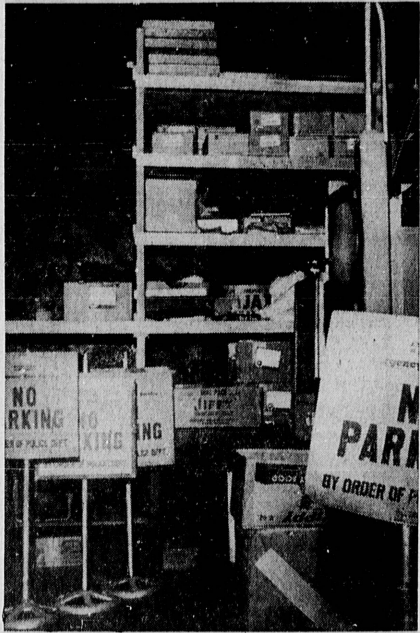


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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCT. 7, 1954

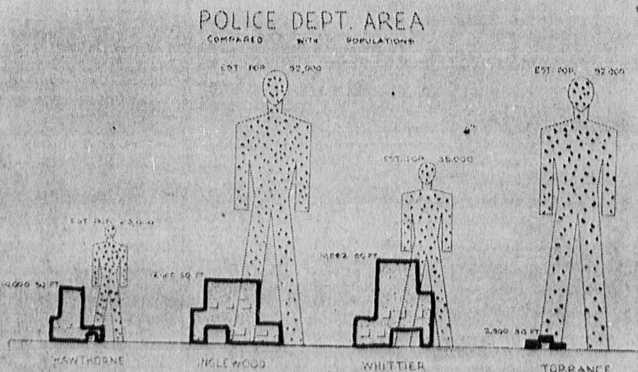
Chart Points Up Serious Crowding of Police Station



DISHEVELED DARKROOM . . . Offenders brought in for booking have to have their pictures taken for police mug files. No parking signs, stationery and first aid kits are jammed into the police darkroom, the only available space left in the station. It's a man-size job just to get to the mug-shot camera, at far right, behind the sign.



MESSAGE CENTER . . . In this tiny cubicle come and go all of the all-points bulletins to other police agencies in the country. Most police departments have at least three teletypes, but Torrancia just hasn't got the room. Detectives, file clerks and beat patrolmen all must take their turn to get to the lone machine. Enough "Yes" votes on Bond Proposition No. 1 will allow department expansion.



SMALLER THAN ALL . . . Torrancia's police station, with only 2,500 square feet to serve an area with 52,000 population, is dwarfed on this graph showing a comparison of police station size to population. Hawthorne's station has 10,000 square feet, and the city has 23,000 people; Inglewood policemen work in 12,000 square feet in area, while Inglewood's population is comparable to Torrancia; Whittier's department covers 16,500 square feet to serve the city's 25,000 people. Torrancia's station is barely larger than many Torrancia homes.

Bond Issue Would Give More Room

By DICK FRIEND

That a critical police protection situation exists within the city of Torrancia was pointed up this week with the publishing of a series of fact and figure charts by the city manager's office.

And even without the charts, any visitor to the local law enforcement headquarters can readily see what the police department is up against.

Tiny cell-like rooms jammed with records and file cards, desks and police officers, certainly is not conducive to good protection for you and me, the taxpayer.

What the charts showed was that Torrancia isn't a small city. With an estimated population of 52,000, the police department operates out of a headquarters with 2,500 square feet, slightly larger than most of the houses in the Torrancia area.

Got a Problem
But put 47 policemen in 2,500 square feet and you've got a problem.

The charts showed that Inglewood, with 52,000 population, has some 12,000 square feet in its police headquarters. And Whittier boasts 16,500 square feet with a population of only 25,000 people.

What the charts didn't show, though, was the actual picture of the poor working conditions that exist.

In one room alone, the squad room, all incoming officers report to shine their shoes, store their heavy coats, and more important, read all crime reports and wanted lists, and bring their stolen auto "hot sheets" up to date.

Officers Crowd In

Scarcely enough room for six men, as many as 20 officers crowd into the squad-room at a shift change.

And a citizen walking into the front door of the police station for help or information figuratively takes his life in his own hands.

The information desk is located between the detective bureau, the jail, the chief's office, a file clerk's room, and the sergeant's desk where all incoming calls are received and cars dispatched.

If the detectives are taking a prisoner from the jail to their office for questioning, he must pass by the information desk.

More than one suspect has made his bid for freedom at this stage of the game—he's only two feet from the door, and within easy grasp of any person standing at the information desk.

Juvenile Bureau Moves

The juvenile bureau, one of the busiest in the station, is located next door in the city hall. They must traipse back and forth to the station, however, to get needed records, stored in the police department.

But that's not all. Offenders brought in for booking are fingerprinted in the back hall, and their photo mug-shot is taken in an improvised



NOT ENOUGH RECORD ROOM . . . Police files and records are piled on filing cabinets, desks and tables at the Torrancia police station. They could purchase more cabinets, but they don't have any space to put them. Three clerks are kept busy

16 hours a day putting the traffic accident reports, missing persons and burglary files, and citations into their proper places. Passage of Bond Issue No. 1 would insure ample storage space for vital police information.

darkroom, located in a storage closet.

No parking signs, first aid kits, and other paraphernalia must be moved aside each time a mug shot is made.

Interrogation of suspects takes place in any room at the station, wherever there is enough room.

Records—and police stations are full of them—are stored in the record room, and the detectives' office, and old citation books are stacked in the chief's office.

But, despite it all, Torrancia's 47 policemen still plug away, even though they sometimes do not have enough jail space to house all of the drunks and drunk drivers pinched on a busy week-end.

Sounds incredible, doesn't it? Torrancia, with 52,000 people, nearly 19 square miles in area, and an assessed valuation of over \$33,000,000, and a police station that was out of date 10 years ago.

2 Local Men Will Attend School Meet

Two officials of the Torrancia Unified School District have been named to committees preparing for the 40th annual convention of the Association of School Officials at the Statler Hotel, in Los Angeles, from Oct. 10 through 14.

Emmett Ingram, assistant superintendent and business manager, has been named to the local and transportation committee. Serving on the exhibits committee will be Robert Cosby, assistant business manager and purchasing agent.

Both men will attend the convention which will be composed of about 2000 delegates. Samuel Brownell, U. S. Commissioner of Education, and John Morley, reporter and world traveler, will be among the speakers. Morley's "After Hours" column appears weekly in the Torrancia HERALD.

Second Youth Nominated to Air Academy

Selection of a second Torrancia man by Congressman Cecil R. King as a nomination for appointment to the first class of the new U. S. Air Force Academy was revealed yesterday.

Sheldon Carlton Hubocan, of 2662 Dalemead St., was selected by King as a nominee to the new academy. Previously, nomination of Howard C. Nelson, of 1804 Marinette Ave., was announced. Forms authorizing a preliminary physical examination for the Academy have been furnished the youths as the first step in becoming Air Force Cadets.



OVERCROWDED . . . Citizens coming to the police station for help or information walk right into the thick of things. At the rear is the small jail, and to the right, the desk sergeant takes incoming calls and dispatches cars. Prisoners being brought to jail or taken to the detective bureau plod right through the middle of this reception station. Only four people at once can get into the office, others wait outside. Bond Issue No. 1 provides for increased police facilities, to bring Torrancia up to date.



DOUBLE JOB . . . Chief Willard Haslam's office not only serves as a conference and interrogation room, but as a storage room. Old citation books, two steel filing cabinets, ammunition, and odds and ends are piled in the corners. Officers say Bond Issue No. 1 will provide for ample space to permit proper police administration.

Skelley Aids Planners for Demo Meeting

John Skelley, of North Torrancia, has been named to the 68th Assembly District committee for the caravan to Hollywood Bowl for the Adlai Stevenson Rally on Oct. 9.

Stevenson will make his only Southern California appearance at that time. Democratic candidates for office will be in a parade.

At a recent meeting, the caravan route has been outlined as follows:

Torrancia Democrats will meet with the group from the 67th Assembly District at Plaza Square in Hawthorne. They will leave at 6 p. m., and meet with the 46th District group at Slauson Ave. and the Freeman Freeway. At 6:15 p. m., the group will move north to Adams, La Brea, Olympic, Highland, and the Bowl.

Flags and banners for cars will be welcome, chairman Al Eachus announced.

Drivers Should Inform State of Address Changes

All motorists who have changed their addresses since the 1954 registration should report the change to the Department of Motor Vehicles immediately. State Director Paul Mason said this week.

Persons who failed to report the change of address will not receive their 1955 registration in the mail, he pointed out. The law requires reporting of change of address.

Forms for the change are available at the Torrancia office, at 1317 Cravens Ave., and other motor vehicle offices.

For the first time, potential registration cards for automobiles will be in the form of pre-punched cards, with stubs attached for department records. This form has been used for trucks, trailers, and motorcycles in recent years.

This method is designed to speed delivery of the 1955 license. A. J. Vergalla, registrar of vehicles, said. When license fees are presented in person with the potential, the motorist receives his license plate tab, and his own copy of the 1955 registration immediately.

TB Leader on Disease List

Tuberculosis took over first place among diseases reported in the Torrancia Health District last week, according to the County Department of Health report issued today.

Six cases of the disease, one of them in Torrancia, were reported. Polio dropped to four cases this week, and whooping cough, leader for the last two weeks, claimed only four victims.

Manhattan Beach and county territory each reported two cases of tuberculosis, while Torrancia and Gardena had one.

Two polio cases were reported in Redondo Beach and Torrancia and county areas. Whooping cough cases were distributed the same way.

Five cases of mumps were reported—three in Torrancia, and one each in Hermosa and Manhattan Beaches.

Other diseases in the area included four cases of gonorrhea, two of German measles, and one of measles.

Gas Station Man Victim Of Stick-up

"Don't move," is all a bandit said after he forced something into the back of a service station attendant and made off with \$50, last weekend.

James W. Baxter, 25, of 20808 Oak St., told police he was about to put away the night's receipts at a service station at Western and Carson, when two men entered and one jammed something into his back.

One of the men removed an envelope from his hand just as he was about to deposit it in a night receipt box. The bandits kept Baxter facing the wall and he was unable to look at their faces, he said.

They left him looked in the office.

On Vacation; Thief Takes TV, Clock

While they were on vacation, thieves entered through a window and stole a television set, an electric clock and a kitchen mixer from the Louis J. Snyder home, at 18603 Crenshaw Blvd., according to Torrancia police.

Snyder told investigators his family had been away for seven days, and returned to find their home had been ransacked. Total value of the missing items was set at \$467.