

MERRY CHRISTMAS

LARGEST HOME DELIVERY BY FAR
IN THE GREATER TORRANCE AREA

California's Greatest Semi-Weekly — Every Sunday and Thursday

Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

If You Fail To Receive Your

HERALD

Sunday or Thursday Morning

Call FA 8-4000 Before 10 a.m.

Subscriptions: By Carrier—45c Monthly

43rd Year—No. 102 10c Per Copy

12

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1957

16 PAGES

A Penny
for
your
Thoughts

Noting statements by Redondo Beach's mayor, Leroy Center, the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked:

"Redondo Beach officials suggested recently that everybody would benefit if Torrance, Redondo, Manhattan, and Hermosa were merged into one large city. What do you think of this idea?"

Mrs. J. B. Adams, 3305 Sonoma St., housewife:
"I think it would be very good. You go from one town to another without knowing it anyway. It should save money by combining the city offices and other functions."

Louis Ruhl, 4702 Highgrove Ave., engineer:
"No, would not like it. I don't know Redondo, but I do know that Hermosa and Manhattan have high tax rates. It would bring Torrance's tax rate up."

Miss Joyce Noone, 2763 Orada, grocery checker:
"I think Torrance is fine just like it is. A merger would take too much more money to run such a big city."

Mike Fenwick, 1418 1/2 Marcelina Ave., shoe store owner:
"In my estimation, it would cut down a lot of expense. The cities could work more efficiently from a central point—in police, fire, and city administration. Right now, you can't tell whether you're in one town or the other anyway."

Mrs. Mary Jane Campbell, 2427 Beech Ave., housewife:
"I think Torrance is just wonderful right now. It's a real homey city. If the other three cities had as much civic-mindedness and friendliness, it would be fine. I've lived in New York City and Los Angeles, and I think this is it!"

Loman Carter, 1424 W. 251st St., building contractor:
"I think any time that the larger the number, the more the benefits and the less the cost for everybody. Taxes probably would go down with one police department, fire department, and other combined offices."

Large Apartment District Asked Near Shopping Center

Fire Damages Home, Gifts Go Unharmed

Fire which apparently started in a bedroom closet did considerable damage to the Herbert Owen home at 2336 Del Amo Blvd. yesterday afternoon.

Torrance firemen under the direction of Battalion Chief Gene Walker spent nearly an hour subduing the smoldering flames in mattresses, bedding, clothes, and other household items.

Estimates of the damage were not immediately determined.

Chief Walker said at the scene of the blaze that firemen had not yet determined the origin of the blaze.

Smoke filled the small frame house and did extensive damage to painted walls and furnishings. Christmas packages, bright oases in an otherwise smoke grimed house, were not damaged.

The Owen family was away from home at the time of the alarm.



TORRANCE FLOAT . . . A welder puts the finishing touches to the framework for Torrance's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade, a rocket from the All America City. Donations to help finance the float are still being accepted by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at 1345 El Prado.

FOG CAUSE OF CRASH

A heavy blanket of fog was blamed for an accident which injured three persons, including the driver of the car which struck a utility pole.

Ceiling was only five to 20 feet, police said, when a car driven by Albert Cobb, 44, of 18903 Cordary Ave., went off the roadway and crashed into the pole at 190th St. near Cerise Ave.

South High School Scheduled For Jan. 6 Opening—At Last

Barring any last-minute mishaps, South High School will open its doors on Jan. 6.

Originally scheduled to open in September, the completion of the school was delayed by a six-week construction strike last summer. Its completion was further threatened by a dispute between the contractor and the schools over the quality of the brick-work and the location of tackboards in classrooms. This was settled when it was found that the contract called for the contractor to follow the specifications of the school architect.

Two Fires Set

It was also the scene of two fires, one definitely labeled

Fire Put Out By Neighbor

A fire in the kitchen of the Robert Snudden home, 1719 W. 238th St., was extinguished by a neighbor Friday, according to Torrance firemen.

The Snuddens were not at home and the next-door neighbor, Robert Reid, saw the smoke and put out the fire before the firemen arrived. The blaze apparently started in a trash box, firemen said.

In other action, the fire-fighters put out a fire in a mattress and box springs in a trailer at 18413 Burin St. The occupants were away at the time.

arson and the other in doubt. Juveniles apparently tried to set fire to one of the classroom wings by setting fire to some lacquer which, fortunately, failed to ignite. In the other fire, of undetermined origin, a tool shed burned.

The Christmas vacation won't be much of a vacation for the administrators at South High School, who must prepare for the opening of the school in its new quarters.

Finishing construction touches now are being put on the school and moving furniture, records, and other new equipment into the school will continue through the holidays.

Makeshift Quarters

In the meantime, the 800 South High students have been attending classes on the second floor of Torrance Elementary School and sharing some classrooms on the adjoining Torrance High campus.

The first unit of the school, which will open Jan. 6, includes 16 classrooms, two science rooms, an art room, two industrial arts rooms, music rooms, and an administration unit.

Showers and dressing rooms for athletic teams and physical education classrooms will be in a quonset hut.

Second Unit Set

The second unit of the school will include a gymnasium and 12 additional classrooms. School officials hope that this

Planners Study Apartment Zone

A request for rezoning property south of Carson St., between Madrona and Maple Ave., for apartment and commercial development, will be heard by the Torrance Planning Commission at its next meeting.

A letter from C. J. Doherty of the Chanslor-Western Oil and Development Co. and read at the Planners' Wednesday night meeting, sought the zone changes on the property.

The request sought general commercial zoning for a strip of land 250 feet wide along the west side of Madrona Ave. between Carson and an extension of Monterey St. The rest of the property between Carson and Monterey as far east as Maple Ave. would be zoned for apartment houses, under the request.

The letter also proposed a service station at the southeast corner of Carson and Madrona, with land to be reserved for a future Edison substation just south of that.

The land is located just east of the new Del Amo Shopping Center. The land proposed for apartment development is about 400 by 1200 feet.

Committee Studies

The proposal was sent to a committee for study.

In other action, the commission gave tentative approval to a variance request of I. Lachman and M. Jones for apartment buildings at 3313 W. 174th St., pending agreement among neighbors on a plan to extend 173rd St. east from Ermanita to permit use of landlocked property.

The commission also set a formal hearing at its first meeting in January on the request of the Chacksfield Realty



KNOWLANDS ARRIVE . . . Senator and Mrs. William F. Knowland are being escorted into the Redondo Beach Elks Lodge by Redondo City Manager Francis Hopkins prior to a meeting honoring the senator and others instrumental in development of the Redondo Harbor.

KNOWLAND SAYS:

Freedom Key to Nation's Power

"The strength of America is not alone the strength of its Army-Navy and Air Force but in human freedom," Sen. William F. Knowland told a banquet gathering at Redondo Beach Elks' Club this week.

More than 80 civic leaders in the area were present to pay tribute to the senator and others who helped in securing federal funds for the development of the King small boat harbor at Redondo Beach.

The senator's speech was completely non-partisan and he paid tribute to Congressman Cecil B. King and others for their part in making the harbor development possible. Sen. Thomas Kuchel and Congressman King, also were to be honored at the affair but were unable to leave Washington.

Acting as chairman for the banquet gathering was Robert Curry, publisher of the Daily (Continued on Page 5)

Group Studies Dumb-bell Classes in Math, English Cost Us Thousands

A dispute concerning the dispensing of gasoline held up the agreement terminating the city's present airport management contract.

Councilmen, Tuesday night, approved the formation of a committee to meet with the Collins-Dietrich representatives to work out points of difference.

Named to the committee were City Manager George Stevens, Councilman Willys Blount, Jack White of the airport commission and City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier.

Rivets Reports

You'd still better keep your raincoat handy, declared a red-muzzled rivet, HERALD weatherdog. The prediction is for increasing cloudiness with the possibility of rain today.

Rain probability is set at 30 per cent. Cooler weather should be in store.

High and low temperatures this week included Thursday (68-42); Friday (70-50), and Saturday (66-42).

By VONDA CARLTON
Herald Staff Writer

Because students fail to learn basic English and mathematics in high school, it costs El Camino College more than \$66,000 per year.

The \$66,000 is only the cost of paying instructors to teach these classes. Cost of facilities is not figured into the total.

While \$66,000 may seem like a lot of money, there are a lot of students taking the so-called "dumb-bell" English and math courses.

An astonishing number of 45 per cent of those taking the English Ability Test fail to pass.

Why? Opinion of college educators pretty much dumps the responsibility back into the laps of high schools.

Students entering El Camino have taken, in most cases, three or four years of English. Yet 45 per cent of them can't pass a simple English test.

More Palatable

One junior college administrator, who declined to be quoted, put the reason succinctly: "High schools are trying to make classes more palatable in order to keep students in school. Basic fundamentalism has lost out."

Dr. William H. Harless, director of instruction at El Camino, was more temperate in his answer.

"The high schools move students along whether or not they have acquired the knowledge of skills they should have had in a class. Lack of the proper background and good study habits are a hardship when youngsters get to college."

"It's rugged here," he declared. "In college each student is expected to do two hours of outside homework for every one hour he spends in class."

Dr. Harless also decried the trend of high schools in getting away from fundamentalism. "It makes it just that much harder for students when they get to college."

Can't Add Figures

The educator also declared there were high school graduates enrolled at El Camino who couldn't add a column of figures.

"Each year about 1800 students are enrolled in basic English classes, learning to spell, to read and to master simple grammar," he said.

However, junior colleges are not alone in their "make-up" English and math classes. Even universities list the courses in their schedules.

This may be curtailed in the future, though. Dr. Harless declared there is a movement under way to do away with these classes in universities.

Cramped school conditions, he intimated, will cause universities to require students to pass such an examination in English and math before they will be admitted.

All classes at the local junior college are on a par with four-year university courses. El Camino presently offers students a major in 53 subjects, ranging from cosmetology to veterinary.

Taking into account both full and part-time students, engineering claims the most students with 1728 listing that major.

Led Science Stress

With national emphasis being placed on science, El Camino officials two years ago instituted a new policy of requiring additional units in science courses for an A. A. degree.

While engineering draws the largest enrollment, airline stewardesses make up the smallest. Only three full-time students are enrolled in this course of study.

All classes offered at El Camino meet the standards set up by large universities.

To get passing grades in a junior college, students have to do the work. Failure to do this work in high school is costing the colleges a pretty sum each year.