

City Growing At Rate of 524 Persons Per Month

POPULATION TO TOP 42,500

By JACK O. BALDWIN
People have been swarming into Torrance at the rate of 524 persons a month for the past 21 months, it was indicated in a special census report issued Friday which set the unofficial population of the city at more than 42,500 persons.

figures released by Vernon L. Miller, supervisor of the special 1953 census.
That the population would top all earlier estimates and undoubtedly would be even greater than the 42,500 mark was indicated in remarks by Miller: "We haven't quite completed our tally, but there is every indication that the population will be closer to 45,000 than it is to 40,000."
The city was shooting for a population of 40,000 when the

City Council ordered the special census. The increased population might well qualify the city for its own municipal court as well as bring in thousands of dollars in increased state and county taxes.
"During the balance of the fiscal year the new census figures will bring the city approximately \$50,000," City Manager George W. Stevens said Friday.
The next fiscal year, 1954-55, will see a gain in city revenue of approximately \$88,000, Stevens calculates.

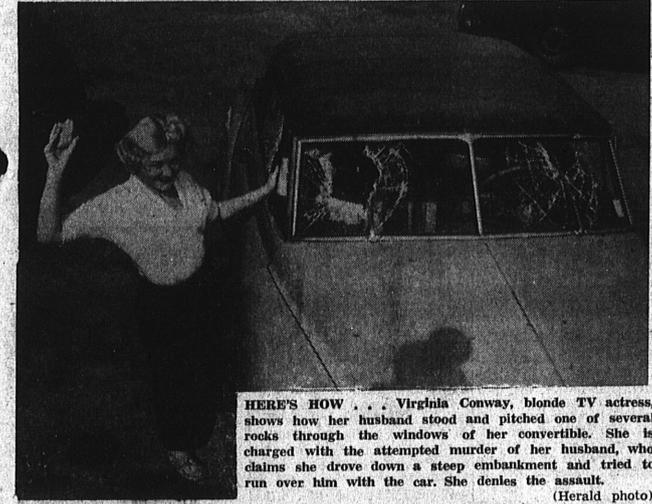
His calculations were based on figures which give each city \$8 per year in tax money collected by the state and county. The special census taken in February of 1952 put the population at 31,834.
Stevens said that each resident of Torrance was worth between \$4.50 and \$5 to the city for the remainder (approximately six months) of the fiscal year. Next year as other cities complete special census the "split"

in tax money will lower to approximately \$8 for a full year per person. The city is allotted five eighths of a cent per gallon on gasoline taxes collected by the state and three-sixteenths of a cent per gallon on tax monies collected by the county. The city also gets a share of the automobile taxes and license fees.
Supervisor Miller said that he expected to complete the official tally on Tuesday and would present it to the City Council on Nov. 17.

"This census is perhaps the most accurate I have ever conducted," states Miller. "This is due to the unusual conscientiousness of the 63 enumerators who have taken the census. We have conducted checks, not just spot checks, but full area checks sending out a supervisor with the enumerator's books and have found many districts where not a single house was missed. In several other areas only one house was not tallied. This is almost a negligible percentage of error."

"I can not recall working with a more conscientious and civic minded group of enumerators," Miller said in praise of those local residents who participated in the count. He stated that as of Friday he still had five enumerators who had not fully completed their districts but that the highest number of houses yet to be tallied by any one of the five was only 15 homes.
The census report is to be shipped air express to Washington, D. C., where it will be certified and returned to Torrance on Dec. 9, at which time the official census will be published.

Cost of the special census was labeled as a "mighty good" investment by the city. The cost of the 1953 special count was approximately \$5000.
"I wish," said Councilman Willys Blount, "that I could invest \$5000 and get back nearly \$50,000 the first six months. That's a pretty fair rate of interest, I'd say."



HERE'S HOW . . . Virginia Conway, blonde TV actress, shows how her husband stood and pitched one of several rocks through the windows of her convertible. She is charged with the attempted murder of her husband, who claims she drove down a steep embankment and tried to run over him with the car. She denies the assault. (Herald photo)

Legion Services Planned for Pet Store Owner

American Legion services will be conducted Monday at 2 p.m. for Alfred Llewellyn Roberts, 57, owner of the O. K. Pet Foods Store, who died on Armistice Day in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Long Beach.
Mr. Roberts, a resident of this area for the past 12 years, is survived by his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Roberts of 247 W. 220th St. A brother, Edward, of the same address also survives.
The deceased, a native of Colorado, will be interred in Green Hills Memorial Park following services to be conducted by the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion, in the chapel of Stone and Myers Mortuary. Rev. C. Miles Northrup will officiate.
The former owner of the pet store at 1917 W. Carson St. passed away after a lingering throat ailment.

Apartment Zone Hearing Stated For Wednesday

Two applications for creation of multiple-family housing zones in North Torrance will be considered by members of the Torrance Planning Commission here at their regular meeting Wednesday evening, according to Earle A. Lloyd, secretary.
The Beach Building Corp. wants to create such a zone along the east side of Crenshaw Blvd. on both sides of 168th St. Guardian Homes, Inc., and Princeton Construction Corp. filed a joint application for such a zone on the west side of Crenshaw Blvd. between Cherry Ave. and 170th St.
Both areas are now zoned R-2, two-family residences.
First hearing on both of the applications was set for the commission's meeting which opens at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the City Hall.
Second hearing on a proposal to create a multiple family zone along Yukon Ave. at 174th St. will be held at the same meeting. This move, initiated by the commission, has met with opposition from owners of homes in the vicinity.

Former Pastor Here Now in Norwalk

Rev. Cecil J. England, pastor of the First Christian Church of Torrance for the past five years, has accepted a new parish and church in Norwalk.
Rev. England preached his first sermon at the new church last Sunday. His new assignment is the First Christian Church of Norwalk.

Car Used as Weapon Blonde Must Stand Trial for Attempted Murder of Husband

Blonde Virginia Conway, 22-year-old screen extra and TV actress, was held to answer on a charge of assault to commit murder when she appeared in the Compton Municipal Court Thursday morning.

The attractive blonde surrendered to sheriff's deputies Nov. 4 after she learned she was wanted for the attempted murder of her husband. Witnesses said the platinum-haired Hollywood night spot entertainer attempted to run over her husband during a family beef along Main St. near 200th St.
Mrs. Conway has denied she tried to run over her husband, Tom Conway, 23-year-old unemployed Hollywood extra.
"He was running alongside of the road and I kinda side-swiped him a little bit and he goes end over tea kettle down the embankment," she explained. Witnesses said she then drove down a steep 30-foot embankment and attempted to run over her injured husband.
"When he fell over the edge I got real nervous and drove down so I could hold him for the cops. But I see he's not going anywhere so I drove off."

Marine Invents Cooling System For Generators

A Torrance Marine Warrant Officer has been credited with developing the first auxiliary generator cooling system in Korea.
WO Leonard S. Wolford, of 2612 Cabrillo, and Sgt. Erasmus Parra, of New York, originated a plan to keep the generators cool in the intense heat of the Korean summers. Previously, Marines had to shut the generators off every two hours to keep them from burning out.
Wolford, with the First Marine Air Wing, built the cooling system from discarded equipment and non-salvageable motors. The construction cost was negligible. The system took three months to plan and build and is now under consideration by members of the Air Force and has been recommended as standard equipment for 75 KW generators.

Million \$\$\$ Home Tracts

November building figures shot up another million dollars this week with the issuance of permits to two new tracts to be constructed in North Torrance. Developer R. A. Watt received permits for 101 new homes in the North Torrance area with a total value of \$809,800. The Milton Kaufman Co. was issued permits to start homes valued at \$328,000.

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Voters to Ballot on Swim Pool

Street Crews, Police Busy as First Rain Hits

The season's first rain storm soaked the area here yesterday, flooding several points in the city and causing a rash of minor traffic accidents throughout the area.
City street crews were called into the Hollywood Riviera section as water began stacking up in Paseo de Gracia and was threatening to get into garages along the 100 block. Residents of this area have had trouble with water in previous years.



FOUR INJURED . . . Mrs. Oia Rhodes, 32, of New Jersey, is being loaded onto an ambulance at Rolling Hills Rd. and Pacific Coast Hwy. following a collision here Wednesday evening. Mrs. Rhodes and her daughter, Sandra, 4, were injured seriously. Also hurt were Roy Rhodes, 36, and Ralph Day, 49, of 24439 Madison St.

Outcome of Bond Issue To Decide Fate of Pool

Whether Torrance is to have a municipal swimming pool, is to be left up to the voters to decide.
The Torrance City Council recently agreed that it would place on the April ballot a bond issue which would provide the funds to erect a city-owned swimming pool. The amount of the bond issue has not been decided.
"The council has been shopping for a swimming pool for several months. They have visited other cities and have been inspecting various installations trying to find a type of pool that would be suitable for Torrance," City Manager George W. Stevens said Friday.
Although no official action has been taken on the matter, it is expected that the council will set the amount of the bond issue and then pass the necessary resolution to place the question on the ballot.
Among the other things to be decided is the location of the pool. It has been proposed that the pool be located on a 30-acre site which the city is condemning for a future civic center site northeast of Torrance Blvd. and Madrona Ave.

Boy Injured

A small boy was treated for minor injuries following a traffic collision at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Hawthorne at 10 a.m. yesterday. Autos driven by Dorothy Rind, of Cypress, and Maurice Gee Wilson, of 537 Paseo De Las Estrellas, collided in the intersection. Injured was Robert Dean Wilson, 4, who was treated for minor injuries.
At 11:30 a.m. yesterday, autos driven by Charles E. Eilburn, of Fontana, and Barbara Bennett, of 21914 Denker Ave., collided at Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne. No one reported any injuries.

Bandits, Attendant Fire 12 Shots in Gun Battle

When two armed bandits who were later the target for a full clip of bullets, told a North Torrance, service station operator Friday night, "Put your hands in your pockets, this is a stick up," they certainly picked the wrong set of instructions to give 33-year-old Jack Hughes the holdup victim.
Hughes had a .38 calibre pistol in his pocket.
The two would-be holdup men, accompanied by a woman who was driving the get-away car, pulled into the Camino Oil Co. station at Redondo Beach and through the clouds by this afternoon, he said.

midnight and asked for gas and oil. After the tank was full one of the holdup men pulled a gun on Hughes and told him to keep his hands in his pockets and walk toward the office. Hughes' hand closed around the butt of his gun as he marched toward the office. As he entered the building he pulled his own gun and in movieland style dropped behind a stack of oil cans and started firing at the bandits.
In true cops and robbers style the bandits and the service station operator banged away at each other, exchanging at least 12 shots.
Hughes later told Dan McLayne, station manager.
"I just had to fire on those guys or you would have thought it was an inside job."
Smith had come to work only two days before the attempted robbery. Unknown to his employers, Hughes put the revolver in his pocket after he learned that another station a short distance from the Camino location had been held up the night before. He said he fired on the bandits only to protect his job. The service station operator told police he thought he may have hit one of the men as they jumped into the car and sped from the scene without obtaining any money.
Police checking the license number obtained from the station attendant found it belonged to an auto registered to a 60-year-old Long Beach man who was in bed at the time the officers called. The police said the plate had been removed from the Long Beach man's car; in fact the bolts from the plate holder were still lying on the ground beneath the car.
The car used in the holdup was described as a 1951 blue Plymouth, similar to one used in another station holdup the day before, Hughes said he thought he hit the car at least twice.

St. Anthony Coach Asks To Cancel Friday Game

Cancellation of Torrance's Friday night football game with St. Anthony, winner of the Catholic League, was hinted yesterday by St. Anthony Coach Emile Arbolt after his team beat Cantwell 37-20 to win the league.
Arbolt told newsmen in Long Beach that "We're trying to cancel our game with Torrance so our boys can get a rest before the CIF playoffs. We're a pretty tired and beat up team now."

RAIN CITED
In both cases, rain was cited by police as a contributing factor in the collisions. The crashes brought a warning from Torrance traffic officers that drivers must be careful on rainy streets.
"It's awfully easy to skid into an intersection when it's raining," Patrolman Don Nash, who investigated one of yesterday's accidents, warned.

WEATHER
Torrance received .65 inches of rain here yesterday and the weatherman says some more may be expected early today. Ole Sol should be able to get through the clouds by this afternoon, he said.



DENTAL PROGRAM AIDED . . . Dean Sears, chairman of the Dental Health Assn., accepts a check for \$300 from Joe Doss, of the Kivratins Club. Dr. G. K. Hofferber, one of the participating dentists, interrupts his work to witness the donation. The funds were raised by the club's Kids' Day program. (Herald photo)

GOP District Headquarters To Open Here

A two-hour workshop of 17th Congressional District Republicans will be held here tomorrow night, Nov. 16, in the district's new headquarters at 1337 El Prado, it was announced yesterday by Russell H. Green Jr., chairman of the headquarters committee.
The new offices, which are located in Suite 2 at the El Prado address, will be opened tomorrow from 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. for the workshop and open house, Green said.
There will be a short meeting of the Republican Central Committee members from the 17th Congressional District during the period. Jack Drown, chairman of the 17th committee, will preside.
The new headquarters here has been established by the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County.

Boy Hit by Auto Still Critical

Six-year-old Jerry Crew, who was struck by an auto as he dashed across Sepulveda Blvd. last Tuesday, remained critical yesterday, attendants at Harbor General Hospital reported.
The medical director's office reported Wednesday afternoon that the lad was still unconscious following the accident more than 24 hours before. Attendants yesterday afternoon would say only that his condition was the same. They refused to say whether the lad had regained consciousness.
Jerry was struck near his home at 4908 Sepulveda Blvd. by an auto driven by Ann Roger Kootz, of Manhattan Beach.