

# IVIERA, MONTEREY GROUPS CLAIM VICTORY

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## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

IN THE HERALD TODAY

Ann Landers .....	9	Public Notices 6; 32-33	
Best Buys .....	11	Schools .....	25, 40
Churches .....	14	Society .....	9-11
Comics .....	16	Sports .....	24
Obituaries .....	2	Want Ads .....	33-39

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# RADAR URGED FOR TRAFFIC BATTLE

## AFTER HEARINGS

### Buffer Zone, Signal Voted

Members of two large delegations appearing before the city council this week claimed major victories after lengthy hearings before the city fathers.

The first, residents of the Hollywood Riviera district, were told that the traffic commission was recommending installation of a four-way traffic control signal at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Calle Miramar.

Councilman Nick Drale, reporting as a member of the city's traffic commission, said that the group had reconsidered the request of the residents for a signal and that it was the consensus of the commissioners that the signal was needed. He asked that the signal have the No. 1 priority in the 1959-60 city budget.

THE SECOND delegation, representing residents and

property owners of the Monterey Ave. area, claimed a major victory after the council had voted to accept the assurance of C. J. Doherty of the Santa Fe that 100 feet of buffer to be restricted to planting and auto parking would be made available from the eastern boundary of his firm's property (near Crenshaw) to Maple Ave. south of Monterey Ave.

One exception to the 100-foot buffer zone will be a modern, 50x140-foot office building to be designed by a noted Southland architect which will be placed at the 50-foot line south of Monterey Ave., according to Doherty's proposal. Doherty said the president of the R. C. Mahon Co., who will erect at \$3½ million steel fabrication plant on the site, had agreed to the 100-foot setback after an adjustment in the land price was made by Santa Fe.

DOHERTY'S views on the matter were at odds with those held by Walter G. Mitchell, who is slated to be the manager of the Torrance operation of the Mahon firm. Mitchell said he knew nothing of the 100-foot setback arrangement and that his firm would not be able to abide by it unless the Santa Fe agreed to abandon an oil well which was blocking use of some of the land.

The council ordered the planning commission to begin rezoning of the extra 50-foot strip extending to Maple Ave. as a P-zone, which is restricted to planting and auto parking.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier said written approval of responsible officers of the Mahon firm to the rezoning would clear any obstacles. Construction of the firm's modern office building at the 50-foot level with executive and visitor parking off of Monterey would apparently be covered in a separate variance, because the council did not make any exclusion of that part of the land in the order to rezone.

MITCHELL explained to the council that manufacturing



SPACE HUNTER . . . Twelve-year-old Jimmy Bowdoin, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. O. Bowdoin, 1751 Fern Ave., symbolized the fight of his neighbors Tuesday night when he showed up at the city council meeting dressed as a man from Mars, and asked for a solution to the area's "space problems." His campaign may have been effective, for the city council voted to accept an offer of a 100-foot buffer zone on the south side of Monterey Ave. (Herald photo)

## War Planned On Speeders

Use of mobile radar units to aid police in the enforcement of the city's traffic laws is scheduled to be recommended to the city council soon by the traffic commission, the HERALD was told yesterday by Councilman Nick Drale, council representative on the traffic board.

The commission began studies of the mobile radar unit, in use in a number of Southland cities, when the traffic department records began to indicate that speeders were the main cause of most of the city's serious accidents this year, Drale said.

Under the system outlined by the councilman, at least one mobile radar unit would be put in the field and all entrances to the city would be posted with the warning that traffic laws were enforced through radar controls.

THE SPEED checking unit—whose accuracy has been proven in court, to the dismay of a number of motorists—would be used throughout the city in an effort to slow down the autos.

Cost of the unit would be about \$1400, Drale said. He added that it was less costly to the city than adding another traffic officer or car.

At the same time, Police Chief Percy Bennett ordered stricter enforcement of traffic laws on the city's busy streets. One of the main problems, traffic officers point out, is that the city has 11.1 miles of state highway in addition to its own streets and highways. State roadways include Pacific Coast Hwy., Hawthorne, and Artesia.

OTHER MAIN streets through the city which Torrance has or shares traffic control responsibility include Torrance Blvd., Crenshaw Blvd., Lomita Blvd., Western Ave., Palos Verdes Blvd., Arlington Ave., and Carson St. Prairie Ave. in North Torrance is a major thoroughfare, as is 190th St., 182nd St., and Yukon Ave.

Heavy increases in traffic in the city has raised the accident rate sharply during the past year, and the city has already recorded six fatalities for 1959.

"I DON'T SEE where we have any choice but to slow down the speeder if he is causing the accidents," Drale said. The recommendations of the traffic commission for the radar controls will be before the council within the next two weeks, Drale said.

The announcement added emphasis to the announcement two weeks ago in the HERALD that the Department of Motor Vehicles would start suspending licenses of drivers for traffic violations. The DMV has set

## Attorney Pinch-Hits For Doctor at Birth

Harman Hitt, 39, of 3022 Sonoma St. "pinch-hit" for the doctor Sunday when he assisted his wife, Elizabeth, 30—who was suffering from chickenpox, in the delivery of their fourth child at home while the obstetrician's assistant gave him instructions by telephone.

With five-pound Margaret Ann already on her way and Dr. Donald E. King unavailable when Hitt called the Long Beach physician's office, Dr. David Jean stood by in the telephone conference that accompanied the birth.

Preparations for the possibility of a home confinement had been made a week ago when Mrs. Hitt contracted chickenpox from her other three children, Kathryn, 6, Mary, 4, and James, 2. However, Hitt had not been prepared to play doctor.



MARVIN PIKE  
... Exalted Ruler

## Elks Club Installs New Ruler

Marvin Pike was installed as exalted ruler of Torrance Lodge No. 1948, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at an inaugural ball and buffet held at the lodge headquarters Saturday night. Over 300 Torrance Elks and their guests attended the affair.

Led by the award-winning Redondo Beach Elks drill team, each newly elected officer and his wife were presented to the throng as they were escorted beneath an ivy-covered archway.

OTHER officers installed were A. H. Littleton, leading knight; Charles Marquand, loyal knight; Lee Lease, lecturing knight; Don Harding, secretary; Max Schreiber, treasurer; Donald George, inner guard; Sam Snyder, assistant inner guard; Lambert Brown, inner tier; Herman Sneekin, chaplain; Sid Low, assistant chaplain; Charles Wood, organist; Pat Huffine, esquire; Gale Hunn, assistant esquire; C. P. Olson, Bob Smith, Charlie Lyons, Clarence Clark and Ted Foster, trustees.

Plans for the coming year, which marks the fifth anniversary of the local Elk lodge, include erection of a new lodge home on the recently purchased Abalone Ave. site. There are over 500 members at present in the Torrance lodge.

## A Penny for your Thoughts

"What do you think the functions of a Chamber of Commerce should be?"

That was the question the HERALD'S inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

Mrs. Celia Potts, 1731 Carbrillo Ave., property owner:

"They should keep local money here. To do this, they must do something about the social life offered locally. There must be more theaters,

restaurants, and entertainment in Torrance. We also need better bus transportation and branch offices of the city administration in the downtown section."

Patricia Maille, Lawndale, coil-finisher:

"I really don't know. I've never heard enough about them in any community I've lived in to ever really know their exact functions or have any ideas as to what I think it should be."

Mrs. Roy M. Stevens, 23327 Eshelman, co-owner of Adams Precision Products:

"At one time I served on the Redondo Beach Junior Chamber. A chamber should serve as a meeting of the minds of the organizations of our city to work out civic matters, such as coordinating with city council on such things as parking facilities (our most pressing problem), youth recreation planning, and so forth."

Vernon L. Miller, L. A., census supervisor:

"The function of a Chamber of Commerce should be to promote any and all ideas for the improvement and advancement of the locality in which they are situated. It is a public relations function."

Bob Venable, 1560 W. 224th St., mail clerk:

"Their function should be to promote the business of the city in terms of sales."

## Thief Takes Tires From Local Station

A thief who broke a padlock on the lubrication room gate to gain entrance took an estimated \$1024 worth of tires from a station at 17330 Crenshaw Blvd., it was reported to Torrance police this week.

## POLICE PUT ON 8 MORE

Eight new officers joined duty ranks of the Torrance police department yesterday after completing an intensive eight-week basic law enforcement training program at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Academy.

Reporting to duty were Robert G. Dunn, 30; James A. Fowler, 27; Eugene W. Gillette, 30; Raymond E. Gros, 27; Fred D. Jackmann, 27; Harry A. Pelley, 30; Jim R. Popp, 24, and Harry A. Waugaman, 29.

A ninth Torrance graduate of the academy, David M. Hagthrop, 22, will report to duty with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department.

The new officers received instruction in all phases of police work, including instruction in law, physical fitness, self-defense, marksmanship, and detailed studies of the various segments of law enforcement.

Announcement of their graduation from the academy was made by Sheriff Peter J. Pritchess.

The new men were assigned to the various police bureaus immediately for duty, Chief Percy Bennett said.



SURVEYS DAMAGE . . . Pictured looking down at her concrete wall which fell into an alley Monday night after the foundations were weakened by excavations for the alleys, is Mrs. Bill Grooms of 1510 W. 249th St., Harbor City.

## Officials To Salute New Firms

Three new Torrance industrial firms will be honored at a "Salute to New Industries" breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce to be held Tuesday, April 28, at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave.

Firms to be honored included Columbia Van Lines, Belond Muffler Co., and Dayton Rubber Co. President Fred W. Mill said these firms represent "good, solid medium industry" and "their coming to Torrance will mean much to the community's residential and commercial growth, in addition to the economic advantages."

Co-chairmen R. S. Pyle and Merton Stiles said that the coffee pot would be "on" for early arrivals at the function. Serving starts at 7:20 a.m. and an absolute deadline for its completion is 8:30 a.m., it was added.

Reservations may be secured by calling the Chamber office.

## Science Days Due Monday

One hundred eighty exhibits, films and lectures, representing top industries and colleges, will highlight the third annual Science Days to be held at North High School Monday and Tuesday.

The exhibits and lectures will be seen and heard by the students in place of regular classes Monday.

A series of talks, movies and displays will be open to the public from 7 to 11 p.m. Monday. On Tuesday, eighth grade students from nearby elementary schools will visit the exhibits.

## Veteran Realtor Honored

Realtor Week was launched here Tuesday at a membership breakfast of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors held at the YWCA at 7:45 a.m.

Mayor Isen, who stressed the rising tax structure in his keynote address, presented the official proclamation of Realtor Week to Kenneth Miller, president of the realty board.

A plaque of appreciation was presented to W. E. Bowen, treasurer of the board from

(Continued on Page 3)



VETERAN REALTOR HONORED W. E. Bowen (left) pioneer Torrance realtor, was honored during Realtor Week festivities here when President Ken Miller of the Torrance-Lomita Board of Realtors presented him with a plaque for his service to the profession. (Herald Photo)

## Seek Witness To Collision

An unidentified man who witnessed a collision between a car and motorcycle at the intersection of Artesia and Prairie Sunday at 8 p.m. is being sought by the mother of the cyclist who first received word of the accident by phone from the stranger.

Mrs. Louis M. Houck, mother of Louis Charles Houck, 22, who received painful injuries in the accident, issued an appeal today for the man who made the phone call or any other witness to the collision to contact her at her home, 3223 W. 186th St. or telephone her at DA 4-0896.

(Continued on Page 3)