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THE ANNUAL DIRECTORY OF GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITIES
IN THE SOUTH BAY AREA . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EMPLOYMENT • BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
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INDUSTRY

Progress in the Making

Many Men of Vision . . .

Our city of Torrance is a success story, far beyond what any man could dream a few short years ago.

Yet, men first must dream and plan before they can build, and it took many men of vision, of courage, of determination, to create and develop the city of the future that we know and live today.

Once a vast wasteland, once a frontier of empty space, once a town of 9,950 in 1940, a city of 44,914 in 1953, Torrance now teems with more than 114,000 busy, imaginative people with their feet firmly on the ground of practical reality, while their eyes are firmly fixed skyward toward a new frontier of space.

The goal of the men of Torrance — past, present and future — is a free society of opportunity so that all America can see that the key to progress lies in growth, both of the people and of the community in which they live.

There is no limit to growth except the vision, the courage, the determination of men and women who dare to build and to grow. But, first, a man must dream and plan and, for long centuries, the west has beckoned to such men.

The eyes of men first turned west at the cry of a mendicant who startled Spain in the 16th century.

"I am Christopher Columbus," he cried at a friar's gate, "who must beg his bread because they who rule will not accept the vision I offer them. My dreams have more reality than the practical facts of those who now rule the earth, and say that it is flat."

A woman named Isabella heard that cry, and soon Columbus sailed west in three ships to find a new world where men of vision, of courage, of determination, could create a free society of opportunity to make their dreams come true.

Men, and women, too, are still turning their eyes west and are coming at the rate of 1,600 per day to California where the reality of the future is being lived far, far in advance of its time.

Many of those eventually will come to Torrance, to help our city show all America that the key to progress is growth.

They are like a Scotsman by the name of Hugh Torrance who in 1663 — exactly 300 years ago — wondered what lay across the horizon and followed the course of the sun to move our city's name westward as far as Ireland.

. . . And, like a man of Spain by the name of Jose Ignacio Dominguez who heard the call in 1700 and journeyed west from the Province of Catalonia as a soldier of the Spanish king to bring his name to Mexico.

It was written in the book of destiny that the

names of both those men were to meet here to create Torrance — our proud city of the future.

In 1736, to the descendants of Hugh Torrance in Ireland was born a son named Robert, and to Jose Ignacio Dominguez in Mexico was born a son named Juan Jose, whose mother was born Sepulveda.

Eighteen years later, in 1754, Robert Torrance felt the lure of the west and joined a company of emigrants to leave Northern Ireland for the new world of opportunity across the sea.

In Mexico, two years later, Juan Jose Dominguez at the age of 20 followed his father's footsteps into the service of the Spanish king.

In 1769, the ripples of the westward tide of Spanish exploration begun by Columbus brought the ship San Antonio into the harbor of San Diego, while overland north to California rode cavalymen Juan Jose Dominguez to join that expedition which sailed by sea.

On to the north pushed Juan Jose to cross land that some day would be his — the wide expanse of Pacific coastal plain north of the bay of San Pedro.

It was a tough and unconquered land held tightly in the name of the Spanish king. It was a land that no king could tame.

It would require a tough and a hardy breed of men like Juan Jose who — to survive all the hardships that he was to meet — had to be as tough and as hardy as the weathered leather garments that he wore.

At the same time, far to the west, men were responding to the call of the west by crossing the Alleghenies afoot to see the land held tightly in the name of the British king.

What they saw, they liked, for they, too, were a tough and a hardy breed of men.

More followed, until 1774, when the British king slammed the door and decreed that they must remain tightly packed within the narrow Atlantic coastal plain.

Because they were tough and a hardy breed of men, they rebelled and on July 4, 1776, declared that only the people should be king.

To the west, the Spanish king began to realize that he could do nothing with the Pacific coastal lands without people.

On Aug. 22, 1776, the California lands were merged with those of northern Mexico into the Provinces of New Spain. It was decreed that grants of land could be made to private owners to encourage people to tame that tough and unconquered land.

To the east, in 1778, George Rogers Clark, with a small group of 175 fighting men, penetrated the Illinois wilderness to push the infant American nation westward and to hoist the Stars and Stripes over the vast expanse of land from the Alleghenies to the broad Mississippi River.

In Europe, in 1783, the treaty of peace with England was signed in Paris to free the human tide of America so that it could roll toward the empty lands that awaited so many people to the west.

To the west, in 1783, Juan Jose Dominguez received

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