Entire City Invited to Big Street Dance

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Dancing, Carnival To Herald New Sign

The city's new neon directional sign at Western Ave. and Torrance Blvd. will be turned on for the first time between 8:30 and 9 p.m. tomorrow night when Mayor Mervin M. Schwab throws a switch set up in front of the Chamber of Commerce building at 1345 El Prado Ave.

On hand to witness the "turn-on" celebration will be city officials, community leaders, and what the Chamber of Commerce hopes to be a "real crowd of residents." The celebration will start off at 6 p.m. and will last until 1 a.m., according to Chamber President Robert I. Plomert Jr.

Booths set up by service clubs and other local organizations will line El Prado between Sartori Ave. and Cravens, and the street will be roped off for dancing throughout the evening.

Manny Harmon and his Movieland band will play the day's popular tunes from 9 p.m. until about 12:30 a.m., according to Chamber Secretary Dale Isenberg.

City To Get Sign

Following the switch-throwing ceremony on El Prado, Chamber President Plomert will officially turn the sign over to the city. The financing of the huge multi-colored neon sign was done through subscriptions by Torrance merchants.

Certain to have booths along El Prado tomorrow evening are the Lions Club, Civitan, Rotary, Women of the Moose, JayCettes, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Democratic Club, Sea Scouts, and Knights of Columbus.

Booths Listed

The Lions Club will have a "wheel of fortune;" the Civitan Club will sell soft drinks; the Rotary Club soft drinks and coffee; the JayCettes hot dogs, tamales, and ice cream from push carts; the Junior Chamber of Commerce will have a baseball pitching game; Sea Scout Unit 217-S will have a dart-throwing game; and the Knights of Columbus will have two booths in conection with a fund-raising campaign they are currently conducting.

Others who earlier told Chamber officials they wanted booth space included the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis Club, Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, the North Torrance Civic Improvement Asssoc., and the Soroptimists.

"Wear your dancing shoes," Isenberg said. The Manny Harmon band will play from 9 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. A public address system will be set up by Harry Greene and the dance music will be broadcast throughout the El Prado area for dancers.

(Herald Photo)

GETTING (RE) TIRED . . . Out of the mothball fleet comes this tamale wagon which members of the Torrance Jaycettes will navigate among the throngs of dancers and fun-seekers expected to attend the gala street dance and celebration on El Prado Friday night. The girls, Ann Lovelady and Doris Pollock, assisted by other members of the organization, will peddle hot tamales and ice cream (in separate packages, of course).

Big Chain Store Eyeing Torrance Airport Land

A statewide chain department store is eyeing city-owned land adjacent to the Torrance Municipal Airport as a site for a large store to serve the rapidly-developing South Torrance area, it was learned this week.

Civil Aeronautics authorities declined to comment on the proposed commercial development other than to say,

"It is not a development that will hurt the airport."

A Long Beach realty firm was negotiating for the property, the Herald learned yesterday.

City officials declined to comment on the development referring all questions to City Manager George W. Stevens who is on vacation.

Although details of the development were scarce, it was discussed as "big" by those who knew of the development, but who were not at liberty to release any information about the new business center.

Hospital Plea For Building Funds Bypassed

Plans to organize a public subscription campaign to finance construction of a 22-bed addition to the Torrance Memorial Hospital were being discussed this week following a hearing Friday before the State Hospital Advisory Council.

The bid of the local hospital for federal and state funds totaling $106,958 to help finance the addition was bypassed when the agency approved allocation of funds to only eight hospitals. Torrance is 14th on the list.

Presenting the hospital's claim at the hearing last week were R. R. Smith, president of the hospital's board of directors, and

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Christian Church Pastor Resigns

Rev. Cecil J. England, for the past 4½ years pastor of the First Christian Church and leader of many civic affairs, read his letter of resignation to members of the congregation at last Sunday's service. He said he was considering accepting a new pastorate in another part of the state.

Rev. England has been active in many civic undertakings and is currently serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Rotary Club. He has been a member of the Board of Managers of the Torrance YMCA and has served the youth organization as a member of the Southwest Area Board of the Los Angeles YMCA for the past two years.

Silent Service

Less known than many of his accomplishments was the silent and successful fight he helped wage against the invasion of Torrance by a large gambling ring which sought to open Gardena-type card parlors in Torrance. He likewise aided members of the City Council who have been attacked by selfish interests attempting to gain control of Torrance's government.

He was a member of the Torrance Educational Advisory Council and contributed to many of the discussions on school-parent relationships. His civic servitude included also a term as chairman of the Inter-Faith Committee for the Released Time Religious Program in local schools.

Rev. England was appointed this year as a member at large of the Harbor Area Board of the Community Chest.

Church Improved

His own church has seen a number of improvements during his pastorship here.

Under construction at the present time is a new $100,000 church to house the ever-increasing congregation of the First Christian Church. In 1950, shortly before the church marked its 25th anniversary, the main sanctuary of the present church was completely redecorated and new carpets laid in the center aisles. Last year a new parsonage was constructed at 2914 Onrado replacing the old one, which since has been sold.

In 1951 the church received into its membership the largest number of new members in a single year to set an all-time record.

At present the pulpit assignments are being scheduled by the Board of Elders pending the appointment of a new pastor.

Rev. England expects to move away from the city within two to three weeks.

REV. C. J. ENGLAND
. . . Resignation Announced

Council Fixes '53-54 City Tax Rate at $1.155

A tax rate of $1.155, including retirement and library assessments, was adopted by the Torrance City Council Tuesday night.

The rate will apply on $65,241,620 which the county assessor sets as the worth of the city—taxwise.

The new tax rate for the fiscal year 1953-54 includes $1 for the general budget, a 5-cent tax for operation of the public libraries, and 10½ cents tax for the purpose of payment for obligations of the City of Torrance to the California State Employees Retirement System.

The tax rate is based on the assessed valuation of the originally incorporated City of Torrance amounting to $28,120,880. The assessed valuation of annexed areas, seven in all, amounts to $37,120,740.

The tax rate of $1.155 can be applied to each $100 of assessed valuation of property to determine the amount of city taxes each Torrance property owner will pay to the city.

State to Rent 32 New Freeway Homes

The State of California this week hung a "For Rent" sign on 32 brand new, previously unoccupied new homes which the state has purchased because they are in the path of the proposed Sepulveda Freeway.

Another batch of 12 new homes will be available about Sept. 1, according to C. Roy Wyman, rental property manager for the Division of Highways.

The homes offered for rent include 17 houses located in the 32-3300 block on 182nd and 183rd Sts. They will rent for approximately $70 monthly.

The other group, 15 in all, are three-bedroom, 1½ baths and are located on 176th St. east of Prairie Ave. They will rent for $125 monthly.

Wyman said the state purchased the homes at this time to avoid complications at a future date when the state begins actual construction of the freeway. He stated that he did not think the freeway would get under construction before one to three years.

The homes to be opened to renters on Sept. 1 are located on Hickman Ave. west of Yukon Ave. The 12 homes are two and three-bedroom new houses.

No rental price has been set, according to Wyman.

Persons desiring to rent the houses are asked to call in person at the Division of Highways office at 120 S. Spring St. in Los Angeles. Mrs. Mabel Graham, rental property clerk, in room 144 is in charge of the assignment of the rental units. Prospective renters will be asked to furnish references.

Office Entered

Someone broke a window to enter the offices of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Co. sometime Tuesday night, Jim Palmer told Torrance police yesterday. He said the papers in the office and safe had been strewn about the office.

Father of Local Man Held for Slaying Wife

Boy to Celebrate 11th Birthday ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN L.A. POLIO WARD

Although today is his eleventh birthday there will be no cake nor candles for Tony J. Carter who became another statistic Saturday as he was recorded as the City of Torrance's ninth polio victim since the start of the year.

The youthful son of Mr. and Mrs. Zill Carter of 3424 W. 187th St. became ill Thursday night. The sixth grader at Crenshaw Elementary School was taken to the Los Angeles County General Hospital where a spinal tap confirmed a local doctor's diagnosis of polio.

Young Carter's case followed by one day the diagnosis of the city's eighth polio victim, 14-year-old Nancy Humphreys of 1324 Crenshaw Blvd., a sophomore at Torrance High School.

Both cases however, were diagnosed as non-paralytic. A brother, Larry, 16, and a sister, Barbara, 18, of the stricken boy, will be given Gamma Globulin serum, according to Dr. B. A. Kogan, Torrance District County Health Officer.

To anyone confined to the hospital, especially a youngster who can't have visitors, mail comes as welcome medicine. The lad's mother, Mrs. Evelyn Carter, is hopeful that his school friends and any other local resident will drop a post card to her son wishing him happy birthday and get-well-quick good wishes. His address is Ward 180S, Los Angeles County General Hospital, 1100 Mission Rd., Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, another Torrance polio victim, 15-year-old Freddie Diesel is showing some improvement. He spent his first night in nine months out of an iron lung Aug. 1. He remains paralyzed from the neck down, however. Freddie, a Class B football player at Torrance High School, was stricken on Halloween night a year ago. He spent four months at the Los Angeles County General Hospital and the last five at Rancho Los Amigos in Hondo. He is in Ward 50. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Diesel, 1608 Post Ave.

About Hogs and Flies

Blount Raps Apathy Of Health Officers

Motivated by what he termed as "apathy upon the part of public health officials" Torrance Councilman Willys G. Blount yesterday visited top county officials to get action to close down stench-producing and fly breeding hog ranches located near the heavily populated Torrance Gardens new home tract.

The City Councilman, ired by the lack of any action by local health officials to abate the nuisance, took with him a letter written by Ralph E. Schmidt, president of the Torrance Gardens-Plaza Homeowners Assn.

Blount said he was going to attempt to get the "county health officers on the ball" to get some relief for the residents adjoining the hog ranches. He claims that window sills of homes in the area are black with fly specks.

The local councilman said he had "repeated, and I mean REPEATED," complaints of health ordinance violations about which little or nothing was ever done.

The City of Torrance has a contract with the County of Los Angeles under which it pays the County to handle public health matters for the city.

Presented to Supervisor Burton W. Chace was this letter from the local homeowners' group.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
County Offices
RE: Indifferent attitude of Mr. Davidson, County Board of Health, to six acres of land south of Dominguez Resevoir

(Continued on Page 3)

New High School Students Asked To Register Now

High school students entering the Torrance system from other districts were urged to register this week by Ivan Malm, boys advisor.

New students from the ninth to the twelfth grade are asked to bring report cards or transcript of record when registering, Malm stated. The counseling office is open each week day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Any student who did not attend a Torrance school last spring must register before school opens on Sept. 14.

Protests Denied In Civic Center Site Rezoning

Over the protests of the owners of the property, the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Co., the City Council Tuesday night rezoned a 22-acre site for possible use as a future civic center site.

C. J. Doughterty, vice-president of CCMO, asked the council for a postponement of its action, pending an engineering survey of the property.

The site is located between Madrona and Maple Aves. north of Torrance Blvd., and has been discussed as a future site for a new city hall, a park, and a swimming pool.

Dougherty told the council he thought that a more suitable site within the city could be found for the civic center facilities.

"The land, with its present railroad trackage, would serve the community best if reserved for industrial development," Doughterty told the council.

The five-man council voted unanimously in favor of the zone change.

Park Site Purchase For $19,000 Okayed

Authorization to open escrow procedings to procure a 5-acre plot for a park site west of the Seaside Elementary School was authorized by the Torrance City Council Tuesday evening.

The land is being purchased from Truman Browne, new home tract developer, for a reported $19,000 cash.

(Herald Photo)

IN PATH OF PROGRESS . . . The State of California became a Torrance landlord this week when it hung up a "For Rent" sign on 32 brand new homes which lie in the path of the Sepulveda Freeway. These homes pictured above are part of 17 on 182nd and 183rd Sts. offered for $75 per month by the Division of Highways. Other homes will rent for $125 monthly.

Rites Here For Victim Of Beating

Arraignment Friday on a charge of murdering his wife with a hammer and two knives was Fred F. Wildemuth, 49, father of Fred N. Wildemuth of 17114 Falda Ave. Preliminary hearing on the murder charge, slated yesterday, was continued until next Wednesday at the Culver City Justice Court.

Funeral services for the woman, Olga Christina Wildemuth, 51, will be held this morning at 10 o'clock in Stone and Myers Chapel.

The tragedy came to light Friday morning when Wildemuth hailed Culver City Police Detective Arlo Hansen from his car, which was parked in a red zone.

The detective walked over to the Wildemuth car and the following conversation ensued:

"Say officer—how do I get the carbon monoxide smell out of my car? I tried to kill myself a few days ago and the smell's still in here."

"Try opening the windows and letting it air out," Hansen advised him.

"Oh, by the way," Wildemuth added, "I killed my wife this morning."

"You told anybody about it?" Hansen asked.

"No," the man whispered confidentially. "You're the only one."

After booking the local man's father for investigation of murder, police drove to his home at 4082 Sawtelle Blvd. and discovered the body of his wife, sprawled beside a bed.

Police said that she had been beaten to death with a claw hammer and stabbed with two steak knives.

In the living room of the house the officers found two hastily lettered signs which warned: "Carbon monoxide poisoning in house. Stay out!" Wildemuth, 49, a bread truck driver, signed a statement explaining that he killed his wife in her sleep because he was afraid she would contact carbon monoxide poisoning from him. He also said that he had been despondent lately.

The services for the local resident's mother will be conducted by the Rev. Theodore Hax of Mt. Olivett Lutheran Church and interment will follow at Green Hills Cemetery. Mrs. Wildemuth was a native of Frederick, Wis., and had been employed by See's Candy Co. for six years.

Survivors, besides her son, include five sisters, Sylvia Donaldson, Ellen Tulsin, Laura Welf, Sofie Saterlie, Anna Halter, and two brothers, Henry and Gust Anderson, all of Minnesota.

Carnival Due In September

A three-day carnival with merry-go-rounds, Ferris wheels, and other thrill rides will set up at Engracia and Cravens Ave. on Sept. 11, 12, and 13, it was announced yesterday by James Van Dyck, director of the sponsoring Torrance Area Youth Band.

Martin's United Shows will set up for the three days, Van Dyck said. The Youth Band's share of the proceeds will go toward providing instruments and other expenses of the band, Van Dyck said.