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HELPING HAND—Badly burned Peter F. Cooper holds Sabrina, one of tots he and Mrs. Cooper rescued from early morning fire last week. Dennis Coil holds Cindy as Officer A. L. Jackson explains gifts of clothing. Family needs furniture. —Press Photo

# Torrance Being Sued in Battle of Annexation

## Land Owner Says Action Was Illegal

Charges His Rejected Protest Was Valid

Torrance is expected to be hit Tuesday with a suit attacking legality of its recent annexation involving 13 acres in Lomita.

The suit, by Eugene Capel, will challenge Torrance's rejection of his protest. Involved is property that cost \$6870. If the protest—on strength of this property—had been accepted by the Torrance city attorney's office, it would have killed the annexation.

The city attorney held it was not on the tax rolls in time to create a legal objection. Capel's suit will state that the property went into escrow in June and out in August and that he got the deed in November and paid taxes on the land in November.

The area, at the southeast corner of Lomita and Crenshaw Blvds., is classified as uninhabited. Thus owners of more than 50% of the value of the property could have stopped the annexation by protest.

Dessie G. Myers, president of the Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters Inc., said people of the area are chipping in \$10s and \$20s and that Capel is putting up most of the cost of the suit.

The group is declaring annexation to Torrance will boost taxes by \$1 to \$1.50 per \$100 valuation and that an entire new water system will have to be installed to parallel the existing supply.

## Factory Work up 3%

Manufacturing employment of 1,274,000 wage and salary workers in February was above the year-ago level by 42,000. The gain was the smallest since December, 1958.



RECORD—Traffic Officer Bill Winther goes over day's reports in front of map showing auto accidents. Colored pins shown trend now is toward southern section of the city. —Press Photo

# Radar, Police Alertness Cut Auto Deaths to Zero

Effectiveness of the new police radar unit plus selective enforcement have been credited for Torrance's death-free accident score so far this year.

In 1959 at this time five persons had been killed.

In 1960's first two months there have been 209 accidents with 88 injuries ranging from scratches to critical damage. Last year's tally was 276 accidents with 118 injuries. The figures were revealed by traffic officer Bill Winther.

The total includes pedestrian mishaps.

Most of the pedestrian injuries were in residential areas, and the majority of these were small children, Winther noted.

Lt. Don Nash, head of the traf-

fic department, pointed out that virtually none of the accidents occurred at crosswalks. Alluding to the Press's publication of photos showing the deterioration of crosswalk markings in the city, he said drivers should be reminded that walks exist at every intersection, whether they are painted or not.

This a pedestrian legally may walk across Pacific Coast Hwy., for example, at any obscure intersection and stop traffic, although it is not recommended.

The only mid-block crosswalk in the city is on El Prado between Cravens and Sartori, which is a long block with heavy sidewalk traffic.

In most events children are at fault when struck by cars, but Nash said the difference

in awareness places the moral responsibility on the driver none the less.

Accidents fell off to 34 in February from January 54, and the severity of crashes and injuries also dropped.

This is credited to both the radar unit and enforcement which is dictated largely by a map in the traffic division headquarters. The map has indicated accidents this year have been concentrated in the northern section of the city.

The March trend seems to be toward the south near Pacific Coast Hwy. Enforcement is following the trend. The map is used not only by police but by the traffic engineer, Jim Whitmer, in making changes in signs

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## Freedom, Obscenity Do Battle

A full house, including many Torrance residents, jammed Alondra Park Methodist Church Friday night to view sex in the raw and hear a debate on the effects of stories and pictures of sex on the public.

Torrance's Dr. Don Cortum fetched along his collection of 50-cent girls magazines and assorted paperbacks dealing in various expositions of certain physical facts of life and gave readings from them.

He was supported in his contention that the books have an unusual effect on psychopathic teen-agers by testimony of Dr. Edward Colbert, psychiatrist, of St. John's Hospital, Santa Monica.

Dr. Cortum is chairman of the Torrance Committee for Decent Literature.

Appearing on the side of freedom in publications were Dr. Irving Goldstein, Beverly Hills psychologist and lecturer at USC, and Samuel Rosenwein, eminent attorney and expert on constitutional law, who defended the recent celebrated Smith case and wipped the Los Angeles obscenity law off the books.

Rosenwein asked for a minimum of heat so some light might shine on the issue. He declared the freedom to think, to read, to discuss is indispensable and that people need no one in authority to dictate their standards.

In short, each individual should decide for himself.

Rosenwein regarded this as a far more vital freedom than the question of who can buy cigarettes, beer, or even dope. The is-

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## Help Pouring in for Family Who Saved Two Tots in Fire

Peter B. Cooper and his wife, of 823 Amapola, are being treated to American neighborliness in the tradition of the pioneers after near-tragedy struck their home last week.

Australians by birth, they are relatively new here.

Fire broke out in the small hours of the morning, and the elder Coopers were badly burned rescuing little Sabrina, 16 months old, and Cindy, one month, from the flames.

Although the family was saved, their belongings were not. Clothing and much of the bedroom furniture were destroyed.

Dennis Coil of 811 Amapola knows what friendliness and helpfulness means. Much of his philosophy was acquired in his recent teens when he was a member of the now-defunct Playboys, a car club sponsored by the Torrance Police Department.

Coil, hearing of the need

rushed to the police station and found his former sponsor, Officer A. L. Jackson, who is adviser to the car clubs.

While the Coopers were still in Harbor Hospital with severe burns, Jackson passed the word throughout the department, and from there it spread.

Clothing for the children began to pour into the station. Jackson and Coil delivered it. More is arriving still.

Jackson quietly explained to Cooper that they are not being treated as objects of charity. "We just want you to know that this is our way of helping out someone who's in a jam," he told him.

Cooper regarded the two beautiful children, one held by himself and the other by neighbor Coil.

"They're lucky," he mused. "They're Americans before I am." The family has been in the country 20 months.

## Hopefuls Accept Democrat Bid to Talk for Public

Virtually all candidates for City Council in the April election will appear in the Higgins patio, 2217 W. 174th St., April 9 in a series of short talks sponsored by Torrance Democrats.

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public. The bar will open after the talks, and cocktails, coffee, and doughnuts will be available.

Among candidates who have indicated they will speak are George Vico, George Kurtz, Walter Kerberlein, Pat Hogue, Thirvin D. Fleetwood, Rose Craig, James Cicchini, Jeff Bell, Garth Belknap, Paul Albright, and Robert B. Jahn, incumbent.

## Isen Offers Candidates View of Council Room

Use of City Council chambers by the Junior Chamber of Commerce to hear council candidates March 31 was approved last week.

Mayor Isen was all for it. "Many of them have never seen the council chambers. I think this might be their one chance."

## Fire Fighters Collect \$2000 So Far for Y

The Torrance Fire Fighters reported they have collected more than \$2000 for the Torrance YMCA in the first two nights of their door-to-door campaign.

The Firemen are continuing their efforts to aid more than 6000 boys and girls by calling on each home in Torrance. They will be knocking on doors until Wednesday night, March 23.

The total YMCA campaign for 1960 has now raised \$25,250 toward a needed goal of \$32,000. YMCA officials expressed hope that the entire drive will be concluded during this week.

They credited the Fire Fighters with making the entire goal a real possibility in spite of an uncertain economic climate.

1960 YMCA campaign Chairman Albert Isen issued an invitation to all Y campaigners to bring final reports to the YMCA next Thursday evening for a Victory Meeting.

## Torrance Girl Struck by Car

Cathy Lippincott, 6, was discharged from the Little Company Hospital yesterday after being struck by a car in front of 5133 Laurette St. at about 5 p.m. Friday.

Cathy, of 22005 Palos Verdes Blvd., suffered cuts and bruises. Police said she ran in front of the car, which was traveling at about 35 miles an hour.



WEST HIGH—Architect's drawing shows plan of West High School approved recently by Board of Education. The school is scheduled to open in 1962 between Henrietta, Victor, Spen-

cer, and Del Amo. Facilities include circular library, gym, shop building, scattered kitchens, three classroom wings. The shop building (top left) will be in the first unit of construction.



PALLEY'S OPENS—Crowds jam new Palley's store at Hawthorne and Sepulveda during grand opening Thursday. Succulent luau treats are being served through today. —Press Photo