

TORRANCE PRESS

EDITORIAL PAGE

W. R. ZAPPAS, Publisher

W. E. EDMOND, Managing Editor

EDITORIAL . . .

Flooded Sumps Are Dangerous Playgrounds for Youngsters

The huge sumps located in strategic areas of Torrance to drain off excess water are a vital need in this community. They provide a basin for inflowing flood waters and keep the city from floating away with every downpour.

They do, however, also provide a dangerous playground for local youngsters.

Torrance juvenile officers have been hauling the youngsters, found inside the fence that surrounds each of the sumps, to the police station. They then call the parents to come to the station to retrieve them.

IN CUSTODY

During the midweek period when the floods were at their worst more than 15 youngsters were picked up playing in the sumps in one day.

Juvenile officers reminded parents that one child has already been found drowned in a Culver City sump and

the possibility that this tragic occurrence could be repeated here is great.

Granted, the sumps are tremendously attractive to young Tom Sawyers who consider fences as a challenge rather than a deterrent.

100' DEEP

But these huge excavations are, in some places, more than 100 feet deep. And an unattended youngster who fell into one would have a difficult time clawing his way up the steep and slippery banks.

The lives that have been lost during the recent flooding have almost all been children, police officers stated. The flooded areas are an attractive nuisance where children are concerned.

The youngster bobbing merrily on a home-made raft in the center of one of our sumps may be having the time of his life.

But that life could be cut tragically short if he were to slip.

Supervisors Okay Plans To Expand New Court

Expansion of the Southwest District Superior Courts building in the Torrance Civic Center from eight to 12 courtrooms and inclusion of a juvenile traffic court was authorized last week by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

According to Supervisor Burton W. Chace, it was decided to expand the courthouse vertically rather than horizontally to conserve site space for adequate off-street parking facilities.

On Chace's motion, the supervisors increased the scope of the Torrance project from \$2,350,000 to \$3,057,000.

Initially, the plans called for eight courtrooms and space for related departments. A study by the Superior Court judges revealed that the case load would be heavier than originally anticipated because many cases currently being filed in the Los Angeles Civic Center would be heard by the branch court.

FORECAST

The current forecast indicates that the Southwest District will require 10 courtrooms in 1970 and 12 in 1980. On the recommendation of County Manager L. S. Hollinger, the supervisors authorized the architects to provide a fourth

floor to the court building containing two courtroom suites and unfinished space for two additional courtrooms, bringing the total to 12.

In addition, the amended plans include two commissioner's hearing rooms and adequate facilities for the county clerk, district attorney, law library and public defender.

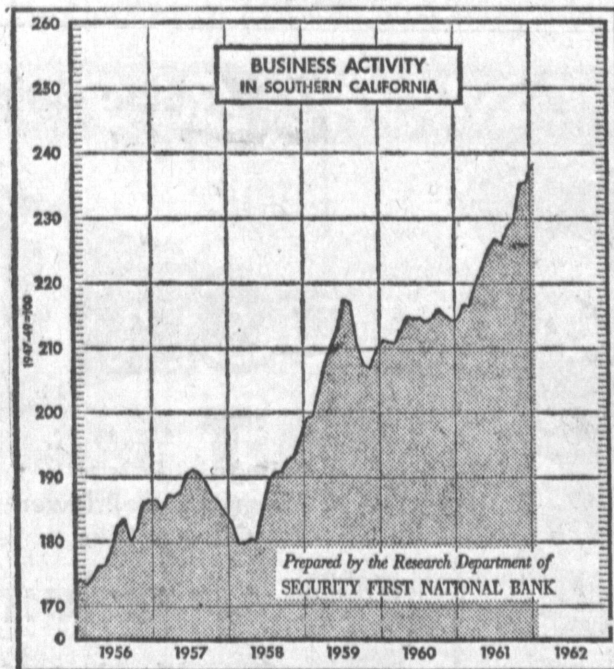
Last September, due to the enactment of legislation, the responsibility for juvenile traffic offenders was transferred from the Probation Department to the Superior Court. As a result, the Southwest District case load will require inclusion in the building of five hearing rooms, a waiting area for 50 persons and clerical space.

Chapel Reports On Candidacy For Re-election

Charles Edward Chapel, Republican Member of the Assembly, 46th District, California State Legislature, has officially and formally announced that he is a candidate for reelection.

Chapel received the unanimous endorsement of the Republican Central Committee, 46th Assembly District, in January, but delayed his formal announcement of candidacy because of radio and television commitments which were non-political in nature.

Chapel is completing his sixth two-year term as a member of the Legislature. He was first elected in 1950 when the 46th Assembly District had a registration which was about 67 per cent Democratic, but he won then by a big majority.



ACTIVITY — Southern California's business activity opened the new year with a record-breaking performance in January. H. P. Atherton, Jr., manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported this week. January's strong showing raised the bank's business activity index to a new high of 238.4 (preliminary), marking the fifth record level attained in as many months. The month's reading was 11.1 per cent above the year-ago period, Atherton said.

Torrance Attorney Outlines Plans For April 10 Council Election

David K. Lyman, a Torrance attorney, has announced his candidacy for the Torrance City Council in the election to be held April 10.

Lyman is a member of the State Bar of California and the South Bay Bar Association, a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Toastmaster's Club, the Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, and the Elks Club.

He is president of Torrance Democrats, Inc., and vice president of the Methodist Men's Club of Torrance.

A native of Los Angeles, he graduated from the University of Southern California in 1950 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration, and by the University of Southern California School of Law in 1953 with an LL.B. degree. During World War II he served with the U.S. Navy in the Naval aviation flight training program.

He has served industry in the past as an administrator and as corporate counsel for a major oil company.

Lyman stated that his campaign will be non-partisan in nature and geared to those people who wish to improve Torrance as a fine place to live and work rather than aimed at the people who are interested in Torrance only as a means of profit.



DAVID K. LYMAN

"I will avoid the extremes on both sides and attempt to formulate a program that is sound, workable and progressive," Lyman said. It was announced that Lyman's platform would be released at a later date.

Ceiling Increase and School Bond Will Be Placed on June Ballot by L.A. Schools

More than 100,000 new students will be descending on the Los Angeles City school system during the next five years and to meet the demands of this growth Superintendent of Schools Jack P. Crowther Thursday recommended to the City Board of Education that a tax ceiling increase and school bond issue be placed on the June 5 ballot.

He recommended district voters be asked to vote on a \$128,800,000 bond program for school construction and a 60-cent increase in the maximum school tax ceiling for operating expenses.

The 60-cent figure would raise the present \$2.65 tax ceiling to \$3.25 on each \$100 of assessed property valuation. It would apply only for expenses in operation of elementary, junior high and senior high schools. No rate increase was recommended for the system's junior colleges.

A total of \$104,800,000 in the bond program would be for elementary and secondary schools and \$24,000,000 would be for junior college construction.

In tracing the estimated school district enrollment over the next five years, Crowther told the board the present enrollment of 675,000 will soar to approximately 800,000 by the 1966-67 fiscal year.

The superintendent told the board: "Experience has shown

that the present schedules of state support of public school programs together with statutory tax limitations on local support will be insufficient to continue to finance the educational services of the Los Angeles Unified School District at the present level.

Local Sears Employees to Share in Company Profits

Sears, Roebuck and Co. employees in Torrance have value of the fund's investments.

The employees' fund is Sears' largest stockholder, Lowe said. At the end of 1961, the fund held 26 per cent of the company's outstanding stock. In addition to this large investment in Sears stock, the fund's assets also are invested in the stock of over 130 companies and in other types of securities.

Created in 1916, the fund is designed to encourage regular savings, enable Sears employees to share in company profits, and aid members in establishing a financial reserve for retirement. All regular employees of the company who have completed one year of service are eligible to join the fund.

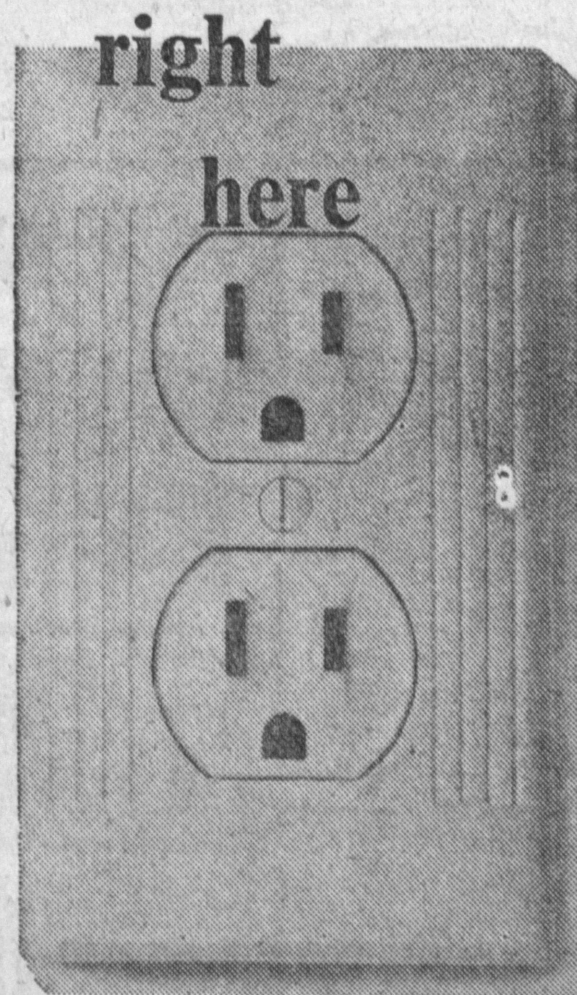
Employer members of the fund deposit five per cent of their wages and salaries, up to a maximum of \$500 each year. The company contributes a portion of its net income before deductions for federal income taxes and dividends. The company's contribution is credited to members' accounts annually on a formula based on their age, length of service and deposits.

This gain was the result of a larger company contribution from 1961's profits, increased investment income and appreciation in the value of the fund's stock holdings.

TOTAL ASSETS

Of the total assets, approximately \$180 million represents deposits from the wages and salaries of members. The balance of approximately \$1,927,000,000 resulted from company contributions, investment income and appreciation in deposits.

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Watch "Science in Action" Thursday Nights, 7 P.M., KRCA, Channel 4

Boyce Launches Campaign for '62 G.O.P. Primary

More than 200 supporters of Dr. Merle Boyce's candidacy for the GOP 17th District congressional race launched an all-out bid for the Republican nomination last week at a Boyce rally in the Polynesian Restaurant.

Boyce pledged himself as a "full-time, all-out candidate," and was given a standing ovation.

Approximately \$1,000 was added to the Boyce campaign war chest through the dinner and nearly 100 workers for the campaign.

Dr. Boyce, a native of Wilmington and a graduate of Banning High School, faces Theodore Bruinsma in the June Republican primary.

Last month, Bruinsma received the endorsement of a GOP fact-finding committee meeting at San Pedro.

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