

... Oil Fields Leave Mark on City

(Continued from Page 1)
100 were drilled to the new level.

TODAY, THE City of Torrance restricts drilling to three zones and prohibits the building of oil derricks. The last derrick in the city was removed last year. Operators pay a license fee of \$24 per year for each well, and if new wells are drilled or old ones deepened, the operator must pay a spud-in fee of \$125. Gale Whitacre, city license director, is charged with keeping track of the wells.

Whitacre recalled many events of the early boom in an interview with THE HERALD, and he also cited some of the problems which the wells have caused—as well as some benefits.

In 1922 and 1923, when the field became a major producer, a boom town grew almost overnight near Arlington Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard, recalled Whitacre. "They were rough," he said, "and it was a typical boom town." The first fees which oil operators paid were enacted into law by the city trustees in 1923, and operators paid a "derrick tax" of \$250 per well—the money to be used exclusively for paving streets.

THE OIL fields experienced a renaissance in 1935 and 1936 with the discovery of the deeper zone, but through the years the city grew, building around the oil field. The presence of the derricks, says Director of Planning Charles M. Shurtle, was a major factor in the orderly growth of the city—and one of the reasons for the availability of land after the war.

In 1947, a twister turned its way through the oil field, demolishing derricks and smashing houses with their big timbers. The move to eliminate the derricks began that year, with the old wooden derricks the first to go. By 1962, only one derrick remained, and it fell last summer.

As production of the field was diminished, wells have been abandoned and the land has become available for building. Remaining wells are, for the most part, only electric pumps sandwiched among homes or fenced in parking lots. But the reduction in the number of wells and the abandonment of many more has left builders with some problems.

SUMPS WHICH once surrounded the wells have been filled, but there remain areas where sumps have only been covered, and the builders of

Torrance on occasion have had some major headaches. Such sumps must be excavated and filled with earth, otherwise foundations would rest on a sea of jelly. Unexpected excavations, sometimes to a depth of 35 or 40 feet, can increase the cost of construction considerably, but it must be done.

Another problem left by the wells and their black gold is that of real estate sales—an occasional promise that the well across the street, or next door, will be removed in a short time. Some homeowners have bought a house on the strength of that word, but says one state official, "most of the wells will be around for a long time." Recently, wells have been abandoned only when it becomes more profitable for an owner to sell the land or develop it than to pay the required license fees for the well.

WHAT ABOUT the future? R. E. Crowder of the Division of Oil and Gas of the State Department of Natural Resources, says, "The wells can pump for 100 years like they are unless they are taxed out of existence." Crowder says only about 30 per cent of the oil has actually been recovered. He is quick to add, however, that secondary operations are about

the only means of increasing the field's productivity at this time. The field is expected, however, to continue producing well over a million barrels of oil a year.

It goes without saying that most people have mixed emotions about the oil wells, their presence among the homes, their dangers to children, and an occasional unsightly one. But stringent city controls have alleviated most of the menace which people once found around the wells. All are now fenced, and many have been landscaped to blend with their surroundings.

Yet, one can never escape the feeling that the wells have helped to make Torrance the city of 125,000 people which it is today. If you don't believe, drive by Del Amo No. 2 at Carson and Madrona—and as you drive by, take a look around you at Del Amo Center, Civic Center, and the homes of 125,000 people and remember that on Oct. 9, 1922, that well was a mile and a half west of the city limits of a town of perhaps 2,500 people!

Every year in the United States 10,000 babies are born with cerebral palsy. A gift to the United Cerebral Palsy volunteer who calls at your door will help reduce this frightening statistic.

... Parade

(Continued from Page 1)
Bands and drill teams from Redondo Union and Jordan high schools, the Los Caballeros Youth Band, Hawthorne High Band, and the Trona Torridos, who will come from the Mojave Desert, will march.

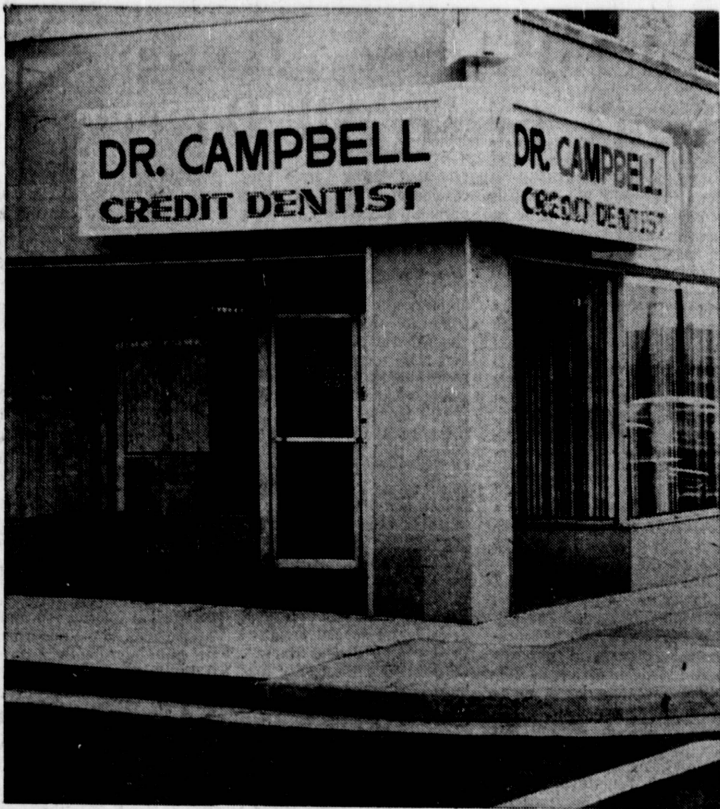
Drill teams representing ROTC units at Jordan High, Long Beach Polytechnic High, the University of Southern California, and the University of California at Los Angeles will take part in the parade.

Units from the Civil Air Patrol, a champion women's drill team, and Torrance Squadron 95 also will march in the parade.

Other units include tanks and other military vehicles, units from all branches of the Armed Forces, and officials of the city.

Army Pvt. John P. Tomich, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Tomich, 3830 W. 173rd St., was assigned to the U. S. Army Support Command, Vietnam, April 9, as a helicopter mechanic.

Tomich entered the Army in September, 1963, and received basic training at Ft. Ord. He was last stationed at Ft. Eustis, Va.



OFFICE OPENS . . . New Downtown Torrance dental offices have been opened by Dr. F. E. Campbell. The new office at Sartori and El Prado, in the heart of the downtown shopping district, is designed to serve residents in the San Pedro, Torrance, and South Bay cities and adjacent areas.

Judi Smenner Named New Tartar Girl of the Year



JUDI SMENNER
Girl of the Year

Judi Smenner was named Girl of the Year during a Recognition Day awards assembly at Torrance High School Thursday. Miss Smenner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Smenner of 20711 Eastwood Court.

Traditionally, the Girl of the Year award goes to the senior girl who most typifies the highest purpose and ideal of girls at Torrance High. The award is selected by senior class members of the THS Girls' League.

The honor was the latest the senior girl has compiled since she transferred to Torrance High from Hawaii last year as a junior. She was recently named in the Who's Who Among Student Leaders in the High Schools of America.

SHE HAS served as president of the Girls' League and on the THS Student Council. A Tartar Lady, she also is a delegate to the Representative Assembly, vice president of the Future Teachers Club, an inter-club council representative, and a member of 1964 Prom Court.

While participating in the International Relations Club Model United Nations, she shared first-place honors for her work as a member of the United States delegation. Miss Smenner was secretary of the California Scholarship Federation chapter last semester.

Miss Smenner plans to begin classes at California Lutheran College in September to prepare for a career in education.

OTHERS HONORED in the Recognition Day ceremonies were Mrs. Anne S. Graves, senior class advisor, as outstanding woman teacher of the year; Gail East, a senior, as Miss Friendship; Candace Burrows, also a senior, as Miss Comedienne; and Joyce Bynum as Miss Personality.

Also honored were Cathy Clutter, Miss Art; Ann Robinson, Miss Journalism; Lanng Tamura, Miss Music; Jane Allen, Miss Politics; Pamela Smith, Miss Fashion; Pat Adams, Miss Service; Diana McCready, Miss Sportswoman; Judy Allen, Miss Drama, and Diana Geruc, Miss Phi Beta Kappa.

Nanci Barnard was selected Junior Miss of the Year and Sharon Gunter was honored as Miss Sophomore. Freshman Class president Debbie Lifton was named Miss Freshman of the Year.

... Police

(Continued From Page 1)
er that Hamilton told him there was more to the matter than appeared on the material sent to the officer by the Torrance Police Department. Hamilton identified the suspect as a Torrance police officer, and that he had been sent over by Chief Percy G. Bennett to get the matter quashed because the officer had resigned.

The officer, Sgt. Ralph E. Walker, later was convicted of burglary charges.

Terry G. Trapletti, fireman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Egeno Trapletti of 932 Rayland Drive, is serving aboard the anti-submarine warfare aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, operating out of Long Beach.

She presently is undergoing refresher training off the coast of California. Refresher training is conducted periodically to ensure the combat readiness of Yorktown.



NEW DEALER . . . Jim Parkinson (left) met with Samuel Weill Jr., executive vice president for Competition Motors Distributors, Inc., last week to discuss plans for Parkinson's Torrance Volkswagen dealership. One of 20 new dealerships in Southern California and Arizona, Parkinson will open the Torrance VW center sometime this year. By the end of the year, more than 80 Volkswagen dealers will be open in the Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Arizona area.

Dependable Insurance

FIRE AUTO

Lund CO. AGENTS

1425-A MARCELINA
DOWNTOWN TORRANCE
PHONE FA 8-3567

BRIDGE LESSONS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN

- BEGINNERS — THURSDAY, 7:30 p.m.
- INTERMEDIATES — TUESDAY, 11 a.m.

LANDMARK BRIDGE CENTER **FR 8-7909**

Sale

SUNDAY • MONDAY • TUESDAY

Newberrys

Rolling Hills Plaza

Huge selections . . . we show only a few • New prints and solid colors

Sensational Low Price on ASSORTED COTTONS

Consists of 36" to 44" widths in lengths of up to 7 yards. Beautiful checks, prints, geometrics, dots, and paisleys. Inlaid embossed cottons are also in this group! Remember, Newberry's is open today, Sunday . . . Shop Early!

REGULARLY 49¢ PER YARD!

4 Yc's. 99¢

DAN RIVER SEEKSUCKER

44" wide . . . Lengths to 10 yards. Fantastic array of stripes, pastel shades, crease resistant and drip-dry! Regularly 77c yard.

2 yds. \$1.00

CROCHET DOUBLE KNITS

42" wide . . . Lengths to 20 yards. Gorgeous solid colors: white, lavender, maize, rose, pink, neutral and aqua. Regularly \$2.98 yd.

A REAL DOORBUSTER!

\$1.00 yd.

GREAT SPORTSWEAR ASST.

Huge selection of plaids, sportswear and shift prints. 36" to 44" wide, lengths to 10 yards. Little or no ironing. Wash 'n wear . . . Regularly 77c yard.

57¢ yd.

SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY DOORBUSTER SPECIALS!

SALE DAYS: SUNDAY, MAY 10 THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 12

Newberrys ROLLING HILLS PLAZA

PACIFIC COAST HWY. AT CRENSHAW

STORE HOURS: MON. THRU SAT. 10 A.M. - 9 P.M. SUNDAY 10 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.