

Home Units For Over 1000 Added Population to Torrance Shown By Building Permits Issued in 1943

A large portion of the \$4,770,358 in building permits issued by the office of Glenn Jain, Torrance city engineer, during 1943 set off the preliminaries for construction of 288 housing units within the city consisting of dwellings and apartment houses.

Based on the index adopted by the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission's reported average of 3 1/2 persons per unit, this means that new housing was either constructed, or is now in the process of construction, to provide homes for 1008 more persons than was possible a year ago. Jain emphasized that meanwhile a considerable number of dwellings were improved to supply rooms for rental purposes as an additional effort to help solve the housing problem for war workers.

Rehabilitation Work

The foregoing figures include structures damaged by the earthquake of Nov. 14, 1941, which have been reconditioned and made habitable again, while other buildings not previously used for this purpose, have been converted into living quarters.

Sub-Standard Danger

Shortage of building material, said Jain, indicates the likelihood that most cities in Southern California areas will have to lower their standards for buildings to some extent. They are reluctant to do this, however, for very sound reasons. It is the opinion of building departments throughout this area that the standards should not be lowered sooner than it is absolutely necessary, nor is it their desire to do anything that would halt a healthy, progressive building program this year. Neither

do the building departments desire to open the door to invite the building of sub-standard structures which would be relegated to second class rental property after the war.

Choice Lots Defined

"In this connection there is one point fact which we should keep in mind since these sub-standard buildings would have to be placed on what we define as choice lots. The Federal Housing Administration has a well-defined set rule that no financial assistance will be given applicants unless the prospective home fronts on a paved street which comes within the category of choice lots. Then the area and the amount of material which the War Production Board allows are not conducive to the highest class of single unit family homes. It is impossible to spend more than a fixed amount per unit at this time, due to existing war building restrictions," Jain asserted.

Hi School P.T.A. to Begin Paper Drive

Torrance high school P.T.A. will conduct a paper drive beginning Jan. 24. Students will collect cartons and magazines as well as newspapers, it was stated.

If your home is not solicited during the drive, please call Torrance 645 and someone will pick up the papers you have.

Texas Company Seeks Franchise For Pipeline

The Texas Oil Co., through J. L. Sturgeon as representative of the corporation, appeared before the Torrance city council Tuesday night to make application for a franchise to construct a 10-inch pipeline on the west side of Western ave. between 203rd and 238th st., in connection with a project to lay a conduit with a terminal at Wilmington. The matter will come up for formal action at the adjourned session of the council this afternoon at 4:45 o'clock, after the city attorney and representatives of the company have met to go over a draft of the proposed franchise to be presented at this session.

Old Political Feud Renewed; As Powell and Cucci Oppose Extra Pay Job for Bartlett

The old political feud, which in the days before Pearl Harbor frequently rocked the city council chambers with its verbal blasts, was brought to life again at Tuesday's council session. The incident which touched off the political fireworks concerned the appointment of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett as custodian of city property at a salary of \$50 per month.

For some weeks Councilman N. H. Cucci had carried a resolution in his pocket to have an inventory made of city property of which the city clerk would be the custodian. He had withheld offering the resolution at a previous meeting at the request of Councilman James E. Hitchcock who explained that some question had been raised concerning the legality of appointing the city clerk custodian. Having satisfied himself on this point, Hitchcock voted with the four other members of the council and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

But when Hitchcock made a second motion to pay the city clerk \$50 per month for the additional work involved, Cucci objected, contending that since an objection had been made, it had preference over Hitchcock's motion and must be disposed of before any vote on the salary proposal could be taken.

Cucci was joined in his objections by Councilman George V. Powell, who previously had championed the cause of increased salaries and who has voted for pay advances for all other city workers to offset the higher cost of living. But in the Bartlett case, he completely reversed his attitude, claiming the extra compensation would be illegal, as the city clerk is an elective officer and his salary cannot be changed during his term of office. Powell stated that if the majority of the council approved the extra pay to Bartlett he would carry the case to the highest courts, and if necessary to the State Supreme court, adding that it is the legal duty of the city clerk to keep such records.

Opinions Given

Hitchcock advised Powell that opinions on this question had been obtained from the legal department of the California League of Cities and read an official opinion from Atty. Gen. Robert K. Kenny concurring with the opinions of City Atty. John C. McCusker. In the meantime, the California League and Atty. Sheedy of the Peace Officers Assn., all of which opinions "approve the proposed action of the city council in appointing and paying City Clerk Bartlett for his services as property custodian in addition to his compensation as city clerk."

After considerable discussion, Councilman Cucci's objection was brought to a vote. Councilman Babcock voted with Hitchcock and Powell voted with Cucci. The tally stood two-to-two. Mayor Tom McGuire first stated that he did not propose to vote on the question until he had further information. But almost immediately, he cast his vote with Powell and Cucci and the objection was sustained—and Bartlett was denied the extra pay. The city clerk's salary has remained unchanged for six years, excepting for a period when he was paid \$50 per month as purchasing agent. Two years ago, following the city election, on motion of Councilman Powell, the purchasing job and the \$50 per month compensation was taken from Bartlett and given to the city engineer.

4th War Bond Drive Quota For Torrance Placed at \$650,000

Torrance's quota for the Fourth War Bond campaign has been set at \$650,000, according to announcement today by Hillman R. Lee, general chairman of the local War Bond committee. Of this sum it is proposed to obtain \$400,000 from sales to individuals, and \$250,000 from sales to corporations in this area. The campaign will open in Torrance on Tuesday morning, Jan. 18.

At a meeting of businessmen last Monday it was decided that every member of sales staffs in the various stores is to participate in the sales campaign in conjunction with their regular duties, each having a quota of \$200, through which means it is hoped to raise \$30,000. In fact, it is proposed, to designate every business house in Torrance as a sales office with a combined force of 150 salesmen and sales women.

Drive Begins Jan. 18

The campaign will begin on the morning of Jan. 18 by the showing of a special war picture at the Grand theater, which the sales people are to attend between 8:30 and 9:30 a. m. Meantime all stores, including markets, will not open until 10 o'clock, Lee advised.

It was learned from Chairman Lee that Southern California's quota for the drive has been fixed by the Treasury Department at \$438,000,000, or \$14,000,000 more than the total for the Third War Loan campaign. Of this individuals in Los Angeles county must buy \$158,410,000 worth of the bonds between Jan. 18 and Feb. 15 to meet their quota of the \$349,810,000 quota for the county.

Sales to Individuals

"Greater emphasis than in any previous drive will be placed this time on sales to individuals," Chairman Lee asserted. "Through the aid of various community organizations, we plan to personally solicit every income-earning individual and sell him at least one extra bond during the drive. In fact, attainment of our large quota will depend on every citizen's taking a personal interest in the drive and digging as deep into his or her pocketbook as possible."

National goal of the Fourth

Women Put on Carrier Routes By Postmaster

Two women mail carriers were placed on the down-town business section of Torrance this morning by Postmaster C. Earl Conner to speed up service to patrons. The two new employees are being placed in training under supervision of the postmaster. They are:

Mrs. Anne Phoenix of 1504 Acacia ave., whose husband is a veteran of World War I. She has one son, Donald, who is now serving his country in the Navy, and a daughter, Shirley, a student in the Torrance high school.

Mrs. L. D. Redman of 1626 Amapola ave., whose husband is a captain in the Army Air Force, has assisted in the postoffice during the recent holiday rush.

The postmaster explained that Mrs. Margaret O'Toole of 1225 Madrid ave., was the first woman employed for carrier service and for the past 13 months has been serving patrons of rural route No. 1 in the area west of Normandie ave. with very satisfactory results. She is serving approximately 600 boxes on her route daily. During the period she has been in service she has been off only three days, due to an attack of the flu.

In this connection Postmaster Conner advised that in recent days the postoffice personnel has been cut down nearly 50 per cent due to sickness. This has resulted in some delays, but he assures residents that they will get their mail every day just as soon as possible. He admonished patrons to be patient until normal conditions return.

Torrance School Gets Recognition

The Torrance Elementary school has received outstanding recognition for making articles useful to service men and their families which contributions have been turned over to the Junior Red Cross for distribution. Interest is now centered on making bandages and other articles for the Army Station hospital in Torrance. Supt. Strand advised.

Blood Bank to Visit Torrance On January 17

"At least one pint of blood for every man in the service," is the goal the American Red Cross blood donor service must reach by the end of 1944, was revealed by Mrs. O. A. Kresse in calling attention that the next blood bank in Torrance has been set for Monday, Jan. 17, at the Torrance Civic Auditorium, from 8:40 a. m. to 12:40 p. m.

Appointments may be made by donors either by calling Mrs. Kresse who is local blood bank chairman, Torrance 253, or Red Cross headquarters at Cravens and Post aves., Torrance 1524. Mrs. Kresse stressed that when the appointments are made, they should be kept—for only a limited number can be taken care of on the day the bank is in Torrance. Should any one fail to show up at the appointed time, it might mean, she said, the loss of one American life on a battle front. "No patriotic citizen wants to take this responsibility," Mrs. Kresse added.

Quota Lower

The quota for Torrance this month is 225 pints, considerably under that of last November, for the reason that the unit to come here on Jan. 17, is smaller than the one that visited here previously. On the day of November visitation 319 pints of blood were given by volunteer donors, only a few pints below the designated quota of 325.

During the 1943 nation-wide drive, the Red Cross collected four million pints of blood, bringing to approximately 5,700,000 the number of pints which have been collected since the inception of the blood donor service in February, 1941, Mrs. Kresse advised.

Results Reported

The Army and Navy report that the incidence of death among the wounded of this war has been cut to less than half the rate of World War I, and plasma and serum albumin are credited with being the foremost factor in this miraculous medical achievement. It is only through the continued support of the people at home in the 35 cities where blood donor centers are operating and the more than 800 additional communities visited by mobile units that this record can be maintained. Mrs. Kresse has been informed.

LEGISLATORS CALLED

Gov. Warren has called the legislature in special session for January 27 for the primary purpose of amending the election laws to facilitate the soldier vote and a consideration of a state prison reform act.

Felker Mfg. Co. Names Sales Head for Post-War Activities

Alert to the necessity of planning for the day when war contracts terminate and industry will be expected to provide jobs for their employees through production of peace-time articles, Max N. Felker, general manager of the Felker Manufacturing Co., 1128 Berder ave., announces the appointment of Hubert Patrick Hartigan to the position of sales manager. Hartigan this week began perfecting a sales and distribution organization in readiness to handle the company's products as soon as the necessity of furnishing war materials lessens.

"Hub" Hartigan, as he is popularly known to a host of his friends, comes to Torrance from St. Paul, Minn., where he was born. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, at which institution he later lectured on the subject of "Business Administration."

Just prior to joining the Felker organization, Hartigan resigned as supervisor of the survey department of the George S. May Co., prominent industrial engineers. He also served for six years on the U. S. Social Security Board at the regional headquarters in St. Paul, and for ten years was in charge of the group insurance department



MISS RUBY ONGEL DOLLAR ... graduate of Torrance high school and employed recently at a harbor shipyard, who was seriously injured in an automobile wreck near Camp Callan on New Year's morning, is at the General hospital in L. A. where she is reported making progress toward recovery. However, relatives say, she will likely be in the hospital several months.

Ruby O. Dollar May Recover From Injuries

Relatives and friends of Miss Ruby O. Dollar, 18, talented Torrance high school graduate and war worker, who was the victim of a distressing automobile accident near Camp Callan last New Year's day morning while en route with a group of friends to San Diego and Tijuana, were encouraged over reports received today from the General hospital in Los Angeles.

Miss Dollar suffered a broken jaw, fractured leg and pelvis bone in addition to other injuries and for days her condition was regarded as extremely critical. Mrs. C. B. Comer, 711 Amapola ave., Torrance, with whom Miss Dollar had lived for some time, said reports from the hospital were hopeful although it will be many weeks before she will be able to leave the hospital. Mr. Comer, uncle of the girl with Mrs. Comer visited the patient yesterday and she seemed to be cheerful and confident that she will get well.

One member of the party with Miss Dollar at the time of the accident was Mrs. Florence Weatherly, 20, of La Habra, who was killed instantly when the car driven by her brother, James W. Norman, 17, collided with an eucalyptus tree when he momentarily fell asleep, according to the version given to the police officers. Norman sustained a fractured skull, but is recovering from his injuries. He is said to have taken all the blame for the tragedy.

The two young women were asleep in the back seat at the time of the crash. All were employed at Consolidated shipping plant at San Pedro. They left there for their vacation trip immediately after they had completed work on the swing shift.

Production of Pig Iron Begun in Utah Plant

Pig iron production was begun last week at the government's new \$180,000,000 steel plant near Provo, Utah, with the blowing in of the first blast furnace. This plant is operated for the government by Geneva Steel Co., United States Steel subsidiary. The first iron was tapped approximately 40 hours after blowing in of furnace.

This blast furnace, embodying the most modern features of design, is one of three which have been erected at western America's largest integrated steel mill. Each furnace has a daily capacity of 1100 tons of iron.

Construction of the plant for the government was begun by Columbia Steel Co., West Coast subsidiary of U. S. Steel, in April, 1942. In August of this year, Geneva Steel Co., a newly formed U. S. Steel subsidiary, contracted with Defense Plant Corp. to operate this great war plant for the duration without profit or fee.

Iron ore was brought to Geneva from Columbia Steel Co.'s open pit iron mine near Cedar City, Utah. An automatic conveyor-stacker is used to bed down the ore at the plant in neat elongated piles to assure a uniform iron content when it is fed into the blast furnaces. Coke is being produced in the coke by-products ovens at Geneva, which began operations Dec. 14, using coal from the newly developed Geneva mine in southeastern Utah.

Limestone and dolomite and other raw materials used in smelting iron ore, are obtained from Keigley Quarry, a part of the Geneva project located 25 miles from the plant.

Elementary School Teachers, Pupils Victims of Flu

The presence of a mild epidemic of flu in this community has hit both faculty members and pupils of the Torrance Elementary school, according to Bernard J. Strand, superintendent.

Since the holiday vacation teachers have been ill at times and were forced to remain off duty. This week four were absent and it has been difficult to find substitutes, the principal advised, which has resulted in considerable doubling up of work.

The teachers who become afflicted with the malady included Mrs. Mabel Rowley, Mrs. Hazel Dodge, Miss Anna Maud Anderson, Mrs. Elinore Avord, Mrs. Laura Russell, Mrs. Mattie Smith, Miss Norma Look, Mrs. Ethlyn Morgan, Mrs. Ruth Saunders and Mrs. Margaret Murphy. There are 29 teachers in the faculty.

About 200 pupils out of an enrollment of 920 has been about the average of absences during the past two weeks—or nearly 20 per cent.

Jean L. Goulonde, chief custodian, and Mrs. Esther Zumwalt, assistant, were also off duty several days each since the first of the year.

Police Report No Traffic Deaths in 1943

The Torrance police department records show there were no fatal traffic accidents within the city during 1943, according to Chief John Stroh. Naturally, he noted, over this showing, which he attributes in large degree to cooperation of the motoring public. However, the year did not pass without some casualties. He explains that there were 43 traffic accidents during the period with 56 persons injured. Overindulgence in intoxicating liquor played an important role in causing these traffic violations, it was said.

In 1942, the police department has record of 56 accidents, 56 injured, and two deaths. In 1941 there was one traffic death and none in 1940, when the department qualified for the National Safety Council award. The 1943 results, it is assumed, likewise, will receive recognition by the national organization.

RETURN TO HOME

Mr. and Mrs. John Hutchinson who have been visiting at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Arnette, returned Sunday to their home in Oklahoma City.

Gen. Pet. To Dedicate New Thermofor "Cat" Cracking Plant Sat.

Highlighted by an impressive group of high ranking Army, Navy and company officials, General Petroleum Corp. will dedicate its new multi-million dollar thermofor catalytic cracking plant at Torrance next Saturday morning, Jan. 15.

Major Knox Manning, former well-known news commentator, now with the Army Air Forces, will be master of ceremonies. Major Manning was with the first U. S. troops to enter Bizerte in Tunisia, and Salerno, Italy. S. J. Dickey, president of General Petroleum, will make a brief talk and introduce Major-General Ralph P. Cousins, A. A. F., commanding officer of the Western Flying Command, and Admiral Elliott Buckmeister, commandant of the U. S. Navy Air Center at San Diego. Admiral Buckmeister was the commanding officer of the U. S. S. Yorktown when this warship was sunk in the Battle of Midway.

Also on the program will be Capt. Eugene Wallace of Los Angeles, who was co-pilot of an Army plane shot down early in 1942 over the ocean off New Britain Island. He was one of the three survivors in the eight-man crew, and returned to his base after a harrowing experience of ten months in the New Britain jungles. C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the State Federation, A. F. L., and George F. Trussing, director of the construction division of the Petroleum Administration for War, District No. 5, will also be guests on the speakers' program.

Music for the dedicatory ceremonies will be furnished by the 85-piece A. A. F. band of Santa Ana Air Base. General Petroleum officials state they regret the ceremonies are not open to the public due to military safety precautions and attendance will be by invitation only. The function is planned primarily for company employees and to give Army and Navy officers the opportunity of telling General Petroleum workers the importance of their jobs in the war effort. The program will begin at 10:15 a. m.

VERDICT OF ACQUITTAL

A jury consisting of ten women and two men returned a verdict of not guilty for K. K. Golson following trial on a charge of drunk driving. The case had been pending for several weeks.

Plane Crash Fatal To N. A. Test Pilot

A test pilot for the North American Aviation Corp., Gustav Pitcairn, 33, was killed at Redondo Tuesday. As his craft plummeted to the earth, Pitcairn leaped from his plane but in doing so struck his head on a wing and was rendered unable to pull the rip cord to his parachute which would have saved him from a fatal fall. Army authorities said. Flames reduced the plane to ashes. Pitcairn was a civilian employee of North American, married and the father of two children. His home was in Los Angeles.

Chamber's Plan to Extend Bus System Wins Support; Recreation Site Proposed

Plans for a comprehensive city-owned bus transportation system, connecting Torrance with existing transportation lines in all directions, as well as providing bus service for workers in local industrial plants to important housing projects in this area were outlined at the regular membership meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce last evening.

The Chamber's plan, which is said to have the tentative approval of the city council and industrial plants, calls for the purchase of six new big 45-passenger buses. The present service to Los Angeles would be extended to San Pedro and the harbor over Western ave. Another line would be inaugurated beginning with the terminus of yellow car line at Hawthorne and extending down Crenshaw blvd. through Torrance to Long Beach, via Willow st. and Santa Fe ave., connecting with the Lang System buses. This line would serve both the Northrop Aircraft workers to the north and the petroleum refineries on Willow. A third line would connect with the Pacific Electric red cars and local buses at Redondo Beach, and perhaps reach Torrance via WALTERIA to serve Joshua-Hendy and Dicalite workers. This line would extend through Torrance to Compton, passing new housing projects.

The proposed extension of the municipal bus system has been under study by Chamber officials for two months, and Chairman William H. Tolson of the transportation committee reported that the additional equipment is available and can be delivered within a few weeks if the city decides to go ahead. A meeting with the city council is to be held and definite action is expected within two weeks, Tolson stated.

Other Plans Outlined

In opening the Chamber meeting last evening, President James L. Lynch outlined his job as "getting all factions in the city to pull together." He reported that the city council has been very cooperative. In the transportation plan, the industries have an important part in helping carry it out, he explained, as they will be asked to share part of the cost of operation. Taxation and recreation problems were also discussed. President Lynch told a number of industrial representatives present that if they would give the Chamber their financial support, it could engage a full time field secretary who would pay dividends to taxpayers. F. L. Parks outlined a proposal of the recreation committee to have the city acquire six acres of land at the corner of Torrance blvd. and Crenshaw ave. to be developed as a recreation center after the war. We want a big enough site to build a recreation building, tennis courts and other recreation facilities, Parks said. A number of those present expressed the opinion that they would rather support a program for recreation in the post-war period than expend a large sum on the construction of a patriotic hall.