

PLAN SPECIAL CENSUS

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Predict Count of Far Over 40,000

Plans for a special census to determine the current population of Torrance were revealed this week by City Manager George Stevens. Stevens told the Press that tremendous growth of this city within one year, as indicated by the number of residential building permits that have been issued, makes another special census absolutely essential.

10,000 Increase
A special census was taken early this year. The population at that time was 31,834. Since then, city building dept. officials estimate that the number of residents have increased not less than 10,000.

The special census this year cost the city \$3,700. As a result of the count, Torrance gained greatly in additional funds from the state.

Meter Count
Stevens said that if the Edison company's report on the number of electric meters now in use here indicates that there are over 40,000 inhabitants, he would press for a special census.

The count of electric meters is the basis for the city's garbage collection contract, and is made twice annually. The report in June showed an estimate of 35,000 persons here.

Local assemblyman, Vincent Thomas, declared that if the count shows 40,000 or more residents, he would introduce a bill at the next assembly urging a municipal court for Torrance.

Under the court reorganization voted here two years ago, any city of over 40,000 is entitled to a municipal court.

Chamber to Elect Officers On January 7

Election of the 1953 president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has been set for Jan. 7, at the annual fellowship dinner of the board of directors, it was disclosed this week by chamber officials.

Although incumbent chamber president Robert I. Plomert Jr. has been reluctant to state whether he would accept another term in office, all indications are that the board will re-elect him, it was revealed.

Three other chamber officers, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary-treasurer, will also be voted on at the dinner meeting. These posts are currently held by Dr. Gerald Eastham, Darwin Parrish, and William Zoeller, respectively.

Past presidents Henry Creeger, Reed Rarkin, and Dean Sears constitute the nominating committee, it was reported.

The fellowship dinner will be held at the Jonathan Club. All city councilmen, Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and City Manager George Stevens have been invited to attend as guests of the directors, who are footing the bill for the affair.

BANK OF AMERICA MAY MOVE

Pick Site On Post, Sartori

The westward movement of the central business district of Torrance became even more evident this week with the announcement that the Torrance branch of Bank of America would move from its present location at Marcelina and Sartori Aves. to a building located at Post and Sartori Aves.

The new location of the bank is currently occupied by the Star Furniture Co. The furniture store will move into a new, modern building to be constructed soon at Torrance blvd. and Cravens Ave., it was reported.

Western Growth

Several other recent business structures built in the western portion of Central Torrance have indicated that the business center of this city may ultimately be along Torrance blvd. Among the recent additions to that section are the new Jim Dandy market, several small business structures at Torrance and Cravens blvds. and a new medical center at Torrance blvd. and Acaecia Ave.

The city has proposed Torrance blvd. between Maple st. and Madrona ave. for a future civic center, and there are persistent

(Continued on page 17)

Recreation Feud Still Unsettled

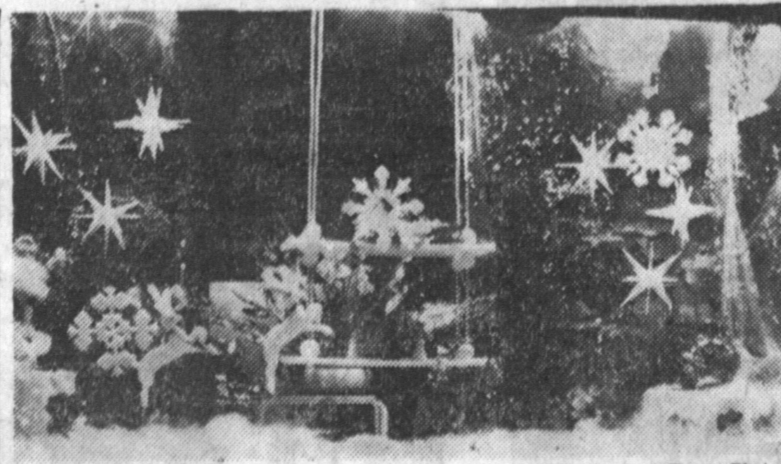
Whether or not the problem of adequate recreation for the children of this city can be shrugged off as a matter simply of clashing personalities looms as a big question this week. And charges that someone is hunting the head of Recreation Director Frank Carpenter are being bandied about like Christmas greetings, according to reports about town this week.

The battle for and against the current recreation program has reached such a fever pitch that it's hard to distinguish who's on which side.

However, one thing became quite certain this week, when prominent attorney Albert Isen categorically denied a statement printed in another local newspaper that he was backing a citizen's committee to retain Frank Carpenter as recreation director. He is not.

Isen said in a statement to the Press, "The use of my name by another Torrance newspaper in connection with the current dissension in the recreation dept. was unknown to me and was done without my authorization. The statements printed by the other newspaper are misleading and inaccurate. I am not on any committee to support Frank Carpenter as recreation director, nor am I irked about anything. Until the full facts of the controversy are revealed, I must remain neutral. Both Councilman Victor E. Benstead and Carpenter are friends of mine, and I have not ventured an opinion on the recreation situation."

As for the headhunting charge, (Continued on page 17)



—Press Photo
GRAND PRIZE WINNER—Torrance Flower Shop, Post and Cravens aves., was adjudged the most beautifully decorated store window in Torrance in the annual Junior Chamber of Commerce Christmas decorations contest. Winner also of the Class B award, the grand prize perpetual trophy will be held by the store until next year. Other winners in the competition were Strum's Department Store, Class A, and John's Paint and Window Shade Store, Class C.

HERE ARE THE FACTS ON THE RECREATION DISPUTE

(AN EDITORIAL)

For two weeks now a controversy has raged over the management of this city's recreation dept.

During that time many allegations have been made including a charge that this newspaper is actively working for the ouster of Frank Carpenter as Director of Recreation. These charges are not true.

The Torrance Press has always dedicated itself to the job of informing Torrance citizens about what is going on in their city government. Now, as in the past, we report the news as it is made.

That dissension has existed in the Recreation Department is no secret.

That the Torrance Press has dared to print the facts is a credit to this newspaper and a tribute to our readers, who demand to know what is going on in city hall.

Both before and since the appointment of Frank Carpenter, there has been dissension in the Recreation Commission. In recent years it has grown more heated. This is proved by the many resignations of members of that body.

The city council in March, voted unanimously to call for a civil service examination for the post of recreation director. Competitive examination open to all qualified candidates, they decided, was the most logical way to fill the post. If Carpenter can qualify as one of the three high candidates, he will have a good "hold on the job, and probably will get it.

If Carpenter does not qualify by the test, he should not have it.

But, no matter who gets the job, Torrance needs and must have a well-rounded, year around recreation program for children and adults, and the best way to achieve such a program is by close cooperation between the city council, Torrance schools, and the recreation dept.

Cooperation between the City and the schools has been lacking despite the fact that experience in other cities shows that this is the best way to handle a good year-around recreation program.

Students Return To Class During Holiday Week

More than 7,000 Torrance students, currently enjoying their annual Christmas vacation, face the grim prospect of returning to school right in the middle of the holiday season.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, reminds parents and youngsters that all students are expected back in the class rooms on Monday, December 29. Following three days of school, they will have Thursday and Friday off to celebrate the New Year.

The two-week Christmas vacation was begun a week early this year to allow high school students to seek holiday employment, Dr. Hull. The students began their vacation last Friday.

6 SHOPPING DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

Thomas to Ask State OK on Local Court

Help in the current fight to obtain a municipal court for this city was promised this week by local State Assemblyman Vincent Thomas.

Thomas has informed the city council that he will introduce a bill before the next legislature that will provide a court for this city when the population passes 40,000 in an official census.

Census Planned
A special census will be held early next year, City Manager George Stevens said this week. A special count taken early this year pegged Torrance's population at 31,834. All indications are that the new figure will exceed 40,000.

Thomas has pointed out that court-room facilities already exist in city hall, so no expenditure of funds for a court house will be needed.

However, no court can be established in Torrance city hall unless the Thomas measure passes.

Reorganization

Under the court reorganization program which goes into effect here on Jan. 5, 1953, all city courts in the South Bay Judicial District will be consolidated into the South Bay Municipal Court in Redondo Beach. Existing city courts that will become inactive after Jan. 5, include Torrance, Lawndale, Lomita, Gardena, Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan and Palos Verdes Estates.

After the January date, there will be only one place for local residents to appear on a traffic ticket: at the Redondo Beach court.

Efforts to obtain a traveling judge to hold session for one day each week in each of the South Bay cities have met with little success.

However, if Assemblyman Thomas succeeds in getting his bill passed, Torrance will get a part-time judge to hold court here.

Universal to Stage Free Gift Drawing

Various local dignitaries and a host of friends and customers will be on hand tomorrow evening for the big free drawing being staged by Universal Furniturestore, 1617 Sartori ave., according to John Gerster, manager of the store.

First prize in the drawing is a deluxe Magic Chef kitchen range. Second and third prizes are a Youngstown dish washer and a Sealy mattress. There are 22 additional prizes to be drawn for, Gerster said.

The drawing will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

There will be a demonstration of the Magic Chef range today and tomorrow at the store. The event will feature a free luncheon cooked in the new range for all customers of the store.

Simultaneously, the 1953 line of Sunbeam appliances is being demonstrated at the store, Gerster reports.

Church Building Fund Canvass Nets \$85,000

A sum in excess of \$85,000 was raised during a six week campaign for funds for the proposed three-story educational building of the First Methodist Church.

This report was made to volunteer workers at a victory dinner held Friday evening at the church.

According to Rev. John L. Taylor this is probably one of the highest financial achievements of any congregation in Torrance in so short a period of time. More than 60 men of the church constituted the canvass organization, under the leadership of Earl Robinett, local business man and chairman of the canvass committee. Mayor Mervin M. Schwab served as honorary chairman, and Maurice Ransom acted as team chairman.

Since the arrival of Rev. John L. Taylor as Minister of the church, some six months ago, the congregation has been led in an aggressive program for the development of plans for the Education Building, to be followed in the not too distant future by the erection of a new church sanctuary, church officials report.

The above financial goal includes the necessary funds for a new church organ and the remodeling of the present sanctuary.

Man Killed as Car Hits Ambulance Here

A Wilmington man was killed here early Monday morning when his automobile crashed into an ambulance which was speeding to the scene of another traffic accident. Two ambulance attendants were injured.

George W. Rogers, 50, of 4218 McDonald ave., died at Harbor General Hospital within a half hour of the collision.

The crash occurred at Normandie ave. and Carson st. Investigating officers said Rogers was hurled 40 feet from his auto and smashed against a power pole.

Injured were the driver of the ambulance, Clarence Rader, 48, of 1734 W. 145th st., and the attendant, Kenneth Genant, 39, of 1854 W. 154th st., both of Gardena. Rader suffered a possible internal fracture, possible internal injuries, cuts and bruises.

They are employed by Jacob's Ambulance Service, Gardena.

Officers said the ambulance was knocked 109 feet by the impact. With red light and siren, the ambulance was en route to an accident at Main st. and Sepulveda blvd., where four persons were seriously injured, according to police.

Another ambulance was called to take the four victims of the Sepulveda and Main st. crash to Harbor General Hospital.

They are Jack E. Long, 47, of 1427 Island ave., Wilmington, and his wife, Edna, 46, in one car, and

PLAN MOOSE XMAS PARTY

Marvin MacArthur, governor of the Torrance Moose Lodge, has announced that the annual Christmas party for the children of Moose members will be held on Sun., Dec. 21, at 2 p.m., at the Moose Hall, 1744 W. Carson St.

Chest Rally Held At Statler Hotel

Torrance volunteers took their place among the honor roll cities in the Community Chest rally held last week at the Statler Hotel. The rally celebrated the most successful Red Feather appeal in seven years, according to Donald Armstrong, local city chairman.

Contributions in Torrance have so far amounted to 101 per cent of the \$12,384 quota set for this city, he said.

Service Clubs Participate in Charity Drive

On Saturday, Dec. 20, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., you'll be likely to see the butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker ringing bells and trying to fill up Salvation Army kettles, which will be located at several places in downtown Torrance.

"Some of the boys may not fit, some of the girls may not be too practiced in the art of shaking the tambourines as they rove about the city, but their hearts are in the right place, so open your purse and give generously," says Charlie Mullen, Rotary chairman of the drive. A number of Torrance men's service clubs are participating in this charity event.

Persons who will be out of town on that date, may make their contributions at any time by contacting Charles Mullen, 1519 Post Ave. Checks should be made payable to the Salvation Army, Mullen said. Arrangements can be made to pick up larger cash contributions by calling Torrance 3305, he reported.



—Press Photo
CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR G'S—Busy packing boxes of cookies, cakes, candies and gift items for local boys in Korea are El Nilsons Mrs. William D. Lambert (left) of 18319 Mansel ave. and Mrs. John Wallis of 18311 Mansel ave. Mrs. Wallis is the mother of an Army sergeant now in Korea. Mrs. Lambert's husband is also serving with the Army at the battlefield. Nearly a dozen servicemen from Elildo, some overseas and some stateside, received the gay packages.



—Press Photo
NEW OFFICERS—A joint installation of officers of the Torrance Firemen's Association and the newly formed auxiliary was held last Friday night at the fire station. From left to right are Vice-President Bill Russell, Auxiliary vice-President Mrs. LaVonia Russell, President Ray Flagg, outgoing President Frank Tuttle, and Auxiliary President Mrs. Maxine Flagg. (See Story on Page 2)