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HUGE HOME GAIN HERE

REALTY SWING IS BAROMETER OF CITY GAINS

Building permits issued in Torrance Tuesday totalled \$960,000, according to Building Inspector John Patrick.

One hundred thirty-seven building permits for residences expected to sell for approximately \$15,000 each were issued in Torrance in one transaction Tuesday. The permits went to the Riviera Housing Corporation and construction started immediately in the southwest section of this city.

Coupled with this huge project are the California-Nevada properties where 219 homes are being completed in an adjacent area. Of these, reports indicate that 35 already have been sold and California-Nevada, Inc. contemplates constructing 186 more immediately.

Other Developments John Kettler is building some 120 residences in the area generally known as Kettler Knolls No. 3, bounded on the west by Western avenue and south of Sepulveda boulevard. Some 180 more homes are set for an area approximately at 174th street and Crenshaw boulevard. Other realty developers are operating throughout the entire South Bay district, establishing Torrance and its environs as the hub of current Southland growth.

Acting for the Riviera Housing Corporation in its current move for 137 more homes was L. Blake Baldwin, president. Baldwin appeared personally at the Torrance City Hall where John Patrick, building inspector, issued the "go ahead" from the city, a transaction by which Torrance coffers were enriched by \$2329.

Grading Progresses Baldwin, who has been in the building business for 14 years, pointed out that his Riviera corporation project already had involved some \$25,000 worth of grading.

"I'm sure that we have moved at least 40,000 cubic yards of earth within the last two weeks," he declared. "It is our concept to make every lot a view lot . . . and we are doing just that.

"The homes will be on the two-bedroom and den plan," Baldwin continued. Each will have a fireplace, a full bath and shower with asphalt tile in bath and kitchen. We will use shake roofs, shingle roofs, and in some instances, the so-called 'tropical' type. I think, however, that the most unique detail in each home will be a complete garbage disposal unit. I have been in this business a long time and I have never heard of a housing project similar to ours embracing the device."

Streets, Curbs, Trees The subdivision will include streets, curbs, and ornamental trees.

Baldwin says his houses will be available for living in about eight weeks on lots that average approximately 65 feet by 120 feet in size.

One Block Of Two-Bits To Fight Cancer

Planned for this Saturday by the 29-30 International is a block of quarters for the procurement of funds for the nationwide Cancer Drive.

Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. and the presidents of various Torrance clubs will attend the drive at 10 a.m. at Marcelina and Sartori avenues. The "block of quarters" will extend to El Prado and Sartori and is anticipated that the quarters received will raise the fund total to a point very near the quota set for Torrance.



AN EVEN EXCHANGE . . . L. Blake Baldwin (left) of the Riviera Building Corporation hands John Patrick, city building inspector, a check to cover the cost of permits for 137 new homes to be constructed immediately in the Hollywood Riviera tract. City administrator George Stevens and Ladeene Hamman aided in the task of filling out the permits. (Staff photo.)

EXECUTIVE IN DITHER ABOUT BOARD SESSION WHICH HE WAS NOT ASKED TO ATTEND

When President Chas. T. Rippy of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Tuesday presented the chamber's secretary, Blaine Walker, with an outline of action for promoting civic development including the assignment of definite duties to the secretary, Walker promptly resigned.

The intensified program of activities was agreed upon by the chamber's board of directors at an executive meeting held last week to which Secretary Walker was not invited. He gave this lack of "cooperation and under-



BLAINE WALKER

standing" as his reason for tendering his resignation to be effective "immediately, or not later than June 1, 1948."

Letter Quoted However, Walker stated in his letter of resignation that he "fully concurred with the many suggestions that the board made to round out a well defined program," but "it is not appreciated, however, that the board held a meeting and consider matters in which, in one way or another, I am to be responsible for their success."

In his detailed report of the executive board meeting, held April 29, President Rippy told Secretary Walker that it was the consensus of opinion of all directors that the secretary should:

- Points Given (1) Attend all meetings of the City Council, City Planning Commission and Torrance Educational Advisory Council to protect the interest of the chamber and keep the directors advised; (2) Personally contact members of the chamber, from time to time, for the purpose of acquainting them with the activities and objectives of the chamber and creating

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Results Of City Planning Board Meet Revealed

Referring to the City Council for action a request for approval of four proposed school sites as presented by J. Henrich Hull, superintendent of schools, the City Planning Commission met in the Council Chambers last Tuesday night and took action on the following:

Held the first hearing on two petitions requesting a rezoning of property. One of the properties under consideration is located on Hawthorne boulevard between Spencer and Emerald streets. It was requested that this land be rezoned from Light Agricultural to General Commercial.

Zoning Discussed The other hearing concerned a change from Multi-and Single-Family Residential zones to a Retail Commercial area. The property is located on the Southeast and Northwest corners of Torrance and Crenshaw boulevards.

Granted approval to Herminia Alcalá to vary from the Land Use Ordinance to permit the operation of a delicatessen in a former pool hall building.

Held over until next meeting a request from Henry Leivas to construct a grocery store building on the west side of Hawthorne boulevard between 230th and 234th streets.

Approved the construction of a five-unit concrete block retail

Merchants Campaign In C of C Drive Nets 65

In a fast-moving, one-day drive for new Chamber of Commerce members, the Retail Merchants' Division of the Torrance Chamber Monday added 65 new paid-up members to the organization's roster, bringing the total to 231. When the civic booster group was reorganized in July, 1945, after being dormant for years, it started off with 70 members.

Total receipts from dues collected in the Monday drive approximated \$1800, with payments ranging from \$12 for individual, non-commercial, memberships, to as high as \$100 for major retail establishments, according to Blaine Walker, Chamber secretary. The total revenue resulting from the one-day drive will probably reach the \$2000 mark when new memberships now pending are signed up, Walker added.

The plan for the novel one-day campaign was suggested by Secretary Walker and executed by the retailers under the direction

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CIVIC FORCES READY TO GO FOR FESTIVAL

Today civic leaders of Torrance were bringing to completion their plans for staging Torrance Festival Days which officially open tomorrow and continue until next weekend, Saturday May 15. With the theme of "...you are going to have some fun and you are going to save some money," Festival Days open tomorrow morning with bargains throughout the entire city, particularly those appropriate for Mother's Day, this coming Sunday.

Values Offered After the two opening days, this Friday and Saturday, additional items and feature bargains will be placed on sale next Monday and will continue throughout the week. Next Saturday, May 15, to bring this eight-day event to a close, the Torrance Area Youth Band with the cooperation of many other similar bands in Southern California will stage a mile long "Parade of Bands" through the central business district. This will be followed later in the day and the evening with a band concert and a dance at the Civic Auditorium.

Cooperation Offered Chas. V. Jones, chairman of the Retail Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce said, "The merchants of Torrance are happy to cooperate with the Torrance Area Youth Band and its program to raise money for its activities and uniforms for the boys and girls. It is cooperative efforts like this . . . when everyone gets in and participates, which go a long way to build a friendly city that is going places.

"We wish the band every success and we are happy to have played a small part in helping them along the way. Certainly Torrance Festival Days will prove what can be done even under conditions which are not too favorable," Jones concluded.

Weston Ranch Is Renamed Hill'n Dale

Hill 'n Dale is the name selected for the residential development planned for the last 406 acres of the Weston Ranch, K. Sande Senness, purchaser of the property, announced yesterday.

Senness plans to erect approximately 1800 single family and rental units on the property, with present plans calling for the start of construction in July. Headquarters for the construction program, and for other Senness operations will be erected on the property, with ground to be broken within the next month.

The name Hill 'n Dale was chosen by Senness because the property is both hilly and level land.

Law And Public Continue Grasp In Union Fight

Law's long arm and the still more potent force of adverse public opinion this week continued to tighten their grasp on Haskell Tidwell, secretary, and his Retail Clerks' Union No. 905, in an effort to bring an end to the long standing dispute between Tidwell and operators of retail stores in the Harbor area, including Torrance.

While Tidwell and his attorneys were battling in the courts to defend the labor leader against some 16 separate asserted violations of the law, the San Pedro Woman's Club and the Painting and Decorating Contractors Association issued public denunciations against Tidwell and his clerks' union.

Hearings Continue At 10:00 a.m. Monday morning hearings began in the regional offices of the NLRB against Haskell Tidwell and his Harbor area Retail Clerks' Union in the matter of the complaint of unfair labor practices against the union brought by the A-1 Photo Service.

Motions Denied The union also moved to strike the complaint on the technical grounds that the complainant, employer, the A-1 Photo Service, examiner also denied this motion.



Modern Industrial Relations Building at General Petroleum plant in Torrance



Jackie Gifford takes the cake when it comes to cookies.

PLANT TOURS, PICNIC FEED ATTRACT 3000

Pomp and circumstance in "black gold" turned Saturday into pie-eating, cookie-grabbing among kids, and free rides for all as General Petroleum's Torrance plant swung wide the doors of graciousness for an all-out "Family Day." More than 3000 attended.

Ten giant buses, each wired for a public address system and carrying 41 passengers, droned from point of interest to point of interest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 10-minute intervals throughout the day. Skilled guides, assigned to each bus, explained the operation of the \$36,500,000 plant to laymen and kids without the two-bit words of science, Johnnie, for at least one time in his life, had a chance to find out what daddy did for a living and how and why he did it.

100,000 BARRELS DAILY At the tankfarm stop, for instance, all learned that more than 100,000 barrels of crude oil were handled each day . . . broken into fractions, including the gasoline fraction, and "cracked" without benefit of hammer or the Nut Cracker Sledge.

Some 13 different units are employed to make and improve gasoline. Kerosene, stove oil, Diesel oil, furnace oil and other fuel oils are made at the Torrance plant. No General Petroleum lubricating oils are blended here.

And, amid the scientific clutter and adroitness of explanation, old friends were meeting—old friends and wrapping themselves around each other's necks. Take the case of E. L. Cook, in charge of laboratory maintenance at General Petroleum's Vernon plant.

Ground Breaking

"Well," said Cook, "I was here in Torrance when the company broke the ground for this great enterprise. Betcha I've seen more than 150 fellows today whom I haven't looked upon in 15 years . . . or maybe 10 years; but for a long, long time.

"The thing that strikes me is that we're all getting older. I wonder if I look as old to some of those old timers as they look to me?"

Cook was handed another hot dog and another cup of coffee. "And the place here is so big . . . and getting bigger. I don't mean only the Torrance plant.

Former Officer Found Guilty Of Accepting Bribes

Receiving a verdict of guilty, Thomas H. Perkin, former Torrance police officer and more recently Chief of Police of Escondido, will ask for a new trial Monday to attempt to prove himself innocent of charges that he accepted bribes to allow book-makers to operate in Escondido. He was tried in San Diego.

Arrested last January 2 on accepting bribes of \$700, the ex-police chief was found guilty by a jury trial and Superior Judge Gordon Thompson increased his bail from \$2500 to \$5000.

Perkins had entered a plea of not guilty to the charges.

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Early in the afternoon's session Haskell Tidwell was called to the stand to answer questions. Shortly after, Shullman made a motion requesting that the union be permitted to withdraw from the hearings. The trial examiner denied this motion. All union representatives then walked out of the hearings.

John Binkley, attorney representing the complainant, employer, the A-1 Photo Service, declared, "The withdrawal of the union from the hearings and their failure to offer any evidence to defend themselves against the charges of unfair labor practices, of which they

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Norma Smith, hungry!

Veteran Needed For Walteria Mail Deliveries

(Photo on Page 8-A)

Anxious to obtain the services of a war veteran to make mounted mail deliveries to residents in the Walteria district who started receiving their mail in curb stone boxes last Saturday, C. Earl Connor, postmaster of the Torrance post office announced Wednesday he was interviewing applicants for the job.

Service to the Walteria district was started at the request of residents in that area, and is at present being handled by Coy H. White, of the Torrance post office, from where the incoming mail is distributed. The arrangement is only temporary and Connor is eager to employ an ex-service man to make the delivery of mail, including parcel post, C.O.D., insured and registered matter.

Alexander Wallace Found Dead In Bed

Alexander Wallace, 58, was found dead in bed last night at his home here, 711 Pacific Lane. Discovery was made by James McCandless, manager of a local dairy, approximately at 8:20 p.m. Wallace lived alone.

He is survived by a divorced mate and two daughters. He had been ailing and absent from work for two days when McCandless called. According to a physician, death came from natural causes some 12 hours before the manager's visit.

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