

Chamber Officials Happiest About Center

Among the happiest participants in events celebrating the opening of the Del Amo Financial Center this week are the officers and members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

As representatives of one of the city's oldest organizations, the Chamber of Commerce officers will be saluting many of their own members as those who have been active in development of the new center have already assumed leadership roles in community groups including the Chamber of Commerce.

Under the leadership of attorney Larry Bowman, president for the 1967-68 year, the Chamber of Commerce has been organized into a dozen major committees to continue its history of more than half a century of service to the community. The first Chamber of Commerce meeting was held here April 21, 1913. Founding officers were Harry Marx, president; R. R. Smith, vice president; and Dr. Norman Leake, treasurer. S. F. Magor was secretary.

Since that long ago day when the city consisted of a handful of businesses and a few hundred people, the Chamber of Commerce has been in the vanguard of city development. It helped organize the first volunteer fire department and was instrumental in obtaining a night patrolman for the city in the early days.

It worked for the extension of trolley lines to the city from Los Angeles and encouraged B. M. Knudsen of Gardena in the founding of the Torrance Herald (now the Press-Herald), whose first issue was published here Jan. 1, 1914. The Chamber worked for telephone service, mail improvement, streets, houses, and business development.

Today's Chamber of Commerce is still at work on many of the same projects, particularly in areas of commercial and industrial development.

Current officers of the chamber working with President Bowman represent a cross section of the community's residential, professional, commercial, industrial, and service organizations.

Directors include bankers, manufacturers, publishers, realty and insurance brokers, utilities executives, businessmen, and corporation management personnel. In addition, the chamber directorate includes, representa-

tives of the city's several residential groups, business communities, and geographic areas.

As a dynamic community booster, the Chamber of Commerce is credited with a leading role in the creation of a community which has attracted many of the giants of industry and commerce.

The growth of the community, noted almost daily by Manager J. Walker Owens and his staff at the chamber offices, has helped Torrance become one of the great cities of California.

The city was nearly 30 years old before its population reached the 10,000 mark. The postwar boom in California, coupled with a vigorous industrial expansion here, brought thousands into Torrance and by 1950

the population had risen to more than 20,000. Through the decade of the 1950s and the early years of the current decade, Torrance's population grew in seeming geometric proportions. Today it is near 150,000 the best estimates report.

While residential growth has been an exciting story, the Chamber of Commerce reports that many other areas of the city have undergone dramatic development in recent years. Torrance now is 113th in population in the United States but stands 98th in retail sales. Purchasing power of its residents is approximately 20 per cent above the national average, based on its average household income of \$9,097.

Chamber of Commerce compilations show that Torrance's take-home pay was more than \$345 million in 1966, ranking it 15th in California.

During the same year, 5,700 new jobs were created and 60 new industrial firms were located here.

To keep abreast of such development — and to encourage even more — the Chamber of Commerce mailed out 52,195 letters last year, received more than half that many, answered more than 16,000 phone calls, originated more than 23,000 calls, distributed more than 10,000 brochures and 25,000 city maps.

Add to these accomplishments such important projects as the statistical economic base study, and promotions such as the Miss Torrance contest, Armed Forces Day parade and celebration, Rancho Days, Airport Days, Tournament of Roses, and the frequent store openings, visiting dignitaries, and other Chamber of Commerce functions and it's easy to see that the Chamber likes to be where the action is.

In Torrance that could be almost anywhere, but this week it's at Hawthorne and Carson where Del Amo Financial Center is opening.

The Chamber of Commerce is sure to be well represented at the many events there this week.

Complete Range of Banking Services Offered by Union

Union Bank's new regional head office in the Del Amo Financial Center is situated in one of the most rapidly expanding areas in Los Angeles County.

During the past 15 years, the South Bay area has experienced a dynamic pattern of growth and development to emerge as a prominent region in all sectors of the Southern California economy.

Population has spiraled. Home construction has boomed. Industry, with heavy concentration in manufacturing, has forged ahead and is now represented by some of the largest firms in the nation.

To match this dynamic spirit of progress, Union Bank opened its South Bay regional head office in May, 1966, with temporary quarters in Torrance. The bank moved into its new home in the 13-story Union Bank Tower in August and from this location it will provide a full range of banking services to meet the ever-growing needs of the financial community.

"We provide funds for every constructive purpose," said John M. Heidt, regional vice president, and we welcome each new opportunity to discuss credit needs with our customers or prospective customers. We want to explore with them the various possible solutions to financial problems through 'money engineering,' the dynamic science of making money work more efficiently."

Heidt said that "loans can be arranged to cover the entire range of business and personal needs with expeditious decisions made at our regional level."

"Not only does our strategic location in the Del Amo Financial Center give us the opportunity to serve the entire South Bay community," Heidt added, "but our proximity to the harbor allows us to finance the purchase or sale of imports or exports."

"We also have every modern trust service available to individuals, corporations, and associations," he said.

Among these are court trust services—where the bank will work with a customer's attorney in setting up an estate plan for the present or future protection of family security; private trust services—to produce investment income and capital growth; and corporate trust services—where the bank may serve as transfer agent or registrar for stocks, including disbursement of dividends and handling of proxies or other mailings.

"Many corporations call on us for assistance in programming and administering pension and profit sharing plans for their employees," said Heidt. "We have a team of 26 customers and to be able

imaginative and creative bankers who have dedicated their careers to the South Bay," he said. "Our main purpose in being in the South Bay is to maximize the growth potential of our town with them."

The Union Bank Tower Building, located in the Del Amo Financial Center at Hawthorne Boulevard and Carson Street in Torrance, is one of 10 regional head offices serving the financial

needs of the Southern California community. Each regional head office carries on the tradition of providing complete banking services under one roof with special emphasis on personal service.



Reflects Heritage

The interior design of the new Union Bank regional head office in the Del Amo Center reflects the rich heritage of the South Bay area which the bank will serve. Spacious offices have been provided for bank officials and customers will be able to complete their transactions in a relaxing and pleasant atmosphere.

Chamber Welcomes Center

President Larry Bowman of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week lauded the construction and dedication of the first increment of the Del Amo Financial Center as one of the greatest single strides forward in Torrance's economic development.

"The center will provide tremendous impetus to our future growth and economic well being," he said. Bowman said the concept of a one-stop business and financial complex is an innovation that will result in more and more commerce and industry locating in the community.

"The people of Torrance can well be proud of this new center with its outstanding architecture and beautiful landscaping," he said.

In providing so many additional services to residents and businesses of the Torrance-South Bay areas, the center will focus greater attention to Torrance as the headquarters city of Southwest Los Angeles County, he added.

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Eastern Executives Visit

Executives of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. of New York, parent company of Great Lakes Properties, Inc., visited the Del Amo Financial Center last spring. Pictured during their inspection tour are (from left) Michael E. Puyans, executive vice president; George

Terron, vice president and assistant to the president; D. Loring Mariett, vice president and general manager of Great Lakes Properties, Inc.; Joseph G. Solari, president; and Rushton W. Skakel, vice president of the Carbon Division.

Congratulations and best wishes for the success of the

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