

# Night of 'Big Quake' Remembered After 20 Years

Most of Torrance was asleep early in the morning 20 years ago when the unmistakable jolting of an earthquake shook the city awake.

The most violent earth shock to strike the city—a jolt that surpassed the strength of the famed 1933 quake—hit at 12:42 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 14, 1941, and paid a second visit at 1:35 a.m.

When it had quieted down, much of the downtown area of the city was wrecked, buildings were tumbled into the streets and onto cars, and plaster and plate glass portions of city buildings took a terrible beating.

Typical of the reaction was that of Mrs. Fay L. Parks, who told the HERALD the next morning, "I am now an experienced brick dodger. You

should have seen Fay and I come down those apartment steps!"

Miracle of the shake, everybody agreed—no body was hurt.

A 70-hour emergency prevailed after the quake hit, and traffic was blocked at the city's entrances by Torrance police, and by police from neighboring cities.

City Engineer Glenn M. Jain made a general survey of the damage and by Monday (the quake hit early Friday morning) had placed the damage at less than \$500,000 (1941 prices).

The editorial, advertising and business offices of the HERALD, then located at 1336 El Prado, were forced to move out when serious structural damage was noted in the building.

The HERALD offices were the focal point of ac-

tivity throughout the rest of that night and the next day as metropolitan newsmen, photographers, and other reporters jammed into the staff's temporary quarters to check notes and call their own offices.

About 35 patients were quickly calmed by nurses at Torrance Memorial Hospital, where damage was limited to plaster cracks.

Hardest hit section were the business buildings on Sartori and Cabrillo. Buildings in the 1500 block of Cabrillo were heavily damaged, and a wall fell through a store on Sartori, causing heavy damage.

Emergency help came to the police and fire departments of the city from members of the American Legion, V.F.W., and from neighboring city forces.

Industrial plants were spared for the most part, but D & M Machine plant was nearly destroyed.

Mrs. Dorothy M. Jamieson, city librarian, reported little damage there, but she said hundreds of books had been thrown to the floor. The library was restored to a semblance of order and opened at noon the day of the quake.

Heavy damage was reported at the Central Evangelical Church at Marcelina and Arlington, and several major cracks were reported around the bell tower of the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Engracia.

A church then located at El Prado and Torrance Boulevard was heavily damaged.

Most serious home damages was confined to fireplaces, the HERALD reported—and the loss of a considerable quantity of china and glassware.

All in all, the 1941 quake was a jarring experience for the city's townfolk, and one that wasn't soon forgotten.

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# Torrance Herald

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# SQUABBLE ERUPTS OVER BRIDGE

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"Where and what were you doing when the earthquake struck Torrance in November of 1941."

George Post, 1322 Cranbrook Ave.

"I was at home in bed. I woke me up. It shook the house quite a bit but I don't recall it shaking as hard as the 1933 earthquake. I remember how the 1941 quake flattened buildings on the downtown streets."

Dr. Alden Smith, Rolling Hills

"I was at home in bed and didn't feel it too much. It made the house creak a little bit. During the 1933 quake I was standing in the doorway next to my office downtown."

George Probert, 1411 Marcelina Ave.

"I was in bed asleep when the quake struck. I jumped out of bed and ran downstairs where I found my pharmacy prescription room on the floor. We opened the pharmacy the following morning and for two or three days was the only pharmacy in town open."

Sam Levy, 1503 El Prado Ave.

"I was home in bed. It woke me up and I remember the house creaking. I jumped up and came downtown and looked over the damage to the buildings. The front half of my department store was in the street. It was a terrible shock."

Hob Lewellen, 1307 Madrid Ave.

"I was in bed asleep. At that time I was on the American Legion Disaster program. I patrolled the town the night watching for looters. I think the 1941 quake was stronger in Torrance than the 1933 earthquake."

## Socialist Pair Wins Round One

Distribution of a Socialist Labor Party publication will continue unhampered here — for the time being, at least — as a result of a temporary injunction issued Monday in Superior Court.

Mayor Albert Isen, represented by attorney Clifford L. Peterson, appeared before Superior Court Judge Gordon L. Files as a result of charges of interfering with local distribution of the publication. Judge Files allowed 20 days in which to answer the complaint filed by Mrs. Helen Long, party organizer, and her husband, Robert, distributor.

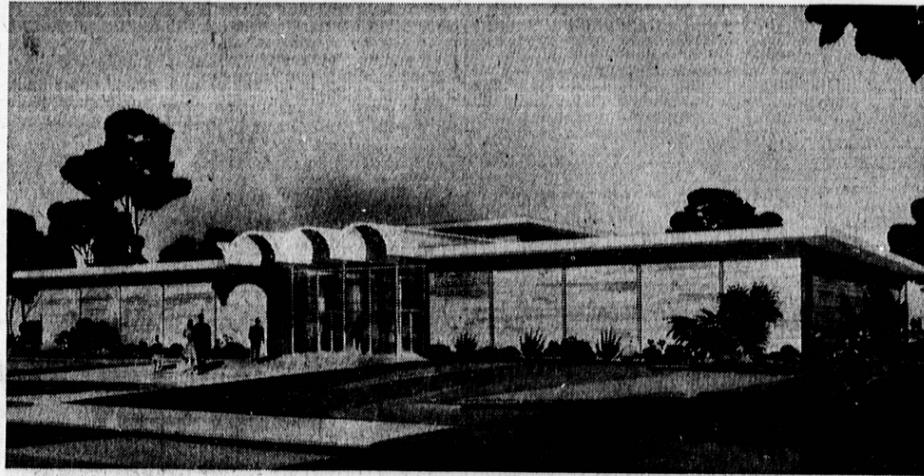
MAYOR ISEN became embroiled in the controversy several weeks ago when he denounced the publication during a Council meeting. Soon after, two of the party's local racks disappeared and the Longs claimed Isen to be responsible.

A. L. Wirin, American Civil Liberties Union attorney, represented Mr. and Mrs. Long at Monday's hearing. The Longs have filed suit for a permanent injunction and \$5,020 damages, which includes \$5,000 punitive damages.

## Youth Suffers Minor Injuries

Nine-year-old Claire Bess Young of 3120 181st St., suffered minor injuries Tuesday morning when she was struck by a car near the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and 181st Street.

She was treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital. Police said the car was driven by Robert Oscar Crigler, 67.



CIVIC CENTER PROPOSAL . . . Architect's rendering shows proposed \$150,000 recreation building for the Torrance civic center. Plans now under consideration call for two main meeting halls, stage, patio, and kitchen. Construction is expected to begin early next year, and when completed, will replace former Civic Auditorium in downtown Torrance which was sold by the city two years ago.

## City Adds Bus Runs

Improved bus service between Torrance and Los Angeles was assured when city councilmen Tuesday night approved, on a 6-months' trial basis, a revised operating schedule.

Hourly runs will be made during the entire day, according to the new schedule. Heretofore, the Torrance bus line has not operated through to downtown Los Angeles between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The new service will go into effect in three or four weeks, according to M. A. Chamberlain. (Continued on Page 2)

## Union Thanksgiving Services Scheduled

Union Thanksgiving services have been scheduled at the First Methodist Church, El Prado and Carson Street, next Thursday morning at 9 with members of the Torrance Ministerial Assn. joining to present the community worship.

The Rev. Hugh R. Percy, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, will deliver the morning sermon on the theme, "Where Are You Going?"

"In these days of great blessing, shadowed with turmoil, God is challenging us with the question, 'O man, where are you going?'" the Rev. Mr. Percy said in announcing his topic.

## Pilot May Have Hit In Ocean

Search for a light plane which was due at the Torrance airport Friday night has been called off, according to the Sheriff's department Aero Squadron.

The plane, piloted by Capt. Donald Prentiss of Los Angeles, was bound from the Van Nuys airport to Torrance. Debris identified as being from the missing plane has been found near Long Point off Catalina Island.

Prentiss was alone when the plane disappeared. Officials believe Prentiss got off course since the Torrance area had low hanging fog Friday night. Prentiss was a staff officer for Space Systems Division, Aero Space Air Force Command at Inglewood.

## Highway Project Goes Out to Bid

Bids will be opened Dec. 14 in Los Angeles for construction of shoulders on three-tenths mile of Pacific Coast Highway (U.S. Highway 101 Alternate) between 242nd Street and one-tenth mile east of Madison Avenue in Torrance.

A total of \$25,000 in state highway funds is available for the project, according to the Division of Highways.



CONTEST WINNERS . . . Winners of the annual American Legion speech and essay contest pose with their trophies. Left to right, speech winners Doug Foerster, first, and John Brooks, second; Sherre Farmer, all of South High; Carol Echols, Torrance High; Nancy Marrian of Arlington School and Ted Wegener of Lincoln, were essay winners.

## City, County Deny Having Jurisdiction

Red tape is snarling up hopes of immediate action to get higher chain link guardrails for bridges across Dominguez Channel.

At Tuesday night's session, councilmen tossed back to Los Angeles County the responsibility for the bridges, despite the county's insistence that it is not responsible for maintenance or modification of such structures.

Parents in the North Torrance area are seeking additional safeguards on bridges as a result of the death of a 4-year-old boy last week. On Nov. 6, Jules Anongoes crawled between bars in the guard rail on the Arlington Ave. bridge and fell 22 feet to the concrete channel floor.

IN A LETTER to city manager Wade E. Peebles, M. E. Salsbury, chief engineer for Los Angeles County Flood Control District, says, "The plans and specifications for the channel improvement, including the replacement bridges, were submitted to and approved by the City of Torrance . . . upon acceptance of the contract work by the District, the City was notified that it should resume the operation and maintenance jurisdiction."

His letter also states, "Inasmuch as the District does not own or have any authority over the Arlington Avenue bridge, and it is not a flood control (Continued on Page 2)

## Two City Aides Plan To Resign

Two top city aides have confirmed rumors that they plan to leave city service in the near future.

Assistant City Attorney Robert Dower and Assistant City Manager John Bramhall each told reporters he had not yet submitted resignations from their posts.

Dower indicated that he was contemplating a return to private practice; Bramhall has made no statement on his future plans.

During the interim between the departure of City Manager George Stevens and the appointment of Wade Peebles as his successor, Bramhall was acting city manager, and was elevated from senior administrative officer to assistant city manager upon Peebles' appointment.

## NORTH TORRANCE LAD WINS NOD AS CARRIER



GLEN SARRIS October's Carrier

Thirteen-year-old Glen Sarris, an eighth grader at Arlington Elementary School, was announced yesterday as the winner of the HERALD's "Carrier of the Month" award for October.

Sarris, who resides with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Sarris, at 1872 W. 181st St., was named winner of the monthly competition by Circulation Manager Darrell Westcott, who praised the young businessman's sales-minded approach to his job.

"Glen climbed to the top in sales and service among the HERALD carrier boys during the month," Westcott said.

"He has developed into an ambitious salesman, and is realizing added profits from building up his customer list," he added.

Sarris delivers the HERALD each Thursday and Sunday near his North Torrance home. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 206.

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