

Schools Hit by Cement Shortage

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Builders Cagy About 2300 Home Project

Developers Hazy on Plans for New Tract

While a tract of new homes rumored to contain 2300 houses, potentially the largest single batch of homes in the history of Torrance, gained official city sanction Wednesday night, the developers, the Milton Kauffman Co., Friday played it mighty cagy as to their actual plans for the tract.

The first unit of the huge home tract project containing 764 lots for homes and two large commercial lots for shopping districts at 190th St. and Hawthorne Blvd. has been mapped and approved by the Torrance Planning Commission.

Repeated attempts to substantiate the correctness of the figure 2300 were met with a repeated run around by officials of the Kauffman Construction Company Friday.

According to the Commission, the first unit of the project, comprising 764 lots, is two-fifths of the total construction planned.

On the large area bounded by 190th St., Hawthorne Blvd., Beverly St. and Del Amo Blvd., provisions have been made for 764 homes, two parks, two shopping districts and an elementary school, the latter to occupy 10 acres, in a central location. The Kauffman Company did

reveal, however, the fact that the homes will be of a conventional one-story type, will contain three bedrooms and two baths, maybe, and will be priced at \$12,000, or perhaps \$15,000.

Construction will begin on 300 of the first 764 homes in October. Total cost of the proposed 2300-home tract was not revealed. Total cost of the land upon which the 2300 homes will be built was not revealed. Kauffman is rumored to be dealing with the Dominguez Land Co. and is said to have options on all the land not already purchased.

John R. Patrick, assistant to the city engineer, recommended the project from an engineering standpoint, with two minor recommendations—that the homes should not have slab-type floors and that each house should con-

(Continued on Page 2)



THESE ARE WALLS? . . . Although these workmen may appear to be pouring a concrete floor, they are actually pouring a cement wall for the new Howard E. Wood Elementary School. When hardened, sections will be hoisted into vertical position. Holes will be plugged with windows and doors. School has been delayed and may be delayed again by a shortage of cement.

Seven New Torrance Schools Under Way

And still the race goes on! School administrators trying to erect schools as fast as subdividers build homes. While at times it appears the Torrance Unified School District is about to catch up with new home developers, along comes another big tract of homes (the Ellinwood development of 1200 homes, for instance) to overburden already overburdened school facilities.

At present there are seven new schools or additions to present schools either under construction or in the planning stage.

Due to be ready about Feb. 1, barring a shortage of cement, are the Evelyn Carr School at 404 W. 168th St. and the De Howard A. Wood School on 235th St. west of Arlington Ave. Both schools are of the pre-cast tilt-up type construction. The walls are being tilted into position this week on the Carr school site at the site of the Wood school workmen this week were erecting the walls for the 12-classroom plant. The Wood school is to have, in addition to the twelve classrooms, a double kindergarten unit, a health office, and administration office. Cost of the school is \$233,795.

The Carr school, costing \$318,763, will have 18 classrooms, a home economics and shop unit, and a health and an administration office. Both schools are being built by the Winter Construction Co.

Scheduled to be ready for occupancy about Aug. 15 is a four-unit classroom addition to the Madonna Ave. School. The Hudson Construction Co., builders, are putting on the roof and installing finish plumbing this week.

Emmett Ingram, business manager of the local school district, said Monday he was hopeful that district officials would be able to submit plans to the State Department of Architecture for a four-classroom addition to the Walteria Elementary School by mid-August. The addition would be constructed by funds allocated by the Federal Government under Public Law 515.

Also scheduled to go to the state are plans for the new Crenshaw School. Planning deadline for the school is mid-August for 12 classrooms, a double kindergarten unit, a health office, and an administration office.

Under way at present is a

Torrance Gets Lion's Share Of Gas Mains

Seventy per cent of the new gas main installations in South-west Los Angeles County during the first six months of 1953 went into Torrance, it was revealed this week by Lester E. Green, division manager of the Southern California Gas Co.

Green, whose area extends from Slauson Blvd. south and from Crenshaw and Western Ave. to the ocean, said his company had installed 90,000 feet of new business mains during the first half of the year and that 70 per cent of them were installed in Torrance.

"Torrance is the fastest growing city in our area," Green said. His division covers all of the Centinela Valley, and beach cities.

Man, Unaware Mattress on Fire, Saved by Alert Beat Patrolmen

The alertness of two Torrance police officers while walking their beat early Friday morning probably saved the life of a man who was unaware that the mattress on which he was sitting was on fire.

Reports stated the man was "slightly intoxicated."

Patrolmen William Mitchell and William Winter were walking near the Brighton Hotel, 1639 1/2 Cabrillo Ave., at 4:10 a.m. when they detected the faint smell of smoke. After checking the area and finally several doors in the hotel, the officers discovered the source of the smoke to be Room 31 of the local hotel. Inside they found Joseph King in a room filled with dense choking smoke, sitting on a smoldering mattress, smoking a cigarette.

Officers Mitchell and Winter evacuated the man and then tossed the burning mattress onto the fire escape. The Torrance Fire Department was summoned to extinguish the burning mattress.

Firemen stated that had King remained in the room much longer he undoubtedly would have been overcome by the fumes and lack of oxygen and could have perished by suffocation or in the fire which likely would have resulted from the burning mattress.

The officers were complimented for their alertness and investigation, by Police Chief John Stroh and Lt. A. S. Thompson.



COMMITTEE TOUR . . . More than 50 members of Councilman John E. Gibson's Advisory Committee of the 15th District, climaxed the Third Annual District Tour with a three-hour trip around the Harbor recently. Touring the northern parts of the district by bus, the committee members boarded a boat at San Pedro for an inspection tour of the multi-million dollar facility. The tour also included stops at Cabrillo Beach and White's point. Supervisor Burton W. Chase of the Fourth District was among special guests for the tour.



NEW FLAG RAISED . . . Scouts of Troop 341 raise the new flag presented to the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church by Mrs. Sam Neely on a new flag pole erected and presented to the church by the troop. Left to right are Bobby Cato, Bobby Todd, Rev. Arthur E. Bello, Billy McDonald, Steve Foster, and David Jones. Looking on is Scoutmaster A. S. Thompson. The flag was flown for the first time July 4.

Funeral Services Pending For W. M. Fitzpatrick Sr.

Funeral services are pending at Stone and Myers Mortuary for William Miles Fitzpatrick Sr., who died Tuesday at his home, 2235 S. Main St.

Fitzpatrick was a retired railroad conductor, and had lived the area for 15 years. He was born in Lincoln, Calif.

He is survived by his son, William Fitzpatrick Jr., who is stationed at Key West, Fla. with the U. S. Navy.

Asks for Jury Trial

Tidwell Pleads Not Guilty to Assault

Haskell Tidwell, ousted secretary of the San Pedro Retail Clerks Union, pled not guilty to assault and to brandishing a gun charges in the South Bay Municipal Court Friday morning and requested a jury trial to hear his case.

The ex-union official is accused of threatening Wallace Elliott, president of the union, with a gun at the latter's home, 2811 Olive St., last Saturday.

Tidwell appeared without benefit of his attorney, Alexander Schulman, who is on vacation. The plea was received by Judge John A. Shidler, who set August 7 at 8:30 a.m. as the date and time of trial.

Prosecution Attorney Boris Woolley said that a third charge, carrying a concealed weapon, would be added to the charges when Tidwell appears for trial. Tidwell is free on a \$100 bail after he was served with a warrant signed by Judge Otto B. Willett charging him with violating Section 240 of the Penal Code, simple assault, and Section 417, drawing and exhibiting a gun in a threatening manner not in self defense, and in the presence of other persons.

Tidwell, for 15 years secretary of Retail Clerks Union No. 905, denied the assault on Elliott and denied owning a gun. However, Sgt. M. H. Porter said that when he arrested Tidwell on Monday morning at 6 o'clock he came to the door with a .38 calibre revolver in his hand. Sgt. Porter said the gun had four live rounds and one empty shell in the cylinder.

Two witnesses to the alleged assault, including Elliott's mother, said that at the time of the assault Tidwell appeared "drunk or high." Tidwell denied this steadfastly. Elliott was one of several union leaders that brought charges against the ex-union leader and which ultimately resulted in his dismissal by the International.

Meanwhile, Tidwell said Friday he was proceeding with his law suit to have the court set aside the International's action and restore him to the position of secretary. He claims there were many "irregularities" in the voting, which should be investigated by the courts.

WEATHER

More of the same for Torrance and vicinity is predicted by the weather bureau for today. Some fog and low clouds in the morning are expected, with sunshine this afternoon, and light winds.

Air Force Explains Heavy Press Cutback

California Congressmen probing the cutback of the heavy press program slated for the Harvey Machine Co. were told this week by the Air Force that Southern California aircraft plants were lukewarm to the press program.

Roger Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Air, told the Congressional delegation from California that the cutback would save the Air Force about \$100,000,000.

Harvey Machine Co. was slated to build and operate two heavy forging presses and two heavy extrusion presses, but both forging presses and one extrusion press have been cancelled.

Rep. Carl Hinshaw (R-Calif.) chairman of the California congressional delegation, called the

Let Donna Take Ya Fishin'

It's Fun -- See the Sports Page

Do you wish you could go fishing every week?

Well, you can (by proxy) if you follow the antics of local anglers in the lively weekly column of fishing news authored by Donna Barkdull, who can bait a hook and get a line into the water quicker than you can say "Jack Macdonald."

Read who's catching what and where in her column, "Rod and Gun Club News" to be found on the Sports Page—page 4 of this issue.

Smile with Donna as she describes "the big ones that get away" in her weekly report of fishin' facts.

The "Chicken of the Sea" the elusive albacore, are about to come home to roost in Southern California waters. Turn now to page 4 to learn what luck local anglers are having landing the much-sought-after ocean fighter.



DONNA BARKDULL
... Let's Go Fishin'

Brown Funeral Services Held

Funeral services for Jesse Walter Brown, 69, were held Friday at Stone and Myers Chapel, conducted by the Rev. William Penn, of the First Methodist Church of Gardena.

Brown died Wednesday at his home, 708 Cota Ave. A native of Indiana, he had lived in Torrance for one year, and was employed by Western Airlines. Interment at Pacific Crest Cemetery followed the services.

Brown leaves his widow, Mrs. Florence Brown, and several nieces and nephews.

New Bank Hours Start This Week

The Torrance National Bank and the Bank of America will be open until 5 p.m. on Fridays beginning next Friday, July 10, officials of both banks announced Friday.

On the following Saturday, July 11, both banks will close, observing the new five-day week designated recently by the California Legislature.

Regular banking hours—10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—will be observed from Monday through Thursday, officials said. Friday hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Valuation May Hit \$66,000,000

City Manager George Stevens estimated Thursday that the assessed valuation of the City of Torrance for next fiscal year may hit an all-time high of around \$66,000,000.

For the fiscal year 1952-53, just ended, the assessed valuation was set at \$60,151,660, which was a big jump over the 1951-52 valuation of \$53,326,100.

Rate for the coming year will be based on the assessed valuation. Final valuation figures should be reached sometime in the middle of August. Estimated budget for the coming year is also based on assessed valuation.