

EDITORIALS

Thanks, Mr. Chace

The community owes Supervisor Burton W. Chace a vote of thanks this week. Through the efforts of the Fourth District Supervisor, Torrance is set to receive its own branch of the Municipal Court, something which has been sorely needed here for some time.

The vote by the Supervisors to establish a court on Torrance's new civic center at Torrance Blvd. and Maple Ave. did not come without opposition. Several of the Supervisors objected to upsetting previous board policy against the establishment of such courts. The insistence of Supervisor Chace, with an able assist from his colleague, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, swung the vote, however, which ended up unanimously for the new court here.

A vote of thanks also is due Boris S. Woolley, who spearheaded the drive for a court here as chairman of the Council-appointed Court Steering Committee. Woolley appeared before the Supervisors this week along with Councilmen Nick Drale and Willys G. Blount to press the issue.

Establishment of a Municipal Court in Torrance will serve as a convenience to thousands of Torrance, Lomita, and adjacent area residents who now must travel to the northern limits of Redondo Beach on court matters.

We think the Supervisors have taken a long step in providing the thousands of residents with the facilities to which they are entitled.

A Political Football

The Torrance School Board Tuesday night came up with several good reasons why city and school elections should not be held on the same day, nor be voted upon at the same time. To date, several reasons have been advanced supporting a charter amendment which would join the municipal and school elections, but none of these appear to improve the existing situation.

To date, there has been no groundswell of popular agitation for moving the school election date, the third Friday in May, up a month to coincide with city elections, held the second Tuesday in April. Voters in 1948 approved the separate elections, carrying all but two precincts.

One proponent of the joint elections has charged that only a handful of voters turn out for the school elections and declared that many people had difficulty finding the "hidden" polling places. School elections are held in local school buildings, the addresses of which are readily available. They are rather hard to hide.

Local voters would march to the polls anyhow on the third Friday in May to choose trustees for El Camino college. As long as the schools and El Camino split the \$1000 cost of school elections, it would appear to be a waste of school money to ask the district to split with the city the cost of a \$17,000 election.

A number of studies almost unanimously conclude that the longer the ballot in any election, the less understanding there is of any given issue and the fewer people vote on items at the end of the ballot. Certainly, care should be given to the selection of the five people who are charged with the responsibilities of educating the 15,000 plus school children in the city. Written notices of the election are sent to each city voter.

There's nothing wrong with change, as long as there is a good reason for it. The net result of this change would be to drag the schools into city politics, where they do not belong. We might see slates of candidates running for school posts, as candidates do now for council posts. This is not desirable.

Why make the youngsters a political football?

A Community Project

Mayor Albert Izen has touched on a very appropriate subject at this time of the year: he wants to know where the Torrance float was in the Rose Parade Monday.

We can't answer him other than to say that there has been no Torrance float since 1941, or our recollection. At that time the 20-30 Club sponsored a Torrance entry and did a bang-up job of getting the city behind the efforts to provide funds for the project. They DO cost money, you know.

We like the mayor's suggestion that somebody spearhead a drive to put a Torrance float in next year's parade. After all, if Lakewood, Altadena, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, and other smaller Southland communities can enter floats year after year, it would seem that Torrance could get in on the nationwide publicity.

The time to start, however, is now—in fact, it was yesterday, as someone said before the City Council this week. It takes a long time to raise the funds, design the float, and make the thousands of arrangements for its construction.

The HERALD would heartily endorse any organization or group of organizations which would undertake this big task. It is too big a job, however, for one small organization, so it must be a community project.

In addition to bringing the name of Torrance before 50 million parade viewers across the nation on Jan. 1, 1957, it could well serve as a good project to bring the various outposts of the city into a coordinated effort.

The way we see it, Torrance couldn't lose.

All Very Interesting, like—



Glazed Glances

By BARNEY GLAZER

Friends of this chronicler has lined his den walls with framed scintillas of many beautiful girls, including the famous Marilyn Monroe calendar. This baros watching... A lady found a parking place and immediately sent her husband off to buy a car... Leo Guild made me giggle with the item about the three-year-old who said his big brother had his stomach pumped out but the doctor put it back in.

Then there was this 1956 automobile that sincerely believed all the advertising about its superlative getaway, speed and horsepower and thus learned to fear no other car on the road. Just to prove how tough it was, this fearless automobile purposely rammed a telephone pole. Lost its paint, it did, but really showed its metal.

In the flicker, "The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell," Ralph Bellamy says: "They put me up in a building in Washington, D.C., just for important letters. They built it in the shape of a waste paper basket."... The smog was so bad the other morning, I woke up and heard the birds coughing... Les Goates, who writes the appropriately titled column, "Les Go" in the Salt Lake DESERET News, says the trouble with buying your Christmas presents early is you never know who your friends will be on Christmas Day.

Bill Dvorak, of the Cleveland Press, has an excellent idea for an additional source of revenue for this city—sell advertising space on the top of parking meters... One titled column, "Les Go" in the Salt Lake DESERET News, says the trouble with buying your Christmas presents early is you never know who your friends will be on Christmas Day.

Nate Gross, of the Chicago American, asked a cab driver why he so very often entered into his passengers' private conversation. "Cab drivers can't help it," explained the cabbie. "Sometimes we know more about the subjects being discussed than the passengers do"... My Uncle Shloomp told me: "Nephew mine, now that you're married, never let the sun set on one of your arguments. Buy a sun lamp and keep fighting all night long!"

Lady friend of this department is an expert knitter and is always on the lookout for unusual patterns. She found a jim dandy one evening on the menu of a Chinese restaurant and she copied it exactly. The result was a breathtaking black sweater with white Chinese characters running from shoulder to waist. One night, she wore it to the local Chinese town and she noticed that the Chinese male citizens were eyeing her up and down in full appraisal, as if by invitation. Finally, she asked an elderly Chinese shopkeeper why the men were so keenly interested. The patriarch replied: "The characters you have knitted on your sweater have a meaning. They say, 'This dish is cheap but most delicious!'"

Neil Morgan, of the San Diego Evening Tribune, repeats this quotation: "Look at Russia. It spreads all around and everywhere, and yet ain't no more important in this world than Rhode Island is, and has not got half as much in it that's worth saving." Then Mr. Morgan teases: "Guess who said that? Why, it was Tom Sawyer in Mark Twain's 'Tom Sawyer Abroad' published in 1878!"

Alice Morse's Christmas card said very simply: "HOW ABOUT THAT?" the expression born of the Dodgers' series win... Man to telephone information: "Do you have a phone listed for Warmaczorowski?" Operator: "What is the first name, please?"... Then there was the husband who came home quite unexpectedly and found his wife.

Bill O'Connor says it happened 50 years ago. A young lady fell in love with a young business man. However, it was a pure and simple case of unrequited love. One afternoon, the young lady slipped quietly into the young man's room to scream that she loved him or you'll regret it. He still refused. Quickly, she locked the door, threw the key out the window, disarranged her hair, tore her dress, overturned the furniture, and began to scream that she loved him or you'll regret it. The mob stopped dead in its tracks. "This girl presents a convincing picture," admitted the lawyer. "But notice that the young man is still smoking a fine imported cigar, at the end of which," the alert attorney continued, "you will observe one and one-half inches of ash!" Slowly, the humbled citizens filed out one by one.

Isn't it the truth that many folks are so busy complaining what's wrong with the world that they don't have any time left to help improve it?... Did you hear about the professor who sent his wife to the bank and kissed his money goodbye? He wasn't absent-minded, either... Sign on a local barbershop: "We Repair \$1.00 Haircuts"... This gallery is definitely opposed to piggy banks, on the grounds that eventually they turn law-abiding parents into desperate bank robbers.

The young couple in the city packed their Christmas gifts but thought they'd play it up real funny for their best friends from the country. Actually, they had no selfish motive in mind. Their gift was a five-dollar kitchen item, but they wrapped it in a huge box and filled it with a large stone. They left the box exposed to their country friends who visited them a few weeks before the Yuletide. "Gosh," exclaimed the visitors, "what in the world did you get us?" And when the country husband attempted to lift the box, he gasped: "Gee, it's real heavy; you shouldn't have gone to all that expense." When they returned home that night, the country couple talked it over and the wife decided: "Whatever they bought us, it must be expensive, so we'll have to buy them something expensive, too." Which they did, and now, sadly inclined, I wish I was in front of that Christmas tree when the two gifts were exchanged.



LAW IN ACTION

RECORDS FOR PROTECTION

Keep good records for your legal protection. In business they'll help you take care of your affairs and much may depend upon them at law. Say around tax-paying time. Someday you may sell your home at a profit. Keep track now of improvement costs. Did you weather-strip, plant shrubs, build shelves, flagstone the patio, or roof the house? The year may figure these costs to keep your capital gains down for income tax purposes. Your records need not be fancy. But at least keep one envelope for the invoices or canceled checks on your house and lot, another for your doctor, drugs and dental receipts, etc. Keep copies of all important letters, contracts, etc. They may save you and the tax man a lot of trouble in years to come. Some records are vital. The state has set up places, usually at the courthouse, to keep such records as marriages, births, deaths, property transactions, military discharge papers, court actions, corporation papers and the like. Modern business could not go on

without such records to protect against legal loss.

Wilson bought a lot from Old Mr. Smith in 1950, but put off recording the deed. Since he had the deed, he thought, couldn't he record it any time? Last year he got a good offer and decided to sell. But he'd misplaced his deed. He tried to look up Old Man Smith to get another, but Smith had died. Worse luck, in his dotage, the old man had borrowed on the place and a bank had recorded a mortgage against it. This could not have happened had Wilson recorded his deed. How can Wilson get another deed? Does he have to settle with the bank? A long sad tale it is, which may call for all sorts of actions in court and out. The point is, had Wilson recorded his deed at the courthouse, he'd be in the clear now. Make and keep a copy of all your important papers. You don't need to record them all, but get a bank safety deposit box or space in a storage place and hold on to them. Note: The State Bar of California offers this column for you to know more about our laws.

City's Explosive Growth Hits New High in 1955, Survey Shows

(Scores of requests for reprints of the HERALD'S exclusive round-up of Torrance activity during 1955 which was published here Monday have prompted the editors to republish the text of the report drawn up by Staff Writer Tom Rische. This report includes nearly every phase of the city's life during the year just ended, and ranges from births to traffic accidents. The HERALD'S regular features will be resumed here Monday.)

Like Topsy, Torrance and its population just "grew and grew" during 1955. Although statistics in most cases, have not been finally answered for the year, a check indicates that the city had a year of almost unbridled growth. As the population reached an estimated 70,000, the only thing which slowed the city's growth was the sand and gravel strike which virtually stalled building permits in the city after workmen walked out on Oct. 6. Even so, the city climbed from ninth to seventh place in size in Los Angeles County.

Building permits in the city totaled \$2,575,940 in a year in which the total number of permits—7584—topped the final figure last year—7412. Before the strike virtually stopped construction, the city was running far ahead of the pace set last year when \$45,086,552 in permits were issued.

Residents continued to pour into the city via moving van or via stock, filling the homes, schools, recreation spots, and other civic facilities to the limit. On Jan. 1, 1955, there were an estimated 65,000 persons in the city. Torrance officials estimate that there are more than 70,000.

Construction of new homes in the city continued at a race-horse pace until October of this year, as permits for 3108 new homes and an additional 1900 units in duplexes and apartments were taken out.

Local homeowners added 2047 fences, 1207 garages, and 80 patios to their homes during the year, and one man applied for a permit to put a bowling alley in his home.

Billings, crowded city even fuller were the 1720 babies which first saw the light of day at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

The hospital itself completed a drive for funds to expand its overtaxed facilities and Builder Howard Miller announced plans to build a new \$1,000,000 hospital on Torrance Blvd.

The influx of families who move in to take advantage of the many three- and four-bedroom homes built in Torrance in the city also filled the schools to capacity, with more than 4000 local youngsters now on double sessions.

At the beginning of the year, 13,027 children were enrolled in the schools. On the last school day of the year, 15,428 students were enrolled in classes, with 2600 in high school and 12,288 in elementary schools.

The double sessions continued despite the fact that the schools had taken out \$2,507,031 in building permits and added 119 classrooms to the system. The opening of North High School relieved double sessions at Torrance High School. At two other elementary schools—Hillside, Newton, and Steele—helped the double session problem somewhat at the other 13 elementary schools. Additional classrooms were built at four other schools.

The passage of a \$10,000,000 bond issue during the year enabled the educators to make plans for an additional eight schools—one high school and seven elementary—and more classrooms at two other schools, to be ready next year. The school population is expected to be 19,000 next fall, rising to about 30,000 about 1965.

Officials sought to meet the problems of recreation for the additional residents during the year, as work was begun on a new municipal swimming pool, a new park, and additions on three other parks.

After a stormy debate, it was decided to put a pitch-and-putt golf course at Seaside Park and work is now underway. Additions to facilities at El Retiro, McMaster, and Walteria Parks now are underway. During the year, about 475,000 persons participated in various events sponsored by the Recreation Department, with 310,977 taking part in recreation events at parks and school playgrounds. Under the leadership of Director Harry Van Bellehem, more emphasis was being placed on year-round recreational facilities for the whole family.

Nearly 800 boys participated in the activities of 12 Cub Packs, 13 Scout troops, and six Explorer troops in the city, with new troops constantly being added. About 1150 little lassies were active in 84 Brownie and 39 Girl Scout Troops in all parts of the city. The Torrance YMCA had 23 Hi-Y, Indian Guide, and other clubs with 485 members, nearly double that of a year ago.

Officials estimated that about 350 boys participate in activities there each month.

YTeen activities claimed a record of about 400 members at the YWCA, an increase of about 100 over last year. At the same time, Y membership was up about 50 from last year, now at 308.

More than 500 local boys answered the cry to "play ball," as the Babe Ruth and Little League Baseball held their summer competition, with five leagues and 32 teams.

Churches, too, shared in the general increase, as nearly every local congregation was holding two church services and making plans for either a new church or an addition. Church building during the year totaled \$850,000.

A check at five local churches showed that membership is up about 11 per cent over last year. Father P. J. McGuinness, of Nativity Catholic Church estimated that his parish now numbered about 8500, with about 800 additions during the last year. He performed 416 baptisms and acted as 40 funerals.

On the Protestant side, Rev. Paul Wenske, of the First Lutheran Church, reported an increase of nearly 150 members during the year, with congregational membership now at about 880, with a Sunday school enrollment of about 550.

Commercial facilities also expanded during the year, with 62 new units, valued at \$359,000, being started during 1955. Plans for the commercial zoning of north and south Torrance were processed by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council.

A new shopping center, which will include a large department store, drug store, and other facilities was announced at 174th and Hawthorne Aves. to serve this area. The City Council reaffirmed a lease for a huge new shopping center at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy., although final plans for this development have not been announced yet.

New manufacturing facilities, worth \$1,891,150 were started in Torrance during 1955, with 63 new buildings or additions under construction. The Reynolds Metals Co. announced its plans to build a huge new aluminum plant here, which, together with the present Harvey Machine Co., should make Torrance one of the aluminum centers of the country.

To meet the demands of an expanding city, a bond issue for a new police station and city hall was passed in April, and work on these structures is now underway, with completion expected by next summer. A new fire station for central Torrance was dedicated in October, and work is now underway on a new station at Calle Mayor and Pacific Coast Hwy. and on remodeling of the north Torrance station at 174th and Yukon Aves. When completed, these structures will bring the number of fire stations here to four, with some of the most modern equipment in this area.

During the spring and summer, residents of north Torrance were frightened by six rabid dogs inflicted numerous bites on residents, with an additional 21 rabid animals found in nearby cities. Health authorities acted quickly to find the bite victims and no humans caught the disease.

After considerable discussion, the City Council passed an ordinance requiring compulsory vaccination of all dogs in the city against rabies. An estimated 4800 were vaccinated in four rabies clinics held here, while the remainder of the city's canine population were apparently inoculated elsewhere.

During the year, the South Bay Humane Society picked up 4800 dogs, 9500 cats, and an assortment of skunks, honey bears, possums, rats, beavers, pheasants, rabbits, snakes, and other animals. It also captured four vicious monkeys which were vaccinated and passing through the city, but failed to locate a "panther" reported in south Torrance.

Business at the Torrance Post Office boomed during the year, with receipts exceeding \$400,000, an increase of about 18 per cent over 1954. Letters flowed through the Torrance Post Office and its two stations at the rate of 25,000 per day, with the peak Christmas flow near 300,000 on Dec. 19.

Life in Torrance had its tragic aspects during 1955, too. Six persons died in auto accidents, while an additional 247 were hurt in 331 accidents here, according to Police reports. Some 6100 persons were treated at Torrance Memorial Hospital for various ailments. Local mortuaries handled funeral arrangements for some 250 adults and 60 children during the 12-month period.

It was a big year for Torrance, but officials predict an even bigger 1956. City Manager George Stevens foresees a city of 85,000 by the time 1957 makes its appearance, and might be bigger than that. If the proposed Victor tract annexation is approved by residents of the area and the City Council, as recommended by the Planning Commission, during 1956, the proposed annexation of a huge area in the Palos Verdes peninsula will through prolonged negotiations between the city and the Great Lakes Carbon Corp., owners of the land. This would have added an estimated 6500 persons to the city.

Somewhere in the future, officials see a population of about 150,000. Torrance's 18.88 square miles. That's a far cry from the sleepy little town of 12,000 which was here only 10 years ago.

Torrance Herald

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BORN TOO SOON



Join the MARCH OF DIMES
JANUARY
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
POLIO isn't licked yet!

and I Quote
"Then there was the Texas millionaire who had four limousines—one for each direction."—Sterling Sherwin.
"A woman driver is a woman who drives like a man—and gets blamed for it."—Tennessee Ernie Ford.
"Nobody ever pulled a rabbit out of a hat without carefully putting one there in the first place."—J. H. Kindelberger.