

NEW TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Literature and Photos Courtesy of Chamber of Commerce

## TORRANCE

Torrance is Southern California's planned industrial city, and is strategically located on two major rail lines, and is just "next door" to the great Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor, one of the world's finest man-made harbors.

The original city was founded in 1912 by Jared Sidney Torrance and a group of industrialists and bankers who were seeking a site to expand the Union Tool Co., now the National Supply Co., one of the city's largest industries. The site for the new city was acquired from the Dominguez Land Co. in 1911 when Torrance and associates purchased 3500 acres of the storied Rancho San Pedro which nestled under the beautiful Palos Verdes Hills.

Following the establishment of the new Union Tool Co. plant here in 1912, other foresighted industrialists saw the advantages of the prime manufacturing centers of the South, locating in Torrance until today, it is one of ern California area.

Torrance was incorporated as a city in 1921 when still a moderate little manufacturing center whose workers lived in the area now generally

described as "Downtown Torrance."

The growth of Torrance, both industrially and in population during the years, has brought it to prominence in the Southland among Los Angeles County cities. It's growth since the end of World War II has been phenomenal, and it is expected to continue through the next several years.

The 1940 Federal Census showed the population of Torrance to be 9550. A special census in 1947 put the city's population at 13,161; a 1948 census showed the city had grown to 17,450. From that point until today, the population has literally boomed. The 1950 census showed the city had reached 22,241. Special census enumerations later indicated the growth as follows: Jan. 1, 1952 — 31,834. Nov. 4, 1953 — 44,914. Sept. 17, 1955 — 67,459.

As of April 1, 1956, city officials estimate that the population exceeds 75,000 persons.

Today, Torrance is the center of a trade area totaling nearly a quarter of a million persons, and it offers ideal facilities for commercial, residential, and industrial expansion.