

Torrance Speaks

By MILT SVENSK
 "What 1954 movie would you nominate for the Academy Award if they were to be presented right now?"



Fran Palmbo, 2830 Oranado St., bookkeeper: "On the Waterfront. It was an excellent picture. Marlon Brando's acting tops."



Gary Robinson, 1327 W. 219th St., student: "Dragnet. Ben Alexander deserves an award for best supporting actor. No Dragnet theme music."



Carole Wiltunen, 1225 Crenshaw Blvd., student: "High and the Mighty. A good story."



Pat Calderon, Mannat Inn Beach, National Supply Sales Dept.: "River of No Return. Photography very impressive."



Ann Leo, 2405 Apple Ave., student: "The Wild One. Brando's acting great."

Three Trapped in Refinery Fire Escape

CONSTRUCTION HERE TOPS ALL-TIME RECORD, HEADS FOR \$40 MILLION

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Permits Reach 30 Million

With three and a half months of 1954 to go, Torrance has already passed last year's record-breaking building permit total, and is headed for the stratospheric \$40-million mark.

Building permits issued during the first half of September brought the year's total to \$30,019,521, nearly \$800,000 ahead of 1953's total of \$29,315,365. For the past few years, each year's totals have been larger than the one previously.

During the first half of September, \$2,270,539 worth of building permits were issued, according to Senior Clerk Walter Bradford of the City Engineer's office.

Biggest item in the September total was \$940,000 series of permits for construction of North Torrance High School. An administration building, library, and nine classroom units are scheduled to be built.

Residence permits for the month totaled 134, with 83 of them taken out by the Milton Kauffman Construction Co., for homes in Southwest Park. These will be part of a 1475-home district near 190th and Hawthorne Ave.

Officials Plan Bond Campaign

Conviction that Torrance needs a new Civic Center and public swimming pool was expressed at a meeting of city officials and civic leaders Wednesday night in Manager George Stevens' office.

Plans for organizing the community for successful approval of the special bond election set for Oct. 19 were made including the development of a committee of 100 prominent persons to spark the drive for votes.

The measure was defeated at the city election last April but proponents were not dismayed by the reversal, they indicated Wednesday, because of the narrow margin of 87 votes. Several speakers expressed optimism over prospects for success Oct. 19, including Mrs. Herman Tillim and Darwin Parrish who have spearheaded a quiet campaign thus far.

Manager Stevens distributed mimeographed briefs detailing reasons for the bond issue. He emphasized the fact that both projects would cost the average owner of a \$10,000 to \$12,000 home a maximum of \$1.75 the first year, declining thereafter until the \$1,000,000 proposed bond issue was paid off.

Growth Cited
 The rapid expansion of the city makes acquisition of a new site for the city's administrative office and police station a necessity, Stevens told the group. He asserted the present quarters were never intended to meet the needs of growth exceeding 25,000. At the current rate, he estimated Torrance will have a population of 62,000 in 1955 and may exceed 100,000 by July 1, 1960.

Representatives of the Youth Coordinating Council were present and expressed particular interest in the swimming pool project. They indicated, too, that they were strongly in favor of the new Civic Center.

Torrance Owl

At the age of 20 we don't care what the world thinks of us; at 30 we worry about what it is thinking of us; at 40 we discover it wasn't thinking of us at all.

(Copyright 1954, Vanguard Features Syndicate)

\$12,000 in Smokes Stolen

Thieves Rig Bell On Alarm

Business-like burglars who made their transactions after hours virtually cleaned out a vending machine warehouse of \$12,000 worth of cigarettes and cash over the week-end.

Hauled out of the front door of the Vend-A-Pak Co., at 2105 Border Ave., early Saturday morning, were 70,000 packs of smokes and an estimated \$2288 in cash, mostly pennies, nickels, and dimes.

Detective Captain Ernie Ashton and Police Sergeant Ted Morris, who made the investigation, said they believe the heist was the work of a gang of professionals who recently has hit other cigarette warehouses in the area.

Use Front Door
 Entry was made by jimmying the front door, after wiring around an electric burglar alarm. All of the loot, including a 2-foot steel safe, was carted out to Border Ave., and apparently loaded onto a truck.

Manager Pat Brisse listed the following as missing from the premises:

Approximately 70,000 packs of cigarettes, some wrapped with pennies for use in automatic dispensers; 80,000 pennies; \$10.25 in quarters; \$63.20 in nickels; \$424.90 in dimes; \$900 in various bills; a floor safe; two petty cash boxes; and three police parking citations which were in the safe.

Burglars even helped themselves to a company hand-cart to help load the items onto the street.

The incident was reported by C. S. Conner, of 2855 Monterey St., owner of the building.

Torrance Ranks High In Building

The volume of building in Torrance has placed the city among the giants of the west, according to figures compiled by various agencies and released this week.

Figures comparing growth of Southland areas shows Torrance ranked second only to Los Angeles during the month of August—outstripping such cities as San Diego, Long Beach, Pasadena, Inglewood, Beverly Hills, Bakersfield, and Riverside.

During the same period, the light construction journal, Western Building, reported that Torrance ranked seventh in volume among leading western areas. Leading was Los Angeles, then Los Angeles County, Orange County, Denver, Portland, King County, and then Torrance. It outranked such places as Sacramento, Seattle, and San Francisco.

Torrance ranks fourth in Southern California building during the first eight months of 1954 with a total recorded by the end of August of \$27,634,732. It trailed Long Beach by slightly more than \$1 million in volume.



(Herald Photo)

WHEW . . . Expressing their sentiments after climbing off a towering 230-foot refinery tower which suffered a flash-fire Saturday, are GP employees Harold Bell, left, Francis Cassidy, and Wesley Jones. Bell was trapped atop the unit for 30 minutes while firemen worked below. Cassidy and Jones clambered down an escape ladder when the flames broke out.

Fast Action Saves Expert on Tower

Workmen were busy this morning dusting off the ashes from a 250-foot refining tower at the General Petroleum refinery which suffered a minor explosion and a flash fire Saturday afternoon.

And three of the workmen were happier than the others to be back on the job today. They were at work on the \$9,000,000 reformer when flames roared below.

Chemist Harold B. Bell, 26, of Long Beach, was perched atop the 20-story unit.

"I heard the rumbling, and saw the smoke," Bell told newsmen. "I ran to the elevator, but decided that in case of a power failure, it might trap me, so I just headed west to fresh air."

Bell Watches Fire
 Winds were blowing heat and smoke from the fire 100 feet below away from the west portion of the tower. Spectators who gathered along Crenshaw Blvd., could see Bell clad in a white uniform, leaning over the top rail watching the excitement below.

Two others on the tower, Francis P. Cassidy, 32, of 2723 W. 157th St., and Wesley R. Jones, 25, of Los Angeles, were busy on the bottom deck of the reformer, some 25 feet off the ground.

General Petroleum firemen quickly played large hose

Driver Lucky In Auto-Pole Road Mishap

A telephone pole and an automobile were the only casualties in a collision at Sepulveda and Madrona Aves., Friday night.

Driver Inocencio De Anda, 27, of San Pedro, told Torrance Traffic Officer Miles Hamilton that he was traveling west on Sepulveda when he hit bumps in the street. His auto zoomed out of control, skidded 200 feet, and banged into the pole. The auto was badly damaged.

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Social Editor Agnes Bolter Leaves Herald

Miss Agnes Bolter, social editor of the Torrance HERALD for more than two years, has given up her position here to return to her home in Central California because of a serious illness in her family.

A skilled newspaperwoman who sought to offer Torrance area clubs and organizations a complete coverage of their activities, Miss Bolter will be missed here by her many friends and associates.

Taking over duties today as the HERALD's new social news editor is Miss Gloria Sexton of Long Beach, a graduate of the University of Southern California and an experienced newspaperwoman. Assistant Editor is Mrs. G.H. Derouin, popular Torrance club leader.

Mrs. Derouin joined the Herald last week.

In other action, tentative tract No. 20268, located west of Crenshaw, was approved by the City Council.

Approval of the change is expected by the Torrance City Council.

Planners OK Narrowing Of Palos Verdes Blvd.

The City Planning Commission Wednesday night voted to destroy some of the last traces of a 25-year-old dream that failed.

By a 6-1 vote, they decided to recommend to the City Council that Palos Verdes Blvd., from Pacific Coast Hwy. be narrowed to 56-foot of street, thus eliminating the last stretch of wide street in the area.

At present, 225 feet is set aside for street, although 65 feet of it is not in use. The area includes a 27-foot service street on either side of the road, separated by a 15-foot foot parkway. A 15-foot

parkway is on either side of the service roads.

Business Allowed
 Sixty-five feet will be vacated allowing use of the property for business. Owners of 24 lots on the north side of the two-block area have long delayed building because of confusion over where the curb might be placed.

Thus ended one of the last remaining parts of the dream of Hollywood Riviera developer Clifford B. Reid, who had hoped to build a wide parkway from Hollywood to the present Hollywood Riviera.

He had hoped to make the area a residential colony for movie stars. The wide street of Palos Verdes Blvd., from the Palos Verdes line to the Pacific Coast Hwy., was built with this in mind. The depression halted these plans, and they were never resumed.

Cmdr. William A. Mason headed a three-man committee which recommended to the commission that boulevard be narrowed. Other members were Bert Lynn and Hugh Sherkey Jr.

Redondo Did Not Act
 Since 12 of the lots along the stretch of street are in Redondo Beach, that city is also involved. A request for approval of the change received no official action in Redondo Beach, so the change was made without its sanction.

The 65 feet to be vacated will revert to owners of adjoining property.

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(Continued on Page 2)

Total Tax Rate Here Hits Nearly \$6.80

Torrance taxpayers will shell out nearly \$6.80 for each \$100 in assessed valuation this year, according to total tax figures compiled today by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Following is a table of the 1954-55 tax rates applicable to residents of Torrance:

Torrance Unified School District	\$2.9920
City of Torrance	
General Fund	1.0000
Retirement	.1050
Library	.0500
Bond Retirement	.0350
Total	1.1900
Los Angeles County	1.7778
Metropolitan Water District	.2300
*County Sanitation District (No. 5)	.2687
County Flood Control District	.3411

Total tax rate.....\$6.7996

*Torrance beach areas which lie in the South Bay Sanitation District will pay a sanitation district tax of \$0.2746 which will make their total tax bill slightly higher than the balance of Torrance. It will be \$6.8055.