

# JOHN E. McMASTER, FIRE CHIEF HERE FOR 14 YEARS, DIES OF SUDDEN HEART ATTACK

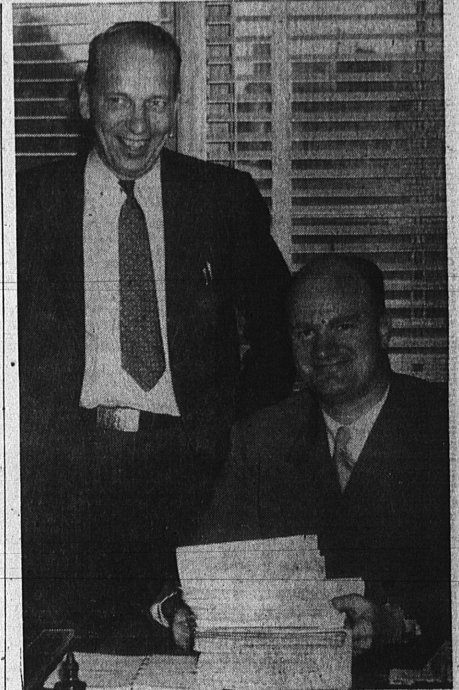
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## TORRANCE HERALD

36th YEAR—No. 2

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1950

24 Pages



COMPLETED . . . Dr. Irving R. Melbo, educational administrator expert, (standing) turns over to Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. Henrich Hull, a voluminous and forbidding report on the critical school housing situation. Kindergarten enrollment this year jumped eight times the rate of enrollment increase in other grades, the report shows. Survey causes parents and voters to face a serious decision. —Herald photo.

## Greatest 'Dimes' Appeal Launched by Campaigners

### Firemen Aid Drive with Polio Benefit

With the distribution of miniature iron lungs this week, the local March of Dimes headquarters were preparing to launch the most important fund appeal in the 12-year history of the fight against polio.

### 'Dimes' Officials Warn of Threats Of 'Iron Lungs'

Cooperation of those persons assisting in the current March of Dimes Campaign was enlisted this week by local campaign headquarters. Owners of establishments where the miniature iron lung collection banks will be located were asked not to surrender the banks to anyone except a Torrance fireman and then only on presentation of his badge.

In the past warned local campaign headquarters, unscrupulous persons have identified themselves as March of Dimes workers, collected the banks, and stolen the money collected by the various stores and shops.

the Torrance Firemen's Association.

Guiding the campaign toward a record goal of \$5000 are co-chairmen Mrs. C. Earl Conner and Delbert Vaughn.

Significance of the drive was described by the co-chairmen in pointing out that the March of Dimes has drained its reserves, emptied emergency funds, borrowed from research allotments, and even held an emergency drive last year to pay for the care of needy polio victims.

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SERVING UNTIL THE LAST. . . Pictured in the photo above is the late Fire Chief John E. McMaster (extreme right) who died suddenly in his home last night of a heart attack. The well-known chief was actively engaged in the current March of Dimes campaign when this photo, believed to be the last made of the late city official, was taken Monday of this week. Others are (left to right) Walter West, Delbert Vaughn, Mrs. Kay Ellermeier, and Mrs. C. Earl Conner. —Herald photo.

## Popular Chief With Wife As Death Strikes

John E. McMaster, fire chief of Torrance since 1936, died at his home last night shortly before midnight.

With him at the time he was stricken with a heart attack was his wife Mrs. Grace McMaster. The couple were watching a television show in the living room of their home at 916 Cota avenue.

Mrs. Robert McMaster, wife of McMaster's brother who lives next door, said that the pioneer

resident had not been ailing.

The chief who had served the city since he first joined the fire department 19 years ago, was active in civic affairs up to the time of his death. He was taking an active part in the current March of Dimes campaign.

The long-time city servant was taken to Stone and Myer's Chapel pending funeral arrangements.

He is also survived by a son, John Jr., of the Cota avenue address; two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Keeler, of Inglewood, and Mrs. Helen Lidyard of Virginia.

## '50 License Fees To Be Reviewed

Likelihood that the strong objections to the recently enacted business license ordinance would be overcome was indicated at the meeting of the City Council in the City Hall Tuesday night.

On motion of Councilman Nick Dralle it was voted that the new license ordinance be amended to lower the fees in three particular classifications:

1. That building contractors living outside the city limits but whose mailing address was "Torrance, California" be considered as resident businessmen.
2. That wholesalers delivering in the city be charged the resident-business fee of \$2 annually.
3. That operators of nickel vending machines and penny gum machines be charged \$5 and \$2 respectively annually for each machine.

Following the action Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy moved that a meeting of the council as a whole and City Attorney C. Douglass Smith be held to consider all other proposed changes in the ordinance. The motion carried.

## Terrific Influx of Small Children Will Tax Schools

Torrance parents face sending their children back into double sessions next year or voting a two million dollar elementary school bond issue to be called within the next three months.

Such were the findings of a comprehensive survey of the Torrance Unified School district Board of Education at a special meeting last night.

### TAX COLLECTOR TO AID LOCAL RESIDENTS

A Deputy County Tax Collector will be available to assist local residents with tax problems in the Torrance City Hall beginning January 12, according to A. H. Bartlett, city clerk.

After today, hours will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. The collector will maintain this schedule until April 20.

The voluminous report consisting of 74 pages and 46 tables and graphs was compiled by Dr. Irving R. Melbo, Professor of Educational Administration at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Melbo's copyrighted survey, intended to cover the next five years, indicated that a population of 34,390 could be expected by 1955. This would be approximately a 70 per cent increase over the present population.

"The school district must start thinking immediately about additional sites and buildings if it is to be ready to adequately care for the increased number of students who are certain to be attending Torrance schools next year," Dr. Melbo contended.

The time lag necessary in planning a school, drawing the plans, obtaining the land, and constructing the buildings will mean that any program of expansion started immediately could not be expected to be ready for students earlier than the fall of 1951—a year and a half from now. If the members of the board and the parents in the district anticipate only the present needs, the certain growth of the city would be unprepared for and the district would always be behind in its build-up. (Continued on Page 6)

### Shh . . . Not Yet! But Real Soon!

Watch for it! Next week in newspapers, national magazines, and on the radio and TV local residents will be reading and hearing of one of the biggest news breaks ever to originate in Torrance. Still in the "Mum's the word stage" the news announcement will draw unprecedented attention as a local event that will have even the most prolific Hollywood ballyhoo artists scrounging for new adjectives.



ASSEMBLYMAN THOMAS . . . Will Address Local Democrats in February

## C.E. Jones To Lead Democrats

### VINCENT THOMAS WILL SPEAK AT FEBRUARY MEET

C. Ed Jones, prominent figure in State Democratic circles, was elected president of the recently organized Torrance Democrats at a spirited breakfast meeting held Sunday morning in the VFW Hall.

Also elected at the meeting which was attended by more than 125 persons were the following:

Nick Dralle, first vice president; Elsie Smith, second vice president; John Ott, third vice president; George Downing, secretary; and Jess Dean, treasurer.

Elected to the board were: Lyle O'Hara, Judge John A. Shidler, A. H. Bartlett, Beverly Smith, and John Ott.

Although the meeting was largely of an organizational nature. (Continued on Page 6)

## Freeze Seen Here After Heavy Rain

Little letup in the cold, rainy menu of weather served up to Torrance during the last six days is expected, the U. S. Weather Bureau indicated yesterday. Although no rain is due today, Torrance residents can expect freezing or near-freezing temperatures tonight.

The pattern is a familiar one. For the past week, temperatures hovered around the freezing mark each night except Sunday, Monday and last night. On those evenings the temperature stayed Californian only because of a deluge of rain during the day.

During the past week 1.65 of precipitation fell in Torrance; the average "low" was 35 degrees; the average "high," 59 degrees.

## Business Outlook Bright, Says New C of C President

The United States has reached the stabilization point after the turbulent war years and a period of sound economy and steady buying is at hand.

This was the theme of a talk given Monday night by Dean L. Sears, Torrance branch manager of Bank of America and recently elected president of the local chamber of commerce. The lecture was occasioned by an installation dinner staged for new chamber officers and directors at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.

"Prices of most commodities have reached the settling point," Sears declared, "and Torrance merchants can expect steady buying at steady prices as compared with the erratic type of marketing prevalent in the early postwar years."

Seated at executive posts of the chamber along with Sears were W. T. Tillotson, vice president; Reed Parkin, vice president; William A. Zoeller, treasurer; Blaine Walker will continue as executive secretary.

Members of the chamber's board of directors are Henry W. Creeger, Bob Haggard, Charles Ver Jones, Parkin, Charles T. Rippey, Tillotson, Grover C. Whyte, and Zoeller.

During the installation dinner, staged by outgoing president (Continued on Page 6)

## Local Hospitals Approved by Surgeon's College

Torrance Memorial Hospital and the Harbor General Hospital were among the institutions recently approved by the American College of Surgeons. The report dated December 31, 1949, indicated Torrance Memorial had 65 beds and 20 bassinets while the county institution was listed as having 577 beds and 14 bassinets.



GAVEL SWAP . . . Charles Ver Jones, outgoing Chamber of Commerce president, hands the traditional symbol of authority to Dean L. Sears, president-elect. Installation dinner was held in Los Angeles Monday night.



IT'S THIS WAY . . . Newly elected Kiwanis President Bob L. Haggard (standing) argues with Division Lt. Governor Harold O. Chaney whether or not the local club is going to be good, better, or best in 1950. Dr. Howard A. Wood (center), outgoing president, seems content to just sit back and be amused. Photo was taken at the installation banquet at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club last Saturday night. —Herald photo.

## 160 See 1950 Kiwanis Leaders Installed at Beach Club

In rites witnessed by 160 members and guests, Dr. Howard A. Wood relinquished his title of president of the Torrance Kiwanis Club to Bob L. Haggard last Saturday at the Hollywood Riviera Beach Club.

Lt. Governor Harold O. Chaney, recently elected leader of Division 19 of the California-Nevada District, was the installing officer.

Other officers installed with Haggard were: James P. Montague, and Paul Loranger, first and second vice-president respectively; Angus McVicar, secretary; and Dr. Howard A. Wood as immediate past president.

Installed as directors of the year 1950 were: L. N. Gill, C. T. Rippey, Dr. G. M. Eastham, K. W. Jones, C. H. Ragsdale, H. J. Sheffield, and R. J. Deininger.

Ernest J. Loebbecke, immediate past Lt. Governor of Division one, presided as master of ceremonies.

On the lighter side of the activities Mrs. Jessie Wood, wife of the outgoing president was "turned" from Kiwanian Delinger in whose care she had been placed during her husband's year of servitude. Install-

### Law to Restrict Marble Machine Playing Sought

Following a request from the Torrance Council of PTA, the City Council agreed Tuesday night to meet with the city attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting the playing of marble machines by juveniles.

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly cloudy with no rain. Temperature high at 54 degrees with mercury dipping to about 31 degrees tonight.