

# COOL HALF-MILLION MAY GO FOR POOL AND CIVIC CENTER

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### \$60 Million Dollars

# GIANT SHOPPING CENTER WILL SERVE LOCAL AREA

## Parking Space For 8000 Cars

Confirmation came this week of a story carried exclusively by this paper announcing that a giant shopping center was going in south of Redondo Beach blvd. and west of Hawthorne blvd. The development of such a center was precluded this week with an announcement of the purchase of a large tract of land in the above vicinity.

The sale, by the Security-First National Bank, was described by the buyers as involving the largest single tract of vacant land destined for exclusive use as a shopping center in the history of Los Angeles County.

Purchasers of the property were announced at the Investment Service Inc., of Beverly Hills, the Bartell Corp. and "eastern financial interests."

### Parking for 8,000 Cars

Additional acreage south of the project has been acquired by the investors. Investment Service spokesmen said, and will be incorporated in what they describe as an exclusively retail shopping center, with department stores, markets, restaurants, a medical center, drive-in bank and postoffice branch.

The announcement said parking facilities will ultimately be provided for 8,000 cars, with a tunnelway for deliveries.

### \$60,000,000 Development

The development firm labeled the project a \$60,000,000 development and said it will serve a seven and one-half mile radius, including the three beach communities, Palos Verdes Estates, Torrance, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Gardena, and others. Approximate.

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## City May Get Motor Vehicle Department

By the time local residents must get their new license plates at the end of this year it is quite possible that they will have their own branch of the California Motor Vehicle Department to which to apply, rather than having to take that long trip into downtown Los Angeles or going to near-by areas or having to send a postal money order to Sacramento.

Chances look good that Torrance will soon have such a Motor Vehicle Department, according to Police Chief John Stroh. What is more, an attempt would be made to get it set-up by the end of the year so the Department would be able to handle the new car licenses.

The Department would also provide driver's tests and licenses, and it would no longer be necessary to rely on the present inadequate and overcrowded set-up whereby tests can only be administered.

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## Planning Committee Under Fire

Parties interested in tract construction were thoroughly "fed-up" with the Planning Commission committee which is handling their case and have threatened to take legal action against what they called a handying around and side tracking of the matter at hand "by highly questionable maneuvers."

A letter from the law offices of Neil S. McCarthy and signed by Franklin W. Peck, attorney for Louis B. Mayer, and Donald Armstrong, attorney for George Wright, charges that a committee headed by Tony DiMaell and composed of A. K. Hill and Luther Mumford has used stalling tactics and finally overridden the revised recommendations of the assistant city engineer concerning the development of a tract of land.

The land is located easterly of the Palos Verdes Parkway, southerly and westerly of Via Monte d'Oro and northerly of Palos Verdes.

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BEATING THE HEAT by drowning his sorrows in drink is little 1 1/2-year-old Randy Leavenworth. After all, what's a fella gonna do if he gets to town too soon to pick up his Dad, who works at McCown's? Why, he just persuades his Mom to take him out for a short beer (root beer, that is) as at George's, for instance, especially when it's so abominably hot as last Saturday. Of course it was only 90 degrees Saturday as compared with 96 Sunday, 92 Monday, and 91 Tuesday, but then, who cares so long as Mom will foot the bill for a nice, cool drink!

## SAND-GRAVEL PIT COMPROMISE SEEN

The long-standing Torrance Sand and Gravel pit controversy seemed headed for final settlement when owners of the Torrance Sand and Gravel Company appeared before the City Council Tuesday night to declare that they are willing to abide by the provisions of the Pacific Hills Homeowners Association as drawn up Monday night.

Charles W. Shepard, of the Company, said that they were "agreeable on everything but two items, namely no. 1 and no. E." The rest of the provisions, by which they are willing to abide, call for the fencing of sumps; ground covering on dirt embankment; planting of trees along the top of the dirt bank; the moving of the rock crusher to the south end of the excavated portion; drainage ditch to carry run-off water to the flood control channels; and that the conditions be met within 180 days.

The members of the Pacific Hills (Continued on Page 10)

## "SMILE . . ." Teacher-Tour Guide, Nixon Photographed

Ross Sciarrotta, Sr., the Long Beach State College instructor who is leading a "teacher caravan" on a historical sight-seeing trip through America, had his picture taken with Vice President Dick Nixon while in Washington, D. C.

Sciarrotta, who lives at 1630 Beech, used to take his students in the East on similar sight-seeing trips. The present trip, however, is the first one planned for teachers and will last about one month. Sciarrotta hopes to make this a permanent summer course at Long Beach State College.

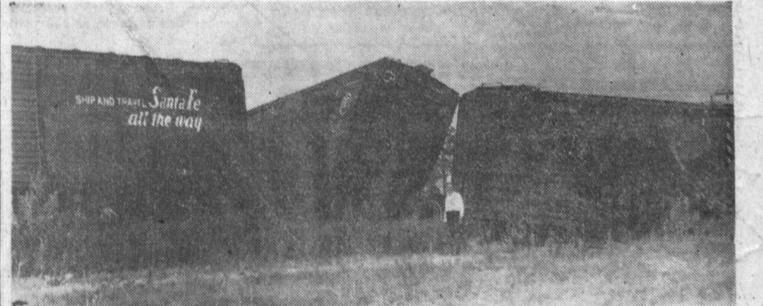
## POOL SIGNAL OUT; INQUIRY STILL ON

While the installation of a street signal at Yukon and Redondo Beach blvd. across from the Alondra Park swimming pool is out, attempts will continue to be made to find some solution for this intersection next to a pool with a daily average crowd of 2,000 kids, according to a spokesman for Supervisor Burton W. Chace's office which is handling the matter.

No street signal is to go in at the highway crossing at the Alondra Park swimming pool, a county traffic committee concluded after having investigated the area. The committee said that a check of the area at Yukon and Redondo Beach blvd. did not show sufficient traffic to warrant such a signal.

This traffic hazard was first called to the attention of County Supervisor Chace's office by this paper when residents phoned in their concern.

The committee, however, did recommend that street signals be put in at both Fairlie and Crenshaw blvds. on Redondo



WHEN A RAILROAD SWITCH fails to switch, why this is what will happen, most likely. One car, carrying Ford parts and accessories, was thoroughly demolished and one forced completely off the track in this accident which occurred Sunday afternoon right alongside of Pittsburgh Plate and Glass Co. on Crenshaw blvd. Trainman H. A. Donahue, who has been with the railroad company 46 years, said that this was his first accident. Jim Britten was the fireman. There were 64 cars and a siding involved.

## EDITORIAL NOW IS THE TIME

Now is the time to do something about that long-needed and much talked-about swimming pool.

This summer as never before shows us how urgently such a pool is needed.

The City Council decided this week to consider the possibility of using half a million dollars left over from the water bond issue for the purpose of constructing a swimming pool, among other things, the final decision in the matter to be left up to the voters in April.

It is of no consequence to us as to where the pool is located within Torrance. We're sure the kids will find it once it is there.

### Alondra Pool Inadequate

The only public pool in this area is the one at Alondra Park. An estimated 2,000 kids go there EVERY DAY. While the pool is of remarkable size, it has proved insufficient even at that.

Only last week the community was taught a tragic lesson as to what happens in a huge and over-crowded pool. Little Joseph Guerrero's drowning went entirely unheeded until an unidentified youngster reported to a life guard that "somebody's lying on the bottom of the pool." Even one case such as this is too high and too terrible a cost to pay for lack of adequate facilities.

It is bad, furthermore, if kids are prevented from going swimming and turned away at the door. This is actually what happened at the Alondra Park swimming pool this last week-end. The pool was so crowded that the management had to refuse further admission after a cer-

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## COMBAT MOSQUITO MENACE

Mosquitos menacing the area around 171st street and Crenshaw blvd. will have found life unbearable by now following a quick spraying by the city of Torrance of the nearby flood control channel which proved to be the source of the mosquito menace.

Following a citizen's complaint this paper looked into the matter promptly. George Powell, land-use plan investigator for the city of Torrance, said that he would contact the County Health Department immediately.

The Department located the mosquito source in the flood control channel. Casper Clemmer, park foreman for the city of Torrance, is handling the spraying operation.

Mrs. Holt of 17039 S. Ardath registered the complaint with this paper originally. She said (Continued on Page 10)

## Gal's Swing And Trapeze Draw Crowd

She was not the kind of person who struck you as the athletic type. In fact, had you met her on the street, you would have passed her by most likely without giving her a second thought.

And yet, little, unimposing Mrs. William Truair, of 3224 W. 186th st., owned a gym set consisting of two swings and one trapeze.

One day it seemed as if there was not a resident left in the community who did not know about her gym set and herself. They kept coming to see her in droves, and continued to do so with only a slight let-up for about a week. Mrs. Truair had to get rid of her set finally to keep people from coming.

If the truth must be known, a Torrance Press Classified ad brought the people and an instantaneous sale finally kept them away.

GYM SET, (2 swings and trapeze) \$10. 3024 W. 186th St., Torrance.

Why not phone in your ad and feel as happy as the gal and her flying trapeze.

## Local Plunge Sought

If the Council and the citizens are willing, Torrance may have its own swimming pool, a new civic center site, and a new fire station, all to be bought with a half million dollars left over from the water bond funds and some additional funds already intended for the purchase.

Councilman Victor Benstead moved Tuesday night that the City Council consider placing such a proposition on next April's ballot. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harvey Spelman and unanimously adopted by the City Council.

The matter has been referred for discussion to the next agenda meeting.

Benstead has stated that he wants to see to it that plans should be drawn up to show what the new development would look like, pool and all, so that voters (Continued on Page 10)

## GALS? Do You Want To Be Queen For a Year?

The 1953 Miss Torrance Queen Contest gets under way this week with the announcement that the contest will be held in the Civic Auditorium on Thursday night, August 20, and the Coronation Ball to be held the following Saturday night at some yet unnamed place. Any Torrance girl interested in entering the contest may pick up an application blank at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office which is assisting the Torrance Area Youth Bands, sponsors of the event, according to James Van Dyke.

Interested applicants are urged to get their application blanks at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce office, 1345 El Prado, FAirfax 8-2814. Further information may be obtained by calling the Youth Band office at FAirfax 8-5273.

Girls will be judged at the contest. (Continued on Page 10)



SWEET SIXTEEN . . . and the first "signer-upper" for the annual "Miss Torrance" contest sponsored by the Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc., is Ella Mae McLeod, a junior at Torrance High School. W. E. Bowen, president of the Youth Bands, hopes to see many more applicants as lovely as the present one. Ella Mae is being sponsored by Paul Diamond of the Gay Shop, who is also sponsoring the wardrobe, including this Rosemarie Reid bathing suit. The Sun-Gold Bel-Air Chevy convertible is through the courtesy of Paul's Chevrolet.



EVEN THOUGH THIS CENTURY PLANT isn't 100 years old, it well deserves its name. When it blooms just once in its life-time as is the case here, the plant is anywhere from five to 60 years old. Charles Edwards, whose wife manages the Cravens Park apartment house next to which this plant is located, says that he has never seen this century plant in bloom during his 30 years in Torrance. Edwards, who is barely visible in the picture, says he first saw the plant sprouting three months ago. The stalk is much thicker and taller than a yucca stalk and seems to have reached a height of about 25 feet. Other century plants in the lot are not in bloom. The plant, which is also next to the Torrance Press, may be seen near Post and Cravens.