

Torrance - an Evaluation of its Cultural Achievements, Needs

(Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles dealing with Torrance's cultural growth written alternately by Ralph R. Gompertz and Durfee Parkins. Articles deal with art, theatre, music, cultural discussion groups, and the junior colleges. The following article is an evaluation of the findings.)

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

A city, which is located close to a large metropolitan area like Los Angeles, can easily develop a cultural inferiority complex.

This is a particular problem in Torrance because of the variety and quality of cultural activities which are available a hop-skip-and-jump from home.

Consequently we tend to look beyond our own city limits for cultural satisfaction.

By doing this, however, we overlook the cultural riches of our own backyards.

Much Local Activity

Torrance, the results of our survey showed, is surprisingly alive with cultural activities.

There are talented individuals and groups here—often professional in calibre—who are seriously dedicated to furthering this city's cultural life in various fields—art, theatre, music, books, and learning.

Much has been done through the efforts of dedicated individuals.

But a number of needs still remain unfulfilled.

The little theatre groups in particular are faced with the constant problem of finding a place in which to perform. Many times, good plays must limit their performance because space is unavailable for an extended run.

A more permanent arrangement appears necessary.

Actually, the city should make provisions in its long-range planning for these cultural activities. Such facilities have been discussed in connection with a proposed park and recreation area near the new civic center.

Independence vs Subsidy

This brings up one other problem which individuals and

groups interested in promoting the city's cultural life must face—Independence or city subsidy.

Some groups may wish to keep their activities limited in scope, pursuing them as a casual hobby rather than with professional intensity.

An independent group, therefore, can set its own pace and go just as far as it wants to go.

However, certain cultural activities almost require city subsidy if they are to expand and flourish.

Advantages of being subsidized include guaranteed funds with which to operate and a feeling of security. The disadvantage is the control that may be exercised, as a result, over the nature of the group's activities and its selections.

Either way, if the city's cultural growth is to keep pace with the city's civic growth, Torrance needs the active participation of dedicated individuals who are vitally interested in the various cultural fields.

However, in addition to being interested in their particular form of self-expression, these individuals must use these very talents for gaining practical ends.

They must recognize the city's cultural needs, analyze the best methods of gaining their ends, and then campaign vigorously and systematically until those ends have been achieved.

Tournament

Opening round pairings have been set up for the First Annual Alondra Park Pee Wee Invitational Basketball tournament, December 22, 3535 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.

Lifting the lid on round one will be host Alondra vs Normandia playground at 9 a.m. followed by Ladera vs Manhattan Beach at 10 a.m., Scott vs El Segundo Boys club at 11 a.m., Artesia vs Inglewood at 12 p.m.,

Man Found Dead in Car

Found dead at the wheel of his car Monday morning was Ralph D. Murphy, 58, of 1116 Kornblum, Torrance. A telephone company employee, F. L. Kendall, found Murphy at Artesia and Vermont, apparently the victim of a heart attack, it was reported.

Lawndale vs either El Nido or Paramount at 1 p.m., Sportsman vs Grant (Redondo) at 2 p.m., Lomita vs Gardena at 3 p.m., and Lennox vs North Redondo Boys club at 4 p.m.

Santa's Schedule

December 20:
9:30 a.m. - Noon, El Prado park 4-6 p.m., El Prado park 7 - 8:30 p.m., down town.
December 21:
9:30 - Noon, El Prado park 1:30 - 4 p.m., El Prado park 6 - 8 p.m., down town
December 22:
Will be in the park most of the day.
December 24:
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., El Prado park.
1:30 - 2:30 p.m., El Prado park.
5 - 6:30 p.m., El Prado park
7 - 8:30 p.m., El Prado park.

Council Clashes Over Beasley's Appointment

Civil Service matters raised their controversial head once more over the recent temporary appointment of J. A. Beasley as land use investigator.

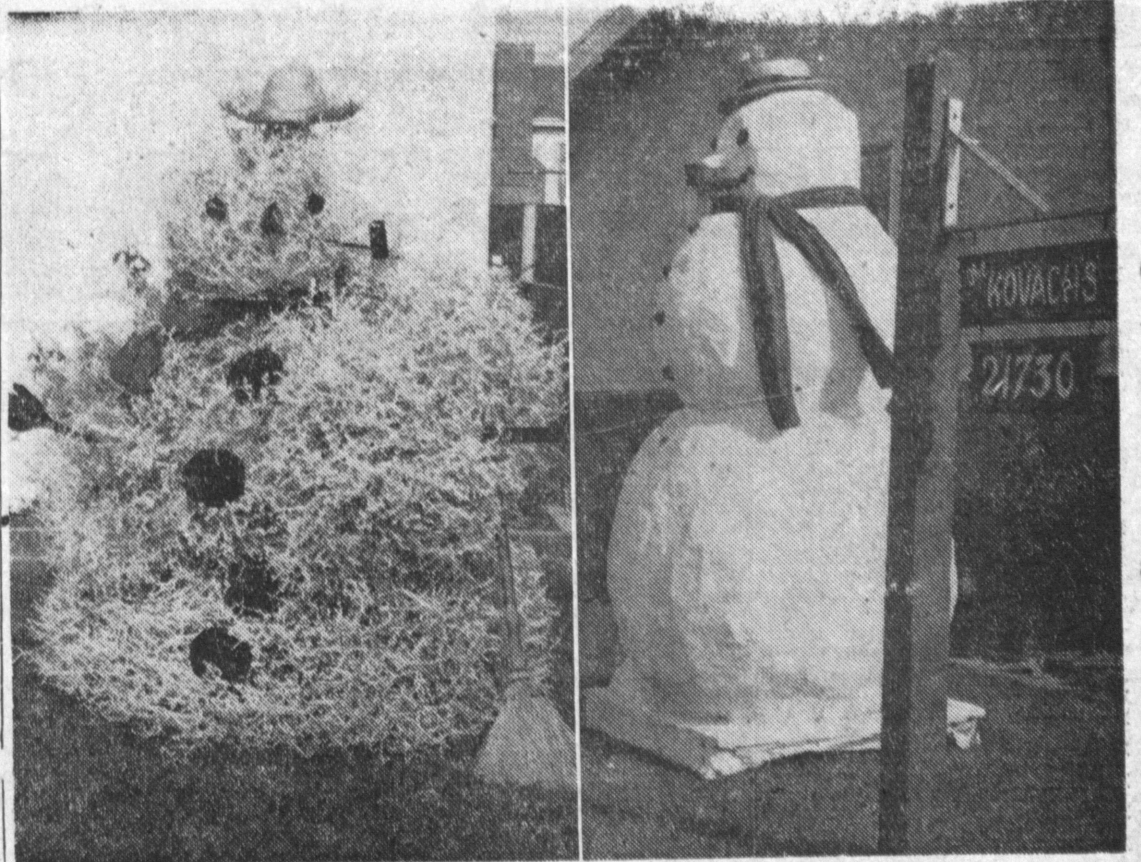
Mayor Albert Isen, Councilman Victor Benstead and Bob Jahn objected to the job specifications drawn up by the Civil Service board and the fact that the board has called for examinations without the council's approval.

Specifications were considered unrealistic.

Councilman Willys Blount again repeated his charge that Beasley's appointment was payment of a political debt.

Isen declared that there was urgent need for the job which involves cracking down on oil field violations (open sumps, derricks).

The council overruled the Civil Service board's action.



CALIFORNIA SNOWMEN

Here are two examples of what Californians do as a substitute for snow. The tumbleweed snowman may be seen in front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Bowers, 3715 W. 226th st. while the papier-mache snowman (r) may be seen at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kovach, 21730 Barbara st. So who needs snow? — Press Photo

N. Torrance No Orphan, Mayor Finds

Mayor Albert Isen took notice Tuesday night of secession talk in North Torrance last week when he presented the council and North Torrance residents with statistics showing the many improvements that have been made in North Torrance.

The extensive report was compiled by Don Mansfield, assistant city manager.

"I don't think anyone is in favor of secession, including the party held responsible for it (secession talk)," Isen said.

The report pointed out that North Torrance residents serve as commissioners on the Airport Commission (2); Library Board (2); Park and Recreation Commission (3 in past two years); Planning Commission (3).

The Police department has posted speed zones, signals, stop signs, safety devices throughout North Torrance.

A total of \$107,957.88 has been spent in construction in the way of street grading and surfacing since October 1954-56, and \$37,296 for street repair above 190th street.

The council spent \$59,279 for the Glenburn Avenue Storm Drain project which it initiated upon recommendation of the Engineering Department.

"In comparing the recreation program provided for North Torrance to those provided in other areas, I would say North Torrance is getting its share, if not more," Harry VanBellehem, recreation director, wrote in a comprehensive report.

VanBellehem summed up the whole issue neatly in a concluding statement: "There is no problem here that additional money would not solve."

DEAR EDITOR...

Destitute

Editor Torrance Press

With the arrival of the Christmas season, the Civitan club has taken it upon itself to aid a number of needy families as a Christmas project.

One family, in particular, is in dire need of help—more so than the Civitan can provide by itself. Therefore, we are asking for help from other individuals or clubs.

The family consists of a widow and her five children who are on direct state aid. The family is absolutely destitute and the woman, who has been widowed six years, is ill and unable to work.

The children range in age from 5 to 14 years.

The family does not need food but could use clothing, money, or gifts for the children. Members of the club will be glad to pick up any contributions.

Arrangements may be made or further information obtained by calling me at home (FA 8-5588) or at work (Torrance Police Department, (FA 8-3456)).

Sincerely,
Ernie Ashton
Detective Captain

Ordinance for Solicitors

An ordinance regulating house-to-house solicitors was passed by the City Council, thus giving Torrance a stricter law controlling such activities.

Solicitors must take out a resident business license and pay \$16 for each person acting as canvasser or solicitor in the city.

'Dear Santa' Letters

Dear Santa Claus:

I am 11 years old and in the 6th grade at Howard Wood school.

I am on the "Pee Wee" football league and would like a Schwinn bicycle for transportation.

My two sisters would like white Bibles with zippers.

Thank you and Merry Christmas
(s) Patrick Feeney

Dear Santa:

I have been waiting all year for your return. I'll have hot Ovaltine and cookies for you. I have been studying hard, and practicing my Christmas carols.

See You soon,
(s) Noreen Cork, 10

Dear Santa:

I would like a dog for my grandma and grandpa for Christmas. They live on a farm all by themselves in Minnesota and the old dog they had got killed during deer hunting season.

(s) Terry L. Read, 10

Dear Santa:

I want a houla skirt and my brother want's a train. I am a girl who want's a houla skirt and my brother is a boy he want's a train.

"Love"
(s) Nancy Singley, 7, and Jimmy

Dear Santa:

You have been so good to me each year—this year I really don't want very much. I would like a pair of roller skates and I wish you would see to it, Santa, that all the little boys and girls that aren't so fortunate are taken care of. I am six years old and love you very much, Santa.

(s) Nancy Lee Stockinger, 6

Dear Santa Claus:

As we're looking forward to the many Christmas joys, let us not be thinking only of the pleasures and the toys, nor expect too many presents in our stockings by the fire, when Santa comes to bring us gifts that our hearts desire, but remember that the Christ child in Bethlehem was born, in that far-off lowly manger on that Bright December Morn.

Love,
(s) Sharon Kay Beeson, 14

P.S. Dear Santa: I don't need anything too much this year, so please give my gift to some poor child.

Dear Santa:

Thanks for the doll and the skates you gave me last Christmas. I was new in California and then thought you would not find me. Mamma says you find all good boys and girls. Please bring me shoes, sweater and two warm shirts. I took good care of my doll and mamma is going to wash and iron her dress. My name is Lucy and I

am 8 years old. Please remember Mary Ann. She lives next door.

Love
Lucy Rosado

Dear Santa:

I not such a good writer, but I doing the best I can. I would like camera but mom says that I can't have a camera this Christmas. My mom didn't help me with this. I guess I just good at spelling. My school is Carl Steele elementary school. I mite have a chance of winning but please put my letter in the papers even if I win the Schwinn bike or don't.

Yours truly
(s) Linda Page, 10

Dear Santa:

My brother and sister told me what they wanted for Christmas. My sister said she wanted a Sweet Pea Doll. My brother wants a cho-cho train that's what he calls it. My name is Michele I am 10 years old. My sister is 5, and my brother is nearly 3. I want a wrist watch. Please be sure and give presents to the poor children and sick children.

Thank you very much, Santa.
Truly
(s) Michele Grimes, 10

P.S. I hope every one believes in Santa Claus like I and my sister and brother do.

Dear Santa:

I wish I could meet you some day. I have been meeting your helpers and they are very nice. I enjoy being with them (when I can).

I made up a short song and I would like you to hear it. So here it goes.

Santa:

All night I lay in my bed, lay waiting for Santa to come, bringing some toys, will he come to my bed side and what do you know he had some toy for me. The end.

I don't know very much about music but I did my best. I guess your best is all anyone can do. Well I'm running out of words, so good by Dear Santa Claus have fun.

(s) Judith White, 13

Children's Party Scheduled Sat.

This coming Saturday, December 22, the VFW Post 2122 of Inglewood is giving an annual Christmas party for children at the George M. Greene auditorium of Inglewood High school, starting at 1 p.m.

Santa will be there and gifts and prizes will be given away. The Winton and Diane studio of Inglewood has been chosen to furnish entertainment. Sixty of the studio's pupils will participate.



OUTSTANDING SERVICES

John Ebbinghouse (r), retiring president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, receives an award for outstanding services rendered from Dean Sears on behalf of the Chamber membership. A letter from Paul Loranger, praising Ebbinghouse's contributions to the community, was also read. — Press Photo.

GREATER CHRISTMAS BUYS AT LORDS

LOW PRICES!

CORDUROY BLOUSES AND JACKETS
Colors: Rose, Black, Blue, Grey.
Sizes 7 to 14. Values to 4.95.
DRESSES
Sizes 3 to 14
— LIMIT ONE —

\$1

Special Purchase LADIES' DRESSES
Newest Styles
Values to 22.95
SALE \$7.00

LADIES' LACE TRIMMED NYLON FULL SLIPS
Famous Make.....
\$2.88

LADIES' FLANNEL PAJAMAS & GOWNS
Full Cut Sanforized.
Sizes 34 to 40.
\$2.88

LADIES' NYLON GOWNS
Tailored and Lace Trim.....
\$2.88 up

LADIES' NEW FALL CORDUROY CAPRIS
Full cut for the season ahead. All fall shades. ONE GROUP—Values to \$5.95.
SALE PRICE.....
\$2.97

LADIES' BETTER SWEATERS
Luxurious orlons, wools in an array of colors... cardigans, slippers, long and short sleeves... many matching, some novelties.
ONE GROUP—Values to \$10.95.
SALE PRICE.....
\$2.97

LADIES' BETTER BLOUSES
An outstanding selection of famous brands in nylons, cottons, crepes. Tailored ad fancy styles.
Sizes 32 to 3. ONE GROUP—Values to \$5.95.
SALE PRICE.....
\$1.77

GIRLS' NYLON TRICOT PANTIES
Sizes 2 to 14.....
33¢

Men's Sport Jackets and SPORT COATS
Wools, Poplins and Rayons
ONE GROUP Values to \$19.95
SALE PRICE.....
\$7.88

MEN'S BETTER Sport & Dress Shirts
Arrows, Van Heusen, Manhattan, Lancers and others. Short and long sleeves.
ONE GROUP Values to \$6.95
SALE PRICE.....
\$1.88

MEN'S SUITS
Wools, silk and acetate. Broken sizes and colors. 36 to 46.
Values to \$65.00
SALE PRICE.....
\$19.00

MEN'S Stretch Sox
Reg. \$1.....
48¢

Boys' Corduroy SLACKS
Famous Make.
Brown, Grey, Blue.
\$5.95 Value.....
\$2.97

Boys' - Girls' PAJAMAS
Solid Colors and Prints.
ONE GROUP SALE PRICE.....
\$1.98

SHOES
Ladies', Men's, Children's
FAMOUS BRANDS
1/2 PRICE

Ladies' COATS
100% WOOL FULL LENGTH, Vals. to \$39.95 **\$15.00**
ALL WOOL BETTER COATS, Vals. to \$59.95 **\$28.00**
ALL WOOL BETTER COATS, Vals. to \$59.95 **\$24.00**

TOTS' FLANNEL PJs
Solid colors and prints. Some with feet.
Sizes 1 to 6. ONE GROUP—SALE PRICE.....
\$1.00

BOYS' SPORT SHIRTS
Short, long sleeves. Solids, plaids and novelties. Sizes 4 to 18. ONE GROUP—Values to \$3.98—SALE PRICE.....
97¢

BOYS' & GIRLS' SWEATERS
Wools, orlons and nylons. Slipover and cardigans.
Values to \$3.98 — SALE PRICE.....
\$1.97

BOYS' JACKETS
Twill, Leatherette, Wool, Quilt satin lined.
Sizes 2 to 18. SALE PRICE.....
\$4.88 up

BOYS' FLANNEL SHIRTS
IPalids and prints. Up to size 18
Values to \$2.98 — SALE PRICE.....
\$1.77

GIRLS' PEDAL PUSHERS
Corduroy, solid and prints. Tapered legs. Sizes 3 to 6X, 7 to 14. One Group—Vals. to \$5.98, SALE PRICE.....
\$1.88

GIRLS' BOUFFANT SLIPS
100% nylon in full tiered styles.
ONE GROUP—SALE PRICE.....
\$2.99

Lords 8801 SOUTH VERMONT
OPEN EVENINGS 'TIL 9 UNTIL CHRISTMAS



BUGS BUNNY

The world's most famous rabbit, the one and only Bugs Bunny, is shown with KTLA's Skipper Frank, as they discuss, over a glass of carrot juice, their personal appearance this Saturday, December 22nd, at the Food Giant Market, 423 So. Hawthorne Blvd., in Hawthorne, at 12:00 noon. Bugs Bunny and Skipper Frank will provide fun and entertainment for young and old.



SHOW THIS TO YOUR HUSBAND!

Tell him it's you without an electric clothes dryer—hung up and "washed up" after you've stretched, stooped and pinned your way through still another basket of clothes.

Tell him the cure: a shiny new electric dryer. It saves you the lifting and bending and dependence on the weather. It saves clothes—they dry fluffier, cleaner and fresher smelling. They last longer, too.

Tell him it has to be an electric dryer, of course. Because it's so safe. Because you simply plug it in. And because it costs less to buy! (Electricity is your biggest bargain in modern living.)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA **Edson** COMPANY
LIVE BETTER—ELECTRICALLY