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"Chiselers" Arrested

Three Men and One Woman Face Petty Theft Charges; SERA Relief Funds

Determination to rid the state relief rolls of "chiselers" who at the same time they are regularly employed on private payrolls, have accepted direct relief from the SERA, was brought home to Torrance this week with the arrest of four persons who were charged with petty theft and arraigned before Judge Robert F. Lessing in the city court on Tuesday.

They are Reyes Franco, 2713 Carson street, Torrance; Gerhard Fritzen, 114 South Lucia, Redondo Beach; and Earl and Emily Graves, husband and wife, 208 South Irena, Redondo Beach.

The three men were placed in jail to await their arraignment, Mrs. Graves being released on her own recognizance.

These three cases were selected from a long list of alleged violations in the Torrance district, as representing the most flagrant misuse of relief funds.

Franco, who has been in the United States since 1923, is married and has three children, has been employed at the Columbia Steel plant in Torrance since January 1, 1934. He has had steady work, the complaint alleges, and has received in pay checks from that concern an average of \$60 to \$80 a month. In addition to this he has accepted checks on direct relief from the SERA averaging \$4.50 a week since December, 1934, besides other aid in the form of supplies.

Fritzen, also employed at the Columbia Steel, gives his occupation as electrical operator and is employed at the plant as a mill operator. His pay check since the first of January, 1934, has averaged from \$80 to \$150 a month, his pay for last April amounting to \$146. He is alleged to have accepted direct relief checks from the SERA averaging \$4.50 a week.

He is married, has three children, and has steady employment at the mill.

Earl Graves, steel worker, employed at the Columbia, has averaged \$87 to \$200 a month, his check for April amounting to \$117.50. During the past year he laid off from work on account of illness and is said to have received compensation for part-time work during that time.

Direct relief from the SERA were, in this case made payable in the name of his wife, Mrs. Emily Graves, averaging from \$5 to \$12 a week.

All of the men are alleged to have represented to the SERA in making application for relief, that they were employed on part-time jobs, having three or four days work in a month at small wages. They declined to accept work orders.

Other cases which have come to light in Torrance district will be made the subject of prosecution, according to the SERA officials, who are pressing their investigations vigorously in order to clean up these unfair practices.

All of the defendants pleaded not guilty on arraignment. Afterwards, Franco returned to the court room and changed his plea to guilty. He was sentenced to serve 180 days in jail, of which 150 days were suspended on condition that he make complete restitution of the amount actually received from the SERA amounting to about \$75. As his bail had been fixed at \$25 this amount was impounded by Judge Lessing to apply on the payment, and Franco will pay off the rest as he is able. In order to save his job at the mills he will be permitted to sit out his jail sentence on Saturday and Sunday, from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. each day, and at the rate of two days a week he will be serving time for the next 15 weeks.

Trial in the Graves' case will come up for consideration next Tuesday, May 21, that of Fritzen later.

Housing Loans In Huge Gains

The Federal Housing Administration last week received applications for insured mortgage loans totaling \$2,195,871, according to a statement today by Stewart McDonald, acting administrator.

This sum, of which 32 percent, or approximately \$600,000, was for construction of new homes throughout the country, was an increase of almost \$1,000,000 over the highest day of the week previous.

NEW HOME
Judge Charles T. Rippey took out a building permit recently for the erection of a new home at 1448 El Prado. The foundations for the structure, which will be a seven-room house, have already been laid and work on it will be completed in a few weeks.

Rotarians Attend Confab This Week

Accredited with 100 percent registration, members of the Torrance Rotary Club attended the 20th annual district conference of the Rotary International at Santa Monica, which was held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Highlights of the convention which included 2,500 delegates from 185 clubs in California, Nevada, Arizona and the Hawaiian Islands, were the governors' breakfast served at the Uplifters Club Tuesday morning and the governors' ball held at La Monica, ballroom Tuesday evening.

George W. MacLellan was nominated at the closing session of the conference held yesterday for the office of district governor. He will be formally elected to head the activities of the second district at the international convention to be held in Mexico City in June. MacLellan is the secretary of the Santa Barbara Foundation and a past president of the Rotary Club in that city. His nomination as district governor was unopposed.

Keynote of the convention program was sounded by Thomas J. Davis, Butte, Montana, past international director, who said that he had discovered Rotarians belonging to the 3,977 clubs now scattered through 77 countries of the world devoted 13,000,000 hours weekly to meetings and gatherings with the idea of increasing their own knowledge and understanding of Rotary and advancing the movement in their own lives and that of their communities.

World-Wide Influence
The interpretation of this interest from an ordinary, every-day sort of viewpoint is that men all over the world are seeking to be better citizens and to make their communities a better place in which to live.

Explaining he made no claims that Rotary is either religion or philosophy, Davis set forth that he found in reading the teachings of world leaders in even the most ancient times to be the ideal of service as life's most vital force, and added that at no time in the world's history has the ideal of "service not for material gain but for the happiness unselfish service brings into life" been more vital.

Praises Compton
Much favorable comment was expressed in appreciation of the colorful pageant, "The Summoning of the Nations," presented by the Compton Junior College, Monday morning. A number of Torrance students at Compton participated in the pageant.

Souvenir Ticket Books For San Diego Fair On Sale Here

Souvenir ticket books for admission to the exposition at San Diego, which opens May 29, are now on sale at the office of the Torrance Herald. These books will be obtainable only for a limited time, and will not be on sale at the exposition grounds after the opening of the fair.

The offer presents a real bargain. Each book contains five general admissions, and one admission to five concessions, a value of \$3.75 which may be obtained here and now for the price of \$2.50.

Points of Interest
They are Shakespeare's Old Globe Theatre, "The Hollywood Parade" and motion picture hall of fame, the zoological gardens, "The End of the Trail" and "The Days of Saladin."

The Old Globe Theatre is a true reproduction of London's historic playhouse where Shakespeare's plays were originally presented. In its abridged versions of favorite Shakespearean plays will be presented daily.

Hollywood's Screen Actors' Guild and Domino Club in association with Fanchon & Marco are sponsors of the "Hollywood Parade" and motion picture hall of fame. Actual filming of movie scenes will form one part of the exhibit. The other will contain costumes and mementoes of screen stars.

CORNER-STONE OF P. O. TO BE LAID JUNE 7TH

Community Asked to Join In Brief Evening Ceremony

The corner-stone of the new Torrance post office building will be laid with appropriate ceremonies on Friday evening, June 7, it was announced today by Postmaster G. Earl Conner, following a citizens' committee meeting yesterday afternoon.

The Torrance Municipal band will be requested to open the program with a few selections, beginning at 7:30 o'clock, after which will follow a brief talk by some outstanding officials in the field of national affairs. L. J. Gilmeister will act as master of ceremonies and Mayor Scott R. Ludlow will wield the trowel in laying the corner-stone.

A historical committee, whose duty it will be to gather the documents which will be placed in the corner-stone, is headed by Postmaster Conner, with City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, L. J. Gilmeister, Mrs. Juliette Johnson, president of the Woman's Club, and Grover C. Whyte, editor of the Herald, as other members of the committee.

Madrigals Will Sing at Exposition

Torrance will have an interesting bit of program to present at the National Housing exposition, which will be held at Beverly boulevard near Fairfax, starting next Saturday. The exposition, under the auspices of a nonprofit corporation, will continue until June 31.

Torrance will be favored in having presented on Monday evening, March 27, the high school Madrigals, directed by Mrs. Margery Eischen, who will be heard in a 20-minute program some time between 7:30 and 9 o'clock. They will appear at the Theatre of the Stars, and afterwards will broadcast over one of the Los Angeles stations, as yet undecided.

Secretary L. J. Gilmeister, of the Chamber of Commerce, urges that all Torrance people who wish to go to the city to hear this part of the program meet at the Chamber of Commerce at 8:30 on that evening, and leave together to arrive at the Theatre of the Stars by 7:30 o'clock. Torrance will be officially represented by President Sherwood McIntyre of the Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Scott R. Ludlow, and other city officials.

A visit to the exposition will be interesting and educational. All types of homes will be shown, including steel, and many other related exhibits will be shown.

FIGURES COMPARED

New Water Rates Proposed to Be Put In Effect Show Savings Over Those Charged to Consumers

At the next meeting of the city council, an adjourned regular meeting which will be held next Tuesday night, an ordinance setting forth the new water rates which are proposed to be put into effect will be introduced for first reading. Second reading and adoption of the ordinance is expected to follow at the meeting on May 28, and the rates will thereupon be established.

This proposed action was agreed upon last Tuesday night, following the reading of a communication from City Engineer Frank R. Leonard, who is in charge of the water department.

In his communication, Mr. Leonard set out in full the proposed rates, which show a substantial reduction, and this reduction is expected to be followed by further lowering of the rates not later than December, 1936.

A comparison of the proposed rates with those now in effect show a saving of 15 cents on the minimum consumption, of 500 cubic feet of water, rising by degrees to 80 cents on the maximum of 10,000 feet or over.

The rates are as follows:

Amt. of Water	PROPOSED RATE		PRESENT RATE	
	Per 100 Cu. Ft.	Cost	Per 100 Cu. Ft.	Cost
500	.22	\$ 1.10	.25	\$ 1.25
500	.17	.85	.20	1.00
1000		\$1.95		\$2.25
2000	.14	3.35	.15	3.75
3000	.13	4.65	.15	5.25
4000	.13	5.95	.15	6.75
5000	.10	6.95	.10	7.75
6000	.10	7.95	.10	8.75
7000	.10	8.95	.10	9.75
8000	.08	9.75	.08	10.55
9000	.08	10.55	.08	11.35
10000	.08	11.35	.08	12.15
*Over 10000	.06		.06	

IRRIGATION RATES

Cu. Ft.	Minimum	Per 1000 Cu. Ft.
0-1000		\$2.00
1000-2000	.15	1.50
Over 2000	.05	.50

In view of a certain amount of criticism which has been directed at the water department because of the delay in putting the lower rates into effect, the city engineer calls attention in his communication to the council, to the fact that "no funds were available during the first month's operation to cover the cost of carrying on the business of the district, which with the purchase of water together with other operating costs, amounted to \$2,446.44 for this first month's operation; and also that it was necessary to meet this deficit from revenues of the water company before rates could be lowered, and it certainly is reasonable to conclude that the revenue from a few months' operation would be needed before lower rates could be put into effect.

"It has also been called to my attention that there are some of our taxpayers who apparently are of the opinion that rates cannot be lowered but rather must be raised in order to meet the obligations of the district due to the sale of bonds which have been authorized sold.

"For your further consideration and in substantiation of statements of policy previously made by your engineers that a considerable lowering of rates could be effected, I am submitting the following summary of revenues, operating costs, and accumulated surplus through lowered water rates for the years 1935 and 1936. These conclusions are based on the following assumptions:

"1. That Torrance Municipal Water District purchases or pumps and sells exactly the same number of cubic feet reported sold by Torrance Water Light and Power Company for the year 1934.

"2. That seven new fire hydrants which are requested by the fire department be put in service.

"3. That there will be added yearly 12 new domestic consumers, six of which will purchase 500 cubic feet and

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Mr. Leonard's table of rates which he recommends to be adopted December 25, 1936, are as follows:

Amt. of Water	Per 100 Cu. Ft.	Cost
500	.20	\$ 1.00
500	.15	.75
1000		\$1.75
2000	.12 1/2	3.00
3000	.12	4.20
4000	.12	5.40
5000	.10	6.40
6000	.10	7.40
7000	.10	8.40
8000	.08	9.20
9000	.08	10.00
10000	.08	10.80
*Over 10000	.06	
*Industrial		

IRRIGATION RATES

Cu. Ft.	Minimum	Per 1000 Cu. Ft.
0-1000		\$2.00
1000-2000	.15	1.50
Over 2000	.05	.50

NEW PHASE OF FHA PROGRAM IS EXPLAINED

Public Is Warned Against Imposters Who Would Collect Fees

Another phase of the Better Housing program is now being put into operation in Torrance, according to L. J. Gilmeister, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce here.

It has been concluded as advisable to make re-check on "leads" as revealed through the original survey of this city. The term "leads" meaning records now in the office of the Better Housing committee in Torrance which indicate the various types of improvements both tenants and owners of property wish to purchase. This re-check is intended to further assist the tenant or owner of a given property to accomplish his desire in procuring the improvements contemplated.

Many persons have not learned how to proceed with the actual development of the improvements they desire made. Some persons have decided to take advantage of these loans to make improvements other than what they indicated on the first survey.

The canvassers working in this campaign are instructed to lend

TURN TO STORY ONE Page 5

Students Build Model House

Torrance high school students in the wood-working shop, under the direction of James H. Burchett, are making a model house which will be displayed in the "Village of Tomorrow," a feature of the National Housing exhibit, opening next Saturday, May 18. Sponsored jointly by the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the University of Southern California College of Architecture and Fine Arts, the village will include homes, stores, theatre and other buildings which go to make up a complete community.

Schools and communities of Southern California are competing for honors. The Torrance students selected a two-story house plan. The small dwelling, built to scale, an inch and a half to the foot, is constructed of wood with a white stucco finish. Window casings are painted a dark green, and the roof will be of red tile. The hole effect has been simulated by the use of tin strips, run through a crimping machine, which will be overlapped and painted. From the patio an outside stairway leads to a balcony and the rooms on the second story. Garages join on to the end of the patio.

The model house is mounted on a wooden platform and will be moved to the exhibition grounds this week. The platform will be landscaped with lawn and flowers to complete the effect of permanence.

Building Supply Sales Show Gain Over Last Year

Sales of building supplies in April were larger than any month last year and were twice the volume of business transacted at the Torrance office during either February or March, this year, Charles V. Jones, local manager of the Consolidated Lumber Company reported this week.

A substantial volume of building is also being done this month, Mr. Jones states, indicating a decided upward swing in construction, which is such an important phase of recovery.

New String Trio Entertains

The Gay Caballeros, a string trio recently organized, which includes Bob Tolson, Hans Summers and Richard Miller, playing violins and guitar, were heard at Helen's Cafe, 1927 Carson street, last Saturday evening, and will be there again tomorrow night. The boys play cowboy music and are very good entertainers.

Bids Opened In July

Construction of Outfall Sewer to White's Point Will Start This Summer

Bids for construction of the \$2,500,000 White Point outfall sewer, to serve Torrance, Lomita and other cities in the several county sanitation districts, will be opened next July 2, it was announced today by A. K. Warren, chief engineer.

Plans and specifications for the huge project, which involves the boring of some six miles of tunnel through the Palos Verdes Hills, were adopted late Tuesday at a meeting of directors of districts Nos. 1, 2, 5 and 8, held in Los Angeles.

Two years will be required for completion of the project, Warren estimated. The work will be let in four contracts: one for the pipe line to be laid in the ocean and three for sections of the tunneling, which in some places will be 500 feet underground. Bids for the ocean pipeline will be taken at a later date.

Coincident with presentation of the completed plans and specifications this week, Warren announced that the last strip of land had been obtained several days ago, from George Peck. This will make possible a shorter route, and is a 20-foot strip extending from the intersection of 25th street and Normandie avenue southeasterly to Frampton avenue, just south of Anaheim boulevard.

Route of the line, which will be eight feet in diameter and may be compared with sections of the \$220,000 Colorado aqueduct, is as follows, from the disposal plant in Davidson City: From Vermont avenue and Lomita boulevard southeasterly to Anaheim boulevard and Frampton avenue, just south of Harbor City; thence, via a direct line to the western city boundary of the Los Angeles shoe-making and from there south to White Point.

The work is being financed by means of proceeds from a bond issue sold recently, and a grant of \$875,000 from the Public Works Administration. In addition, Warren stated that the districts have \$1,760,000 from the last bonds sold, and \$860,000 cash on hand.

Condemnation suit for a parcel of land at White's Point, for construction of the sewer, is being filed.

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Eshelman Avenue

Property Owners Urge City Council to Further Efforts for Improvement

Residents along Eshelman avenue in South Torrance to the number of 16, sent a letter of approval to the city council, commending the efforts that are being made to improve that highway. The letter, which was read at the council meeting Tuesday night, is as follows:

To the Honorable Councilmen, City of Torrance, California, Gentlemen:

We learn with pleasure of the renewed interest in the proposed connection of Eshelman and Cabrillo avenues.

At the present time, without such a connection with the central part of the city, we of the Eshelman avenue district are little more a part of Torrance than we were before the annexation of this district.

By connecting and paving these streets as one thoroughfare we will have convenient access to post-office, library, theatre, churches and business district of Torrance proper, as well as be assured quicker service in case of fire.

Now that there is an opportunity for securing money for street improvement without assessment against property, we earnestly urge that every effort be made to connect and improve these two streets.

(Signed by) L. J. Scott, I. W. Russell, J. L. Bryant, J. W. Wolfe, Mrs. C. J. Ellis, Mrs. R. L. Russell, Mrs. R. Garra, Mrs. R. H. Dunne, Mrs. A. J. Fitzgerald, Henry D. Carter, Otto C. Mertz, Mrs. J. A. Gertzen, Mrs. E. B. Kelley, Mrs. Robert E. Noble, Mrs. R. J. Denilio, Julius Schultz.

STRIKE OIL at 28-foot depth IN WILMINGTON

C. Saucedo and his brother, R. Saucedo, residing on Banning avenue, between E and F streets, Wilmington, were digging a cesspool in their back yard last week. At 28 feet they encountered a seepage of oil which flowed into the hole so rapidly that the men are bailing it out, putting it into barrels and are selling the product to oil companies at a good price. Oil men are greatly interested in the freak well, as no oil sand was encountered at the depth. The cost of the hole was about \$40, and the Saucedos are taking out several barrels a day. Pumping equipment will probably be installed, says the Wilmington Journal.

Other property owners in the neighborhood are planning to sink shallow wells.