



**WELCOME**—Betty's Uniform Shop, 20920 Hawthorne Blvd., is opened by Torrance civic officials. From left, Police Chief Percy G. Bennett, Virginia Jones, Betty Baker (Miss Torrance), Ed Jones and Betty Uhl of Betty's, and J. H. Paget, Chamber president. —Press Photo

### Flying Saucer Talk Set for Torrance Group

Torrance residents have formed Unit 27 of Understanding, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to propagation of better understanding among peoples of the earth and those who may not be of this earth.

The group investigates unidentified flying objects and disseminates messages that are recorded in keeping with a theme of peace and good will under universal brotherhood.

The Torrance group will hear Michael Barton, lecturer, and view his color slides of flying objects Saturday at 8 p.m. in the BPW clubhouse, 820 Java St., Inglewood.

Newly elected officers of the unit are N. J. Sears, president; Jerry Savage, vice president; Olga J. Sears and Ruth Beniz, secretaries; and Jean Savage, treasurer.

### Lomita Subdivision of Eight Homes OK'd

The county Regional Planning Commission has approved a subdivision of two acres south of 242nd St. and east of Narbonne Ave.

Eight homes will be built on the property by the Meine Construction Co.

### YOUR GOOD HEALTH

## Wonder Drugs Fail to Cut Prevalence of VD in U.S.

ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.  
Los Angeles County Health Officer

The great expectations that were generally held a few years ago regarding the eradication of the venereal diseases have failed to materialize.

Indeed, the rapid treatment routines and so-called wonder drugs have not only failed to provide short cuts to control but in some ways have acted as deterrents.

The control of the two major venereal diseases—syphilis and gonorrhea—has been more successful in Los Angeles County than in the state as a whole.

Recent figures reveal venereal disease rates in Los Angeles County decreased during the last five years, but notwithstanding, gonorrhea and syphilis currently remain the most health problems among all the communicable diseases reported in this area.

There also is some question as to whether or not there has been a true reduction in the case rate, or at least, whether the decrease is anywhere near what it might seem to be on the basis of available statistics.

and the prevalence of venereal diseases, both here and elsewhere, is known to represent a somewhat incomplete picture of the actual incidence of both syphilis and gonorrhea.

Gonorrhea ranked second among the communicable diseases reported in the county during 1959, with 8504 cases reported, while syphilis placed fourth with 3196. Moreover, had it not been for a measles epidemic in 1959, which raised the number of cases of this childhood disease considerably above the previous year, gonorrhea would have been No. 1 communicable disease reported in this area.

The heavy influx of new residents from sections of the country with less effective control programs also accounts for many new VD cases being transmitted in Los Angeles County and multiplies the difficulties of both case finding and contact tracing, as many of these individuals move from place to place and cannot be easily located.

It is to be remembered also, that epidemiologists estimate that there are usually five unreported cases of gonorrhea for each one reported and three unreported for each known syphilis case. There is also some reason to believe that these unreported cases may have increased in recent years.

It is a significant fact that the actual reported rates have more than doubled since about 1949, at least among teenagers. As a matter of fact, the American Social Hygiene Association estimated at least 200,000 teenagers in the United States will contract a venereal disease within the next year.

After the advent of penicillin in 1943, and more particularly after the long-acting penicillin came into use which made the treatment of venereal disease both rapid and comparatively inexpensive, concern over venereal disease tended to relax, and widespread educational efforts all but came to a halt.

The increasing spread of the venereal diseases simply shows that treatment, no matter how effective, is never a replacement or substitute for prevention. It is especially evident that continuing education is needed, particularly in case of teenagers.

A pamphlet giving additional information on the venereal diseases will be mailed to anyone sending a card of request to the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 214 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.

### Soldier Wins Infantry Badge

Army Specialist Four William J. T. U. Burrow, 22, of 20315 S. Denker Ave., recently received the expert infantryman badge while assigned to the 8th Infantry Division's 804th Infantry in Germany.

Burrow completed a series of written and practical tests concerning the infantry soldier's knowledge of signal communications, chemical-biological-radiological warfare, first aid, field sanitation, map reading, military intelligence, infantry weapons, and night patrolling.

### FHA's Mortgage Volume Highest

In 1959, FHA recorded its highest volume of existing home mortgages insured—an estimated 395,000 units, almost 20% more than the 256,000 units for 1958, the next highest year. Volume of new-home mortgages insured in 1959 ranked third highest in FHA history.

The Los Angeles office led the nation, doing about 6% of all business of the 75 offices of FHA.

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### Youth Band Concert to Feature Famed Mormon Choir on March 26

The third concert of the current series of Youth Band-Artist Concerts, sponsored by the Torrance Area Youth Band, will feature the Mormon Choir of Southern California.

The concert, originally scheduled for March 19 at El Camino Campus Theater, has been changed to Saturday, March 26, and will be given in the Redondo Union High School Auditorium.

The change was made because the Mormon Choir is composed of 150 voices. It sings

would not accommodate all the people who have requested tickets.

many programs throughout Southern California including the Easter sunrise services at the Hollywood Bowl and The Messiah at the Philharmonic Auditorium.

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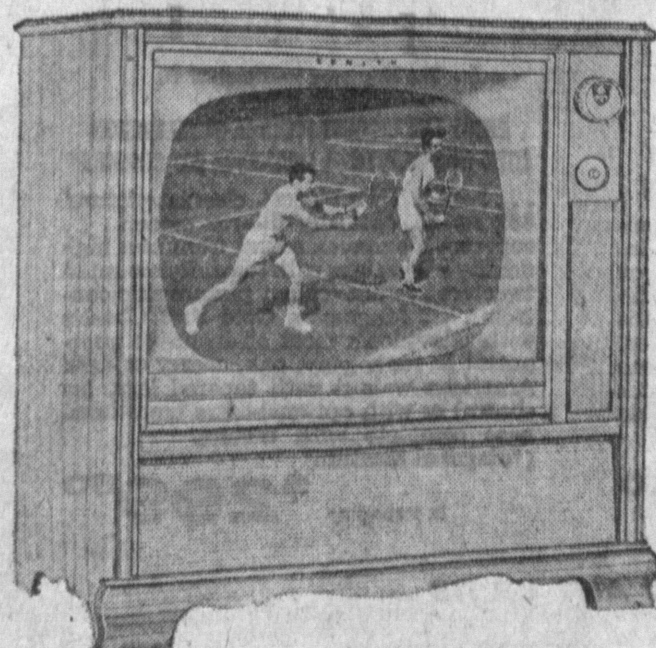


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