

# RATS

# KNOLLS RESIDENTS ASK CLOSING OF CITY DUMP



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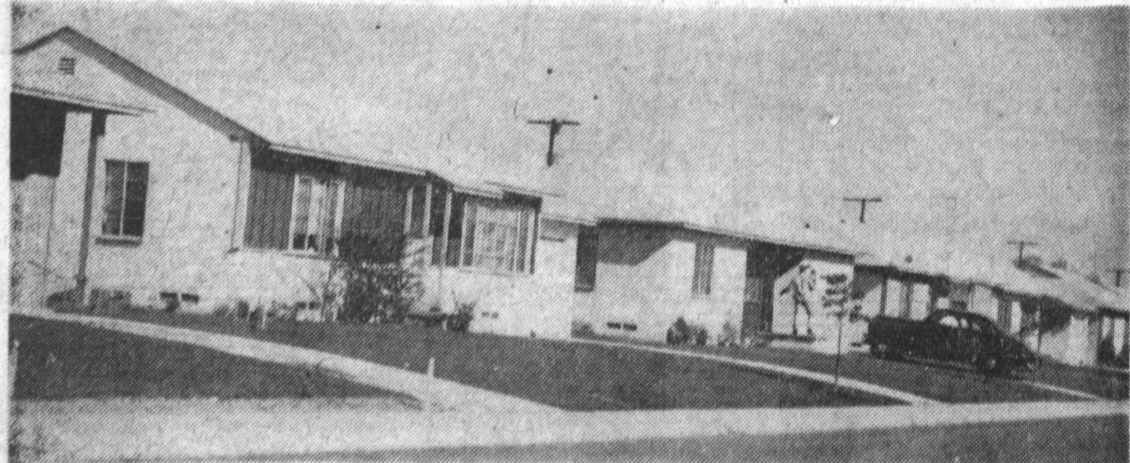
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1951

SECOND YEAR

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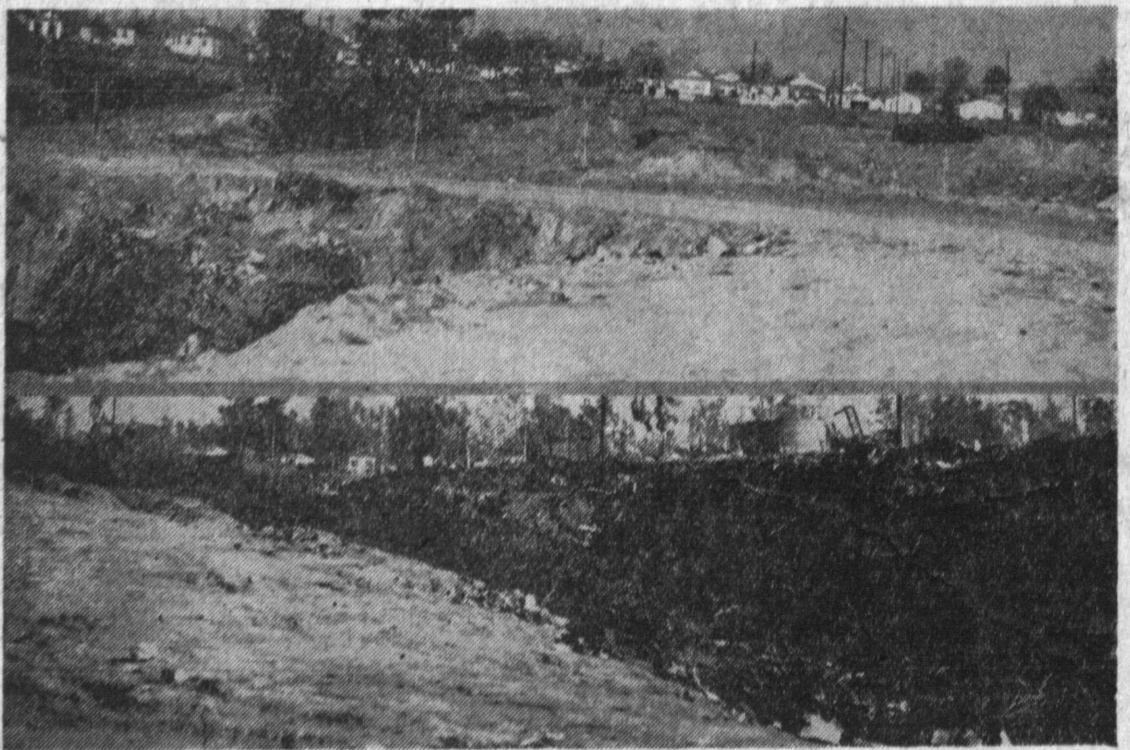
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THESE ARE some of the houses that Jack (Kettler) built.



THESE ARE some of the children who live in the houses that Jack built.



THIS IS the dump maintained by the City next door to the Children who live in the Houses that Jack built.



THIS IS one of the Rats that inhabit the Dump maintained by the City which spreads the germs which endanger the lives of the Children who live in the Houses that Jack built.



G. W. Stevens City Manager, Nick Drake Councilman, H. Spelman Councilman, Willys Blount Councilman, Ed Karlow Councilman, Bob Haggard Mayor

THESE ARE the men who run the Dump maintained by the City which inhabits the Rats which spread the germs that endanger the lives of the Children who live in the Houses that Jack built.

QUESTION: What is going to be done about it?

## Parents Say, 'Rats Flies Peril Area'

The common rat, man's worst mammal enemy, breeds in droves in the City Dump at Plaza del Amo and Western Avenue, the Torrance Press was told this week by parents residing in the hundreds of homes within a short distance of the dump.

House flies are breeding there by the millions and they swarm to the kitchen doors of homes where live nearly 1,000 children. Boys have been known to kill rats by the scores in the area. Nearly 100 rats a foot in length have been trapped by one person at the dump in a year, it was said.

This story, being depicted in graphic form on this page, is one which will be told to the City Council by indignant parents of the area who have become tired of the lack of interest and apathy shown in the petition circulated nearly a year ago asking that the dump be closed down.

While Councilman Nick Drake and former Councilman George Powell took a deep interest in the problem, the city's attitude seems to be summed up in the statement of City Manager George Stevens in answer to an inquiry from the Torrance Press as to what is being done about closing down the dump because it is a health menace.

**STEVENS REPLY**  
Stevens told a Torrance Press reporter: "When we run out of space there, we'll have to close the dump. "We'll use it until we fill it up," he continued ignoring reports of the indignation of residents of the area.

"After that," he said, "I guess we'll have to open another dump or start a bond issue for an incinerator." Petitions were circulated to close the dump and turn it into a recreation area when an attempt was made to "sell" to the city 10 acres of land of the west to EXPAND the dump.

Revelation of the move to increase the size of the dump, made in the Torrance Press, brought such a protest from residents that the City held up its purchase, and the owner of the land withdrew it from the market.

The land on which the dump was to be EXPANDED was NEARER the homes involved than the present site of activities. Since then, nothing has been reported to indicate that the City either is moving to close the dump, or to diminish its activities.

Robert Carlson, president of the Kettler Knolls Home Owners Association, told the Torrance Press that the dump should be condemned by health authorities. He revealed a story of mice, and flies which would impede appetite and faith in government of any citizen who is trying to better his community.

That the parents and residents of the area will act to force closing of the dump at once was his pledge.

## Red Cross Drive Starts

With the 1951 Red Cross fund drive to begin Monday two more majors have been appointed by Mrs. Gladys Weston, Torrance campaign chairman. They are Mrs. Robert E. Murphy, 1520 Fern Ave., and Mrs. Delber Thomsen, 1447 El Prado.

Torrance residents have been asked to underwrite the operations of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Red Cross for 26 hours and 26 minutes during 1951, Mrs. Weston said this week.

## \$\$\$\$ DAYS HERE

Always in the lead in attracting trade to the Greater Torrance Area, the Torrance Press today is cooperating with merchants in presenting Dollar Days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Turn to the pages within where the leading merchants offer bargains untold in this day of rising prices.

Always look in the Torrance Press for the best buys, because the merchants who want to save you money have their advertisements in the Press.

Use the Press want-ads for quick results.

Our 11,190 guaranteed circulation tells the tale of results. Reader interest never fails. The Press has it.

## Parents Ask Board For School Bus

"We want bus transportation for our children to go to school," was the plea made to the School Board of Education Tuesday night by representatives of 170 homeowners in the North Torrance tract of homes between 185th St. and 190th St. near

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## Advice on Income Tax Filing at City Hall Feb. 26, 27

For the benefit of Torrance taxpayers, O. J. Jensen, Deputy Collector of the San Pedro office of the Department of Internal Revenue will be at the council chamber of the City Hall Feb. 26 and 27 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

He will furnish information to taxpayers about the filing of individual income tax returns.



SETTING UP THIS POSTER . . . on Sartori Ave. are J. H. Paget (left), manager of Newberry's and president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and Harry Oster (right), of Universal Furniture. Dollar days will be in Torrance this Thurs., Fri., and Sat., Feb. 22, 23, and 24. One hundred and twenty posters were placed throughout the entire Torrance trading area. Torrance merchants have pledged to offer outstanding dollar day values to shoppers in order to make this one of the greatest dollar days events in the history of Torrance. —Press photo.



TORRANCE MAYOR — Bob Haggard turns the first spadeful of dirt at informal ground-breaking ceremonies held this week to launch the start of construction work on Pacific Telephone's new dial center at the southeast corner of Cravens and Engracia avenues. Others present (left to right) included: William Zappas, of the Torrance Press; A. B. Smith, telephone manager; F. Y. Snyder, district telephone manager; and Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

## Oil Derricks Election Issue

If the City Council does not want to protect the best interests and welfare of the people of Torrance, it will have to answer to the people at the polls!

This was the dramatic statement of C. J. "Paddy" Ryan, president of Torrance-Lomita Realty Board, when asked as to his attitude toward the Council's failure to consider the realtors' letter asking that steps be taken to protect property owners from damage due to falling oil derricks.

While oil men themselves have moved to remedy the situation, as reported exclusively in the Torrance Press last week, the City Council's only public action on the matter has been to "file" a letter from the Realty Board asking that owners of the derricks be required to supply liability insurance for damage caused by derricks felled in storms such as the one which leveled 11 derricks a few weeks ago.

The realtors asked that liability insurance be required of oil derrick owners in residence areas.

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## Contract For Greenwood School Let

The School Board Tuesday night awarded the Greenwood School contract to the low bidder, P. A. Weeger at a total contract price of \$175,330.

Bids for this school were opened 8 p.m. Feb. 16, 1951.

Approved by the Board were the plans for the Madrona St. School drawn by G. F. Schreiber and J. L. Peterson, architect and engineer, and plans for the addition to Torrance High School, prepared by Daniel, Mann, and Johnson.

Included in the high school addition is a three classroom wing, a cafeteria, a music building, and a gymnasium.

## Woman Injured In Accident Improving

Most seriously injured Monday night when two cars crashed head-on at Western Ave. and 174th St., but reported on the way to recovery at Harbor General Hospital was Mrs. Edith Hartel, 42, of 1531 W. 215th St.

Also at Harbor General Hospital with serious injuries are her husband, 46, a milkman and driver of one of the cars, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Porter, of

## Dial Phone Building Project Begun

Informal ground-breaking ceremonies held by a handful of Torrance civic leaders and telephone officials heralded the start of construction work this week on the new \$650,000 Torrance dial telephone building at the southeast corner of Cravens and Engracia avenues. Mayor Bob Haggard turned the first spadeful of dirt to officially mark the beginning of Pacific Telephone's modern and newest communication center.

Present for the brief ceremonies in addition to Mayor Haggard included Blaine Walker, ex-secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce; William Zappas, of the Torrance Press; F. Y. Snyder, district telephone manager, and A. B. Smith, Torrance exchange manager.

The new central office building, being constructed for the

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## Exam For City Engineer Set

Holding of a Civil Service examination for a city engineer was authorized by the City Council at their Feb. 13 meeting.

On the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens, residence requirements will be waived. Starting salary will be \$500 to \$600 a month.

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