

## TORRANCE PRESS

## EDITORIAL PAGE

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## Post of Vice Mayor Needed in Smoothly Functioning City

One project that should be undertaken by the Torrance council immediately is establishment of the office of vice mayor for the city.

Within the framework of city government there is no provision for any individual on the council to take over the duties of the top elective position should the mayor be incapacitated.

On those rare occasions when the mayor has been unable to attend the council sessions the council has, at random, selected one of its members to serve as mayor pro tem.

Should the council name one of its members to serve as a permanent vice mayor, the individual selected could keep abreast of those issues that are strictly within the province of the mayor and the end product would be a more efficient council session.

We have grown, within the past decade, from a sleepy village to a metropolitan community. The duties of the office of mayor have grown proportion-

ately and it is time that we selected someone to "help out with the chores."

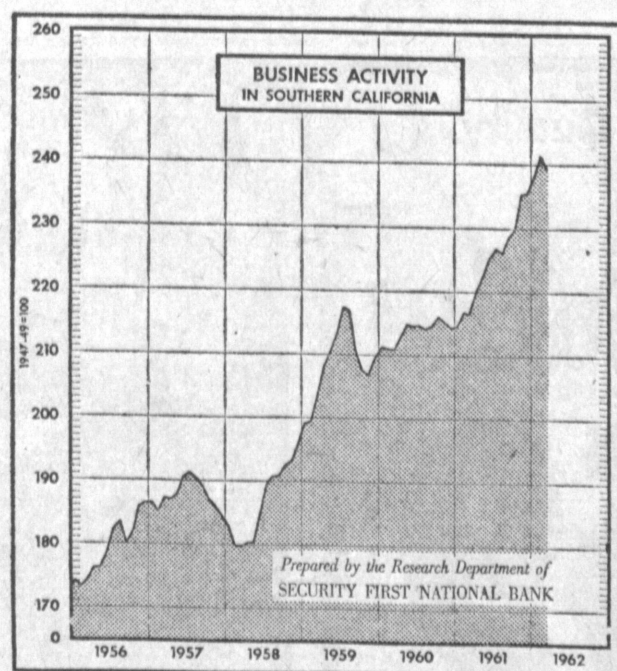
### VITAL TIME

The ever-mounting number of ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings eat away at the amount of time that the city's chief executive can spend on city business and, even though an essential portion of the mayor's job, could be assigned to an assistant.

The training at handling a council session when the mayor is representing the city in other areas would be invaluable to the individual selected and an asset to the city.

No special or regular election would have to be held to select a vice mayor. The mayor, with the approval of the balance of the council, could appoint one of the members to serve in the vital post.

Establishment of the post would certainly add to the smoothness of a functioning city government.



## Slight Decline Noted in SoCal Business Activity

After six months of record-breaking performances, Southern California's economic activity received a "breathing spell" and declined moderately in March. H. P. Atherton, Jr., manager of Security First National Bank's Torrance branch, reported today.

"Considering the remarkable gains of the past year, the pause comes as an almost expected break," Atherton said.

Security's business index for March was 239.4 (preliminary). However, despite the decline, it was 10.5 percent ahead of March, 1961. It was off 1.8 percent from February's reading.

According to Atherton, principal cause of the index's decline was a drop in each of the bank debit series.

This may be due, in part, to the fact that Easter fell late in April, so that check clearings associated with sales activity for the holiday period would be reflected in April's, rather than March's debits, he noted.

Other seasonally adjusted components joining the three bank debit series in recording a month-to-month decline included motion picture employment and real estate sales.

Partially offsetting the downward movement in March was a strong gain in manufacturing employment, which exceeded the 800,000 mark for the first time since November, 1959.

The month's approximate total of 800,700 in this category, represented a 37,200 jump over the year-ago period, and was only 4,100 short of the all-time high set in October, 1959.

Other gainer's on the bank's index were: industrial power sales, man-hours worked in manufacturing, railroad freight volume, petroleum production and telephones in service.

Total employment in Southern California recorded a gain in March to match the national and state trends. The area's employment force was more than 3,650,000, approximately 12,500 over February and more than 111,000 above March, 1961.

Unemployment in the 14-county area, essentially matching seasonal expectations, had an encouraging drop of about 14,000 from February. On a year-to-year basis, there were approximately 51,000 fewer people unemployed in March than there were in the like year-ago period, Security Bank said.

## County, City of LA Will Share Cost of New Signal

The County and City of Los Angeles have agreed to share the costs of installing a traffic control signal system with highway safety lighting at the intersection of Normandie Avenue and 220th Street, it was disclosed last week by County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

As part of the agreement, the existing signal system and safety lighting at the intersection of Normandie Avenue and Carson Street will be modified. The Los Angeles City Council has approved the agreement, and the County Board of Supervisors approved it today.

The total project will cost \$7,800, of which the County will pay \$1,950, or 25 percent. The City will pay the

other 75 per cent, or \$5,850 of the project cost.

The proportion to be paid by each agency is based on the number of intersection roadways under their respective jurisdictions.

The City will prepare the plans and specifications for the improvement and will supervise the project and will also maintain and operate the signals. The County will reimburse the City for its share of the installation, maintenance and operational costs.

"Normandie Avenue, Carson Street, and 220th Street are County Master Plan highways and Carson Street is a Major highway," Chace said.

Traffic surveys by the Los

## Local Support in Hardesty's Drive For School Post

Whole-hearted support for Dr. Cecil D. Hardesty for State Superintendent of Public Instruction was announced today by Ellis A. Jarvis, former superintendent of Los Angeles City Schools.

"Dr. Hardesty is by far the outstanding candidate on the June 5 primary ballot," Jarvis declared. "I made my choice after months of study and investigation of all men seeking the office."

Angeles County Road Department indicate that over 24,000 vehicles per day travel through the Normandie Avenue-Carson Street intersection, while Normandie Avenue alone carries a daily volume of 8,470 vehicles through the Normandie Avenue-220th Street intersection.

## Plan Recognition Ceremonies for Fire Fighters

In recognition of the valiant efforts of the fire fighters of California, Saturday, May 5, 1962, has been designated as "Fire Service Day."

The Torrance Fire Department will join the statewide observation of "Fire Service Day" by holding open house at all Torrance Fire Stations from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. During this time, the public is cordially invited to tour the fire stations located at 1701 Crenshaw Boulevard (Headquarters, Carson and Crenshaw); 2900 block Pacific Coast Highway, Waverly; 3610-174th Street, North Torrance and 5205 Calle Mayor, Hollywood Riviera; and view the equipment on display.

## Candidate Seeks To Qualify Ballot Status

Harold Thomasian, candidate for Superior Court Judge Office No. 47, and prominent area attorney and civic leader, this week declared his firm conviction that all qualified persons including Superior and Municipal Court judges and commissioners, should be permitted to present their candidacy to the voters free from restraint or inference as to hairline technical eligibility to run or ability.

Thomasian's statement came in the midst of a raging controversy set off by the position of certain Superior court judges who have held that Superior and Municipal Court commissioners should be prohibited from using the title Superior (or Municipal) Court Commissioner on the countywide election ballot at the June 5th primary election.

Right on the heels of Thomasian's declaration came an opinion issued on April 19 by Deputy County Counsel Edward H. Gaylor to the effect that the five candidates for judicial office who are now engaged as commissioners of the courts may employ their titles of "Superior Court Commissioner" or "Municipal Court Commissioner" as the case may be. This opinion set forth that "Commissioners are state officers and they are entitled to be designated on the ballot by the office they hold."

## SPCA Offers to Find Home For 'That Extra Kitten'

A frequent "unbidden guest" in spring, reports the Los Angeles SPCA, is the extra kitten—innocent, adorable—and impossible to find a home for.

Unfortunately, the average cat-owner seldom has enough cat-less friends to take over all the kittens in the annual litter. A real friend in this need, however is the SPCA. The Society is ready, willing, and able to take any extra kittens (or other pets) you cannot care for.

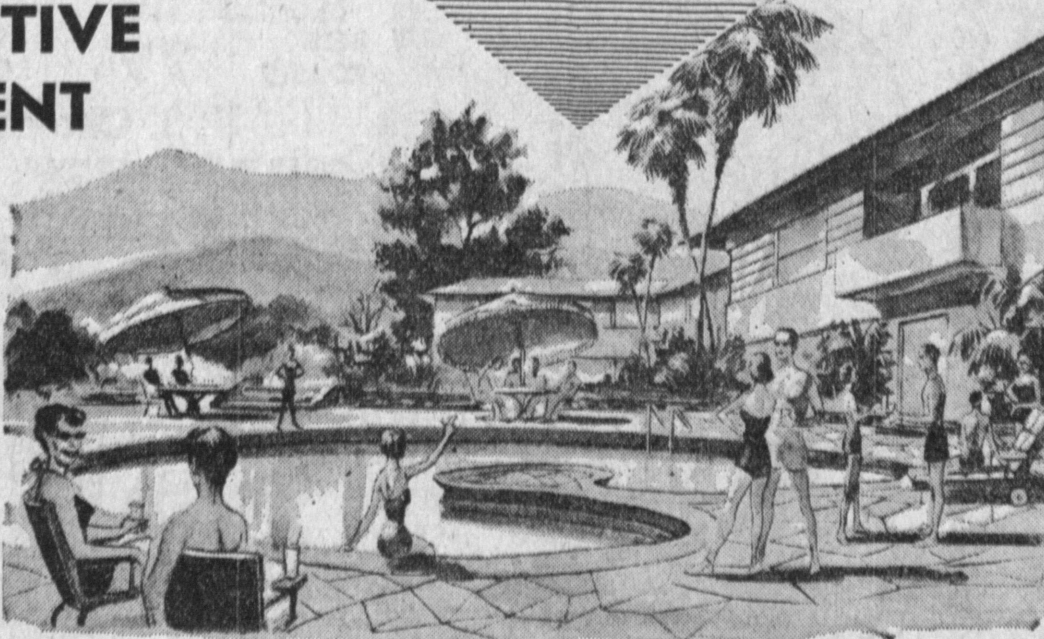
It is illegal, as well as extremely cruel, to abandon any pet. Such an animal is helpless and a prey to many

dangers and abuses when turned out on its own, stresses George Crosier, general manager of the SPCA. Happily, such cruelty is not necessary, he adds, since it is actually easier to put the animals in the hands of the Society than to desert them. You may bring unwanted pets to any of the organization's four shelters (on Jefferson Blvd., just east of La Brea, in Los Angeles; in South Gate; in Hawthorne; and in Laguna Beach), or phone REpublic 2-0113 to arrange for a pick-up by the special ambulance.

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