

MOTHERS PLEDGE TO CONTINUE BATTLE FOR SAFE CROSSWALKS

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Special Census Gets Under Way

88 Enumerators Hired for Count

Eighty-eight census enumerators began to count noses in Torrance last week end, as the city began its third special census since 1950.

Under the direction of Elijah B. Lewis, the local residents completed a special training class Friday, and started knocking on doors to determine how much the population has grown since 44,000 people were recorded in a 1953 special census. Present estimates indicate the city may have about 65,000 persons.

More Tax Funds
The census is being taken to give the city a greater pro rata share of various state taxes. Officials estimate that it would mean a \$7.35 per person increase for the city.

According to Lewis, the city will be divided into three districts — north, central, and south — for purposes of the census. Each district will be in charge of a specially trained crew leader. Thirty persons are taking the census in central Torrance, while 32 are working

in north Torrance, and 26 in the south.

Information obtained by enumerators will be kept strictly confidential, Lewis said, and will not be released under any circumstances. Compilations are for statistical purposes only, and only figures pertaining to the total population will be released, he said.

Questions which are being asked include the name, age, sex, race, and relationship of persons in each household.

Supervisors Set School Tax Rate At 3.1258 Cents

The school tax rate will be slightly higher this year, due to the decision of the Torrance School Board to sell an additional \$2,000,000 in bonds before Jan. 1, according to school officials.

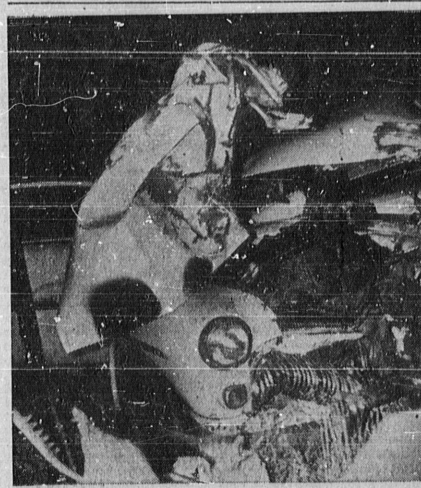
The tax rate for next year will be 3.1258 cents, compared to 2.9920 cents last year. It was set last week by the Board of Supervisors.

Although the tax rate for El Camino Junior College jumped slightly, from .5545 cents to .5599 cents, the major increase was for support of the Torrance Unified School District bonds — from .6885 cents to .8209.

The board decided to sell the bonds, which will be used for the construction of Parkway, Anza, West Torrance, and Meadow Park Schools, before Jan. 1, to make use of the bonding capacity, which would otherwise be lost.

The breakdown of school is as follows:

El Camino Junior College tax — up, from .5545 to .5599.
County School Service Fund — down, from .0010 to .0066.
Unified General Tax Rate — up, from 1.7118 to 1.7151.
Elementary Bond Rate — down, from .0180 to .0145.
High School Bond Rate — down, from .0182 to .0148.
Unified Bond Rate — up, from .6885 to .8209.



DEATH SCENE . . . William D. Talkington, 18, of Wilmington, was killed early Saturday when his car veered out of control on Avalon Blvd., near 230th St., and crashed at high speed into a palm tree. (Photo by Charles Turner)



NOSE-COUNTERS AT WORK . . . North Torrance census takers huddle around Crew Leader Janette Giles at a special class held for some 90 enumerators last Friday in the Civic Auditorium. Taking a look at a sample of the questions to be asked are Jean Dalley, Mary Harrison, Wanda Brooker, Louise Thompson, Faye Dean, Anne Verne, Josephine Hall, and Charlene Davis.

Downtown Parking Areas Chamber Meeting Topic

Providing additional parking areas in the downtown business section will be the main topic of discussion at the regular breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 a.m. at the YMCA.

Necessary action to create an off-street parking assessment district will be taken, a chamber official said this week.

The chamber's traffic and parking committee, headed by Dean L. Sears, met with city officials last week to discuss those areas.

Property owners and tenants of property in the downtown area will receive special invitations to join in the breakfast meeting. Tenants will be encouraged to bring landlords with them in order to get a more representative group on hand for the meeting.

Businessmen and leaders planning to attend are asked to make reservations by calling the chamber office, FA 8-2814. Tickets are \$1.25 per person.

Openings Available In Millinery Classes
A few openings in millinery classes sponsored by the Torrance Adult School, according to Director Raymond E. Collins.

The classes are offered at Torrance Service Center, 1734 Torrance Blvd., under the direction of Mrs. Pamela Grubb, who taught here last year. Further information can be obtained at FA 8-2272.

Isen Says 'No Thanks' To Poulson

"Thanks, but no thanks," was the essence of a letter shot off to the editor of the U.S. News and World Report Friday by Mayor Albert Isen in response to an article in the Sept. 16th issue about the city of Los Angeles.

Stemming from an interview with Mayor Norris Poulson of Los Angeles, the widely read magazine foretold the possibility of Los Angeles becoming a city 200 miles long, stretching from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

Consolidation of the areas into one big city was foreseen by Mayor Poulson in his interview with the representatives of the magazine.

"Torrance, located just a few miles from Los Angeles," Mayor Isen wrote, "and the hub of the harbor and south bay areas, evidently is included in the Mayor's wishful thinking."

Citing the growth of Torrance, Mayor Isen stated that "Torrance means to keep its identity and independence."



WATCHING TRAFFIC . . . Two representatives of the traffic division of the Department of Highways watch the flow of traffic past 230th and Hawthorne Blvd. Friday, as part of a check on conditions there. The check followed protests of mothers of Meadow Park School children, who are demanding yellow crosswalks or a stop signal.



CHECKING THE ROAD . . . Measuring off road widths at 230th and Hawthorne Blvd. are two Department of Highways representatives as part of a special check made Friday. In the background is a fence marking the Meadow Park School boundary. Because the school property does not adjoin the road, yellow crosswalks cannot be painted, the men said.

City Attorney Explains Redondo Oil Picture to Torrance Rotary

The City of Redondo was likened "almost to a beggar sitting on a bag of gold" by Torrance City Attorney James Hall in a speech before the Torrance Rotary club Thursday evening.

The speaker referred to tidelands oil deposits deeded to Redondo in 1915 by the State of California. Residents of the beach city will decide whether they will approve offshore drilling by private oil companies at a special election on Nov. 15.

Admittedly a controversial subject in Bay area communities, private oil interests are basing their appeal on the contention that the drilling will be carried on in an already devastated area and the revenue from a successful quest would assure completion of a breakwater and small yacht harbor.

Once Deep Port "In 1890," the speaker recalled, "Redondo was widely known as a deep water port long before Los Angeles Harbor came into being. In subsequent years more than \$70,000 has been spent on the unfinished breakwater with little success. The federal government would advance as much as \$1,000,000 to complete the breakwater and establish a small yacht harbor that would accommodate 1000 craft. This would have to be matched by Redondo which it could do with funds provided by a successful drilling operation."

Traffic Check Made by State

A determined group of Meadow Park School mothers continued their battle for added protection at the school crossing at 230th and Hawthorne Blvd., Friday night, as one of their number presented their case over television.

Mrs. Alfred Knopp, chairman of the Meadow Park safety committee, explained the mothers' demands for yellow crosswalks or a traffic signal at the busy intersections over "Eyewitness" Friday. She told Emcee Ken Grau about the mothers' running battle with state and city officials.

Meanwhile, two representatives of the traffic division of the Department of Highways were checking the number of persons crossing the intersection and number of cars passing by, as well as making diagrams of the traffic flow Friday. The men appeared after the mothers earlier formed a human chain to block off traffic at the intersection while their children crossed the street.

The mothers are demanding that either a signal or yellow crosswalks and warning signs be placed at the intersection. The children must cross Hawthorne Blvd., which at that point is a four lane state highway with a 55-mile-per-hour speed limit, to get to school.

Action Demanded
"We are going to continue our campaign until something is done," Mrs. Knopp declared. "We have been given the run-around by state and city officials and we want something done. We will try to act like ladies, not cranks, however."

PTA President Mrs. William Poser conferred with Mayor Albert Isen Friday in an effort to settle the problem.

According to the traffic representatives, only 80 school children crossed the street en route to school Friday morning. After this, there was no traffic crossing the street, he said. According to the state vehicle code, more than 250 pedestrians must cross the street each hour for a signal to be installed.

State Highway
Although Hawthorne Blvd. is in Torrance, the state maintains the road.

A classroom check showed that between 180 and 200 children live east of Hawthorne Blvd., and must cross at the intersection, Meadow Park Principal Herbert Farris said.

The state legally cannot put yellow crosswalks or school warning signs at the location the men said, because school property does not immediately adjoin Hawthorne Blvd., but is about 25 yards away.

Traffic Heads North
During the 7 to 8 a.m. rush hour Friday, some 1000 cars passed the intersection, highway representatives said, but a great majority of the traffic was northbound. Aside from school children crossing the highway, there is little cross traffic from 230th St., they said.

Highway representatives declared that the best solution to the problem would be increased patrolling by police at school hours, with tickets given to speeders.

Council to Skip Meet Tuesday
The Torrance City Council will not meet tomorrow evening, the first Tuesday night in months that the Council Chambers will be empty.

The meeting last week was adjourned until Sept. 27 because four of the Councilmen are in San Francisco this week attending the annual meeting of the League of California Cities.

Making the trip were Mayor Albert Isen; Councilmen Willys G. Blount, Victor E. Benstead, and Nick Drake; Chief J. J. Benner; City Treasurer Harriett V. Leech; City Manager George Stevens; John Patrick, assistant to the city engineer; and City Attorney James Hall.

Delegates to the convention registered yesterday, and the business session will be held today, tomorrow, and Wednesday.

14,618 Enrolled Here First Week

Torrance schools finished their first week in operation, with a total of 14,618 students enrolled, officials reported Friday.

All went smoothly, despite the fact that some rooms at North High School and Newton Elementary School are not yet completely finished, according to Superintendent J. H. Hull.

At North High School, which reported 1175 students, a few rooms lacked the floors due to a strike, and some equipment had not yet arrived, but otherwise, school was proceeding as usual. Newton School was on temporary double sessions through the sixth grade, until six more classrooms are finished this week.

Torrance High School reported 1354 students, while Seaside School was the largest elementary school, with a total of 1068 students. It was followed by North Torrance Elementary School, with 1023, and Carr School, with 395.

The two new elementary schools—Newton and Steele—reported 700 and 902 students respectively.

Although attendance was below an estimated 1,600 students, officials expected the second week's attendance to be higher and looked for an increase as new trees open.

For the first time this fall, Walteria School started a "little red schoolhouse" project on an experimental basis. Under the plan, three grades are grouped together in one room, with their work to be compared with that of students in single grades.

A breakdown of enrollments is as follows:

	1955	1954
Carr	395	896
Crenshaw	947	495
El Nido	331	489
Fern-Greenwood	384	887
Hillside	508	None
Madrona	609	572
Meadow Park	580	458
Newton	700	None
North Torrance	1026	956
Ferry	307	822
Riviera	61	765
Seaside	1,068	906
Steele	902	None
Torrance Elem.	730	102
Walteria	1,000	1050
Wood	715	846
North H. S.	1176	None
Torrance H.S.	1310	1906
Total	14,618	11,562