

# Mayor Mervin Schwab Named Man of the Year

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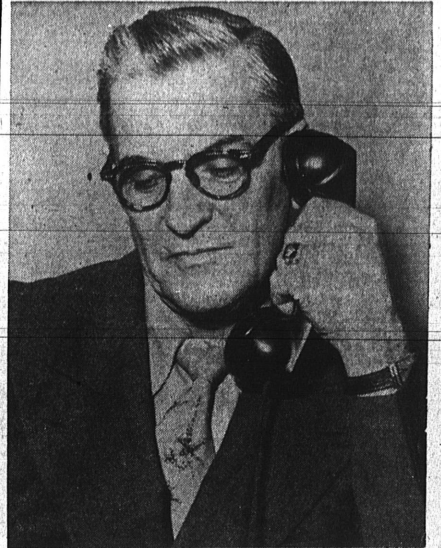
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MAYOR MERVIN M. SCHWAB  
... First "Citizen of the Year"

## Mayor First To Get Laughon-Whyte Honor

By MARV HALL

"I was only doing what I felt in my heart was the right thing to do . . ."

With these words, Mayor Mervin M. Schwab accepted the William Laughon-Grover Whyte Memorial trophy as the first "Outstanding Citizen" of Torrance at the Chamber of Commerce Installation Banquet, held

before a capacity crowd of almost 500 at the Civic Auditorium Thursday night.

The trophy, presented by Mrs. William Laughon and Mrs. Grover C. Whyte in memory of their late husbands, will be a perpetual one and will pass on to each year's "Outstanding Citizen," while the former winner will receive a plaque.

W. A. "Dick" Walker was called on to read his letter of nomination, which said that because Mayor Schwab "found time from a busy occupation to assume the leadership of our city," and because of his many accomplishments, the most noteworthy being the founding of "Get Acquainted Week," he should be named "Outstanding Citizen."

Officers Installed  
Judge Otto B. Willett of South Bay Municipal Court installed Paul Loranger president of the Chamber of Commerce at the dinner, replacing Bob Plomert. Other officers installed were John A. Willinghouse, vice-president; Darwin Parrish, vice-president; Dr. G. M. Eastham, treasurer; Dale Isenberg, re-elected executive secretary; Mrs. Valda Wilkins, re-elected office secretary; and Henry W. Creeger, Bob Haggard, Paul Diamond, J. H. Paget, Don Armstrong, A. D. Wagen, Reed H. Parkin, R. I. Plomert Jr., Dean L. Sears, William A. Zoeller and Fay L. Parks, directors.

In his acceptance speech, Loranger said that the theme

of the city being proud enough that they live in Torrance to demand that their post office address be changed to Torrance," Loranger said.

Tax Money Lost  
Loranger stated that sorely needed property and sales tax money has been lost here. He said that the sales tax collections amounted to \$2.53 per resident in 1949, but dropped to \$1.90 per resident in 1953, that purchases from local merchants amounted to \$80 per person in '53 compared to \$54 per person in '49—a "depression year" in comparison.

Inadequate parking facilities were blamed for the lack of business and three actions were proposed to correct the situation:

1. Better use of present facilities.
2. Providing new facilities.
3. Strict enforcement of parking regulations.

Loranger also suggested that a study be made to widen, improve or even open up new streets that would bring the people of the entire area to the local merchants to shop.

The need for additional school and hospital facilities in the future also was emphasized in the speech.

To accomplish his objective, Loranger called on each and every resident of Torrance, the civic clubs, service clubs, women's clubs, unions, homeowners groups, Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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## WATER CONSERVATION ZONE FORMED, NEW TAXES LOOM

### Supervisors Approve New Water District

Property owners in Torrance and other South Bay cities will be nicked for additional taxes amounting to about 5 cents per \$100 assessed valuation as the result of the formation of a water conservation district here Friday.

Formation of Water Conservation Zone No. 2 was ordered in a unanimous vote by the Board of Supervisors following a public hearing on the matter.

The new district, urged by Supervisor Burton W. Chace as a measure to stem the intrusion of salt water into the underground water tables in the area, will be financed by the taxpayers in the district.

Included in the boundaries of the new zone are Torrance, Redondo, Hawthorne, Hermosa, Gardena, Manhattan, and part of the Shoestring Strip between 190th St. and 203rd St. Some unincorporated county areas are also included.

San Pedro Excluded  
Excluded following the hearing Friday were the San Pedro, Wilmington area and several municipal areas south of Culver City.

A request of the Dominguez Water Co. to have its territory excluded from the zone was denied.

Chief Flood Control Engineer H. E. Hedger estimated that an initial expenditure of about \$75,000 will be made to determine feasibility of treating Hyperion sewage to obtain supplies for replenishing the underground water supplies in the West Basin. The supply of water in the basin has been gradually sinking during the past several years.

Tests Started  
Already under way are experimental injection wells which pump water back into the underground basin in an effort to hold back the rush of sea water. Several such wells have been sunk, and more are contemplated.

Use of water reclaimed and purified at the Hyperion plant has been urged by many officials. At the present time the water being injected is being purchased from the Metropolitan Water District.

Friday's hearing was attended by City Manager George Stevens and Water Superintendent Angus McVicar, who were sent by the city as "uninstructed" delegates. Councilmen this week withheld approval of the zone stating they did not want to go on record for the additional tax assessment.

Former Mayor On Planning Commission  
Appointment of ex-Mayor J. Hugh Sherfy Jr. as a member of the City Planning Commission was announced this week by Mayor Mervin M. Schwab.

Sherfy's appointment by the mayor came to fill one of the vacancies created when the terms of three commissioners expired Jan. 11. Those whose term ended were W. A. Felker, Tony DiMayle, and John Salm.

A recommendation by Councilman Nick Drate to have James Miller of Pacific Hills appointed to one of the vacancies was passed by when the mayor announced that he had received a petition signed by 137 Pacific Hills residents recommending another man.

Filling of the other two vacancies on the commission has been delayed until at least Feb. 9, which is the next regular meeting of the City Council.

### Boy, 7, Shot by Pal in Accident, Still 'Critical'

Larry Robello, 7, who was accidentally shot by a playmate Tuesday, was still in critical condition yesterday at Harbor General Hospital.

The boy, son of Mrs. Helen Robello, 1423 W. 224th St., was playing at the home of his pal, Steven Lamphere of 1512 W. 222nd St., when the accident occurred. Steven told police that he found what he thought was a cap gun on the couch of his home, picked it up and it discharged the bullet, hitting Larry and lodging near his left hip.

The gun, a .22 revolver, belonged to Steven's grandfather, Bert Lamphere, a plant guard.

Diana Griffin Still Critical  
Still fighting for her life yesterday and in critical condition was Diana Griffin, 5, who was saved from immediate death Jan. 18 by her polo stricken brother Reginald, 19, who dragged himself to her aid after her dress had caught fire in the Griffin home, 193rd St. and Western Ave.

The girl ran screaming through the house and her brother crawled on hands and knees after her, finally catching her and smothering the flames with his hands. Her dress caught fire from an electric heater, and third degree burns cover 40 per cent of her body.

Mittan Gets DTD Post  
Duane Mittan, 719 Cota Ave., has been elected treasurer of Delta Tau Delta fraternity at Santa Barbara College.

California Publishers to Hear Business Week Editor at Meet  
Today's most pressing problems facing the Fourth Estate will be taken up by top executives of the industry at work sessions and discussion panels which are part of the program of the 1954 convention of California Newspaper Publishers Association which will get underway Friday noon, Feb. 6, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Publisher Fred McPherson Jr. of the Santa Cruz Sentinel-News, and president of CNPA, announced this week that Kenneth Kramer, executive editor of Business Week will be the principal speaker of the convention.

Round table discussions and panels will take up most of the first day of the convention with the Family Dinner that evening. A new feature of CNPA convention—a mechanical exhibit of the latest in printing equipment and supplies—is being arranged.

Elderly Man Hit By Torrance Car  
A 77-year-old Hermosa man was in "good" condition the week after being struck by a car, driven by a Torrance man last week.

Mark L. Ball, of 2024 Hillcrest Dr., Hermosa, was crossing Torrance Blvd. at Pacific Coast Hwy. when he was hit by a car driven by Paul W. Dalton, 2910 Onrado, Redondo police reported.

Dalton said he had just turned off Pacific Coast Hwy. and started east on Torrance Blvd. at a slow rate of speed when the elderly pedestrian loomed up in front of his car.

Police measured off about 26 feet of skid marks left by the Dalton auto prior to the accident.

Ball's injuries were diagnosed as a fractured ankle and possibly a dislocated shoulder. He is at Harbor General Hospital.

### Home Building Boom Goes into New Year

The new year looks like it might be another one for the record books, according to figures compiled Friday evening by Walter C. Bradford of the city's building department.

Building permits issued during the first month of 1954 totaled \$2,295,968, Bradford reported. A year ago, the first month of an all-time record year, only \$1,575,480 in permits was issued.

Most of the new permits were for dwellings throughout the city as the feverish housing boom continued into the new year. And there are at least a thousand more houses now ready to be started or nearing that stage in the city's planning offices. The City Council last week approved a huge tract for Milton Kauffman, and those approved are only the first of many more to come for the same builder, according to his announced plans.

Also approved were tentative maps for more than half a dozen other homes—all of that in one session. The Council meets approximately 28 times a year. If the same pace is maintained, the city will be bulging at the seams by next Christmas.

On the horizon are still a few healthy permits to be issued to industries in the area now under construction or being expanded. Several new industries are slated to announce their plans for Torrance this year also, according to reliable reports.

### Thomas Seeking Eighth Election

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, minority floor leader at Sacramento, will seek his eighth term as representative of the 68th Assembly District, he announced this week. He was first elected in 1940.

Work to form a re-election committee here has been started and it will include Democrats and Republicans.

During the past 14 years Thomas has authored and co-authored many bills, which have been acclaimed widely by California voters.

Among his recent accomplishments for the Torrance area is the acquisition of a Department of Motor Vehicle branch office here, and the allotment of a National Guard Army to Torrance. Construction on the new army is slated for early summer, Thomas reports.

The Assemblyman is serving as vice-chairman of the Fish and Game committee, vice-chairman of the Inter-State Cooperative Commission, member of the Governmental Efficiency and Economy Committee, and member of the Tri-State Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission.

Thomas is married to the former Mary DeCarlo and makes his home with his wife and daughter, Mary Virginia, in San Pedro.

### Woman Hit by Police Car Sent Home From Hospital

Mrs. Charlotte Hough, 38, of 22250 Linda Dr., who was hit and hurled 47 feet by a Torrance police car Jan. 21, has been discharged and sent home from Harbor General Hospital to recuperate from minor injuries sustained in the accident.

DENTAL HEALTH PROMOTED . . . Rotary President Jack Dabbs this week passed on a check for \$100 from the club to Mrs. Esther Miller for the Torrance Dental Health Assn. The association reported recently that it has sponsored 457 items of dental work for Torrance children during the fourth quarter of 1953.

At the same time, the Torrance Dental Health Assn. announced the receipt of \$100 from the Torrance Rotary Club to help in the local dental program.

Rotary President Jack Dabbs presented the check to the group.

with the statement: "We in the Rotary Club recognize the importance of this association. We trust our contribution will aid the children of Torrance."

The Torrance Dental Health Assn. quarterly report issued recently revealed that 457 separate items of dental work have been rendered under the auspices of the group.

"This organization is unique in that almost all of the local dentists participate in this program and that its success and low-cost operation is made possible by the cooperation of schools, public-spirited citizens, and the dentists in Torrance," Attorney Don Hitchcock, publicity chairman for the group, said yesterday.

under direction of Ben Reddick, publisher, Newport-Balboa Press.

General Chairman Carroll W. Paroher, publisher of Glendale News-Press, reports heavy registration to date with indications that total attendance will probably exceed previous conventions.

Included in convention events are meetings of the California Associated Press Association, Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalistic fraternity, Hometown Daily Newspapers, the annual awards breakfast when winners of CNPA newspaper contests are announced, the annual business meeting on Saturday at 10 a.m. when new officers will be elected, the installation of officers Saturday noon, a fashion show, and dinner dance in the famed Coconut Grove. Mrs. Fluma C. Whyte, Herald publisher, will attend the convention.



PAUL LORANGER  
... Man-Sized Gavel

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Problems Ahead  
Loranger mentioned specific problems facing the city and recommended methods to solve them. The greatest need here, he said, is for unification. "New areas have sprung up in various sections of our city—develop-