

TORRANCE NEEDS MEN OF VISION

(An Editorial)

Challenges which tax the imagination of the most ambitious community builders have been hurled at the citizens of Torrance during the past few weeks.

Torrance needs men of vision to answer them. Bluntly speaking, these challenges may be summed up in a short question:

"Is Torrance ready to grow into its long pants?"

For the benefit of those newcomers who have come to Torrance and view it as a "small town," here is a quick review which proves that Torrance is anything but a small town—except in lack of vision and in the shortsightedness which guides the acts of some of its civic leaders:

Torrance, in total area, is the fourth largest incorporated city in Los Angeles county, exceeded only by Los Angeles, Long Beach and Pasadena.

Torrance, in per capita wealth, is the third wealthiest city in California.

Torrance, in assessed valuation, is the tenth richest community in Los Angeles county.

Torrance, with more than 50 basic industries of prewar and postwar operation, has a factory payroll that more than doubles the population of the community.

Torrance, within its city limits, has room for a population of 500,000 persons.

Torrance has long pants, but she actually is in diapers.

Private defense housing projects virtually are bursting Torrance's north border, but they do not cross the line.

The reason? According to construction contractors, —Lack of cooperation in one city office.

Government defense housing has almost completely ignored this city of tremendous factory payrolls, acutely short of dwelling units.

The reason? Lack of vision in one city office.

Recently, before a joint meeting of city councilmen, city planners and Chamber of Commerce officials, the question of industrial expansion came up, involving two present and one proposed factory, and the officials pondered over the problem of whether or not Torrance is to be an industrial city or a residential city.

Our present mayor, Bill Tolson, and a former mayor, Tom McGuire, came forward with the answer: "Torrance is an industrial city with plenty of room for residential expansion."

This viewpoint soon is to be put to test, as the vision of Torrance's official family is put to test.

Now comes a third former mayor, William Stanger, manager of Torrance Municipal Water district No. 1, who has plans for postwar development of his district in keeping with the fine work he has done in the past, and he asks a question:

"How are you going to expand without water? Water for domestic use, water for industries."

Boldly, and without reserve, he has declared that Torrance Municipal Water district No. 1 cannot expand, cannot annex territory, and cannot distribute outside its present boundaries. He cannot even sell the water from the Metropolitan Water district, for which all the people of Torrance are paying at a rate of 48 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Seven private water companies serve portions of Torrance, but large areas are unserved. They cannot be developed without water.

Ambitious planning is the demand.

For Torrance people outside Municipal Water district No. 1 to get the use of the Colorado River water for which they are taxed they must form a separate municipal water district or districts.

For the people of Waleria to acquire the Quandt water system they must form a municipal water district.

For the people of North Torrance to solve their own water problems, they must form a municipal water district or bring about the expansion of a private system, which is difficult in these days.

Vision is needed.

Major George W. Braden of Pasadena, nationally known playground and recreation authority, himself a community builder, recently told Torrance that her recreation and playground facilities are sorely inadequate. He said Torrance should be thinking ten years ahead in this respect; that now it should have a big 25-acre park for a community recreation center; that it should have adequate school playgrounds, gymnasiums, tennis courts and facilities; that it should have recreation centers for young and old alike; that if Torrance ever wants a municipal golf course, now is the time to select a 100-acre site for it when the land is available; that its civic auditorium is limited to social affairs, dinners, dances, in use, and is not suitable for a recreation center otherwise.

Ambitious planning is required.

A group of Torrance citizens has undertaken the fight to secure for Torrance all of the money which is raised by Torrance on behalf of Torrance children, a fight to secure for Torrance its own schools. They want to use the \$300,000 or so a year which Torrance is giving to Los Angeles on a golden platter to expand the local schools, to give children of one of the wealthiest cities of California the educational advantages to which they are entitled.

They see no reason why Los Angeles should continue to operate the schools of Torrance, particularly in view of the fact that their purpose in wanting to keep Torrance inside Los Angeles city schools is purely one of greed and politics.

They envision for Torrance the finest school system in the west, with every educational advantage for the children of Torrance.

Here is progress. A city cannot progress under the thumb of a large neighbor.

Torrance cannot expand without transportation, and the city bus lines should be planned now to serve every corner of Torrance's large area.

Why not bring the people of Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance to this central business district, instead of having them buy in Redondo Beach and other cities?

Why not take the people of Torrance to their beach?

Why not bring the people of North Torrance to this central business district, instead of having them buy in Gardena, Hawthorne or other cities?

Here, vision and pioneering are required.

Torrance cannot expand without streets and highways serving its wide expanse of territory.

Major highways—some day will become city streets must be planned now. Provision for neighborhood business districts throughout this wide area must be made now.

Progress should be the keynote. A helping hand, not hinderance, should be extended in city offices, to those wishing to progress.

Men of vision are needed in Torrance, men who can sit in the city hall and see the boundary at the bluffs of Hollywood Riviera; men who can see the boundary of Torrance at Redondo Beach Blvd.; men who can encourage the growth of this community to its fullest to fill to its boundaries this vast area with homes, factories and stores.

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1945

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Two Walteria Civic Leaders Taken by Death

Two leading Walteria citizens, Hubert (Hugh) B. Dunn, 41, grocer, and Roy K. Palmer, 56, custodian of Torrance municipal buildings, died at their homes during the weekend, both unexpectedly from apparent heart ailments. Dunn succumbed shortly before midnight Saturday and Palmer Sunday morning.

Dunn, a native of Texas, had been in California for 20 years after having sailed on merchant ships to Central America. He was for nearly 15 years identified with oil drilling operations at Taft and McKittrick. He later operated a marine food supply store on Terminal Island, coming to Walteria three years ago after the island was taken over by the Navy.

Vice president of the Walteria civic organization, member of the Torrance Civil Service Commission and owner-manager of the Torrance Girls Softball team, Dunn led a busy life. He recently left his store for a brief period to work in the local oil field, explaining he felt the need of a change from store routine. The family resided at 3618 Newton st.

Surviving Dunn are the widow, Zula B. whom he married in Texas; son Hughes, merchant seaman; daughter Wanda, a student at Narbonne high school; mother, Mrs. Emma Dunn and brothers Charles John and Barney at Nampa, Idaho; brother Jess, with a construction firm in Africa; brother D. Dunn, Washington state; sisters Mrs. Essie Brady of Long Beach and Mrs. Emma Robinson of Idaho.

Funeral services for Mr. Dunn will be conducted today, Thursday, at 2 p. m. in Stone & My.

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Social Hall for Pueblo Church Authorized

A new church social hall for the Pueblo district, being constructed by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the St. Joseph's Catholic church of which the Rev. Father Wood, is pastor, at 2314 203rd st., has been authorized.

A \$5000 permit for the structure has been issued by the city building department. The social hall will be located on lots 64 and 65 of tract 9901, adjacent to the lots purchased by the city for recreation purposes at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Among other building permits issued during the past week are three oil derrick authorizations, including:

Hill Oil Co., 4510 Sepulveda Blvd., \$5,000.

Wonderly Construction Co., for Wood-Callahan, at 5401 Huntington st., \$5000.

Wonderly Construction Co., for Wood-Callahan, at 5237 Huntington st., \$5000.

Other permits include:

A. P. Wright, 3300 Lomita Blvd., remodeling, \$400.

M. J. Edwards, 2208 Andree Ave., garage, \$400.

Mathew Valko, 1219 Fern Ave., garage, \$400.

Geo. M. Winchester, 18101 Prairie Ave., alterations and addition, \$435.

Robert E. Dawson, 2212 Andree Ave., garage, \$400.

Torrance Lumber Co., 1752 Border Ave., plating, \$150.

E. M. Sidebottom, 1820 Arlington Ave., foundation, \$100.

Recreation and Sewers Seen for Pueblo District

Improvements in the Pueblo district were advanced at the City Council meeting of Tuesday night when the council adopted resolution 1702 calling for establishment of an assessment district to provide for sewers, as asked by residents.

Advice of the county sanitation district was asked at the same time on the subject, at the request of Mayor W. H. Tolson.



TORRANCE RECREATION FACILITIES LACKING... Major G. W. Braden, nationally prominent recreation and playground official, has given Torrance thousands of dollars worth of advice for the mere \$200 paid him for a survey of Torrance recreation facilities, in the opinion of officials. Torrance needs more recreation for young and old alike, he said. At a meeting held at his request last Friday, city officials and civic leaders discussed local problems with Major Braden. Snapped just prior to the meeting are, front row, left to right, Major Braden, Mayor W. H. Tolson, Mrs. L. F. Watson, recreation commissioner; rear row, left to right, the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler, recreation commissioner, Dale Riley, recreation superintendent, Councilman Merton Gilbert, recreation commission chairman, and George Thatcher, recreation commissioner.

Ration Board to Assess Fines to Local Violators

No longer will merchants under the jurisdiction of the War Price and Ration Board \$25.00, located at 2300 Carson st., escape with "warnings," upon complaint that they have committed ration point or ceiling price violations.

This was the word handed down by the price panel of the local ration board this week. The area served includes all of Torrance and Lomita, and fines are to be assessed in event of violations of either of the regulations, it was announced.

The local board has been "too easy" with merchants, it was said in the announcement, but that is a change of the past.

Fred C. MacPherson, field representative of the Office of Price Administration district office in Los Angeles, will sit on cases of violation of ration regulations or price ceilings each Friday at 1 p. m. at the local board's office.

For charging more ration points than that set by the OPA, or for charging above ceiling prices, the minimum fine will be \$25, it was said, if the merchant accused is brought in on a notice from the local board. The fine will be a minimum of \$50 or three times the over charge, if the case is turned over to the board for filing by a consumer.

Complaints originate from surveys by the price panel and assistants, by agents sent out by OPA from the consumers themselves.

Members of the price panel of the local board are Mrs. J. R. Vandegriff, chairman, of Torrance; James Caldwell, of Lomita; Mrs. Earl E. Carston, of Torrance; Mrs. Homina Alcala, of Torrance; and Mrs. Charles B. Airey, of Lomita.

The date and time of the meeting will be announced as soon as the legal phases of the program are ready for general discussion, Mrs. Carr said.

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Two Killed and Two Wounded on Battlefields

Reports of four Torrance and Lomita district men killed in action or wounded on battlefronts of the world have saddened the communities.

Reported killed in action are:

Pvt. Charles W. Works, son of Mrs. Pearl Works, 21908 So. Western Ave., Torrance, and Pfc. Jess B. Taylor, son of Mrs. Olive Taylor, of 1717 251st st., Harbor City.

Wounded include T/Sgt. Elven H. Saxberg, of Torrance, and Robert K. Marquard, seaman 1/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Marquard, of Lomita, and husband of Barbara Marquard, of Los Angeles.

WATER RATES

Water rate reductions suggested to the City Council by Manager William Stanger almost eight months ago finally were adopted by the City Council Tuesday night, when resolution No. 1701 was passed.

DRUNK DRIVING

Convicted of charges of driving while intoxicated K. R. Sandgren and W. T. Kleinhens each were fined \$100 by City Judge Otto B. Willett recently.

TORRANCE RECREATION SETUP FAR FROM ADEQUATE; SCHOOL AND CITY PROGRAM IS URGED

Torrance does not dream its dreams big enough, nor are its horizons broad enough, Major George W. Braden, western representative of the National Recreation Association serving the 11 western states, told a gathering of civic and school leaders called in Torrance City Hall last Friday to discuss his survey of the recreation needs of Torrance made at the direction of the Torrance city council.

For the sum of \$200, city officials pointed out, Major Braden has brought to the city of Torrance information and advice worth many thousands of dollars. His official survey will be received in about 30 days, it was indicated, as it now is in the process of final preparation.

Major Braden's meeting with Torrance leaders was called at his request to discuss some of the broader phases of recreation. In the course of the meeting he declared that the recreation needs of a city of Torrance's size is one acre per 100 population.

Including the schools' recreation facilities, which he said are far from adequate, Torrance has less than one acre per 200 population set aside for recreation purposes.

He declared that the Torrance high school gymnasium, which is shared both by girls and boys alike because of the failure of Los Angeles schools to provide proper facilities for Torrance, is entirely inadequate, and that Torrance does not have one-tenth the highly developed recreational program that is needed. He said the high school should be provided with a swimming pool for various instructional purposes.

While the schools provide only two tennis courts, partly available for use of the community as a whole, there should be a

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Red Cross Blood Bank

DON'T LET THE GOOD NEWS SLOW YOU DOWN!

Victories and successes also mean wounded and casualties. The Blood Bank needs your blood MORE when we're winning battles than when we're planning them.

The price of winning is paid in killed and wounded.

Most of the wounded need just what your blood and mine—and the blood of your friends and neighbors—will provide.

Blood, to save a wounded man, is a supremely important war necessity. The "Gift of Blood" is one of the finest personal contributions possible in this war.

Won't you phone the Red Cross Blood Bank—the number is TORRANCE 1524—and make an appointment NOW to give your blood to SAVE A FIGHTING MAN'S LIFE!

Next Blood Bank day in Torrance is Wednesday, Jan. 17, 8.40 a. m. to 12.40 p. m.

DECEMBER 14

On Dec. 14, the collective bargaining conference between the subsidiaries and the union was recessed because of union insistence that certain sections of the War Labor Board's order, not then effective, be incorporated in a labor contract.

The whole order is now effective, the economic stabilization director having notified the WLB last Saturday that the "wage increases required by the board's directive order in the steel case may become effective."

Mr. Stephens said the steel producing subsidiaries of the United States Steel Corporation will make every effort to expedite conclusion of an agreement with the union.

NEW RADIO, SIREN

The police department has been authorized to buy a \$350 two way radio and a siren for its cars, by the City Council.

BIG WATER PROGRAM PLANNED BY STANGER; BUILDINGS FOR DISTRICT ARE IN PROJECT

Plans for improvements in and extension of the service of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, to include a postwar program and possible immediate building of a new shop structure, are ready for presentation to the City Council, according to William Stanger, manager of the water department.

Included in the plans are improvements in facilities to better serve the residences and industries in the district by elimination of dead ends, by establishment of emergency by-passes, and by enlarging the lines.

One of the projects, on which plans have been prepared and priority secured Stanger said, is the construction of a work shop building in the rear of the water department office at 1510 Cravens Ave. It is proposed that a 30 by 40-foot building be constructed there to replace the old sheetmetal building now used. The funds are on hand for this building, estimated to cost \$4200.

In the new building, plans for which were prepared by A. R. Walker, will be an adequate work area, a vault, sanitary

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Colorado River Water Pressed Into Use Here

The value of the Colorado river water to Torrance, brought here by the Metropolitan Water District, was proved recently when a eucalyptus tree damaged a 10-inch Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 line on Torrance Blvd., and caused water to be discharged from the local reservoir at a rate of 5,500 gallons per minute.

Residents of Torrance did not know there was any trouble, William Stanger, water department manager, said, because the automatic valves at Crenshaw boulevard and 203rd Street, nine feet under the ground, immediately cut in the Colorado river water through a 16 inch line, and kept up both pressure and supply.

"If it had not been for the metropolitan water, we would have had some worried people in Torrance," Stanger said.

'Warehouses' In Business Area Charge Refuted

The practice of some Torrance business houses in leasing or renting stores, "placing a couple of sticks of furniture in them and locking them up" was hit at the City Council meeting on Tuesday night by James Evans, local gift shop operator, soon to move from his present location because the building in which his store is located has been sold.

Evans' complaint, however, failed to stand up on investigation. Of the three locations to which Evans apparently referred, two stores have already been leased to large retail organizations and will be staffed by large corps of clerks as soon as alterations are completed, and negotiations are nearing completion for occupancy of the third store by an old established Torrance merchant who is forced to vacate his present location.

In his complaint to the Council, Evans charged that the stores are in violation of zoning laws, in that they either are warehouses, which are not permitted in the business district, or second hand stores which should be forced to open their doors under the control or operation of a clerk or manager.

He said that at least four local merchants will be forced to close their doors because of this condition.

The City Council pondered the matter for some time, and then called on Chief of Police John Strohe and Fire Chief John McMaster to investigate the conditions. Strohe replied with a question as to how his office is involved, and the same remark was made with respect to the fire department.

Goodman Under Arrest for Cafe Burglary

Albert Lloyd "Tex" Goodman, 43, of 619 Arlington Ave., is facing preliminary hearing in the court of City Judge Otto B. Willett today accused of burglarizing the Unif Cafe, 825 Border Ave., owned by Ira Cunningham.

Goodman is reported by Chief of Police John Strohe to have confessed to the burglary, in which a case of beer and about \$100 in cash were taken. He was arraigned in City Court on Tuesday, expressing his guilt at that time, according to the record.

Also burglarized recently was Harvel's Texaco station, during the night of Jan. 8, and gasoline stamps were the extent of loot.

Rezononing of Lots On Cravens Ave. For Stores Sought

Rezononing of several lots on Cravens Ave., to provide for expansion of the over-crowded Torrance commercial district, is being asked by B. C. Buxton, local realtor, on behalf of property owners of the property involved.

Sought for rezoning from multiple dwelling restrictions to retail, commercial, are lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, block 11, lots 1, 2 and 3, block 13, and lots 1, 2 and 3, block 14, on Cravens.

A hearing will be held before the City Planning Commission on Jan. 22, at 8 p. m., relative to the petition for rezoning.

City, Waleria Residents to Talk of Water

Torrance City Council and the Waleria Civic Association will hold a meeting soon to discuss the situation with respect to water in Waleria, it was decided Tuesday night.

Waleria residents have petitioned for a survey of the Quandt system in Waleria area, with the aim that the city buy the system, but no favorable action is looming in this respect, judging from action of the council Tuesday.

The members of the council paid tribute to the memory of Roy K. Palmer, president of the association, and Hugh B. Dunn, vice president, who died over the week-end, by passing resolutions of condolence.

The civic association cancelled its meeting last night out of respect to the memory of the two civic workers.