

City Hits New Building Record

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Torrance Herald

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'Just for Fun'
Tips Listed
(See Page 38)

50th Year — No. 89



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BANK ROBBERY TEAM CAUGHT

A Penny for your Thoughts

"When should Christmas decorations be put up in towns and cities throughout the nation?" asked the Pennies photographer of several Torrance residents.

Mrs. Anthony D'Acquisto, 22005 Linda Dr.

"I think it's dreadful to begin thinking of Christmas in July. It should at least be reserved until after Thanksgiving Day. I resent shopping before Thanksgiving and feel that no decorations should be put up until the first part of December."

Mrs. Joseph P. Miller, 4709 Jacques St.

"Decorations after Thanksgiving are fine. It is the advent and penitential season and the celebration should begin after Dec. 25. Until then, it is just a preparation for the birth of Christ. There should definitely be no decorations before Thanksgiving."

Mrs. Kenneth C. Moe, 22529 Warmside Ave.

"Just from the commercial angle, I'd like to let one event stand by itself. I enjoy Thanksgiving and I hate to see it snowed under by a commercial Christmas—and that is all it is at that point. I like Twelfth Night, and no one does anything about it."

Mrs. Jack Delsigne, 1765 Calamar

"I like the holiday season and I think that putting up the decorations at anytime is alright. It makes a much more pleasant atmosphere for doing my Christmas shopping. Christmas comes and goes so fast, too."

David K. Lyman, 1305 Teri Ave.

"I think Christmas decorations should not be put up until after Thanksgiving. It is just traditional — you have to get football season and Thanksgiving over with first."

Permits Top 1956 Records

Building activity in Torrance hit an all-time record in October, as totals for the 10-month period surpassed \$50,000,000. The previous record for a single year was 1956, when the total value of permits was pegged at \$46,828,444.

More than 240 permits, valued at \$6,338,396, were issued during October, pushing the yearly total to \$51,219,343. Permits for 19 new single dwelling units and 457 new apartments were issued, bringing the total new units constructed to 676 single family homes and 2,489 apartments.

Torrance has gained an average of nearly \$17,000,000 annually in assessed valuation due to new construction. The new record would increase that figure substantially.

LARGEST OF THE permits issued in October was \$922,860, to the Jewell Land Co. The firm plans to construct 18 four-unit apartments with attached garages.

A permit for \$471,020 for the construction of a 52-unit apartment with garages at 20405 Anza Ave., was issued to C. W. Caras. Also issued was a \$348,320 permit for 35 apartments.



FLOODED INTERSECTION . . . Showers which began shortly after 6 a.m. yesterday swelled to heavy downpours by 9 a.m., flooding the intersection of Crenshaw and Sepul-

veda from curb to curb. The rains had slackened by noon and forecasts were for showers later with clearing skies today. (Herald Photo by Darrell Maddox)

Traffic Safety Programs Urged in City's Schools

By DARRELL MADDOX
Herald Staff Writer

Traffic safety programs in the city's four high schools and industry have been suggested as ways the Torrance Traffic Safety Council can expand its scope.

The suggestions were given this week by Ben Gautier, president of the Huntington Beach Traffic Safety Council, who spoke to the local council this week on "Community Role in Safety."

An award program which pits one school against another makes students traffic safety conscious, he said. "The vehicle safety check which I understand you have had is fine but I would suggest you also have an industrial vehicle safety check," the beach city resident added.

THE MONTHLY noon lunch-

ons attended by representatives of industry, business, service, civic groups and PTA's "are fine but you need to go one step further and support national and state safety programs," Gautier emphasized.

He cited as examples a street lighting project of senior women's clubs and a safety award program of PTA's. Torrance's traffic safety council was commended by Gautier for "setting the pace in safety council functions, a pace which other cities can follow. You are ahead Huntington Beach in some areas," he said.

ROTARY, Lions and Civitan clubs were given as among organizations the traffic safety council can ask for help. In Huntington Beach through

support of the Rotary Club a miniature traffic signal which is taken from school to school was obtained, the speaker told the council.

"It's only through a well informed citizenry that we can accomplish things that need to be done. Have citizens come to meetings of the safety council and tell of their particular problems," he added.

One problem Torrance does not have is electric carts usually used by senior citizens. Senior citizens and their electric carts have been a problem in Huntington Beach and Long Beach which has between 3,000 and 4,000. "In Huntington Beach we have passed what we believe the first or-

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Benner To Stay

Fire Chief J. J. Benner, due to retire after Jan. 1, 1964, has agreed to remain on the job for an indefinite period of time.

Benner, who had submitted his resignation to the City Council, told councilmen, "I will accept your wish to remain for an indefinite period," after they voted to ask the chief to stay on duty.

Nicholas Drale had moved that the council ask the chief to remain at least until July 1, 1964.

Benner had announced earlier this year he intended to retire after Jan. 1. Since that time, a controversy over the selection of a successor — and a successor to Police Chief Percy Bennett if and when he retires — has raged in the council.

City Hits New Park Proposal

City councilmen agreed Tuesday evening to enlist the help of neighboring cities in their fight to prevent formation of a special assessment district to pay for a proposed park in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The park, if established, would be supported through a property tax levied through a special district. The district would include most of the west and southwest regions in the county.

Councilman Ken Miller, who brought the question to the council, said the district now proposed would include Torrance, but not the Palos Verdes Peninsula. He said he doubted

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'Mutt & Jeff' Pair Tabbed For Job Here

Two men whose insurance firm partnership was admittedly netting them small returns are being held for preliminary hearing Nov. 22 on charges that they beefed up their income by looting Southland banks of more than \$100,000.

Paul Rosenbluth, 35, of Sylmar, and John K. Jennings, 37, of Woodland Hills, have been turned over to a U. S. marshal's custody after investigating officers said arrest of the pair in their office Monday cleared up at least 13 bank holdups.

ALTHOUGH not listed among the holdups confessed by the two businessmen, they are believed to have robbed the Pacific State Bank at Carson Street and Normandie Avenue on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 29.

At that time two men described as a "Mutt and Jeff" team, a term applied to the arrested pair, entered the bank and one stood in the center keeping employes and customers at bay with a gun while the other vaulted over the counter to scoop up \$5,800 from tellers' cages.

IT WAS THE habit of Rosenbluth to vault over counters and fences which led to their arrest, officers said. A man two blocks from a Panorama City bank which was robbed Monday afternoon became suspicious when he saw a man vault over a fence at a parking lot instead of passing through a nearby gate. He wrote down the license number of the car in which the two men left, and the number led to the two businessmen bandits.

In the list of bank robberies reportedly confessed by the pair was the Oct. 1 robbery of the Gardena Bank of America which netted the bandits \$13,238.

Hull Gets Votes for New Pact

After an unprecedented and sometimes stormy session Monday evening, the Board of Education voted to renew Dr. J. H. Hull's contract as superintendent of schools for a four-year period.

Contract matters are usually discussed in personnel session, but the superintendent's contract was placed on the public agenda at the request of board president Bert M. Lynn.

Lynn exploded during the session when confronted with a charge that he ran for office on a "Get Hull" platform. Mrs. Lawrence Sommers, speaking in defense of Dr. Hull, said Lynn campaigned for office with the promise of firing the superintendent.

"That is a lie. You are no lady, Florence Sommers, if you say that," shouted Lynn.

LYNN SAYS he attended 66 kaffe klatches and never said he was out to fire the superintendent. He said a reporter for a Los Angeles newspaper had quoted him as saying he would fire Dr. Hull, and "the reporter who wrote that is no longer with the newspaper."

Mrs. Sommers said after the meeting she thought Lynn had called her a "damn liar." Lynn denies the statement; "I called it a lie," he said.

The move to discuss the contract was without precedent in the district. Employee matters usually are discussed in a personnel session, permitted by state law.

BEFORE OPENING the meeting (Continued on Page 4)

No Second Chance On Tax, Says Hull

A failure on the proposed Feb. 4 override tax election may be curtains for the Torrance Unified School District.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told members of the Torrance Education Advisory Committee and a packed audience at Monday's Board of Education meeting that the district "will have no second chance."

Due to new state laws in election procedure, a new election cannot be held before the start of the new fiscal year if the 90-cent override fails in February.

THE RESULT—the district will have to operate for at least a year on a tax rate of \$2.40 per \$100 assessed valuation. That rate is 50 cents below the present rate, and budget strings would have to be pulled even tighter.

What will be done? Cut programs, hopefully in such a way that the entire district will feel the new penny pinching. The district is currently fi-

nanced on a \$2.90 tax rate, raised from the legal maximum by Torrance voters who adopted a 75-cent unlimited override and 50-cent override with a three-year term.

The proposed override would increase the tax rate an (Continued on Page 4)

Council Ignores Test Compromise

A new move by Councilman Ross Sciarrotta to open examinations for the chief of police to more local men, and to men in other California cities, didn't get off the ground Tuesday evening.

Sciarrotta, who opposed a similar ordinance which also included the fire department, asked that examinations for police chief be opened to men to the rank of sergeant in the local department.

In addition, Sciarrotta included provisions for men to the rank of lieutenants in departments in California cities of 80,000 population to take

the examination. Torrance men taking the examination would have been given one point for each five years of service.

Sciarrotta's motion died without a second. The council chamber was quiet as a tomb during the several minutes following the motion. Mayor Albert Isen waited almost two minutes before declaring "the motion dies for the lack of a second."

Twice now, the proposed change in the ordinance governing examinations for police and fire chief has failed despite a majority vote in favor of it.



ROYALTY ON PARADE . . . Preceded by her four princesses, Tartar Homecoming Queen Sandra McElhose (far right) gets her first exposure to a camera as a queen. She will reign over homecoming festivities on the Tartar campus Saturday. With her are Beverly Albert, Claudia Barto, Sandra Coffee, and Gail East, princesses for the annual festivities.

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