

First Robins of Spring

More indications of the growing importance of Torrance in the affairs of Southern California were reported here this week.

Supervisor Burton Chace, who represents this area on the governing board of the county, opened a branch office here on a part-time basis to provide a more localized service to his constituents.

Tomorrow morning at 8 a.m., the first of many thousands will begin trekking through the new Department of Motor Vehicles branch office at 1817 Cravens Ave.

Construction of a new National Guard Armory is slated to get under way here early next summer.

another phase of Southland activity will be transferred to Torrance.

In the matter of population Torrance is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

And experts who predicted the city's growth, and a bit conservative at that, have been saying right along that Torrance will have a population of 100,000 by 1960.

The opening of an office by the County Supervisor Friday and the scheduled opening of a Department of Motor Vehicle office tomorrow morning are like the first robins of spring to an easterner.

Just you wait and see.

Installation Buying Drops

The Federal Reserve Board said early this month that credit buying during November had slowed considerably and that for the tenth successive month, the public had cut its credit-buying sharply.

To get an idea of the slower pace of credit buying, one should look at the figure for November, 1952.

The most drastic outlook in credit purchases in November, the Board's figures showed, was the slower pace of automobiles on credit.

Glancing over these figures, it is not difficult to see why a glut in the automotive market developed in November and December, 1953.

When these figures, showing the slowing pace of credit buying, are compared with others showing the continuing sharp increase in savings, one cannot find anything seriously disturbing about the trend in the economy.

The latest figures from the Federal Reserve Board are encouraging and prove that the public is highly susceptible to gloomy economic forecasts.

Nation's Health Better Senator Boosts Alaska

A major insurance company reported recently the 1953 death rate had averaged 6 per 1,000 inhabitants.

For six years now the death rate in the United States has been below ten per 1,000 inhabitants.

The greatest factor in the low death rates in 1952 and 1953 has been the reduction achieved in the mortality rate from tuberculosis.

The death rate from pneumonia has been sharply whittled in recent years, as well, and there is now some promise that the death rate from polio will be reduced.

Altogether then, the health record of the people of the United States is the best it has ever been and while such diseases as cancer, heart disease, mental disease and others continue to exact a heavy toll, your chances for survival today—amidst the many germs and diseases that attack the human animal—are the best in history.

Senator John Sparkman, Alabama Democrat, said recently Alaska should be admitted to the Union as a state if Hawaii is granted admission.

The Alabama Senator said he thought it would be a mistake to admit one of these territories without admitting the other and expressed the belief that such a move would have unmistakable political connotations.

The argument against admitting Alaska has revolved largely around the fact that over ninety per cent of the territory of Alaska is under Federal ownership and, therefore, exempt from state taxation.

There seems to be merit to Sparkman's argument. We do not believe that because the Federal Government owns a large percentage of the territory of Alaska this situation could be gradually remedied since the Federal Government does not intend to maintain ownership of this land indefinitely.

Final Authority



STANLEY JAMES

Texas Given Inside Track To Get Air Force Academy

The multi-million-dollar Air Force Academy, proposed in Congress, will probably be started at Randolph Field, Tex., on a temporary basis, but the permanent location is anybody's guess.

Informed Congressmen say Randolph Field has the inside track because it was originally the "West Point of the Air."

LAW IN ACTION

SUBPOENA, A TOOL OF FREEDOM

You may run across a curious phrase in the sixth amendment to our constitution. It says, "The accused shall enjoy the right... to be confronted with the witnesses against him and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor."

You may have reasons for not wanting to testify. For a witness must swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. If he does not tell the truth, he commits "perjury" that is, bears false witness—and could be sent to prison.

But why can a man force another to testify? You remember the story of how Lincoln saved one of his clients. The key witness said that he saw the accused do the crime by the light of a full moon.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

THE MAIL BOX

For the Birds

Editor, I read that we finally are to get more traffic signals—this time on 174th Street. Thank goodness. But can't we have the new fangled traffic light on the corner instead of Torrance's Own "Center-of-the-Street" contraption which can't be seen by anything short of passing sea gulls?

These new horseless carriages just aren't built for lights thirty feet high in the center of the intersection. JACK M. BEACH

Council Thanked

Editor, To the City of Torrance a vote of thanks but also a No Thanks on the offer to annex the Rolling Hills area. We appreciate the "big brother" attitude since the recent Dust Bowl ballyhoo, but I can't see what we can offer you—and you can offer us.

We're happy with our own humpy roads, chlorinated (but not fluorinated) drinking water, and the many fine County services—fire department, sheriff, dog pound, etc.—that we now pay for. So please, City Councilmen, go back to figuring out how to

keep the refineries and oil mills from smogging up the area, and we'll tackle the "Dust Lite" dust ourselves, come September winds.

In short, we like the life of the unincorporated areas of the County. R. A. F.

Police Defended

Editor, A recent item in the paper concerning a Torrance policeman and brutality in the jail has prompted me to write on a bit of kindness extended to me by a local police officer. My car stalled during the recent rain storm and right in the middle of a flooded intersection. I was about to wade through the muddy water when a passing police officer stopped. One of the Torrance police officers, wearing no boots or gaiters, left his auto, waded through the water, and with a rag dried the plugs of my car so I would start and I could go my way.

It was a little thing, but it—and many other acts of kindness by Torrance policemen have led me to look at stories of police brutality through weathered eyes. MRS. F. M. B.

HOWARD GOTLIEB

McCarthy Outranks Movie Stars in English Papers

LONDON — By far the most talked about American here is Senator McCarthy. That the English and French newspapers and magazines now devote more space to his activities than to revealing the private lives of our film stars is a measure of the fame that has been achieved by the Senator in Europe.

However, few of the people I have discussed him with here really understand what the entire question is about and still less how the situation came to be in the United States. Without exception, McCarthy has been played up as something dangerous and evil in the American system, an individual who is intent upon causing disunity within his own country and between America and her European friends.

The committee bill empowers Air Secretary Harold Talbott to choose the site upon the recommendation of a survey board. "I think it will be pretty cut-and-dried," Priest said.

WASHINGTON — President Dwight D. Eisenhower's speeches opening the 1954 political season were proof of the nation over television and radio and his State of the Union message to Congress were speeches in the best "Democratic traditions," Republicans of the Tom Dewey wing point out. Ike's speeches have always been of such composition.

In fact Democrats say both the President's brief report to the nation over television and radio and his State of the Union message to Congress were speeches in the best "Democratic traditions," Republicans of the Tom Dewey wing point out. Ike's speeches have always been of such composition.

The leaders of both parties in Congress make no secret of the fact the key question is whether the President can get most of his program through this last session of the 83rd Congress. Democrats say he will have a hard time putting over such a broad program.

Nevertheless Ike has started off strong in the first round. He has put forward a broad program and done a pretty fair job of selling it to the people. If more conservative members of his own party block that program they will have a heavy responsibility to bear in the coming elections, and the President could turn this psychology into an effective ploy.

The President himself has certainly left Democrats with little ammunition. Only one field—that of farm legislation—is considered highly vulnerable. And if the Republicans do not restore some measure of farm prosperity lost in 1953 the Democrats will undoubtedly make heavy gains in farm areas like the Midwest.

The argument in Congress over the President's farm proposals may hold the answer to the year's election. If the Republican program is adopted and farmers fail to get relief the Republicans will be bogging down into serious trouble.

week if it was true, as I had heard, that we Americans were spied upon and our movements reported to McCarthy. It was a question I had heard many times and from many people who under any circumstances could have been called educated. Just when do they get their fantastic ideas about life in the U.S.A.?

For one thing, certain elements of the press in both France and Britain have ways followed an unrelenting anti-American line and in activities of the Senator has found the opportunity of putting it. Sections of the British Labour Party have gone particular pains to point out the disastrous folly of the country's association with the U.S.A. These are the people who would rant about conditions in America even if Senator McCarthy did not exist.

But there is evidence as well as a deeper feeling have held people with moderate views. This concerns the diverse opinions held by the Eisenhower administration and the Senator on questions such as British trade with Red China and the possibility of a United Nations seat for the Communists. They appear frightened that McCarthy's views on the "blood trade" will carry the day.

Englishmen as well as our reason refuse to believe a chain of espionage going back over a period of years in the States, which must be dealt with. While continuing to state that England will never be subjected to a McCarthy inquisitor-general, they treat their own convicted spies most paternally and approach the problem within their own country in a most naive manner. In this instance, at least their blindness is madness.

IT'S A FACT

by JERRY CAHILL

Advertisement for the March of Dimes featuring a cartoon of a man and a woman, and text about polio prevention and the 'Battle Ship Island'.

Torrance Herald advertisement including contact information for Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, Reid L. Bundy, and William E. King Jr., and details about the March of Dimes program.