

# County Estimates Torrance Population at 63,467

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## Torrance Ready to Pass Compton in Population

Torrance took a giant step toward becoming the county's seventh city during the past three months when it got within a thousand persons of matching Compton's population according to figures released by the County Regional Planning Commission.

With a population now estimated by the county planners at 63,467 as of July 1, 1955, Torrance narrowed Compton's lead to 555 persons in Torrance's bid to move up the ladder of cities in the County.

### L. A. Newspaper Ignores City; Mayor Miffed

In a sharply worded letter Friday to the editor of the Los Angeles Times, Mayor Albert Isen asked for an explanation of that newspaper's deletion of any reference to Torrance when reporting population figures as compiled by the County Regional Planning Commission. "This (omission) is hard to understand since the Regional Planning Commission estimate is 63,467, and we are the fastest growing city in the county," Isen wrote.

"This omission is also difficult to understand since I am advised that the same situation existed in the last quarterly report," he added. The mayor indicated to the HERALD that he thought the county's eighth largest city should be included in the listing of the county's leading cities.

## County Places Local Valuation At \$98 Million

Preliminary estimates on assessed valuation of Torrance were placed at \$98,500,000 by County Assessor John R. Quinn by City Manager George Stevens.

With property assessment rolls totaling \$91,246,350 and public utility rolls estimated to be another \$7,253,650, the city will near the \$100,000,000 in assessed valuation this year. Final figures will be released sometime this fall, Stevens said.

## Powell Made Director of City Planning

As a by-product of the growth of Torrance, George Powell, secretary of the Planning Commission, has been given the title of Planning Director, subject to qualifying for the position under Civil Service.

Other titles of Powell are Secretary of the Planning Commission and Land Use Investigator.

Powell has been employed for the past year as secretary of the Planning Commission and Land Use Investigator. He has also been Assistant Director of Civil Defense, under Civil Service, since January, 1951.

The matter of titles was acted upon last week in order to clarify Powell's responsibilities. Torrance's rapid growth has caused him to have to devote an increasing amount of time to planning matters. Under his new status he is expected to devote less time to Civil Defense activities.

Earle Lloyd had been employed on a part-time basis as Planning Consultant, prior to June 1, 1954.

### Well-Attended Community Fair Ends Yesterday

Torrance's western style Community Fair came to a routine's shootin' close last night, as local cowboys took off their stirrups and settled back into the normal routine.

Although official attendance figures were not yet available, officials revealed that there had been 18,000 paid admissions through Saturday afternoon. This does not include children who got in free, or persons who had bought tickets earlier.

Paid admissions reached a high point on Saturday, with some 8,000 attending the rodeo and other festivities. Some 3,000 persons bought tickets on both Wednesday and Thursday, while Friday's total was about 4,000.

Prizes were awarded by local merchants throughout the five-day festivities. There were the usual quota of lost kiddies looking for mother, as well as those contentedly licking their ice cream cones.

Rodeos, featuring riders on horses and brahma bulls were held Saturday and yesterday afternoon.

Throughout the Fair, there were appearances by Rosemary DeCamp; Steven Donovan, "Western Marshal"; "Ol' Buck Shure Shot"; Johnson and Diehl; Ken Bieckford and Jack Owens.

Miss Virginia Gotts, queen of the fair, was present throughout the festivities.

### Seaside Hit By Vandalism

Vandals broke into Seaside School early Thursday morning, taking a master key and strewing papers and ink on floors, according to Police Sgt. D. C. Cook.

The vandals apparently gained entrance by prying open the door to the principal's office. Drawers were ransacked and paper thrown about in both the office and the teachers' room. A bottle of India ink was poured on the floor, Cook said. Juveniles are suspected, he indicated.

### Chief Jenner Aided Design Of New Truck

A new fire truck, designed in part by Fire Chief J. J. Jenner, will be added to the Torrance Fire Department as soon as it moves into its new quarters at Carson and Crenshaw next month.

The engine was designed by Chief Jenner, in cooperation with engineers from the Mack Co., builders of the truck.

An aerial ladder truck, it is 39 feet, four inches long, and eight feet, 11 inches high and has an 85-foot, hydraulically operated aerial ladder which can be elevated to an 80 degree angle and rotated completely.

With a 225-horsepower engine, the truck weighs 30,700 pounds, fully equipped. It has 204 feet of ground ladder, a life net, and a 100 foot excavator chute. It can deliver 750 gallons of water per minute with a two-stage centrifugal pump.

Other added items are air brakes and power steering and a two-way radio.

CITY OFFICIALS TO VISIT PLANT

Members of the City Council, City Manager George Stevens, and directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will be luncheon guests of the Torrance plant of North American Aircraft Co. Friday, it was announced Saturday.

Following the luncheon, the group will take a tour of the local plant.

### Grading Crews Begin Work On New Civic Center Site

Grading crews began the task of preparing the city's new million-dollar civic center site last week and contracts for construction of the city hall, police station, and swimming pool are scheduled to be awarded by the Council tomorrow evening.

The city's new civic center—long a dream of forward-looking civic leaders—should begin to take shape within a few weeks. Construction is estimated to take about eight months, according to City Manager George Stevens.

R. E. Payne, scheduled to receive the contract for constructing the city hall and police station, is now building the new central fire station at Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St. Payne submitted the low bid of \$519,388.

Awarding of the contract to Payne is being protested by Harwick & Son, who submitted the next low bid. A spokesman for Harwick & Sons has challenged the Payne bid by saying it was not submitted on the proper form. This has been denied by city officials.

The spokesman also stated that the bid had been called for and were to be opened at 5 p. m. July 12. However, the bids were received at 5 p. m. and were not opened until the Council met at 8 p. m., a standard procedure here recently.

The matter is scheduled to be discussed by the Council tomorrow evening.

Crews Complete Work On City Parking Lot

City crews have completed retiling the municipal parking lot at Cravens and El Prado, as ordered by a new Torrance Ordinance which calls for such work.

Improvements were authorized for the lot in order to make the downtown Torrance shopping area more accessible. A two-hour time limit has been placed at the lot. It is located across the street from Torrance Civic Auditorium.



A QUEEN IS CROWNED . . . Radio-TV Star Jack Owens, familiar to millions of the nation's television fans, places the official crown on the head of Queen Virginia Gotts to begin her reign as Queen of the Torrance Community Fair. Ceremonies took place at the fair Wednesday evening.

## Shopping Center To Start This Fall

Work on the new South Bay Shopping Center should be started about Sept. 1 when ground is broken for the new 54-lane bowling alley, general manager Robert H. Adler told the HERALD Saturday.

Phase one of the construction, which will include a super market and other parts of the shopping center, will be started about one month later, Adler reported. The second phase of construction, which Adler says will include the major department store and other shops, will be started later in the year.

In the meantime, an early 1956 target date for first construction on the Airport triangle at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy. is still in force, according to City Attorney James M. Hall, who spoke Friday to officials of Store Properties, Inc., leasing agents for the center.

Rumors Denied

Rumors that the development had hit a snag were termed "unfounded" by Hall who said Store Properties officials told him that the center had been 80 per cent leased and that construction was definitely slated to start after the first of the year.

Delays in starting the construction have been caused by the time needed to negotiate leases and by the efforts needed to obtain absolutely clear titles on the property to assure financial participation of large lending institutions.

No announcement on prospects for the property across Pacific Coast Hwy. from the triangle has been made.

Center Planned

Purchase of the property from Portland Cement Co. was announced recently by Lindon Chandler, long time operator of Chandler's Sand and Gravel firm in Lomita. Chandler said at the time of his purchase that a shopping center was planned at that location.

In still another possible commercial development, spokesmen for Sears, Roebuck, & Co. have declined to comment on reports that land near Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne had been purchased by that firm. One spokesman admitted, however, that the company often purchased property in metropolitan areas with the possibility that a store might be constructed there in the future.

Adler Named To State JC Chairmanship

Robert H. Adler, general manager of the South Bay Shopping Center and a member of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, has been elected state leadership training chairman for the California Junior Chamber group.

Adler, a ranking official of the Illinois Junior Chamber of Commerce, prior to coming to California, had the support of the local unit in besting candidates from San Francisco and Huntington Park.

He addressed a group of 1000 Jaycees yesterday in Laguna Beach.

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## Mumps Takes Disease Lead From Measles

Torrance jumped from no reported diseases last week to 16 cases during the week ending July 9, to lead the Torrance health district in number of cases, according to the County Health Department.

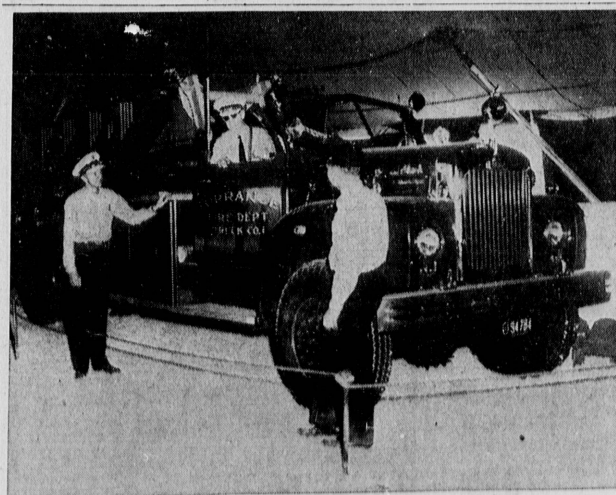
At the same time, mumps took over the leadership in number of cases for the first time in many weeks. Nineteen cases of mumps were reported, compared with seven of measles, which has led the list all spring.

Reported cases of disease in Torrance included mumps, 6; measles, 4; infectious hepatitis, 3; and chickenpox, German measles, and polio, each 1.

Among the 73 cities their rank was Gardena, 13th; Redondo Beach, 23rd; Palos Verdes, 26th; Manhattan Beach, 41st; and Hermosa Beach, 51st.

Totals for the year included:

	June, 1955	June, 1954	6 mos., 1955	6 mos., 1954
Los Angeles	39,176,452	48,169,148	821,928,168	820,844,962
San Diego	6,911,489	4,652,165	42,820,496	40,735,899
Long Beach	5,837,365	4,864,135	38,850,625	31,735,965
Anaheim	2,774,963	3,213,716	26,460,527	13,424,153
Fullerton	4,251,427	3,722,417	27,989,335	12,191,896
Torrance	1,762,359	2,862,880	23,480,661	17,092,145
West Covina	1,195,845	1,219,200	16,313,664	10,157,052
Gardena	2,011,638	865,782	9,037,794	3,855,451
Redondo Beach	561,313	387,258	5,315,842	1,906,718
Palos Verdes	826,320	621,500	5,065,649	3,115,749
Manhattan Beach	318,221	766,840	2,781,615	2,651,540
Hermosa Beach	252,723	298,465	1,540,840	1,475,449



CHIEF'S SPECIAL . . . On display at the Community Fair this past week was this new, aerial ladder truck which will soon be added to the Torrance Fire Department. Fire Chief J. J. Jenner helped to plan many of the new features on the truck. Inspecting the truck are Fire Marshal Robert Lucas, Chief Jenner, and Inspector Ed Polston.