

# D. S. Faulkner, Pioneer Torrance Industrialist, Retires

## Tax Expert Named to Head Chamber of Commerce

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

# TORRANCE HERALD



38th YEAR—No. 2

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1952

PHONE TORRANCE 444

24 PAGES

## STEELWORKERS REMAIN IDLE AS MEDIATORS ENTER SCENE

### Peerson Faces Court Tuesday

Fay B. Peerson, a 44-year-old welder, will appear Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in South Bay Municipal Court for preliminary hearing on charges that he shot his wife and her companion during a rage of jealousy in a Lomita motel cabin last Thursday afternoon.

Peerson is now in county jail unable to raise the \$5000 bail set by Judge John Shidner at his arraignment Monday. He is charged with two counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

Victims of the shooting, which took place at 2472 Pacific Coast highway, a scant few feet out of the Torrance city limits, were Mrs. Norma Peerson, 38, and Cecil Byron Huffine, 38, a tool shop operator of 528 West 58th street, Los Angeles.

**HUFFINE CRITICAL**  
Huffine's condition late yesterday was reported as "improving but still critical" at Harbor General Hospital. Mrs. Peerson has issued an order forbidding reports of her condition, the hospital reported.

Mrs. Peerson was shot in the breast, while Huffine suffered a stomach wound.

Both Mrs. Peerson and Huffine are reported improving at Harbor General Hospital after being on the critical list for several days.

Sheriff's officers at Lennox station, who handled the case said Peerson, an employee at the General Petroleum plant here, hid in the trunk of his wife's Cadillac in an attempt to find out who she was meeting.

The investigators said he apparently stowed away in the car while Mrs. Peerson was at

work as a waitress in an Inglewood bar.

**ARRIVED LATER**  
Mrs. Peerson, unaware that her husband was in the car, arrived at the motel which she and Peerson had been operating for the past two months. Witnesses at the motel said Huffine arrived a few minutes later.

Peerson then crawled out of the trunk and entered his own cabin. A few minutes later he reappeared and entered the wife's apartment, which is attached to the motel office.

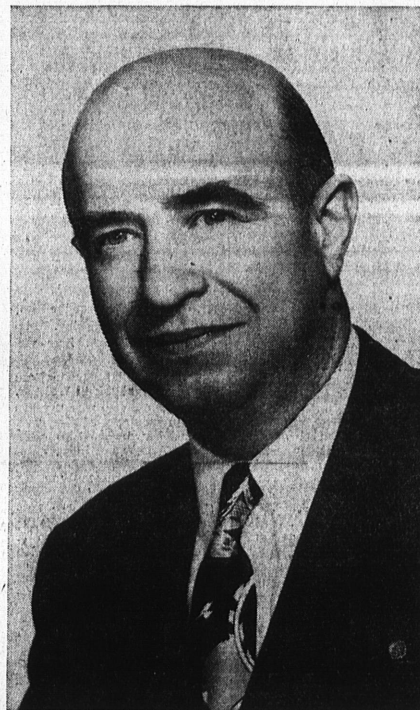
In a matter of seconds Peerson allegedly shot Huffine, who was found lying on the bedroom floor. His wife ran from the house, with Peerson following. As Mrs. Peerson frantically ran among shrubs, her husband fired four times at her, hitting her twice.

**SURRENDERS GUN**  
He then surrendered the gun to Charles Marino, who with his wife Ethel had come out of their motel unit to find out where the shooting had come from. At the time Peerson was firing at his wife, the Marinos were only two yards away from him.

Mrs. Marino's father, Ray Lake, owner of a nearby cafe, hailed a passing sheriff's car. Peerson was arrested without resistance.

Peerson and his wife had been separated for more than a month before the shooting took place, although they both lived at the motel. They had been married for 18 years.

The Peersons had lived at 2204 Andros avenue in Torrance for several years before they took over operation of the motel.



R. I. PLOMERT JR.  
... Heads Chamber of Commerce

### Elect Plomert New Chamber President

Election of Robert I. Plomert Jr. as president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce board of directors was announced this week following a meeting of the newly expanded 15-member board Monday afternoon.

Other officers chosen were Dr. Gerald M. Eastham and Darwin Parrish, vice presidents; and William A. Zoeller, treasurer.

Selection of a new full-time executive secretary to succeed Blaine Walker, resigned, will be made soon it was announced by President Plomert. A number of applications for the post have been received, Plomert revealed, but it is planned to review all applications before making a decision. Named on the screening committee were Directors Zoeller, chairman; Immediate Past-President Henry W. Creager; Reed H. Parkin and Paul D. Loranger.

**INTERVIEW PLANNED**  
After a careful screening of all applicants, it is planned to have those recommended by the committee appear before the entire board for interviews, President Plomert explained.

It is the aim of the Chamber board of directors to "cement and solidify" the entire community in support of its Chamber of Commerce, Plomert stated. With this thought in mind, we shall be careful to select a capable man to fill the post of executive secretary.

The newly elected Chamber president is manager of the property tax department of General Petroleum Corporation, Plomert, (pronounced Plomer) has been director of the Chamber board for the past six years and has taken an active interest in civic affairs. He is treasurer of Torrance Branch, YMCA.

**IS DOCTOR HERE**  
Dr. Eastham, vice-president of the board, specializes in the treatment of the eye, ear, nose, and throat. He maintains his offices at 1321 Cravens avenue. Darwin Parrish, another vice-president, is proprietor of Parrish Stationers, 1415 Marcella avenue. Treasurer William A. Zoeller is a certified public accountant with offices at 1309 Sartori avenue.

Named on the budget committee for the coming year were Dean L. Sears, chairman, Dr. Eastham, C. T. Rippey, and F. L. Parks.

**AN EARLY TASK**  
One of the first tasks that has been undertaken by the newly expanded board of directors, according to President Plomert, is a complete revision of the dues schedule. "We hope to adopt a schedule of reduced dues that will attract many new members particularly among smaller industries, retailers, professional men and individuals who are interested in encouraging the growth of Torrance," President Plomert stated.

Director Henry W. Creager, who declined a second term as president of the Chamber of Commerce, has agreed to head the new industries committee. Creager, who is manager of the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Company's Torrance plant, devoted much of his term as Chamber president to encouraging industrial growth.

### Columbia Shut Down Over Firing of Two

Hope for early settlement of the walkout which has closed down the Columbia Steel plant here was fading last evening as company and union officials reported no progress in ironing out the dispute.

Efforts of the Federal Conciliators Service to negotiate a settlement between company officials and members of United Steelworkers of America, CIO, Local 114, were introduced yesterday, but the series of conferences broke up late yesterday afternoon with no word of settlement.

Joe McNally, grievance committee chairman for the local, announced plans to fly to Pittsburgh, Calif., today to meet with the executive board of Local 1440, at Columbia's sister plant in the Bay area.

Company officials were quoted yesterday as agreeing to entertain a grievance on the dispute if the workers returned to the mill.

Union officials say they will

### Deputy Assessor To Open Office Here Tomorrow

A deputy county assessor will be in Torrance on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the next three months to assist Torrance residents with property tax problems, it was announced this week by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Bartlett said the assessor would be in the City Hall council chambers from 9 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. during the three days each week until April 25. His first visit here will be tomorrow.

The office will be closed on February 12 and 22, and again on April 11 from noon until 3 p.m.

Residents of the city can find out about the assessments on their property and veterans can take care of their tax exemptions by visiting the deputy assessor here during his stay in Torrance, Bartlett said.

Only clerical, administrative, and a fire protection crew have been in the plant since the walkout was finally shut down Monday evening.

It will take at least 36 hours to get the mill back into operation when the men return, a company spokesman said.

### Editorial

Torrance has met the challenge—magnificently. Foresighted and courageous early settlers in the Southland years ago recognized the vital need for more water in this naturally desert land. They bonded themselves and built the Owens Valley aqueduct. Later 13 cities, including Torrance, organized the Metropolitan Water District, voted \$20 million pre-inflation dollars to build the Colorado River aqueduct.

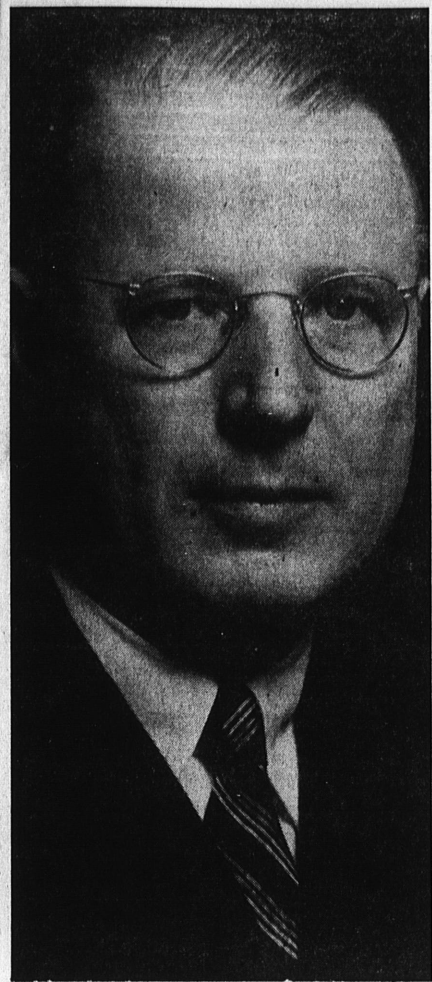
Tuesday Torrance followed these fine examples and voted two million dollars to make full use of these life-giving water reserves.

There is no mistaking the fine metal of which Torrance is molded. Instead of the usual apathetic turnout of some 10 per cent of voters at special elections, nearly 27 per cent of those qualified to vote at Tuesday's election came out to cast their ballots. This is an exceptionally high percentage for special elections, exceeding school bond elections where the welfare of their children is involved.

And these Torrance folks voted a thumping six-to-one approval of the carefully laid plans to meet our local water needs. These plans were perfected by the city administration after two years of study by competent water department executives and expert advisers.

Obviously, as the vote reflects, practically the entire citizenry supported the program, so it is difficult to give credit to all those who helped. However, it should be noted that the educational and promotional campaign for the water program was financed entirely by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce out of its privately-contributed funds. For obvious reasons, none of the money which the Chamber received from the city budget for city advertising and promotional activities was used to influence electors.

In viewing the results of Tuesday's election it can only be concluded that Torrance gave a resounding vote of confidence to the city administration and its water department. The people wholeheartedly accepted the endorsements of industrial and civic leaders and the Torrance Herald. (Pardon us, while we join with so many others in "taking a bow.")



D. S. FAULKNER  
... Retires from National Supply

### Veteran Oil Expert Goes into Retirement

"Mr. Torrance" is stepping down after watching his city spring out of the bean patch and become the West's most modern industrial city.

Retiring from his duties as vice president of the National Supply Company on January 1 was David S. Faulkner, a prime mover in the development of the huge company and in the development of the city of Torrance.

Mr. Faulkner, who came to Torrance with the Union Tool Company early in 1913, has been one of the most colorful figures in western industry.

Son of E. O. Faulkner, former vice president of the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company and vice president of the Santa Fe Land and Development Company, Dave was born in Grafton, North Dakota, on November 16, 1885.

He was graduated from Purdue University in 1909 with a degree in mechanical engineering and later took post graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania.

During his college years he worked on survey parties for the Santa Fe and in the Santa Fe shops in San Bernardino. After graduation he was employed by the Otto Engine Works in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the plant where the first four-cycle internal combustion engine was manufactured in this country.

It was at the Otto Engine Works, according to Richard Sneddon, editor of the Pacific Coast Petroleum Engineer, that Faulkner first sensed the important relationship between oil, the tools that find it and the machines that use it.

Shortly before World War I Faulkner was brought to Torrance by Edward Double, president of the Union Tool Company, to engineer a diesel program which was being set up in the company's new Torrance plant. Before they could get started, however, the war began and the project had to be dropped.

Faulkner then turned his efforts to making field surveys to improve the design of rotary drilling machinery for deeper drilling. In a very short time he had the Torrance plant running at full capacity.

Before 1920 the Union Tool

### Voters Approve Water Program In Landslide

Torrance voters gave a thumping six-to-one approval to the two million dollar water expansion and modernization program proposed by the city administration and its water department, and submitted to the electorate at Tuesday's special election.

Vote on the Water Issue was: Yes, 1681 No, 276.

In an exceptionally heavy turnout for special elections, 1957 voters cast their ballots at 31 precincts scattered throughout the city's far-flung boundaries, encompassing nearly 19 square miles. The total vote cast was slightly under 27 per cent of the 7282 registered voters qualified to vote. Voters in the Hollywood-Riviera section, not included in the newly formed consolidated Torrance Municipal Water District No. 3, and thus not affected, were not eligible to vote.

While voters in all 31 precincts gave the water bonds more than the required two-to-one approval, voters in some of the newer districts registered the largest ratio of Yes votes.

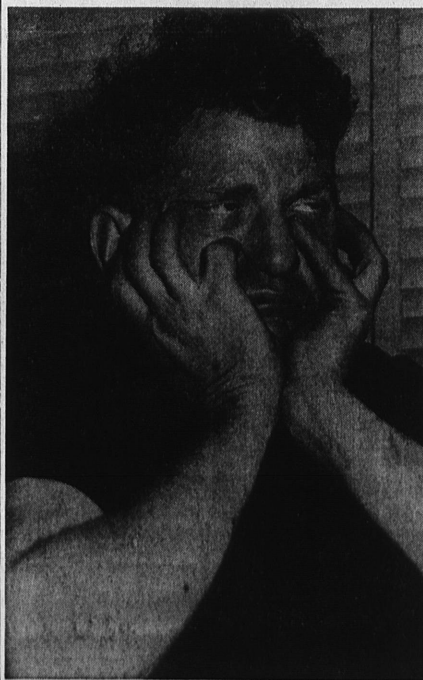
In the four precincts in North Torrance the vote was Yes 209, No 33.

Seaside Ranchos was almost unanimous with Precinct J. 26, at 23077 Doris Way, registering Yes 45, No 1, and Precinct No. 24 at 5321 Linda Drive, Yes 38, No 4.

Precinct No. 23, at 23425 South Western avenue, gave a small but unanimous approval of the bonds, tallying Yes 9, No 0.

Two precincts in Kettler Knolls totaled Yes 95, No 17. Waverly Precinct No. 16, at 24404 Hawthorne avenue, cast Yes 37, No 16, while the nearby Pacific Hills Precinct 29, cast Yes 86, No 17. In the same general area Precinct No. 19 at 22203 Ocean avenue, at Sepulveda boulevard, the vote was Yes 21, No 5.

In the so-called "Central Tor-



FAY B. PEERSON  
... Held on Charges of Assault

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