

TORRANCE HERALD

TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1939

SECTION B

ZONING OPPOSED IN NORTH TORRANCE

CONTINUE HEARING TO GIVE TIME FOR FURTHER STUDY

A zoning ordinance, based on an exhaustive study of land-uses here and designed to offer protection to property owners against detrimental encroachments of objectionable uses, may be alright for most of Torrance but residents in North Torrance, formerly the McDonald Tract, want none of it.

At the scheduled final hearing on the proposed land-use or zoning ordinance Monday night, the city council chamber was filled to capacity, mostly with North Torrance folk who informed the City Planning Commission that they were opposed to any and all restrictions regarding the future use of property in their district.

More than a score voiced objections to the proposed measure while the remainder applauded the speakers. However, as the meeting drew to a close, Scott R. Ludlow, member of the Planning Commission, pointed out that if the North Torrance area were left unclassified it would become the "dumping ground" for every objectionable enterprise—hog ranches on a big scale, brick yards, junk yards and allow any kind of building that meets the minimum city requirements.

Oil Is Major Issue

He suggested that the hearing be continued to allow North Torrance to form some ideas for safeguard of property there, even though that area had been tentatively placed in the elementary light agricultural classification which allows any kind of development, including oil exploration. It was decided then that the hearing would be continued to Monday night, Jan. 8, when it is hoped that North Torrance residents will have agreed on some form of protection for their property.

In an informal discussion among North Torrance residents following adjournment of the hearing, most of those who had emphatically stated they wanted "no zoning" admitted that their principal objection to the ordinance was relative to oil development. They agreed that some protection against large scale hog ranches, brick yards, and similar detrimental projects was desirable and if the oil issue was taken out entirely from the zoning ordinance they would not be opposed to it.

Engineer Sampson of the county planning commission stated that such a change as above outlined could easily be made in order to eliminate the objection regarding oil development but at the same time prevent ruthless deterioration of property.

There were few other objections to the proposed zoning ordinance. The major point at issue, in North Torrance and in the tract west of Carson street, was the provision concerning oil development.

This section of the measure would make it mandatory that oil operators must have 40 acres under lease to sink a test well in an unproved area. After the well is proven, then state requirements would be in effect. This provision does not apply to proven oil areas.

Ask More Business Area

Three residents of the area north of Torrance boulevard between Madrid and Cedar avenue, Mrs. James Brown, 1008 Cedar; Carl Cheadle, 903 Beech, and Michael Strasser, 1004 Acacia, object to placing that district in the two-family classification, recalling that a petition was addressed to the city council several months ago asking for single-family restrictions. C. T. Rippey, 1444 El Prado, favored a commercial classification rather than the scheduled residential bracket for two lots at the intersection of Sartori and Torrance boulevard.

A Mr. Stock, 2728 West Carson, reported that renewed drilling is anticipated in the area between Fern and Iris streets on the south side of Carson and that zoning would be a "serious hindrance to oil development" there. T. J. Wilkes, 2717 West Carson, also urged no barriers to oil exploration and the latter submitted a petition to this effect.

J. W. Loughridge of Walteria asked that the business area in his community be extended on both sides of Hawthorne avenue at the intersection of Highway 101 and up 101 to Neece avenue.

Restrictions Held Necessary
Altho a standing vote of all those attending the hearing was taken to show how many opposed zoning had most of those present on their feet, it remained

SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY

By C. KESSLER



Holmes Confesses Forgeries and Prior Felony Conviction; Faces Prison Term

It won't be a happy New Year for Bert Holmes, confessed forger now awaiting trial in the Los Angeles Superior Court. He is almost certain to begin it at San Quentin.

Holmes, once head of a collection service here and candidate for city clerk, plead guilty to three charges of forgery of checks totaling \$200 last Friday after waiving preliminary hearing before City Judge Robert Lessing. He was bound over to the Superior Court, remanded to the custody of the sheriff, his bail remaining \$2,500 and was taken to the county jail.

He will be arraigned in Superior Court Dec. 18. Because of a prior felony conviction, for grand theft of an auto in 1933 for which he served a 90-day county jail sentence and was placed on probation for three years, he is not eligible for parole. If he pleads or is found guilty of forgery charges, a prison sen-

tence is mandatory, according to S. E. Roll, deputy district attorney, who was in charge of the prosecution at the preliminary hearing last Friday.

Says He Was Drunk

Under Roll's questioning, the defendant—who said his full name was Elbert John Herbert Holmes—admitted writing a check for \$100 on Nov. 25 on which he forged the name of Mrs. Gladys Downing, secretary of the Torrance Building Company. But Holmes didn't remember cashing it—"I had been drinking," he said.

Confronted with another check for \$50 drawn on the building concern's funds Dec. 2, he told the court: "That is my writing and printing—I didn't even put a 'd' in Gladys, I see. But I don't recall cashing it—I must have been drunk." When the deputy district attorney produced the third check, in the amount of \$50, dated the same

day and cashed by Ed Schwartz, local clothier, Holmes said: "I signed it apparently. I don't remember cashing it or any checks during November and December."

The second check was cashed at the Bank of America here and 20 minutes later the forgery of Mrs. Downing's name was discovered. Holmes was arrested immediately and held in jail until his hearing.

Not Qualified to Sign

Holmes was represented, for the preliminary hearing only, by Attorney John Shidler. The defendant informed the court that he desired to waive the hearing, take the stand and admit his guilt. He said he was 39 years old, lived at 1604 Juniper street, was divorced and had an 11-year-old child. He testified that he was vice-president of the Torrance Building Company and had held that position since 1937. Mrs. Maude Hammond Welch is

president of the concern, he said.

Questioned by Deputy District Attorney Roll, he said that Mrs. Welch had the right to sign checks on the firm without a co-signer and that Mrs. Downing and he could sign checks together. He admitted he did not have permission or authority to use Mrs. Downing's name or from the company to use his name alone to sign checks.

"Have you ever been convicted of a felony, an offense punishable by imprisonment in a state prison?" Roll questioned.

Offers No Defense

"Yes, sir, of grand theft of a car in 1933," he replied. Holmes said that he was convicted by Judge (now Los Angeles Mayor) Bowron in the Los Angeles Superior Court. He testified that he did not serve any time in prison but was confined for 90 days in the county jail and put on probation for three years.

"I don't know why I signed

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

All national guard units in the state will hold seven additional days of field training prior to Jan. 31.

In the 18th century, in France, every window was taxed.

those checks," he said. "I was apparently drunk at the time and didn't realize what I was doing. Once I stopped at the bank, having got there in a taxi."

Neither Holmes nor his temporary counsel offered any defense or questions and his hearing ended with Judge Lessing binding him over to the Superior Court.

LOAD INCREASES

The state's present relief load is 85 per cent greater than that last year at this time.

IMPROVE STREETS

During the past week, city street department crews have improved Date and Elm streets.

Wooldridge Writes

The boss says: "I don't care how much a man says, as long as he says it in a few words."

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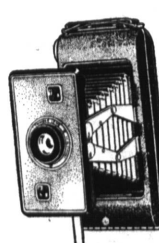
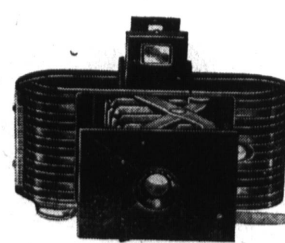
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|---|-------------------|
| Cine-Kodak 8 (8mm Movie Camera) f 3.5 lens | \$29.50 |
| Cine-Kodak 8 (8mm Movie Camera) f 2.7 lens | \$42.00 |
| Cine-Kodak 8 (8mm Movie Camera Deluxe) f 1.9 lens | \$67.50 |
| Kodascope No. 50 Movie Projector 400 w. | \$39.00 |
| Kodascope No. 70 Movie Projector 400 w. | \$63.95 |
| Brownie Junior Kodaks | \$2 and \$2.35 |
| Brownie Senior Kodaks | \$2.85 and \$3.25 |
| Brownie Special Kodaks | \$3.75 and \$4.25 |
| Candid Kodak Model 35 f 5.6 lens (takes 36 exposures) | \$14.50 |
| Candid Kodak Model 35 f 4.5 lens (36 exposures black or white or color) | \$24.50 |
| Candid Kodak Model 35 f 3.5 lens (with new kodamatic shutter) | \$33.50 |

Jiffy Kodak

Shown right is Jiffy Kodak Six 20. Takes fine, clear picture. \$7.50 Easy to operate. Jiffy Kodak Model 16 \$8.25

Candid Kodak Bantam

Pictured left is one of the most popular models. Takes 8 pix on roll. f 8 lens \$3.95 f. 5.6 \$4.50 (takes color) \$14.50 Candid Bantam Special f 4.5 lens (takes color) \$22.50 Candid Bantam Special f 2.8 lens (takes color and is acknowledged to be one of the finest candid cameras made.) \$27.50



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