

CIVIC CENTER AND  
POOL GET OK IN  
LANDSLIDE VOTE

# TORRANCE PRESS

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VOLUME VI THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NUMBER 29

## Hold Public Hearing On No. Torrance Zone Change

North Torrance Civic Improvement Association has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the rezoning of parts of North Torrance for shopping areas. The meeting, called at the request of the Torrance Planning Commission, will be held Wednesday, October 27, in the McManis' Hall, located on 174th Street at Yukon Avenue, beginning at 8 p.m., according to an announcement by John L. Crain.

A preliminary meeting was held before the board of directors Monday night at the home of the Civic Association's president, Muri Reeves, at which time Commissioner H. R. Black outlined the proposed changes and the importance of those changes to the property owners.

### Too Many Variances

Black pointed out that the rapid growth of the city had led to the requests of many zone variances. To consider each one on its own merits without a thorough study of the overall effect would not be in keeping with good planning in continuing the growth of Torrance, "the Planned City," it was stated.

Only recently, a group of homeowners have petitioned for a zone variance on 174th street to allow for commercial development.

### Commercial Zones

"Other areas will also be considered for commercial zoning. Now is the time we should hear from the affected property owners if the zoning changes would prove objectionable. These changes will have a long and remaining effect on the community," Black said.

He urged that there be a joint meeting of the property owners and the Planning Commission's Committee at an early date.

It was the expressed opinion of the board of directors of the Civic Association that such a major rezoning task as now proposed by the Torrance Planning Commission for study would be a highly controversial subject that would warrant the views of all North Torrance. One member suggested that every effort should be made to secure at least one representative for each block in North Torrance.

## Dum-Dee-Dum-Dum Get That Skunk!

Officers Jim Crow and Cliff Wilson of the Torrance Police Department shot it out bravely last week with Stinky the Skunk. When the air cleared, Stinky was dead, but his memory lingered on.

The officers had been called to the home of Mrs. Martel Harris, 144 Camino de las Colinas, who reported a skunk in her garage.

Officers Crow and Wilson dashed to the scene, and upon cornering the skunk, radioed for permission to shoot it.

Request was granted instantly.

"Ready, Aim..." "The skunk let them draw the first bead," Sgt. Ted Morris stated, "but he got them with his dying quiver."

In the meantime, police cars were sending "Dum-Dee-Dum-Dum, Get-that-skunk!" bulletins to each other.

No one knows what Officers Crow and Wilson did with their clothes following this poignant episode, but other police officers claim that there are some (Continued on Page 8)

## GOP DINNER AT PALMS FRIDAY NITE

Republicans belonging to various GOP groups throughout the Sixty-eighth Assembly District will gather in the new banquet room of the Palms, 1925 West Carson street, Torrance, on Friday, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. for a Sixty-eighth District candidates' rally and dinner, sponsored by the Sixty-eighth District Republican Assembly.

**Candidates**  
Boris S. Woolley, president of the Sixty-eighth District Repub-

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## Crocodile Tears Will Not Cure

By EDDIE RAPHAEL, Guest Editor

This Saturday, October 23, the YMCA is holding its annual Good Neighbor Breakfast at the Civic Auditorium. The food will be good, the program great and a fine time will be had by all. Breakfast will be served from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

This YMCA fund-raising breakfast deserves the wholehearted support of the entire community.

One of the most constructive ways of combating the growing cancer of juvenile delinquency is by supporting such organizations as the YMCA.

In Torrance we are faced with an especially difficult problem. Now that our schools, of necessity, are on half day sessions, the youth has much more leisure. Unless this time is utilized in a constructive manner we are in for a rough period.

The YMCA is one of the fine forces working for the good of our youth. It offers a program that encompasses youngsters of every age. Its program is complete and varied, giving the boys and girls the spiritual, social and athletic training that is so necessary.

This program is tried and proven. It has produced some of our finest citizens in the past.

For the past few years the YMCA of Torrance has been a losing proposition. This year it is \$5,000 in the red. Up to now the metropolitan YMCA has been making up the deficit—now they say "Collect more money, or curtail your program."

Retrospection would be our death. With our local situation of half day sessions we must not cut our program, but expand it—expansion means your help at once. Please come to our aid.

Let's not just cry about our kids—Let's do something constructive. We will see you Saturday morning, October 23 at the Civic Auditorium. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Don't let your kids down.

## Jail Terms, Fines, Handed Drunk Drivers

Steep fines or prison terms were handed out right and left this week for various offenses including indecent exposure, drunk driving, petty theft, and drunkenness.

Walter D. Coates was given 30 days in the county jail for speeding and driving a car during the time, that his license was suspended.

Sentenced in the South Bay Municipal court by Judge Otto Willett on a drunk driving charge were the following: Sargent J. Ableman, \$132 or 25 days; Charles F. Henning, \$105 or 20 days; Robert Hidalgo, pleaded not guilty and will come up for jury trial October 26; Claude H. Morton, found guilty in a jury trial, \$158 or 30 days; Louis E. Madrid, 15 days; Charles M. Bryan, \$158 or 30 days.

Sentenced to 10 days in the county jail for the petty theft of red road caution lanterns was John M. Smith.

Fined \$250 for indecent exposure to a juvenile was John E. Mollie, 26, of 2264 West 229th street. Mollie was placed on (Continued on Page 8)

## 'Policeman, Ples Take Care of Dady'

Torrance Police Department received an unusual letter from a little girl a few days ago and police officers who read it could not help but feel a slight lump in their throats.

The scrawled letter, written with great difficulty, read as follows:

Dear Policeman  
My dady is going too a party 13 October at Torrance park my Mother is afraid my dady likes whiskey he got a big bottle in his car dady's car is blue, ples take care of dady.

## Mrs. McLeod Breaks Back

Mrs. Ethel McLeod of 3203 Crickwood, Waveria, suffered a broken back last week when she fell while carrying a trayful of dishes at the Half-Way House where she is employed.

Mrs. McLeod is the mother of Ella Mae McLeod, well-known local beauty queen candidate and tap dancer.

Mrs. McLeod is at home but no visitors are allowed at present. Attending physician is Dr. C. Easley.

## Champ Butler To Entertain At Good Neighbor Breakfast

This Saturday, October 23, is the day for the annual Good Neighbor Breakfast sponsored by the YMCA. The affair will be held in the Civic Auditorium (corner Cravens and El Prado) from 6:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Among the many other well-known personalities to appear and entertain at the breakfast will be Champ Butler, noted TV, radio and recording artist.

Letters have been coming in to the Good Neighbor Award committee nominating worthy individuals for the annual award to be presented Saturday morning. The trophy will be awarded by Sam Levy, committee chairman.

**Nominations**  
The latest individuals to be recommended are Harry Greene, nominated for his outstanding work in rehabilitating alcoholics. Greene was nominated by Police Sergeant Bill Evans.

Mrs. William V. Boswell was nominated for assistance in many civic projects and for being "a real good neighbor."

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CHAMP BUTLER  
... to entertain

## A TRIBUTE TO EDISON



LIGHTS DIAMOND JUBILEE... Mayor Nick Drale receives a bronze medal from Lew Jenkins, Edison Co. district manager, in honor of Thomas Edison's discovery of the electric lamp 75 years ago.

## PRESS SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUDED BY POLICE CHIEF

"It's a great campaign that is bound to reduce accidents. Glendale and Santa Ana campaigns of a similar nature resulted in a big decrease in highway mishaps."

So declared Torrance police chief Willard H. Haslam in commenting on the Safe Driving Campaign to start in the Press on October 28.

"School children's lives are daily endangered by careless drivers who fail to realize the necessity of utmost caution where so many thousands of youngsters are concerned," said Chief Haslam. "The toll be-

cause of excessive speed and reckless driving on highways in this area proves that traffic is our greatest problem."

Torrance automobile dealers, service clubs and other organizations as well as factories where so many thousands are employed are invited to join the campaign which will be carried along lines advocated by the National Safety Council.



CHIEF WILLARD HASLAM

## LATE NEWS

**PANEL SPEAKER:** City Attorney James Hall spoke on "Inter-Governmental Immunities..." Federal, State, County, and School Districts Construction in Cities" Tuesday at the California League of Cities conference held at the Biltmore hotel in Los Angeles. Hall is also attending the Institute on Federal Taxation at the USC Law School, October 20 to 22.

**STOLEN GOODS:** John N. Footness of 1103 Acadia reported the theft of a Porter-Cable Speedmatic saw valued at \$125; Drivitt Nail gun, \$60; tools and tool box, \$500. The goods were taken from a Chevy pick-up truck.

**GOOD NEIGHBOR BREAKFAST:** Mayor Nick Drale has proclaimed Saturday, October 23, as YMCA Good Neighbor Day. A Good Neighbor breakfast will be held at the Civic Auditorium, corner Cravens and El Prado, from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**MORE DIRECTORS:** Members of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will meet November 15 at 4 p.m. to decide if the number of directors is to be increased from 15 to 21.

**ROTARY CLUB:** The Dominguez-Carson Rotary club will hold its annual charter party at the Lone Pine Inn tonight at 7 p.m.

**CARCON C OF C:** The next board meeting of the Carson Chamber of Commerce will be held October 25. Time and location are still to be announced.

**STREET LIGHTS:** Street lights might have to be furnished in housing tracts from now on by subdividers. The

when you turn the keys), and

away shot Grandpa, Timothy, and car.

Grandpa Green was unable to reach the brake pedal because his left foot was in a cast, officers were told.

**Woman Faints**

Timmy's itinerary took him over a curb and onto the front porch of a nearby house. After tearing off the porch, the car headed for the house next door, where it repeated the performance. A house-to-house woman canvasser, who was just about to start her sales pitch, fainted on the spot.

The car then rolled across the lawn, and struck another house. By this time Green had finally maneuvered into a position whereby he was able to push on the brake with his hands.

Except for property damage, a fainting saleswoman, and a slight cut on the chin for Green there were no serious consequences. "Let's do it again" Timmy commented cheerfully when it was all over, but Mom and Grandpa assured Tim and police officers that "Junior" would stay in the back seat from now on.

## Local Song Writer Gets Big Break

A struggling Torrance song writer found himself headed toward fame and recognition this week when he learned that his song had been selected from among thousands to be played on the Spade Cooley TV show this coming Saturday night.

Harry E. Finch, of 20816 Margaret st. will now have to compete with two other finalists. If his song is chosen tops, it will be published and sold in music stores throughout the nation.

Finch, a father of six children, recently appeared on Paul Coates' Confidential File. He helped Coates' expose song promotion rackets of which he has been the unfortunate victim.

Finch's song which was chosen by the Spade Cooley show is entitled "Xochimilco" (Floating Flower Gardens) and will be sung by Phil Gray.

## It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's The Press!

How quick is "quick?" Very, very quick, if Mrs. A. E. Fortin of 2518 West Carson has anything to say about it.

Mrs. Fortin had a chrome kitchen table and two chairs for sale.

She placed the following inexpensive ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

FOR SALE: Chrome kitchen table and 2 chairs, \$15. FA. 8-5666

Mrs. Fortin sold her set to the first customer who called. It's a tale often told that Press classified ads do the trick in a hurry. Just call FA. 8-2345 and try it yourself.

## Oscar Maples Grid Winners Announced

Here they are again — the winners, that is, of the Oscar Maples' football contest for last week.

For the rules of the weekly contest see page 2.

First, second, and third place winners receiving \$20, \$10, and \$5 in merchandise prizes last week were: Albert A. Martin, 1630 Greenwood; Eddie Unrein, 2755 Onrado; Warner W. Spurrier, 424 9th street, Manhattan Beach.

Free lube jobs were won by the following: Sam A. Martin, Warner W. Spurrier, David Satturthure, J. B. McManus, Joseph W. James, Mrs. Paul C. Hosler, John R. Glover, Ronald Ketter, R. O. Mahoney, C. E. James, Red Brown, O. H. Newbert, E. M. Skinner.

Construction of homes will begin in about four months, according to Ivar Hanson of the Rancho Palos Verdes corporation. Right now heavy construction and engineering is being

done laying the groundwork for residential construction.

The first unit to be built on 1200 acres of the northern slope will include about 1500 homes. An eventual 10,000 home development is planned within the next 10 years, Hanson stated. Plans are also being made for a central shopping center as well as satellite shopping areas.

**Buy Site**  
Title to the property was acquired by the two companies in December 1953 when the Great Lakes Carbon corporation purchased 6800 acres for a reported \$9,000,000. The land was bought in order to acquire a 165-acre site for mining rich diatomaceous earth.

Diatomaceous earth, com-

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## Construction to be Completed by Summer

A "For Sale" sign is virtually hanging on the door of Torrance's "old" city hall as the city moved onward to a bigger and better civic center this week. Construction will start as fast as possible and the new center, which will be one of the most modern ever built, will be ready for occupancy around summer of next year.

A fresh breeze of Progress swept through the whole city this week as voters decided wholeheartedly in favor of the new civic center and the new swimming pool by a landslide vote.

The new pool, police station, and city hall will be located on the 35 acres north of Torrance Boulevard between Maple Avenue and Madrona Avenue.

**FOR RETURNS BY PRECINCTS SEE PAGE 9**

### To Be Sold

With the present city hall, police station, and fire station (as was decided at the April election) about to move, the downtown property will become available for commercial purposes.

This will permit a considerable expansion of the downtown Torrance shopping area. Negotiations for the property may already be in progress or will soon start, it has been stated.

**Vote Break-Down**

When the votes were totaled Tuesday night, the civic center had been approved by a 5 to 1 margin while the swimming pool won by a 3 to 1 margin.

Break-down of the total votes was as follows:

	Yes	No
Civic center	4273	870
Swimming pool	3857	1277
A total of 5159 voters turned out to the polls, which was hailed as an unusual turn-out.		

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## 10,000-HOME COMMUNITY STARTED IN ROLLING HILLS

Opening of a multimillion-dollar community construction project on Palos Verdes Peninsula was announced Monday.

The joint-announcement came from two corporations which acquired the 7000-acre site last year for diatomaceous earth mining.

In a lengthy statement issued this week, the two companies said that several thousand homes will be built on the peninsula. A year ago, the Great Lakes Carbon had indicated that it planned to develop a \$200,000,000 residential community.

George Skakel Sr., chairman of the board of Great Lakes Carbon Corporation and Paul W. Anderson, vice-president of the Capital company, issued the announcement. The two companies hold the Rancho Palos Verdes properties jointly.

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Diatomaceous earth, com-

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## Boy, 2, Takes Grandpa For Ride; Woman Faints, 3 Houses Smashed

Three house fronts were smashed, a house-to-house woman canvasser fainted on the spot, and a boy's grandpa was taken for a wild hair-raising ride — all because a little two-year-old boy monkeyed with the ignition keys of a car and then settled down squarely and comfortably on the car's accelerator.

The day started out quite harmlessly when Mrs. Helen Davis, 24, of 18404 Falda avenue took her son, Timothy, 2, to visit Grandpa James K. Green, 50, last Friday.

**Left in Car**

Stopping off to shop in Long Beach, Mrs. Davis left Tim in the car with Grandpa.

Tim, in the meantime, started busying himself about the car. He slid onto the floor and sat on the accelerator. While sitting there, he reached for the keys dangling above him, gave a little twist (it was the kind of switch that starts the motor

when you turn the keys), and

# SHOP IN SMOG-FREE TORRANCE!

MONITOR, 1111  
P.O. DRAWER 27  
TORRANCE, CALIF.