land which the city will hold as security until a 10-acre site which the Torrance Board of Education selects is formally transferred to the city.

Oliver O. Clark, attorney representing Sunhaven, said he expected to consummate the deal for the 18-acre site, at no cost to the city of Torrance or to the school board, over the week end. He had already obtained approval by telephone of the proposal, he said, through conversations with Rudolph W. Mayer, a brother of Movie Magnate Louis B. Mayer and one of the owners of the 10-acre site.

As soon as the deed to the 10-acre plot, which is not in the Sunhaven tract, is in the hands of the Board of Education the city will turn back to Sunhaven the deed to the two and one-half acres, which was given to the city as a guarantee of good faith.

The exchange of the strip of land 105 feet wide extending northerly 2650 feet from the City of Palos Verdes Estates, for the 10-acre school and civic building sites, also will benefit several private landowners along the parkway, Clark said including the Huntington-Redondo Land Company.

Applause from the audience at Tuesday night's council meeting followed Clark's explanation of the exchange. He added that his company would thus be enabled to erect 154 rental units under Title 6 of the F. H. A., which will expire the end of this month. The complete project will provide for 349 housing units.

Commander William Mason, representing the Hollywood-Rivera Home Owners Association expressed his satisfaction with the exchange of the parkway for the school site, because it represented a saving to the property owners who would otherwise be taxed for purchase of a school site in the area.

Another subdivider in the city of Torrance is reported to be considering a similar exchange with the city.

## City May Halt Sale Of Homes On Small Lots

Whether or not the city of Torrance can take legal steps to halt the sale of property on lots that are considerably under the city's standard size is to be determined by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith, upon instructions from the City Council.

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## Memorial Day Services Set By Committee

Veterans and citizens of Torrance and vicinity will pay honor to their dead on Memorial Day Sunday, with a special tribute for those who gave their lives in order that the democratic way of life might continue, according to J. G. Caldwell, chairman of the Memorial Day committee.

An impressive parade, to be followed by the service at El Prado Park, has been arranged by the committee. Music and a short speaking program will follow immediately after the parade. Doris Avis, a former WAVE, will be the speaker.

"We are asking each individual group in the city to assist us in this solemn service," Caldwell said. "We want each organization to be represented in the parade which will form at Carson street and Cabrillo at 10:30 a.m., and move off at 11 sharp."

"It is our desire to honor our dead and at the same time to

(Continued on Page 5-A)

## New Franchise Will Increase City Revenue

Increase of approximately 560 per cent in the revenue which the city of Torrance obtains from the Southern California Edison Company is provided for under the terms of a new franchise approved Tuesday night by the City Council.

The utility company's old franchise has several years more to run under the Broughton Act, which dates back several decades. The new franchise will be under the provisions of the 1937 Act, a more recent state act which provides payment of a higher rate of revenue. It was explained by City Attorney C. Douglass Smith.

"This will mean about 560 per cent more revenue to the city from this source," City Manager George Stevens said. The higher payment is a voluntary action by the utility company, it also was explained.

Approval of the new franchise was voted on motion of Councilman George Powell. Renewal of the city's contract with the county health department for health inspection service, calling for payment of \$1 a month, and also for beach inspection at a cost of \$156 a month, was referred to the city attorney for check and recommendation.

Termination of the city's contract with Carl E. Marsteller for the sale of municipal bus line tickets and maintenance of a Los Angeles terminal for the line was ordered by the City Council Tuesday night.

No reason was given for the Council's action, which was included along with a number of other routine matters recommended by City Administrator George W. Stevens. The terminal station is located at 1014 South Hill street.

## Shift Ordered In Bus Office Management

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It was reported Wednesday that Vern Babcock, former city councilman will be invested with authority to take over management of the Los Angeles terminal shortly.