

Torrance May Become Another Gary!

Yes, It May Happen Here Soon, According to Information from the White House

Possibility of Torrance becoming a giant steel center comparable to Pittsburgh and Gary were revealed recently by Stephen T. Early, secretary to President Roosevelt. While in Los Angeles last weekend, Early disclosed that plans to duplicate the great Eastern plants on the West Coast were now being discussed by the National Defense Commission. It is President Roosevelt's desire to see this basic industry more firmly entrenched on the Pacific Coast and the President favors the Los Angeles area, Early stated.

If such a gigantic industrial development is undertaken, it is logical that it will be located at Torrance. First, the largest steel producing unit in Southern California—Columbia Steel Company—is already located here, and it would be the natural thing to add to these facilities. Columbia Steel owns some 170 acres here and is at present using only about 40 acres, leaving ample room for expansion.

Second, but perhaps of even greater importance to Torrance, is the fact that Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., who is one of the most influential members of the National Defense Committee recently resigned his position as chairman of the board of United States Steel Corporation to accept appointment by President Roosevelt on the National Defense Commission.

Because of the splendid record of the Torrance plant among all U. S. Steel subsidiaries, it is only natural that Stettinius would recommend further development here.

In many important phases, including production efficiency, economy of operations and peaceful, satisfactory labor relations, Torrance has an enviable record throughout the steel industry. It is because of these factors, in no small measure, that the Columbia Steel mills here have been operating at full capacity for the past year, and are now employing more men than at any time in the history of the local plant.

In fact, current orders are being received in excess of the ability of the Torrance plant to produce; and even though the great defense program is deferred, it is known that increased demands for normal market needs will require expansion of the local mills.

There is little possibility of shifting orders to other units, as the American Iron & Steel Institute reported this week from New York that steel mills throughout the nation will boost operating schedules to 90.5 percent of capacity, as contrasted to 60.1 percent a year ago. It may only be a matter of a few weeks before every steel mill in the country will be running at full capacity.

City Vote Registration Breaks 5,000 First Time

Showing a considerable gain, the city of Torrance has a total of 5,005 persons eligible to vote at the forthcoming state primary election on August 27, as compared with only 4,687 at the last state primary, in August, 1938, it was revealed today.

The trend in this community was similar to that in the rest of the county, which today boasts the highest number of registered voters in the county's history, a grand total of 1,607,080.

Strength of the various political parties in this community is divided as follows for the coming election, with the figures for the previous state primary in parenthesis following in each instance:

Democrats 3,400 (3,155); Republicans 1,319 (1,290); Socialists 8 (10); Prohibitionists 7 (12); Progressives 23 (7); Communists none (1); Commonwealth none (2); Townsend 28 (44); Decline to state 180, (166); grand total for the city 5,005 (4,687).

For the entire county, the breakdown of the strength of the two major parties was given as follows by Registrar of Voters W. M. Kerr: Democrats 974,532 (888,398); Republicans 539,053 (487,352); and the decline-to-state group, 78,387 (63,250).

Those listing affiliation with

Difference Between Voters, Non-Voters Believed Equitable

Are there only 4,855 minors, non-citizens and residents who failed to get on the voters' lists here?

According to a comparison of the Federal population figure for 1940—9,860—and the number of persons eligible to vote August 27—5,005—that is true.

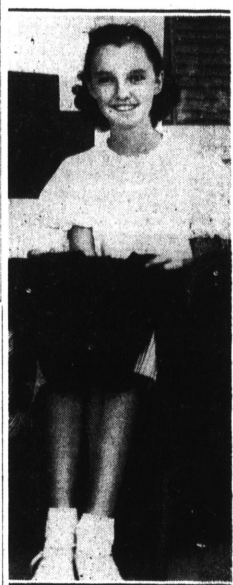
A number of other Southern California cities have discovered that the relative difference between the 1940 census count and their voter total is even narrower, leading to some caustic comments in the press of those communities.

The 4,855 difference here is believed equitable.

Other parties in Lomita are: Socialist 6, Prohibition 6, Progressive 2, Townsend 3, and declined to state 119.

Those listing affiliation with

MAKES FIRST SWEATER FOR RED CROSS



—Torrance Herald Photo
CAROLINE MITCHELL
... took her just a week

Displayed among the rolled bandages, cotton swabs, hospital garments and other items of Red Cross manufacture at the benefit luncheon card party held last week at the Dr. W. I. Laughon patio garden by Mrs. Phyrne Laughon, was an exceptionally well-knitted maroon sweater. It was the first knitted garment given to the Red Cross by a local knitter since the sewing and knitting unit began operations about two weeks ago at the McDonald hall on Carson street. It was the product of Caroline Mitchell, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Mitchell of 1695 Gramercy avenue.

Caroline, who will enter the ninth grade at Torrance high school next month, had busily clicked her needles for "about a week" to complete her gift to the Red Cross. She is planning to start another "very, very soon because it's lots of fun to knit."

For other news and photos of patio party benefiting Red Cross at the Laughon home turn to Page 3-A.

YOUNG MEN FORM JR. C OF C HERE

Organization of a Junior Chamber of Commerce for Torrance young men between 21 and 35 was begun here Tuesday night with the election of John Elder as president; Jack Buffalo, vice-president; Sidney Donaldson, secretary; Ted Jenkins, treasurer, and Alfred Winkler, sergeant-at-arms.

The Torrance group plans to affiliate as soon as possible with the United States Junior Chamber which now is composed of more than 180,000 young men throughout the nation. The national organization was formed at St. Louis, Mo., some 20 years ago by five young men and today it is said to be the strongest association of young business and professional men in the country.

According to President Elder, the Junior Chamber has a two-fold purpose:

Meet Again Aug. 15
"We propose to inculcate a spirit of civic consciousness in the young business and professional men of Torrance and to provide a training medium to enable them to engage in civic affairs. Thus our young men will (Continued on Page 4-A)

Jury Acquits Boyd of Felony Drunk-Drive

A jury acquitted Monte E. Boyd, 51-year-old San Pedro longshoreman, of a felony charge of drunk driving in Superior Judge Ambrose's court last Friday. Boyd was arrested following a smash-up on the night of April 7 on Highway 101 in Welteria when five cars were damaged and three persons badly injured. He has been at liberty since his preliminary hearing here April 15 on \$1,000 bail.

Regional Planners Rapped for Divvy of Highway Funds

"The time has come to make Los Angeles county understand that the southwest part of the county is going to have its fair share of highway funds or they will find us throwing monkey wrenches into the machinery all of the time," declared Oscar L. Willett of Palos Verdes Estates, president of the Southwest District Highways Association, in a letter to this newspaper Monday.

Willett sharply criticized the recommendation of the Regional Planning Commission which failed to include mention of either Century boulevard or Imperial highway in the 10 "urgent" or 14 "secondary" improvements to use the \$5,655,000 available for the 1941-43 biennial program of the state division of highways.

"This last report of the Regional Planning Commission indicates the necessity of representation for the southwest district on the commission. At the present time this area has no such representation," Willett points out.

Must Start Fight

"As a result, out of a total of \$5,655,000 that the Commission, thru the Board of Supervisors, proposes to recommend to be spent on state highways in Los Angeles county during the next two years, only \$250,000 is recommended for the entire area south of Santa Monica avenue and west of the Los Angeles River.

"Of this amount, a part (\$135,000) is proposed to be spent on Hawthorne avenue without anything being done at the bottleneck at each end. The balance is proposed to be spent on Artesia street from Central avenue to Alameda street.

"This isn't even a decent crumb for the southwest area but it will be all that we will get unless we start fighting and keep fighting until after the appropriations are made by the next Legislature," Willett continues.

"The Southwest District Highways Association is going to fight this report of the Regional Planning Commission vigorously. If necessary we are going to carry the fight into the next Legislature."

"Please understand that this applies only to the state highways in this county. If the county authorities are disposed to ask that more than 95 percent of the money spent on state highways be spent outside of this area, then we can expect approximately the same distribution of county money.

"We ask for cooperation, not only to compel a more equitable distribution of highway funds but also to give this area equal representation on the Regional Planning Commission," Willett concludes.

District Sons of Legion to Install Here Friday

New officers for the 19th district organization of Sons of Legion will be installed at the Torrance American Legion clubhouse tomorrow night with the Torrance squadron as host to the young men who will attend from some 27 cities in this district.

Robert Lowellen, Sr., is the retiring captain. He will be succeeded by Paul Zimmerman of Compton. The ritual team from Leonard Wood squadron, Los Angeles, will install the new leaders.

While at Compton Junior College Monday night, Bob Tolson had his father's car stolen. The car was recovered Tuesday.

Police Chief John Strohm went to San Diego Saturday to pick up Thomas D. Huddleston, 57, who was being held there on a warrant from Torrance charging him with defrauding a local hotel-keeper. Huddleston was fined \$10 and required to pay his hotel bill following trial Monday before City Judge Robert Lessing.

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Is This 'Strong-Arm Politics?'



CHIEF SEEKS FINGERPRINTS

Clearly showing some of the disarray caused by a marauder the night before, the above photo caught Chief John Strohm "dusting" Attorney Charles Mitschrich's old automatic for fingerprints while the attorney looks over his ransacked office Wednesday morning. The window blinds are still tightly drawn as they were by the burglar. More of Mitschrich's personal papers, looted from the desk, are on the floor near the chair.

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Three Hurt in Head-On Crash; Driver Is Jailed

Following a head-on collision Monday evening on Carson street, in which three women were injured, John S. Higgins, 62, of 1501 Spencer street was arrested on a felony charge of driving while intoxicated and causing injury.

Higgins, accompanied by his wife Bessie, was driving west on Carson. The other machine involved in the crash was operated by Mrs. Lois Reece of 1210 El Prado, who was driving east accompanied by Mrs. Lillian Boecker of East Los Angeles. According to statements given, police, Higgins' car was traveling in an erratic manner and he pulled over in the opposite line of traffic.

Mrs. Reece said she stopped her car but Higgins drove his machine head-on into her car.

All three women in the two autos were injured and taken to Torrance Memorial hospital where Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Boecker were released a few hours later after receiving medical attention.

Mrs. Reece was taken to her home Tuesday. Higgins was arraigned before City Judge Robert Lessing Tuesday morning and informed that his preliminary hearing was set for Thursday (today) and bail was fixed at \$500.

TOLSON CAR STOLEN

While at Compton Junior College Monday night, Bob Tolson had his father's car stolen. The car was recovered Tuesday.

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Douglas to Build New Aircraft Plant in North Long Beach

Douglas Aircraft Company will shortly erect a large plant in North Long Beach, to employ 3,500 men, according to unconfirmed reports.

The site selected is said to be on the Hellman tract, north of Lakewood Village.