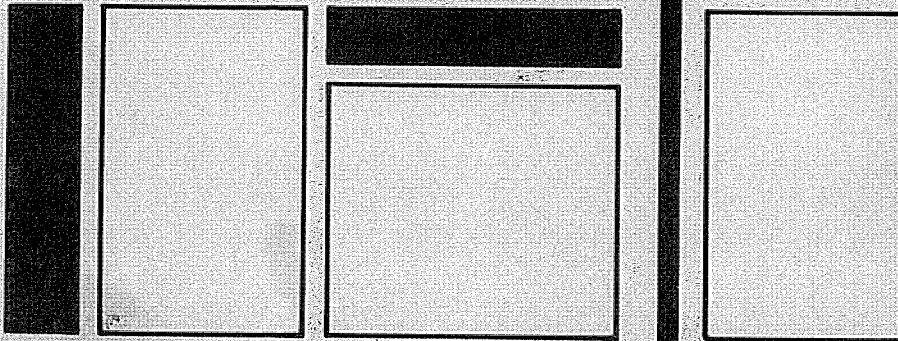


*Janette Pison*

# TORRANCE



**portrait of a city**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**TORRANCE**

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TORRANCE, CALIF. 90503

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# TORRANCE

portrait  
of a city

its history  
government  
and schools

COMPILED BY  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
TORRANCE, CALIF.

## FOREWORD

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Torrance, like all of Southern California, has experienced tremendous growth in the past ten years. Problems which have arisen as a result of this growth will require solutions—solutions which rest mainly with the citizens of the city.

This booklet will provide an opportunity for citizens to learn more about Torrance, its charter and its government, so that they may be better able to take intelligent action on local government issues, and to feel an identification with the city.

The League of Women Voters of Torrance expresses its thanks to the many public officials and to others who have helped so much in the preparation of this book.

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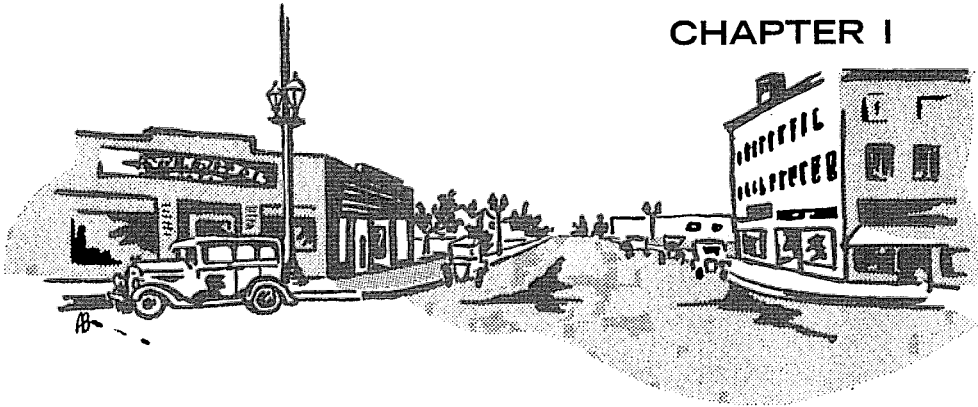
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The statistical material is dated 1965 unless otherwise noted.

## CHAPTER I



### PORTRAIT OF THE PAST

If an artist were to paint his impressions of the history of Torrance, the choice of media would pose a problem.

Water color might come to mind first, for in 1911 it was a vision of a port city that provided the impetus for the birth of Torrance. The site of the city was chosen because of its proximity to the Port of Los Angeles and the prospects of channeling that harbor further inland.

Or perhaps the art of sand-painting might capture the feel of the wind-swept city that was carved from potato dunes and barley fields.

But if the artist were to muse still longer over which medium would best capture the spirit of the land, the problem would be resolved: oils. The reality was a stark story painted in oil, for under the sandy strata of earth were the rich veins of oil that were to nourish the industrial growth of Torrance.

The story of Torrance is one of people. It's the story of Japanese truck-farmers who raised celery above undiscovered oil; of men who laid pipelines; of women who waited all year for the traveling Chautauqua to present its show for one whole week each spring. It's the story of seven men in a tent on a windy November night who formed a fire department, and of a woman who set up a library for a city in her living room. Most of all, it's the story of one man, Jared Sydney Torrance, and his dream of a planned industrial community.

## PLANNING THE CITY

As Jared Sydney Torrance envisioned his city, it would be a place where a workingman could come and find a job waiting. The residents would be able to enjoy their small homes and gardens away from the sounds and smells of the busy industries which provided their bread and butter. The whole city would be built before anyone came to live there. Streets and lights would be in; sewer and water lines laid; trees planted along the roads; houses ready for occupancy and industrial plants constructed and equipped for production.

What prompted Mr. Torrance to consider a planned industrial community? The immediate motivation was the need for Union Tool Company (a branch of Union Oil) to expand its Los Angeles plant. The prospect of expenses involved in expansion, coupled with the high cost of land in Los Angeles, led Mr. Torrance to dream of starting from scratch where land was cheap.

To realize his dream, Mr. Torrance set about interesting companies in re-locating here. After he had received good response from three of them (Llewellyn Iron Works, Pacific Electric, and the Union Tool Company), he selected the area that is now Torrance because of its proximity to the harbor. He then arranged for the purchase of 3,500 acres from the heirs of the famed Dominguez family, who owned Rancho San Pedro. The Dominguez Land Corporation was formed in 1911, and Jared Sydney Torrance was named president.

Within a year, the planned city was set down on paper and construction started. Frederick Law Olmstead, the architect who planned the city, laid it out in the shape of a Y, with factories located on the eastern outskirts, highways routed around the city, alleys behind every block, and 300,000 trees scattered throughout the city. By the fall in 1912 the steel mill began humming. One-hundred families moved to the infant city, and seven more firms set up plants.\*

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\*Salm Mfg. Co. (maker of abalone-shell novelties), Pacific Metal Products, Moore Truck Co., Hendrie Rubber Co., Fuller Shoe Co., Southern California Lime & Cement Co., and Holder Lumber Co.

Land had been purchased by the Pacific Electric Company, Llewellyn Iron Works, and the Hurrie Window Glass Company, but the Panic of 1913 put a temporary halt to building plans. Workers were laid off, and the plans of rapid growth suffered a setback.

After a bleak three years, the picture brightened and the land corporation constructed another 100 homes. The Iron Works and Pacific Electric resumed building. Original plans to locate a civic center at the head of El Prado (on the site now occupied by Torrance High School) were shelved, and hopes of an active port connected to San Pedro and Long Beach by dredged channels grew dimmer.

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### GROWTH AND INCORPORATION

The population in the first nine years of the community's existence grew from 500 to 1,800; land acreage increased from 1 square mile to 3.82 square miles. Although population had increased, Torrance industry was still manned mostly by workers residing elsewhere. It was not until the discovery of oil and the land annexations of the late 1920's that people who worked in Torrance decided to make it their home.

During the years preceding incorporation, Torrance was run as a company town. Residents paid assessments to the Dominguez Land Corporation and let it worry about lights, sewers, and street repairs. Those problems that were not connected with the business of managing a town were turned over to a commission, which served as an informal governing body. Although the Dominguez Land Corporation provided fire protection, the citizens formed a volunteer fire department—Torrance's first organized group.

City services as we know them were rudimentary. The police department consisted of a night watchman. The Dominguez Water Company, a subsidiary of the Dominguez Land Corporation, provided the water. At Mr. Torrance's suggestion, a library was set up by his cousin, Mrs. Isabel Henderson. Plans for a hospital were formulated, but not until after the death of Mr. Torrance was the Torrance Memorial Hospital built. Before postal service was established, a niche in the office of the land corporation served as "post office."



Although Mrs. Henderson lined the walls of her bungalow with 300 books donated by Mr. Torrance, there was little culture in Torrance in the early years. Once a year, the traveling Chautauqua provided readings and vaudeville acts in a tent. Apart from that, residents had to take the Pacific Electric Railway or their horses and buggies into Los Angeles if they desired anything more entertaining than a silent film at the local movie house. Torrance was a "dry" town, and the closest thing to a night club was the soda fountain at the drug store, which proved to be a mecca for socializing.

Religious needs were fulfilled by three early missions: Torrance Mission, which later became the First Baptist Church; the Catholic Mission, later known as Nativity Church; and the Central Evangelical Church.

Torrance grew, industry trickled in, and by 1921 Los Angeles eyed the thriving town with a view to annexation. Threat of annexation prompted residents in May of 1921 (less than two months after the death of Mr. Torrance) to vote for cityhood.

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### THE "BOOM" YEARS

Thirteen months after incorporation, the event which was to result in boom-town growth occurred—the discovery of oil.

Drillers who had hit "black gold" on Signal Hill in Long Beach the year before had noted that the rich vein disappeared suddenly west of American Avenue. Attributing the sharp cut-off to a geological fault in the basin, they had been quietly searching for continuation of the vein. In 1922 they found it! Chanslor-Canfield-Midway Oil Company's "Discovery Well" in Torrance spouted its rich treasure on Wednesday night, June 7, 1922. Gurgling in at the rate of 2,500 barrels a day, the well soared quickly to 4,000 barrels and then settled down to producing 1,000 barrels a day.

Other wells came in rapid succession, and derricks began to sprout in empty fields. The Santa Fe Railroad routed its Harbor Line through Torrance in 1923. Oil wells were owned by producers such as Standard Oil, resulting in controlled production planned for a long, systematic run.

World War I and then the discovery of oil had disrupted the original plans for the community's development. Oil had also

temporarily over-shadowed the industrial growth of the city; it was not until the late 1920's that any definite plan of industrial expansion was made and put into operation. Following a four-and-a-half month study by a Los Angeles firm of consulting economists and engineers, the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded a move to attract new industry here.

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### ANNEXATIONS

While the Chamber wooed industry, the city began a series of annexations.\* Much of the annexed land was used for ranching. Some of the ranches had been thriving for years before the land company built the original city of Torrance. Ranchers in the Walteria area had raised sheep, cattle and horses in the hill section; beets, alfalfa, hay, oats and barley grew in the lowlands prior to World War I. Many of the farmers had been hard-hit when they decided to switch to lima beans in 1917, for the drought that came that year wiped out the crop and several of the original ranchers had been forced to sell their land. Japanese truck farmers, who had already raised crops in the Meadow Park area, bought some of the Walteria land following the 1917 bean crop failure.

One of the most interesting additions to Torrance industry was Wright's Gardenia and Orchid Ranch. This concern, located on 190th Street, was in the North Torrance annexation area. Specializing in supplying wholesalers with flowers for corsages, Wright exported the blooms. After the coming of air transportation, he became the nation's pioneer in transcontinental air floral shipments. By 1936, when a new method of production resulted in four crops a year instead of one crop, this Torrance firm was supplying half of New York's gardenias and 90 per cent of the Los Angeles market.

Another unusual crop raised in Torrance was mushrooms. Started in the early thirties on the land which is now the Sears parking lot, the J. J. Millard Mushroom Ranch supplied 25 per cent of Los Angeles' mushrooms. One of the more glamorous latter-day

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\*2,650 acres of Northwest Torrance, Feb. 1926; 2,780 acres in the Meadow Park-Hollywood Riviera area, Jan. 1927; 250 acres in Walteria, March 1928; six acres of Helbush, Sept. 1929; 3.6 sq. miles of McDonald Tract, June 1930; 600 acres in South Torrance, May 1931.

ranches in Torrance was Fur Farms Incorporated, begun in 1937 on 182nd Street, which raised mink, silver fox, and chinchilla.

Although most of the annexed land was acquired with the purpose of providing room for industrial growth, the Hollywood Riviera section was annexed with a different objective. The hilly lots and ocean frontage were viewed as potential sites for luxury homes, a concept which had not been included in the original "workingman's town." Developers of the Hollywood Riviera Tract, in keeping with the Torrance plan, installed streets, lights and sewers before they sold any lots. They built a Mediterranean-type clubhouse, since destroyed by fire, and preserved a portion of ocean beach for future residences .

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## THE DEPRESSION

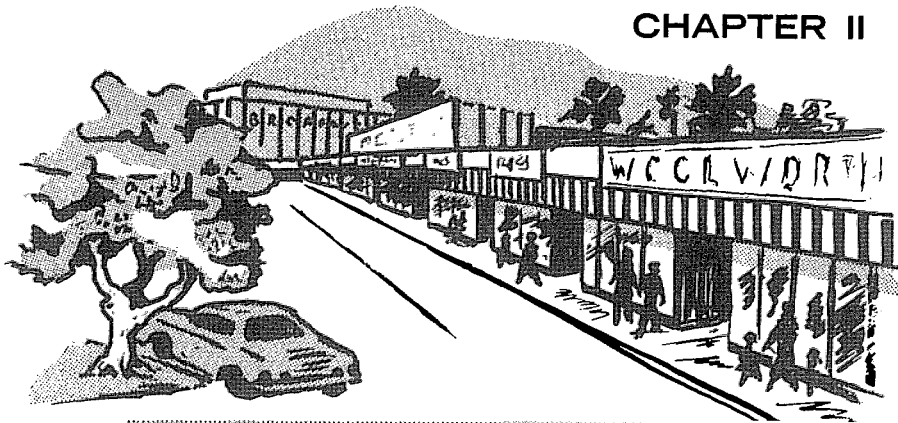
The Depression years of the early thirties were felt in Torrance as elsewhere. Although oil continued to flow and the banks were able to keep their doors open, industry tightened its belt. Before the city was 25 years old, it had felt the impact of an earthquake (1933) and the effects of a national financial crisis. As a result of the earthquake, new building codes were enacted. Because of the national depression, government money was made available for local public enterprises. With the help of federal funds, Torrance Municipal Park was developed and the city's first civic center was built.\*

In 1939, World War II got underway in Europe. After Pearl Harbor, one of the most immediate effects of the war upon life in Torrance was the evacuation of the Japanese-Americans who had been operating truck farms in North Torrance and the Meadow Park and Walteria areas. Many of these people never returned to their homes after the war, and the result was the diminishing importance of farming as an occupation in Torrance.

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\*City Hall was located at 1511 Cravens Avenue in what is now the Home Savings and Loan Building; the police headquarters and jail were situated south of City Hall. Also erected in 1936 was an auditorium which held 1,100 persons, a post office and a library. The old Dominguez Land building was remodeled and taken over by the water department.

## CHAPTER II



### PORTRAIT OF THE PRESENT

#### EXPANSION

As the portrayal of Torrance approaches more recent years, a steady decrease in farming activity becomes evident. In the post-war era came a period of industrial expansion. Another series of annexations\* took place between 1956 to 1958, and a population boom got underway.

During the period from 1950 to 1965, the population grew from about 20,000 to over 132,000. As a result of annexations, Torrance expanded from its original 3.82 square miles to 20.8 square miles. The sprawling city reached from the Pacific Ocean on the west to the City of Los Angeles on the east, and is surrounded by the communities of Redondo Beach, Lawndale, Gardena, Lomita, Rolling Hills Estates and Palos Verdes Estates.

In the brief span of fifteen years, a new picture had emerged. The small city, whose residents had enjoyed common memories and common experiences, was gone. In its place was a large city, the fourth largest in the county. Three-quarters of the city's population was new to the community and had no common past. As a consequence, the Torrance picture focused on the present and the future.

\*Areas annexed were: Dominguez-Hawthorne-Victor, June 22, 1956; Knolls Annexation #1, January 4, 1957; and Howard Industrial Tract, April 11, 1958. The Torrance-Redondo boundary line was realigned June 22, 1956.

There were those who felt that, with this shift, the city lost a part of its essence. They compared the new community with a bunch of grapes—isolated neighborhoods sharing a single stem but without a central core. Others felt that the city was a prime example of contemporary cityhood.

In 1956 Torrance received the All-American award for “growth without strain” from the American Municipal Association. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States presented the Torrance Chamber with the nation’s top “program of work” award in 1960.

As new residents flocked to the city at the rate of 13 persons daily, residential neighborhoods and commercial establishments blossomed. The city grew from 7,200 dwelling units in 1950 to over 37,000 by 1964. There were 19 different neighborhood shopping centers, the largest one being the Del Amo Shopping Center, which boasted more than 40 businesses and parking facilities for 7,000 automobiles. In 1963 the city spent \$100,000 to make the downtown area more attractive. Improvements included new street lights, additional parking, landscaped center lanes, and a public address system to provide outdoor music for shoppers.

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## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS IN 1960 CENSUS

Who were the 78,000 people who came between 1950 and 1960 and the 5,000 a year who kept coming? They were a youthful group. Nearly half of them were under 19 years old, and the median age of the entire population was 25 years. With less than 4,000 senior citizens and more than 14,000 children of pre-school age, school facilities posed more of a problem than did facilities for senior residents of Torrance.

The population, according to the 1960 census, was predominantly Caucasian, with a small Oriental minority. Most of the residents were homeowners and enjoyed a median income of slightly over \$8,000, which was above the average of the county. In the realm of education, Torrance residents ranked high, with the average adult having completed 12.1 years of school.

## GROWTH FACTORS

Why do so many people choose to make their home in Torrance? Many, of course, work in Torrance. The others for the most part, are employed in nearby cities. A large number are affiliated with the aircraft, space and missile industry in the general area.

They come to Torrance to live for many other reasons. The smog that has engulfed Los Angeles has not made its inroads so heavily felt in Torrance. A large number of residents enjoy living near the ocean, where the year-round temperature is more moderate than in nearby inland communities.

Many come because they feel the school system is good and the tax rate low. They like the shopping centers and the city's recreational facilities. Church-goers have their choice of 32 churches, and those with a yen for group activity have 210 civic and service organizations with which they may affiliate.

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## NEWS MEDIA

Residents are served by the Los Angeles newspapers, two daily papers published in the area, *The South Bay Daily Breeze* and *The Long Beach Press Telegram*, and one local paper which is published twice weekly, *The Torrance Press-Herald*. Ten Los Angeles television channels are available in Torrance. In addition to a local FM station, KKOP, (in nearby Redondo Beach) residents are served by 32 AM and 24 FM radio stations that cover the entire Los Angeles area.

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## INDUSTRY

The industrial picture, too, is painted in bright shades. Industry continues to be attracted to Torrance. During the two years, 1963 to 1965, 60 new industries established plants here. Why is industry drawn to Torrance? For one thing, land is still available. True, it can no longer be purchased for bargain prices, but it is available. It is close enough to metropolitan Los Angeles to make transportation feasible. The complex of railroad and

trucking facilities, as well as proximity to the harbor, remain industrial enticements.

Because of the population expansion, industry has reason to feel there is a good labor supply in Torrance for new plants. It feels that what the city offers residents is sufficiently attractive to lure the needed manpower, and that economically Torrance is in a healthy state. Assessed valuation goes up yearly.

What kind of industries can presently be found in Torrance? They run the gamut from steel casting to miniaturized computers. Included among the 170 industries located here are firms specializing in such products as plastics, petroleum, furniture, steel, electronic organs, flooring materials, liquid hydrogen, aluminum and paper.

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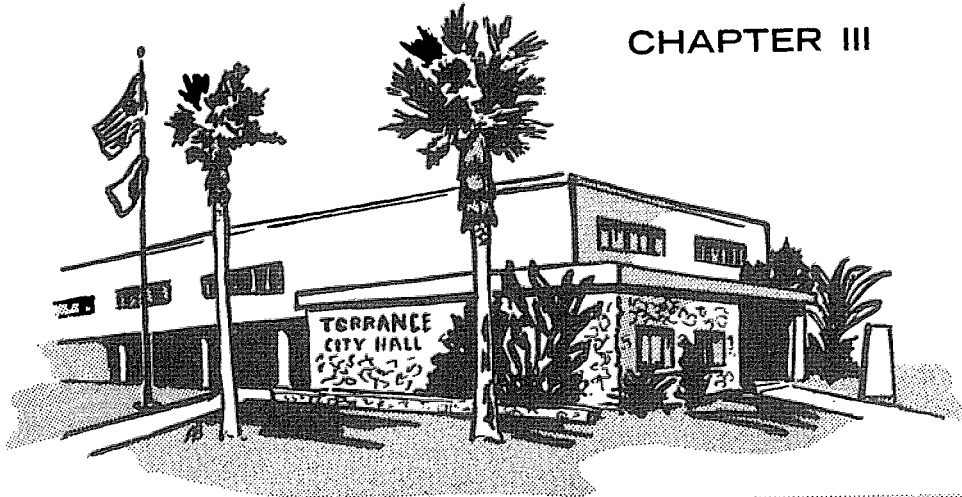
## COMMERCE

It is in the commercial realm that Torrance has shown a tremendous spurt in the past few years. Torrance has become the commercial center of the South Bay area. The Del Amo Center, which now contains three major department stores in addition to many smaller retail shops, is in the process of further growth. Another major department store is in the construction stage and located with it will be additional specialty shops.

The effect of these commercial developments is not only obvious to the resident who no longer has to go great distances to shop, but to the city finances as well. The sales and use tax which the city receives from commercial enterprises has risen from one and a quarter million dollars in 1961 to an estimated two and a half million dollars in 1966. These figures alone indicate the importance of Torrance's commercial growth. There seems to be good reason to believe that this type of growth will continue, especially in the Del Amo Center area.

This, then, is the outward picture of the city—the view that greets the eye. Let us look now at government and education, vital elements within our portrait of Torrance.

## CHAPTER III



### TORRANCE GOVERNMENT

Our municipal government is as close as a telephone call to the appropriate city department; as close as the rubbish truck coming by each week; as close as the crossing guard near the school; as close as City Hall. Although the effects of local government surround us, it does not follow that the city has great inherent powers. Actually, cities are creatures of the State of California, with the state delegating certain powers to the cities and reserving the rest for itself or for the people.

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#### THE CITY CHARTER

California has two classes of municipalities: general law and charter cities. General law cities operate under the general law provisions of the State Code. Charter cities adopt their own fundamental law, or charter, following applicable provisions of the State Code. Torrance was incorporated as a general law city in 1921. In 1931, a charter drawn up by fifteen free-holders failed to pass at the polls.

Then in 1946, the City Council framed a charter which received a majority vote in Torrance and was approved by the State Legislature.



The Torrance Charter sets forth the organization of the municipal government in general terms. It is brief and flexible, containing twenty articles. The City Council may pass ordinances which are incorporated into the City Code, or may vote to delete sections of the City Code. However, the Charter, as our fundamental law, can be amended only by a vote of the Torrance citizens.

### THE CITY MANAGER

A Charter amendment approved by the voters in 1948 established the council-city manager form of municipal government, replacing the mayor-council form. This system is sometimes referred to as the "weak mayor" type in contrast to the "strong mayor" form in which an elected mayor is the chief administrator.

Under the system in Torrance, the people elect the City Council, which is a legislative body consisting of six council members and a mayor. The Council hires a City Manager, for an indefinite period, to administer the affairs of the city, following the Charter and policies established by the Council.

The Charter specifies that the City Manager must be a United States citizen over thirty years old and "have demonstrated administrative ability with experience in executive positions." He is responsible for carrying out laws passed by the Council. As chief personnel officer, he appoints department heads from Civil Service lists and is also in charge of purchasing all supplies and property needed by the city. The Charter states that the City Manager is to receive at least \$500 per month and that he is to devote his entire time to the interests of the city. In recent years, the City Manager's annual salary has been about \$20,000, reflecting the increased responsibility of his position. After a six-month trial period, the City Manager may be removed from office, following specified legal procedures, by a majority vote of the Council.

### CITY COUNCIL

The City Council is the policy-making body for the city. It passes ordinances which have the effect of local laws. Policy is also expressed by resolutions passed by the Council, which acts upon recommendations both from management and the various commissions. One of the Council's most important jobs is to adopt

the annual budget and to set the property tax rate necessary to meet proposed expenses. All council meetings are open to the public, with the exception of personnel sessions.

Elections for the City Council are held in even years, with all councilmen being elected at-large. Three council members are chosen at each election, and a mayor is elected every fourth year. The four-year terms are staggered in this way to preserve continuity. Salaries for the Council members and the mayor are set by the Charter at \$100 per month. Besides having the regular duties and powers of a Council member, the mayor acts as presiding officer for the City Council and is ceremonial head of the city.

#### COMMISSIONS

Since 1958, the City Council has established by ordinance ten citizens' commissions to advise the Council on specific matters. At the present time the commissions are composed of the following number of members: Airport, 7; Civil Defense and Disaster, 5; Civil Service, 7; Library, 5; Park and Recreation, 7; Planning, 7; Torrance Beautiful, 7; Safety Council, 7; Water, 5; and Youth Welfare, 7. The Traffic Commission, composed of three city employees, was also established to advise the Council.

The commission members are appointed for four-year terms and usually represent various sections of Torrance. Each commissioner receives a \$10 expense allowance per month. The commissions meet at designated times each month to discuss any problems related to their specific fields. Citizens are welcome to attend these meetings and to voice any opinions or to suggest policy changes.

Commissions may make recommendations to the Council, or the Council may ask the commissions for reports. Whenever possible the Council acts on items only after they have been considered by the appropriate commission. Commission recommendations are advisory only. The Council, as the law-making body, may or may not follow the recommendations. In many cases, the commissions accept the recommendations initiated by the various city departments. In some cases, the commissions save the Council time, as they have had public hearings that need not be repeated in their entirety before the Council.

## OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

The people elect a City Clerk and a City Treasurer for four-year terms. The main function of the City Clerk is to keep official records of the city. People asking about local government affairs are often referred to the City Clerk's office.

The City Treasurer is responsible for receiving and safekeeping of some City funds, and for keeping some financial records.

The salaries of City Clerk and Treasurer are set by ordinance. The Charter sets a minimum salary of \$750 per month for the City Clerk.

## PERSONNEL

The City Council appoints the City Attorney. The Charter requires the City Attorney to have practiced law in California for five years prior to his appointment. His main duties are to advise the Council and City officers on legal questions, prepare all proposed ordinances, and represent the City in any civil action.

Torrance has operated under a municipal civil service system since the mid-thirties. At that time, a classified service was set up for the police and fire departments, and a separate code was adopted for other municipal employees. Under our civil service system, all employees are hired and promoted on the basis of competitive examinations. In general, there is a requirement that only residents of Torrance are eligible for classified positions. Municipal employees number almost 900, and their jobs range from tree sprayer to lifeguard, from civil engineer to truck driver.

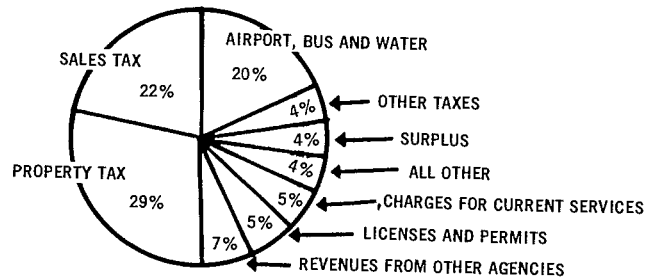
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## FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

How does Torrance compare with other cities in Los Angeles County? Torrance is now one of the larger cities in the State of California, with an annual budget exceeding eleven million dollars. Among the cities of Los Angeles County, Torrance ranks fourth in population, third in area, seventh in amount of sales tax revenue collected, and third in assessed property valuation.

The Director of Finance maintains the accounting system for the City and supervises municipal revenues and expenditures.

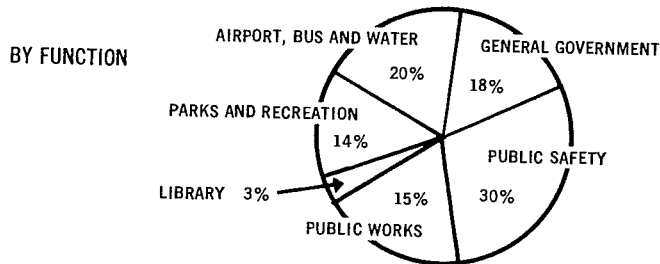
## SOURCES OF REVENUE



Revenue in Torrance comes primarily from the property tax, although the percentage of money from that source is dropping: from 48% in 1961-62 to an estimated 29% in 1965-66.

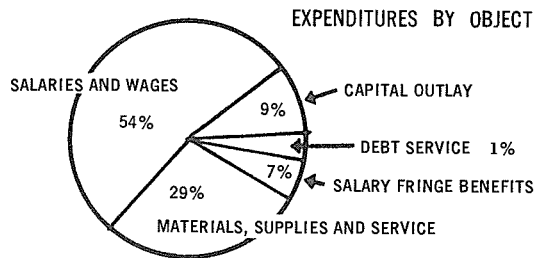
A second major source of revenue is the sales tax, which will bring in 22% of the annual funds in 1965-66. Other sources of revenue are the gasoline tax, cigarette tax, motor vehicle license fee, and alcoholic beverage fees returned from State and County governments; bus fares and refuse collection charges; revenues from the city-owned water company and the airport; business licenses and permits; and vehicle code fines.

## EXPENDITURES



Torrance follows the example of most California cities by spending the largest portion of its budget on public safety. 30% of our city's budget goes for the police and fire departments and for enforcing building regulations.

Another major expenditure, 15% of the budget, is in public works, which includes streets, storm drains and engineering. 18% of the budget goes for general government expenditures, including the administrative departments and City Council. Parks and recreation take 14% of the budget; libraries, 3%; and bond redemptions, 1%.



In general, other large cities in California spend a somewhat smaller percentage of their budgets on recreation, a much larger share on bond redemption and interest, and somewhat more on libraries.

The City of Torrance has made the goal of a stable tax rate a major policy, and for the past several years the tax rate has been \$1.238 per \$100 assessed valuation. The amount budgeted to run the city has steadily increased, but the extra funds have come from an increasing assessed valuation and from sources other than an increased tax rate.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Torrance has operated on a pay-as-you-go basis for most capital improvements. In 1954 and 1955, Municipal Improvements Bonds totaling \$1,400,000 were approved by the voters. Land for the Civic Center was purchased with this money, and the Civic Center was begun on 27 acres located near the geographical center of Torrance. The Civic Center now, expanded to nearly 40 acres, contains the City Hall, Police Station, Municipal Court, the Benstead Plunge, the Torrance Recreation Center, and the Joslyn Recreation Center. Also on the site of Civic Center, the County of Los Angeles is constructing a six-story Superior Court building, has completed a new Probation Department building, and has budgeted for the expansion of the existing Municipal Court facility.

The Civic Center Master Plan also shows a Civic Auditorium, a central library, final phases of the Joslyn Recreation Center, plus landscaping, walks, and parking areas.

At the time the Civic Center was planned, the cost to the City for these improvements was estimated at \$6.6 million. In recent years, the City has been able to budget about \$600,000 per year from the General Fund for capital improvements. In the 1965-66

budget this has been increased to over \$700,000. Using the pay-as-you-go system of financing, there would be a possible delay of ten or twelve years in completing the Civic Center. Meanwhile, there are other demands on the City's money.

Torrance has been trying to accumulate money to buy park sites and fire stations. In addition to these, is the ever-present need for traffic signals, storm drains, and park improvements. On a pay-as-you-go basis, Torrance has built three branch libraries and two fire stations, and has made improvements on the police station and City Hall.

The Charter sets the legal limit for bonding at 15% of the assessed valuation, or about \$42 million. Torrance has bonds now outstanding of \$3.14 million: \$990,000 for municipal improvements; \$1,335,000 for water, currently being paid for from water revenues; and \$815,000 for airport improvement, redeemable out of airport revenue. The bonded debt per capita in Torrance is one of the lowest in the state.

#### MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES

The City of Torrance operates four municipal enterprises: water, airport, bus lines, and rubbish disposal.

*The Municipal Water Department* is the most successful in terms of money accrued to the General Fund. In accordance with the current budget, \$145,000 will be transferred to the City in lieu of the franchise and property taxes that a privately-owned company would pay. Its revenues also take care of both interest and principal on the Water Bonds.

The Municipal Water Department serves about 23,000 accounts in and near Torrance. Recently, the Moneta and Belvidere water systems were purchased by the City. These served customers in north Torrance, Gardena and Los Angeles County. Certain areas of Torrance are served by the Dominguez Water Company and the California Water Service Company.

The Municipal Water Department buys almost all its water from the Metropolitan Water District. The rest comes from three wells. Recently, the tax rate for the Metropolitan Water District has been \$.14 per \$100 assessed valuation, and for the Central West Basin Water Replenishment District, \$.005 per \$100 assessed valuation.

All of Torrance is included in the Water Replenishment District, the main purpose of which is to prevent further brine intrusion into fresh water supplies along the coast.

*The Torrance Municipal Airport* was acquired from the Federal Government after World War II with the stipulation that the land be used as an airport or revert back to the Federal Government. The airport covers 475 acres in southeast Torrance.

The Torrance voters approved a \$1,225,000 Airport Revenue Bond in 1962, and the Federal Government appropriated over \$400,000 to be used for airport improvements. The money was to purchase additional buffer zone land, to construct a new runway and taxiway, to extend water and sewer lines to the airport, and to improve the terminal area.

The City has applied for federal assistance on a multi-million dollar project to redevelop the area just west of the airport (to Hawthorne Ave.). Under authority of the Torrance Redevelopment Agency, the land affected by airport traffic will be acquired and redeveloped.

The Torrance Airport has one runway of 4,200 feet and one of 2,900 feet (effective lengths) designed for private and corporate aircraft. Airport traffic is increasing steadily each year. In 1965 Torrance ranked 8th in total air traffic in the nation.

Revenues from airport operations have exceeded expenses over the past several years. All income goes into the Airport Fund and is used first for paying bond interest and principal and then for airport improvements.

*The Torrance Bus Lines* is municipally-owned and operates at a loss. The City subsidized bus operations in the amount of \$111,634 in 1963-64. Buses offer service on weekdays on four routes, running from Hollywood Riviera to El Camino College, WALTERIA to Kettler Knowles, downtown Torrance to Long Beach, and to Los Angeles. The Southern California Rapid Transit District has two bus lines which connect with Torrance routes. The Torrance Bus Lines also charters buses to groups.

*Refuse collection* in Torrance, although not classified as a separate municipal enterprise, is comparable to those enterprises mentioned previously as the public is charged directly. The Rubbish

Collection and Disposal Division is in charge of collecting and disposing of refuse, combustible and non-combustible, from single-family and duplex residences. The refuse is picked up weekly at the curbs and alleys, and the streets are mechanically swept clean the day following refuse collection. Each residence is billed \$1.50 per month for this service. Commercial and industrial establishments and apartment houses must make their own arrangements for disposal of refuse.

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## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Police Department is responsible for enforcing municipal, state and national laws. With 144 sworn officers in 1965, the Torrance staff is undermanned by more than 100, according to national standards. The City can, however, ask for the assistance of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department if additional personnel are necessary for an emergency. The Police Department includes the following divisions: Patrol, Traffic, Detective, Juvenile, Personnel & Training, Planning & Research, Vice & Intelligence, Records & Identification, Services.

Civil Defense operations also fall into the organizational plan of the Police Department. Torrance does not have a city-wide warning system, but it does have a public shelter in the basement of the Broadway Del Amo. The police station, at the Civic Center, is being expanded to double its present size. A small jail is located in the station; prisoners are transferred to a larger county jail if they are to be detained more than 24 hours.

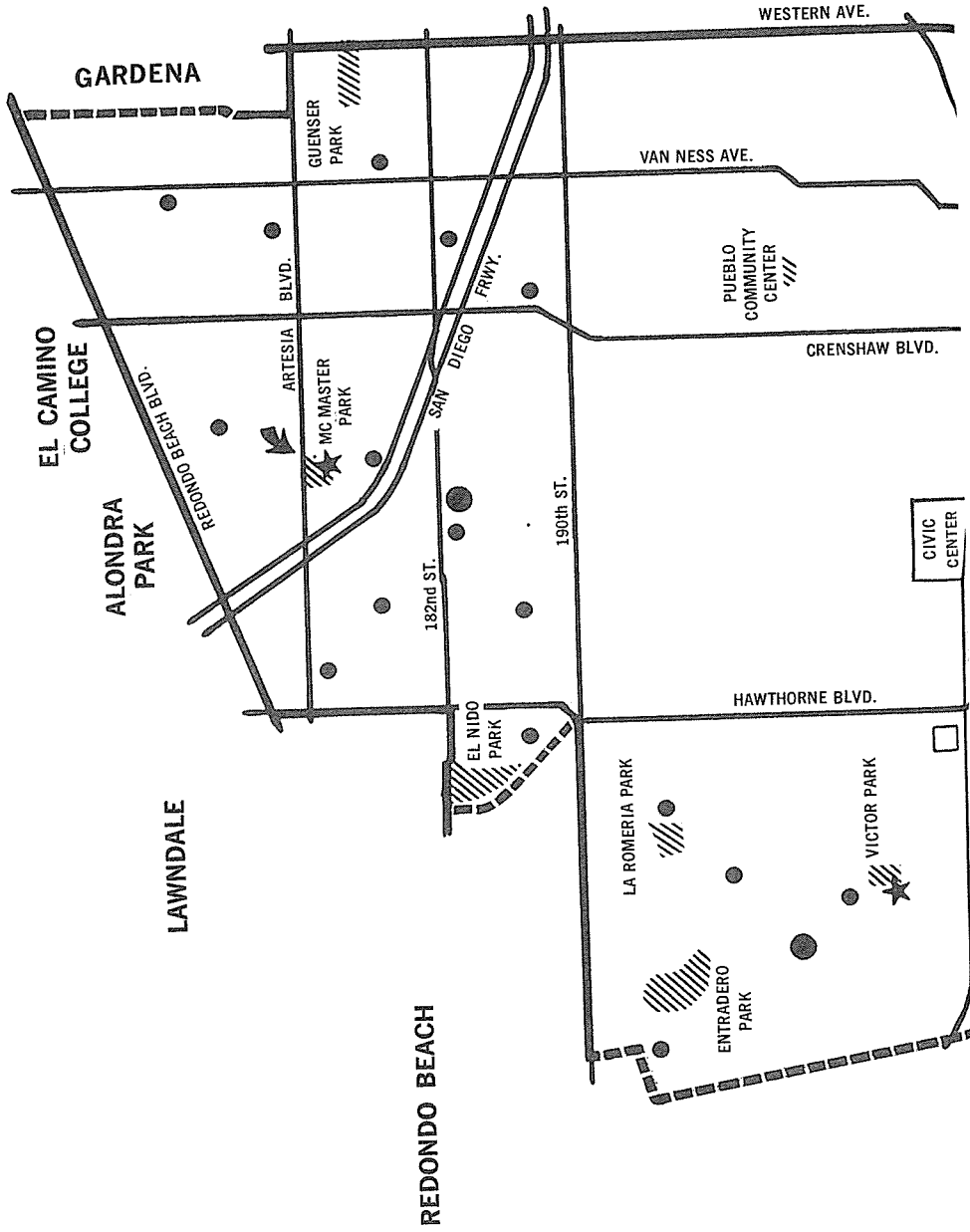
The Police Department may use the services of the Sheriff of Los Angeles County for help in organizing the department. All recruits in Torrance attend the Sheriff's Academy for an intensive sixteen-week course in police methods. The state partially reimburses Torrance for the expenses incurred by this training.

### **COURTS**

All courts are under the jurisdiction of the State of California. A Municipal Court, Division 3 of the South Bay Judicial District, is



CITY OF LO



WESTERN AVE.

GARDENA

GUENSER PARK

VAN NESS AVE.

EL CAMINO COLLEGE

PUEBLO COMMUNITY CENTER

ALONDRA PARK

ARTESIA BLVD.

CRENSHAW BLVD.

REDONDO BEACH BLVD.

MC MASTER PARK

182nd ST.

190th ST.

CIVIC CENTER

EL NIDO PARK

HAWTHORNE BLVD.

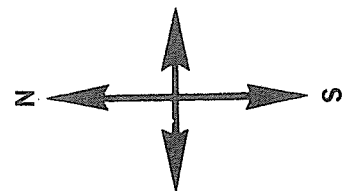
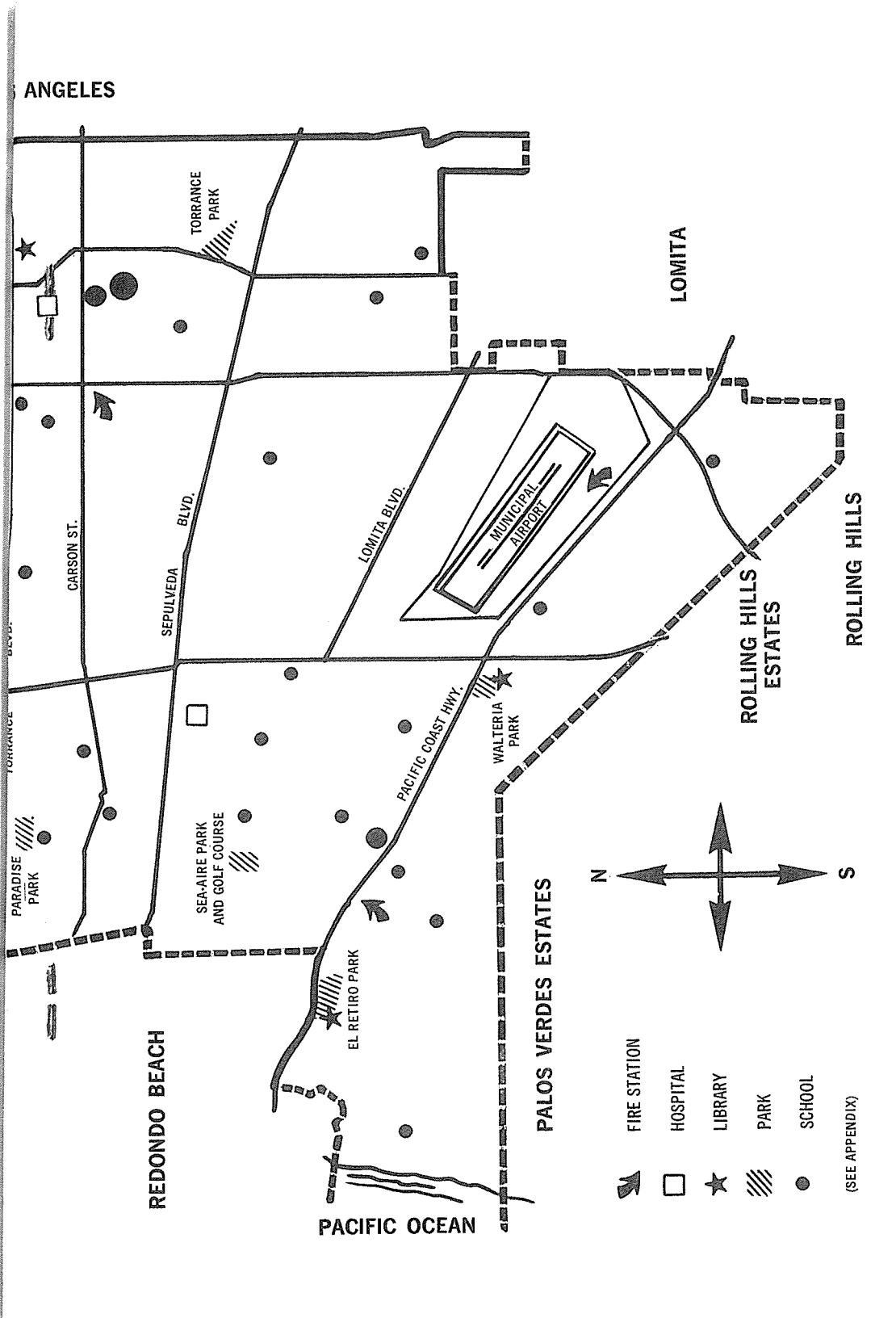
LAWNDALE

REDONDO BEACH

LA ROMERIA PARK

VICTOR PARK

ENTRADERO PARK



- FIRE STATION
- HOSPITAL
- LIBRARY
- PARK
- SCHOOL

(SEE APPENDIX)

located at the Torrance Civic Center. This court handles civil claims not over \$5,000 and has criminal jurisdiction in misdemeanor cases.

A building to house the Southwest District of the Superior Court is being constructed at the Civic Center. The Superior Court has jurisdiction over civil cases amounting to more than \$5,000 and over criminal cases involving felonies or juveniles. Cases originally tried in the Municipal Court may be appealed to the Appellate Department of the Superior Court. Judges of the Municipal and Superior Courts must have been licensed to practice law for a period of at least five years prior to election or appointment by the Governor.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department not only protects people and property from fire loss but seeks to prevent loss by educating groups on fire prevention and safety and by inspecting commercial and residential dwellings. Because of Torrance's proximity to the beach, a very important function of the Fire Department is the operation of a resuscitator. All firemen also have first aid training.

There are 131 employees authorized in the 1965-66 budget for the Fire Department, operating out of four stations. (See map for locations.) Torrance participates in a mutual assistance plan with eight other South Bay cities. Two fire stations are planned for the near future, with eight stations as a long-range goal. In 1964 the Torrance Fire Department was approximately 22 men short according to standards set by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

Most of the city has a 5 rating\* for fire insurance rates, although the Hollywood Riviera area, the section between Del Amo Boulevard and 190th Street, and most of the area south of Sepulveda and west of Madrona have a 6 rating. Several cities in the metropolitan area have a 3 rating.

#### BUILDING CODES

A third factor in public safety is the building code. The code sets standards in construction methods and materials and provides for

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\*This refers to a scale used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates. On a scale of ten, the better an area's fire protection, the lower its rating and the less costly its insurance.

the inspection of buildings, so that all new construction and remodeling meets modern standards. Torrance subscribes to the 1964 edition of the Uniform Building Code.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Torrance, like most cities in Los Angeles County, contracts with the County for public health services. A County Health Office, located at 2300 West Carson Street, is one of two centers serving the Torrance District, which is composed of several surrounding cities and unincorporated areas.

The Health Department is responsible under State law for promoting better health for the public, and its services have developed from this basic responsibility. Its major function is controlling preventable disease by education, immunization, diagnosis, and sometimes treatment.

Under the City contract, the County Health Officer is also in charge of rodent extermination, restaurant inspections for business licenses, and enforcement of State health laws. The cost to the City for the necessary inspections is about \$600 per year.

### **COUNTY WELFARE**

Under California state laws, responsibility for public welfare is delegated to the counties rather than to municipalities. Torrance is part of a district with headquarters in Hawthorne\*. The County Department of Charities provides assistance for the aged, for the blind and disabled, for needy children and adoptions, for general relief, and for medical services. Many religious and social organizations volunteer their services to the Department of Charities. They make an important contribution in helping at hospitals, well-baby clinics and other institutions.

### **HOSPITALS**

Harbor General Hospital is located just outside the eastern border of Torrance. Operating under the Department of Charities of Los Angeles County, this ultra-modern 700-bed hospital provides

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\*Bureau of Public Assistance office at 12735 S. Hawthorne Avenue

complete medical care for residents in the southern part of the county. It serves as a teaching hospital affiliated with the U.C.L.A. School of Medicine. The hospital provides both inpatient and outpatient care for residents who cannot afford private care. It also provides for emergency treatment, cases necessitating specialized medical care, and mental health services.

Other hospitals in Torrance that have received full accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals are the Little Company of Mary Hospital, completed in 1959 with 142 beds; Riviera Community Hospital with 98 beds; and Torrance Memorial Hospital with 99 beds. The South Bay Hospital, with 150 beds, is just west of Torrance.

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## OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

### PLANNING

The Planning Department in Torrance employs a full-time Planning Director and a staff of eight. The department handles individual rezoning cases and requests for waivers and variances. During the course of a year about 100 cases of this nature may come to the Planning Department. All such cases then go to the Planning Commission, which conducts public hearings and makes a recommendation to the Council.

The Planning Department is also preparing a comprehensive, long-range General Plan for all Torrance. The Plan begins with a study of present land use and then considers the population density and the nature of the developing area. With these considerations as a basis, plans are drawn for sewerage and drainage, traffic patterns and all forms of transportation, parks and schools, zoning (including residential, commercial and industrial), and special areas, such as the Civic Center and downtown. The General Plan is used as a guide and may be altered to meet changing conditions.

Three areas, Marble Estates, Victor Precinct, and South Oil Fields have received special attention as General Plan Study Areas in order to accommodate developers. The Victor Precinct and the South Oil Fields were rezoned to conform with the existing land use. The Marble Estates Plan was presented as a balanced area: one-third single family residences; one-fourth multiple residences; one-fourth industry; and one-sixth commerce.

A recent innovation in Torrance is the use of the precise plan, wherein the developer is required to have a detailed plan of his buildings, planting areas and parking approved by the Planning Department. Although land-use ordinances limit all buildings in Torrance to 32 feet in height or three stories, a few variances allowing high-rise have been approved in scattered areas of Torrance.

The Planning Director and a representative of the Planning Commission attend meetings of the Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission. This County agency helps to coordinate planning among cities and unincorporated areas. One of its accomplishments is a masterplan study of the south-west area, which includes Torrance, to provide general area information.

## STREETS

A road map of Torrance shows 305.4 miles of improved roads with Pacific Coast Highway, Hawthorne Boulevard and Artesia Boulevard designated as State highways. Ten others are a part of the County Highway Plan and are eligible for County funds for construction and maintenance.

Eventual plans are for 83.2 miles of major street extensions to create more thoroughfares. A residential tract developer is required to dedicate the land for primary streets deemed necessary by the Planning and Street Departments, and he must also construct secondary streets within the tract.

There are no parking meters in Torrance. The newer shopping centers are required to have adequate off-street parking, and the older downtown area has formed a parking district to develop additional parking lots in that area.

The San Diego Freeway intersects north Torrance from northwest to southeast, while the Harbor Freeway goes from north to south near the eastern limits of Torrance.

## RECREATION AND PARKS

Torrance has 12 developed parks\* containing over 76 acres; 5 others, containing almost 85 more acres, are yet to be developed.

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\*See Appendix for list of City parks

In addition to other facilities, all the developed parks have children's play areas, with equipment ranging from a former city fire engine to pretend submarines and special physical fitness bars.

The City is constantly seeking suitable park sites that can be obtained inexpensively. The City has entered into a lease-purchase arrangement for a six-acre park site near Hickory School, costing \$67,000 per year for three years. Another recent land acquisition is a ten-acre sand and gravel pit near Lomita, which Torrance bought from the State at its appraised value of \$125,000; the City may trade or sell this land in order to obtain land in another area for a park. By National Recreation Association standards, cities the size of Torrance should have over 1,000 acres of parks.

Special recreation facilities operated by the Recreation Department include the Benstead Plunge, an Olympic-sized outdoor pool at the Civic Center, and a Recreation Center which can accommodate groups up to 450 for meetings and refreshments. Also at the Civic Center is a recreation building, the Joslyn Center, accommodating up to 300 for City-sponsored recreation programs. An adult Center at 1318 Cravens Avenue—with kitchen, meeting room, and shuffleboard courts—offers many activities for senior citizens.

The Recreation Department has been commended by the National Recreation Association for its diverse and well-balanced program. Throughout the year, the Department offers a balance of physical and cultural activities for all ages. In the summer and during after-school hours, recreation leaders supervise play at all the parks and most of the elementary schools. The Recreation Department publishes a monthly guide of its activities, which is mailed free of charge to residents who request it.

Several Los Angeles County recreational facilities are located in or near Torrance. The one-mile-long Torrance Beach, located within the city limits, is currently being widened and additional parking has been constructed. Alondra Park, 232 acres, at the northern border of Torrance, boasts two eighteen-hole golf courses, a small lake for canoeing, and a large swimming pool as well as the usual park features. South of Torrance, the South Coast Botanical Garden is being developed, and Los Verdes golf course opened in 1964. The County also maintains and operates indoor swimming pools at nearby Redondo, Mira Costa and Aviation High Schools.

Besides the Municipal and County facilities available, Torrance has active Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. programs. A new Y.M.C.A. is under construction while the Y.W.C.A. has an attractive headquarters at 2320 West Carson. Little League, Colt, Pony and Babe Ruth Leagues are active. The Redondo Beach Marina offers a small boat harbor as well as fishing from the pier and deep sea sport fishing.

The Chapel Theater in Waveria and the Footlighters, sponsored by the Recreation Department, offer repertory theater. Other little theater groups are in Palos Verdes Estates and Manhattan Beach. Several art galleries, showing work of local artists and offering lessons in various media, are located in the South Bay area.

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### LIBRARY SYSTEM

Torrance is the only city in Los Angeles County which contracts with the County for the operation of its libraries. Other cities either maintain independent library systems or are an integral part of the County system. Torrance was a part of the County system until 1935, at which time it withdrew. The City of Torrance now owns and maintains its library buildings, while contracting with the County for books and services. The contract expires in 1968.

Torrance's main library, in the downtown section, is 4,717 square feet, far under the 40,000 square foot minimum standards established by the American Library Association. In addition to the main library, there are four neighborhood branches. The County furnishes over 99,000 books and supplies a staff which includes five professional librarians.

Torrance residents may request any of the two million books in the County system and may also use any County library facility without charge. American Library Association standards for cities with over 100,000 population are a minimum of 100,000 books.

The amount that Torrance pays for library service each year is based on the services received. Torrance spent \$1.85 per capita in 1962-63. The average per capita expenditures of ten other library systems in the area were much higher.



## **SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

Certain services are provided by special districts which have the power of levying taxes. We have already mentioned the Water Replenishment District. Another special district is a lighting district. When owners of 60% of the property in any residential area sign a petition for street lights, a district will be established. The City pays for approximately 30% of the installation, energy, and maintenance costs, while the District assumes the rest.

All of Torrance is part of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, which was established by the State Legislature in 1915 for flood control and water conservation. Torrance is in one of the 23 Sanitation Districts which cover Los Angeles County. The Sanitation Districts cooperate in constructing and operating facilities to collect and dispose of bulk sewage.

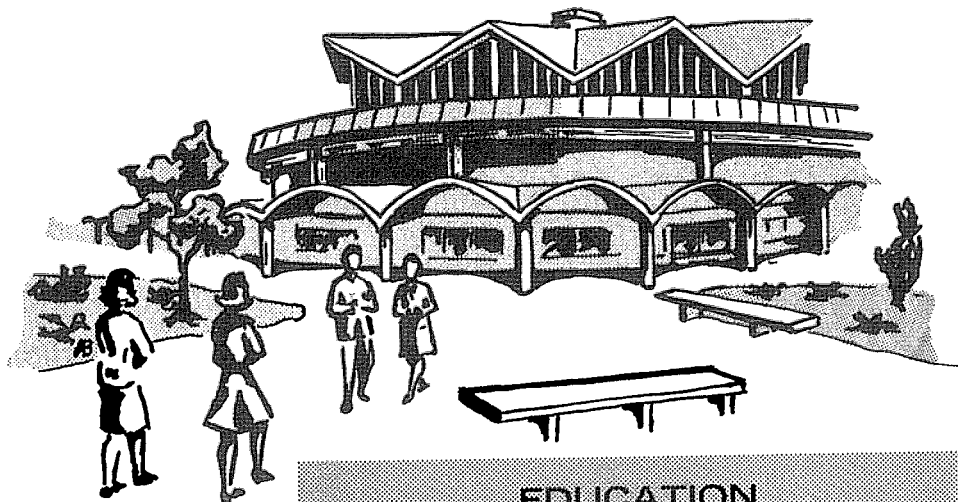
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## **INTER-CITY COOPERATION**

The City of Torrance also joins with other cities and private organizations to achieve certain results. Torrance is a member of the League of California Cities, a statewide organization which serves as a clearing house for information and/or action involving municipalities and counties in the state. Torrance is a member of the Independent Cities of Los Angeles County, a group of 30 cities which have joined together to defend the principle of home rule and to promote inter-city cooperation.

Torrance maintains representation on the Inter-City Highway Committee, composed of representatives from 11 cities who coordinate common highway problems. The City also gives some financial support to the Chamber of Commerce for projects that promote the City of Torrance, such as Rancho Days, a Rose Parade float, and Armed Forces Day.

## CHAPTER IV



### EDUCATION

#### TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

##### GROWTH & ORGANIZATION

Torrance voters chose to establish a unified school district in 1947. Prior to this time, Torrance elementary schools had been operated by the Los Angeles City School District, and the one high school by the Redondo High School District.

Boundaries of the new district were to be the same as those of the City of Torrance, but governed apart from the City government. A five-member board, elected by the people, was charged with the power to establish policy and to select a superintendent to administer this policy.

This new educational independence found the first Board and its superintendent, Dr. J. H. Hull, with five empty, unfurnished buildings, no funds, no personnel—and 1,991 children to educate. From this beginning has grown a district of 34 elementary schools and four high schools, housing over 32,000 students. Today more than one out of every four Torrance residents attends one of these schools.

The Torrance Unified School District is operated on a kindergarten through eighth grade and four-year high school plan.

Although housed within the elementary school plants, seventh and eighth grades were put on a departmentalized basis in 1963-64.

Student enrollment in Torrance's elementary schools range from 316 to 1,248 pupils. The average classroom load for each elementary teacher is 33 students, which is near the average within the County.

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Elementary education in Torrance's public schools has as its basic philosophy an "individualized" program. This means simply that a student is permitted to progress at his own rate, rather than being limited to the subject matter of his grade level. A wide range of learning abilities is found within any one classroom, and it is the responsibility of the individual teacher to reach each student on his particular learning level.

Specific subject requirements for elementary schools are spelled out by State law. Torrance's elementary schools meet, and in some cases exceed, these minimum State curriculum requirements.

Regular curriculum in the elementary schools is supplemented by an instrumental music program and shop and homemaking courses. Students above the third grade level are eligible for instrumental music instruction. All seventh and eighth grade girls are taught the rudiments of cooking and sewing. The boys on this grade level receive basic instruction in the use of hand and machine tools.

The possibility of curriculum improvement and change is constantly under study with Torrance's schools. Currently, pilot programs are underway in various elementary schools. Evaluation of the results of pilot programs often leads to permanent curriculum changes.

A central library services the elementary schools. This central library is housed in the Educational Materials Building and is currently stocked with 180,000 volumes (library books and supplementary texts), 6,000 film strips, 8,000 records, and 600 study prints. Daily deliveries of requested materials are made to teachers throughout the district.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

Special student cases are dealt with in a variety of ways in Torrance. Mentally gifted children—the top 2% in the district in learning ability—are identified in the third grade by means of testing and teacher observation. An enrichment program is provided for these students within the structure of their regular classrooms. Seventh and eighth grade students who fall within this category are permitted to enroll in high school summer school classes and to take extra courses on the high school level during the regular school year.

Special assistance for those students experiencing reading problems is provided in the remedial reading program instituted in 1964. Remedial Reading Centers have been established in a number of the Torrance Elementary Schools. Each Center serves a number of adjacent schools. A fulltime teacher conducts small classes of 4th, 5th and 6th grade children who, though having normal intelligence, are reading at a level at least two grades lower than the average.

Mentally retarded children and those with brain damage or glandular difficulties are classified as either educable or merely trainable. The educable—those who are adjudged as capable for training to become responsible and useful citizens—attend special classes within the regular elementary schools. Columbia School, located in Torrance but operated in cooperation with six neighboring districts, handles more severe cases. It is the aim of Columbia School to train children—who might otherwise be institutionalized—to perform simple tasks and yet continue to live within the security of their homes and families.

Severe hearing, speech, and sight problems are also handled on a multi-district cooperative plan. Children with a moderate hearing loss remain in their regular class rooms and receive special assistance from the District's speech and hearing therapists. Partially-sighted children on the elementary level attend a regular elementary school, Casimir School, where a visiting teacher instructs the individual child each day. High school students who are partially sighted attend regular classes at North High School, where a special teacher has daily contact with them to assist with their individual needs.

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Torrance's high schools offer a full academic curriculum, in addition to a wide range of vocational subjects. The college preparatory programs at all four of these schools are accredited by the University of California, and by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Academically-talented high school students are provided with "honors" courses and are permitted to carry more than the average subject load. In cases where students have exhausted the available high school curriculum in a particular subject, they are permitted to take advanced courses at El Camino College. Other students are given credit for work experiences approved by the high school. This program is designed to meet financial needs of some students, and vocational advancement or development of others.

Three of Torrance's four high schools have been built within the past ten years.\* Although Torrance High School is an older structure, its facilities underwent extensive modernization in 1963 and most of the plant is of recent construction. Student enrollment in the high schools ranges from a little over 1,500 to nearly 2,700.\*\*

Each Torrance high school has its own library facilities.

## ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education enrollment has risen steadily to its present figure of 3,000. Courses taken for high school credit and citizenship and English classes for the foreign-born are subsidized by State funds. Students enrolled in non-academic courses pay a tuition fee of \$3.00 per semester course.

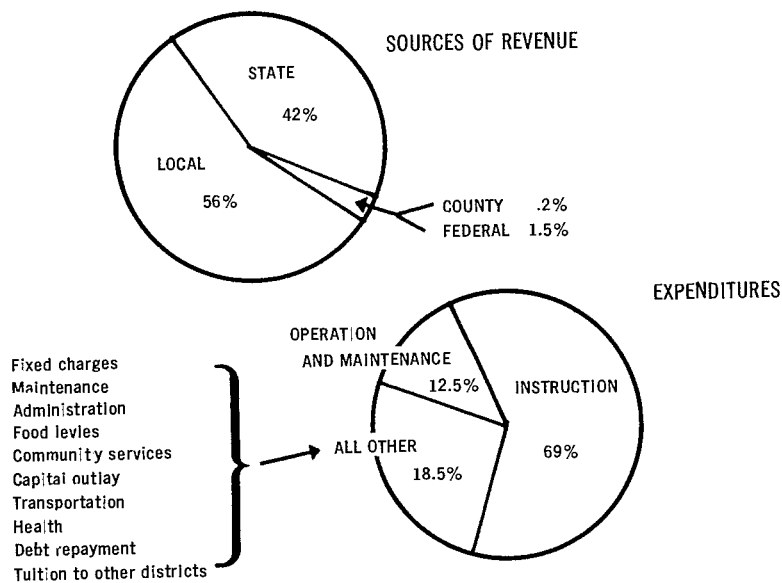
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\*North, 1955; South, 1958; West, 1962. . . . .

**1964-65 Enrollment	Estimated for 1970
Torrance H. S. . . . . 1,920 . . . . .	2,400
North H. S. . . . . 2,506 . . . . .	3,000
South H. S. . . . . 2,683 . . . . .	3,000
West H. S. . . . . 1,572 . . . . .	2,200

## FINANCE

In the fiscal year 1965-66, 55% of the income for the Torrance public schools was derived from local property taxes. State funds account for 43% and Federal funds for 2%. The city's period of rapid growth has created financial problems for its schools, since the increase in taxable wealth has not kept pace with student increase. Presently, the District has \$8,500 of assessed valuation to pay for each child's education, as compared with the County average of \$11,130.



The District's operating budget for 1965-66 totals \$18.5 million. Of this budget, over 60% is earmarked for teacher's salaries, which is close to the average percentage allotted for this purpose in other districts within the County. Torrance teachers' minimum salary is \$5,725.\* The legal minimum salary is \$5,000 for California teachers. Starting salary for teachers in the Los Angeles City Schools is \$6,120. Advancement on the salary schedule is based on a combination of college graduate study and length of service with the District.

\*From the increased salary scale established in July, 1965.

## PRIVATE FACILITIES

Public school facilities in Torrance are supplemented by a number of private schools in the area, some sponsored by religious faiths and others which are non-denominational.

Bishop Montgomery High School, a coeducational four-year Catholic high school, has an enrollment of 1,350.\* In addition to its college preparatory program, which is fully accredited by the University of California, this school offers general and business fields of study.

There are six Catholic parish schools serving grades one through eight located in the Torrance area. They are Nativity, St. Catherine Laboure, St. James, St. Lawrence Martyr, St. Margaret Mary and St. Philomena.

Two schools sponsored by the Lutheran faith are located in Torrance. These are Resurrection Lutheran School, enrollment 223, which serves grades kindergarten through eighth, and First Lutheran Elementary Day School, with an enrollment of 223 and serving grades kindergarten through seventh. These schools are both coeducational.

Wingrock School, with an enrollment of 100, serves children of the Christian Science faith. Its facilities accommodate boys and girls from pre-school age through eighth grade.

South Bay Junior Academy, built in 1964, is sponsored by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It offers curriculum for grades one through ten. Current enrollment is 128.

Non-denominational private schools are the South Bay Community Christian School, a coeducational school offering grades kindergarten through eighth and having an enrollment of 202; and Montgomery School for Boys, serving boys from the second through eighth grades, with an enrollment of 14.

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\*All private school enrollments listed are those of Sept. 1965.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### EL CAMINO COLLEGE

Torrance is one of nine communities comprising the El Camino Junior College District. The college's ninety-acre campus is located literally "across the street" from the city's northern boundary. Established in 1946, El Camino College had an enrollment in the Fall semester of 1965 of 14,826, with approximately one-third of that number being fulltime students (those carrying a minimum of 12 semester units). Of the 1965 graduates of Torrance public high schools, a little over 35% enrolled at El Camino College.

El Camino is a two-year public community college governed by a five-member elected Board of Trustees. The El Camino Junior College District is divided into five wards, each of which elects a trustee for a four-year term. Financial support comes primarily from property taxes levied within the District. In addition to this, it receives both State and Federal support.\*

The college offers the first two years of regular college work in preparation for student transfer to junior status in a university or four-year college. The Associate in Arts degree is granted upon successful completion of an approved course of study.

Vocational and avocational training are also offered at El Camino. "Auto mechanics to cosmetology" might indicate the range of technical training offered at the college. Evening classes are scheduled for the convenience of part-time students and students who are employed during the day.

El Camino is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. No tuition is charged.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA EXTENSION

Nearly 2,000 students were enrolled in University of California Extension classes offered in the South Bay area in the Spring semester of 1965. The University Extension office is located at Torrance's North High School, and classes are held at this school and several other schools in the area.

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\*Local support, 73%; State, 21%; Federal, 4%; County and other, 2%.



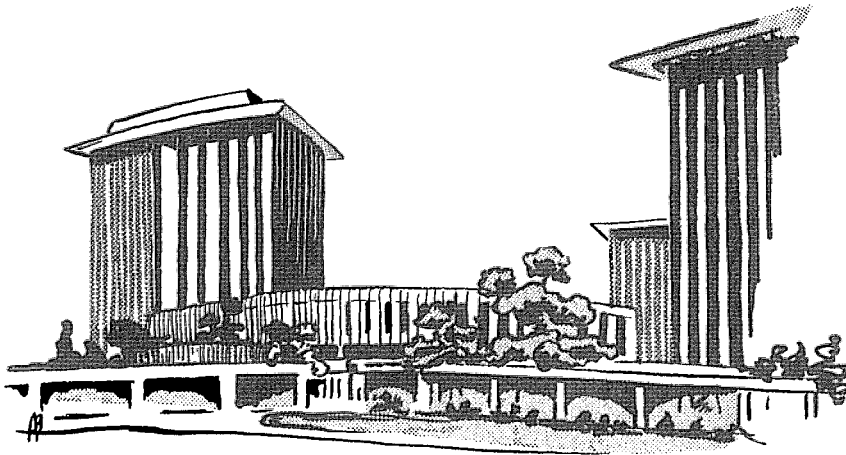
Presently, all extension courses offered for University credit are on the upper division and graduate levels, although the student has the option of enrolling in a class without credit.

Goals of the Extension school are to promote a student's professional growth and to broaden his cultural background. Classes in the fields of business, educational and real estate are in greatest demand. The curriculum is by no means limited to these fields, however, and offers a broad range of courses in the arts, humanities, and scientific fields. Discussion groups under the auspices of the University Extension are also offered in the Torrance area and include current events, arts, and humanities.

#### OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE AREA

Many Torrance students commute to one of the numerous colleges and universities located in the Los Angeles area. These include public institutions such as the University of California at Los Angeles, the California State College at Long Beach and the new California State College at Dominguez Hills. In addition there are a number of private institutions such as the University of Southern California, Marymount College and Loyola University.

## CHAPTER V



### PORTRAIT OF THE FUTURE

What is the portrait of the future Torrance? Could it be the picture painted in oils found in the past? It would not seem so. The wooden derricks and steel towers are already gone. The occasional sight of a nodding pump that might catch one's eye in the future portrait will be overshadowed by many elements within that cityscape.

The portrait of the future would seem to be a montage of homes, apartments, schools, parks, stores, factories—a portrait characterized by lively industrial, commercial, recreational and civic activity. One can only guess about the grouping and balance of these elements within the picture. Will the future portrait be a well-arranged composition?

As the remaining acres of available land in Torrance dwindle there is likely to be disagreement between those who wish to see it used for residences and those who feel it should be used for industrial or commercial purposes. Within its extensive program for business and civic development, the Torrance Chamber of Commerce has long included work toward preserving industrial land and efforts to provide a balanced growth for Torrance.

Mr. J. Walker Owens, General Manager of the Chamber, sees the need for efforts now toward a balance of future planned commercial development and small industrial development.

The portrait of tomorrow's Torrance as envisioned by Mayor Albert Isen is one painted in glowing colors. He believes Torrance is on the threshold of even greater growth than its phenomenal growth of the past. He predicts a large increase in population, industry and business. Such factors as the projected development of the "Financial Center" and the activity that must accompany the opening of a branch of Superior Court in Torrance tend to substantiate the bright future picture.

What about the future educational picture? Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, president of the Board of Education, sees a continuation in the Torrance schools of the individualized program so noted in the past. She hopes for a continuation of what she feels is an excellent academic pre-college program. In coming years she looks for increased emphasis on improving the training for the student who terminates his education upon graduation from high school.

The Torrance of tomorrow will achieve its character through the work of its citizens who care enough to stay well-informed and active in their city. The portrait of the future Torrance can reveal a realization for many, of the hope first envisioned there by Jared Sydney Torrance—a city which is a good place to work *and* a good place to live.

## APPENDIX

### PARKS

EL NIDO PARK	18301 Kingsdale Ave.	371-9114
EL RETIRO PARK	126 Vista del Parque	FR 5-9084
ENTRADERO PARK	5500 Towers St.	371-9176
GUENSER PARK	17800 Grammercy Pl.	327-6035
LA ROMERIA PARK	19501 Inglewood Ave.	no phone
McMASTER PARK	3624 W. Artesia Blvd.	327-7257
PARADISE PARK	5006 Lee St.	FR 1-9331
TORRANCE PARK	2001 Sante Fe Ave.	FA 8-9950
VICTOR PARK	4727 Emerald St.	371-9261
WALTERIA PARK	3855—242nd St.	FR 5-9127
PUEBLO COMMUNITY CENTER	2314 Del Amo Blvd.	no phone

### SPECIAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

BENSTEAD PLUNGE	3331 Torrance Blvd. Civic Center	328-5688
JOSLYN RECREATION CENTER	3335 Torrance Blvd. Civic Center	328-8362
SEA-AIRE PARK AND GOLF COURSE	22730 Lupine Dr.	FR 5-9142
TORRANCE ADULT CENTER	1318 Cravens Ave.	328-9744
TORRANCE RECREATION CENTER	3341 Torrance Blvd. Civic Center	328-6840

### LIBRARIES

MAIN LIBRARY	1345 Post Ave.	FA 8-5392
EL RETIRO	126-A Vista del Parque	FR 5-0922
ISABEL HENDERSON	4805 Emerald St.	371-2075
NORTH TORRANCE	3604 Artesia Blvd.	DA 3-7200
WALTERIA	3815 W. 242nd St.	375-8418

FIRE STATIONS

1701 Crenshaw Blvd.  
25135 Denny Rd.  
3610 Artesia Blvd.  
5205 Calle Mayor



328-3131

CIVIC CENTER

City Hall .....3031 Torrance Blvd. 328-5310  
Police Dept. ....3131 Torrance Blvd. 328-3456  
Benstead Plunge .....3331 Torrance Blvd. 328-5688  
Torrance Recreation Center.....3341 Torrance Blvd. 328-6840  
Josyln Recreation Center .....3335 Torrance Blvd. 328-8362  
County Bldg. ....3231 Torrance Blvd. 328-3310  
County Probation Bldg. ....3221 Torrance Blvd. 328-9010  
Superior Court .....825 Maple St.

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2335 Plaza del Amo 328-8080

Individual schools in the District may be contacted through the District Office.

## VOTER INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Registration Eligibility: Persons may register who, on the date of the next election, will be:

- ... at least 21 years of age.
- ... a citizen of the United States at least 90 days.
- ... a resident of the County of Los Angeles 90 days.
- ... a resident of California one year.
- ... able to read the Constitution in English and write their own name.

Re-registration is needed when you:

- ... have moved since you last registered.
- ... have changed your name legally (includes women who have married since they last registered).
- ... wish to change your party affiliation.
- ... did not vote last November (and did not return the card sent you by the Registrar of Voters).

Registration is done free of charge by any deputy registrar in the County of Los Angeles. For the name and address of a deputy near your work, phone the Registrar of Voters, 628-9211. For the name and address of a deputy near your home, phone the City Clerk's office in Torrance, 328-5310, or the Torrance League of Women Voters, 320-5301. Deputy registrars are stationed also at:

Torrance City Hall, City Clerk's Office, Mon.-Fri., 9-5 P.M.  
Torrance libraries, first Monday each month, 7-9 P.M.  
All County fire stations (not Torrance Municipal).

### ABSENTEE VOTING

Apply by writing Registrar of Voters, 808 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles 90012, at least 7 days' prior to the day of election. Give the reason for your request, your home address, the address to which the ballot should be sent, your signature the same way you signed when you registered. If you have moved to a different precinct within Los Angeles County within 54 days of an election but are duly registered in your old precinct, you may apply for an absentee ballot or vote in person at your former precinct. If in doubt, phone the Registrar of Voters, 628-9211.

## SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Some sources of reference used in the preparation of this book are listed below. These publications are excellent sources of information for anyone desiring additional or more detailed material on the subjects covered.

Annual reports and publications of the City of Torrance  
3031 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, Calif. Office of City Clerk  
These include:

*City of Torrance, California*  
*The Charter of the City of Torrance*  
*Annual Budget*  
*Capital Improvement Program*  
*Financial Report*  
*Torrance Police Department Annual Report*

*History of Torrance.* Compiled by the Torrance Unified School District, 2335 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance, California.

*Growth Is Only Half The Success Story.* Torrance Chamber of Commerce, 1510 Cravens Avenue, Torrance, California.

*Recreation Reporter.* Available monthly from the Torrance Recreation Department.

*Los Angeles County Government.* Published by the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County, 1134 Crenshaw Boulevard, Los Angeles, California.

*Tax Payers' Guide.* Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller's Office (see telephone directory for County listings).

*Annual Report of Financial Transactions Concerning Cities of California.* State Controller's Office, Sacramento, Calif.

*California Voters' Handbook.* Published by the League of Women Voters of California, 126 Post St., San Francisco, Calif.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, is dedicated to the principles of self-government established in the Constitution of the United States. The League works to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Through its Program the League gives sustained attention to and takes concerted action on issues chosen by the members.

Through its Voters Service the League provides nonpartisan factual information on the structure and function of government and of political parties, and on voting procedures, election issues, and candidates.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all women of voting age. For information call 320-5301.



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