

LEADING MERCHANT DIES; SERVICES TODAY



ASSAILANT HENRY WARD — OFFICER JOHN MAESTRI — DETECTIVE ERNIE ASHTON
... Now Who Shot Whom and Where?



OFFICER JOHN MAESTRI—VICTIM ALEXANDER CHAVEZ
... I Jumped and Then He Fired

Strange Malady Strikes Councilman's Daughter

Lorene Powell, 7-year-old daughter of Councilman George Powell, was due to return to her home yesterday afternoon from the Harbor General Hospital where she was taken Sunday evening for treatment for fainting spells and temporary paralysis.

Housing Unit To Be Vacated Within 60 Days

Latest developments in the mass evacuation of the Flight Strip Housing project is that the 12 families will move within the next 60 days and the land will be ready to receive a new planting of beans.

Following a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Veterans Emergency Rentals, Inc., administrators at the project, on Monday night the Torrance City Council Tuesday night asked the group to set aside \$1500 to cover the cost of clearing the land after the units have been sold and moved.

At the board meeting on Monday it was resolved that the group seek permission from the Federal Government to close the project and sell the remaining units.

A government housing official stated he would be able to place all but two of the renters in other units in the vicinity.

Moved into shortly after the war during the housing shortage, approximately 60 families have lived in the ex-Army barracks in the past five years.

WARREN HEADQUARTERS OPENED IN TORRANCE

Warren for Governor headquarters for Torrance, Lomita, Shoestring and Keystone areas have been opened in the Torrance National Bank Building, William H. Tolson, chairman of the local Warren committee, announced.

A meeting of Warren supporters was held in the headquarters on Monday night to map plans for a campaign in this area to get out a record Warren vote.

The headquarters will be open daily until election day, with Mrs. Virginia Selover, office secretary, in charge.

Absentee ballot applications will be available both for civilians and those in the armed forces.

"Anyone who has a relative in the armed forces can get an application for an absentee ballot in headquarters and mail it to that person," Tolson said. "This must be done immediately because the application must be mailed and in the hands of the Registrar of Voters by November 2, and the ballot must be

Football Tomorrow
TORRANCE AT LEUZINGER
Kickoff—8 p.m.
Admission 80 cents

Apparently

He Didn't Believe in Signs—At Least Not This One

One man is in jail today on a charge of intent to commit murder and another is on the mend from a bullet wound in the leg and all because the victim used, if you'll pardon the expression, a restroom marked, "Ladies Only."

Booked on a double charge, assault with a deadly weapon and assault to commit murder is a 61-year-old watchman-carpenter, Henry Joseph Ward, 6510 Ira avenue, Bell Gardens.

The shooting took place on the grounds of the new Paint and Plate Glass Com-

pany where Ward is employed as a carpenter during the week and as a watchman on week-ends.

Victim in the "Powder Room Cape" is Alexander Chavez, 51, a metal lather who lives at 611 North Evergreen avenue in Los Angeles.

BULLET IN LEG
Chavez felt the matter was all a big misunderstanding and when Dr. Phillip Halloran of the Torrance Medical Center dug a .38 cal. slug from his right leg he was sure it was all a painful mistake.

It all started when Chavez, on his first day of work at the local plant, asked his foreman where the restrooms were located.

"Around the corner of the building and to the right," Chavez quoted the answer from the foreman. Upon stepping around around the corner he found he building he was seeking. Not noticing nor paying any heed, Chavez entered the rest room marked "Private, Ladies Only."

FOR PRIVATE USE
Ward, whose trailer is parked

on the grounds of the new paint plant, objected to the worker using what he considered was his and Mrs. Ward's private accommodations.

An argument ensued and Ward stalked to the trailer to return brandishing a revolver.

"I didn't intend to shoot him; you can tell that from the angle of the path of the bullet. I was shooting at the floor," Ward told a Herald reporter at the City Jail.

JUMPED IN TIME
Chavez claims if he had not moved at the instant Ward

fired, the bullet would have struck him in the stomach.

Ward was arraigned Tuesday afternoon in City Judge Otto B. Willett's court and held for a preliminary hearing scheduled for this morning. Bail was set at \$2500.

Answering the call to the shooting scene were Officers John Maestri and Gale Willacre. He was arraigned on the double charge after interrogation by Detective Captain Ernie Ashton and Sergeant Percy Bennett.

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Almond Services Set For 10 This Morning

Scheduled for this morning at 10 a. m. were funeral services for John Preston Almond, youthful, well-known owner of Almond's Department Store, whose sudden death Monday morning rocked the community.

Almond, 37, apparently unaware of any heart trouble, awoke about 12:30 Monday morning and complained of a stiffness in his room. His wife, Margaret, "Peggy," rushed for Dr. Eugene Cooke, who occupied the apartment over the Almond's garage. Almond died at 12:37 after failing to respond to medical and resuscitator treatment.

Death came at the Almond home at 2866 Torrance boulevard.

Palbearers for the popular merchant will be fellow Kiwanis Club members, including Mayor Bob L. Haggard, H. O. Chaney, Dean L. Sears, Edwin B. Brown, Paul Loranger and Charles Ragsdale.

Rev. Paul Wenske, pastor of the First Lutheran Church, a close friend of the family and also a fellow Kiwanian, will officiate at the services this morning at the Stone and Myers chapel and again at graveside services at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

The victim of coronary thrombosis, official cause of death, is the father of a 13-month-old son, John Martin, and a daughter, Nancy Rose, nine years.

Almond, president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Almond of 1416 Acacia avenue, a brother, Bob, of the Mayfair Apartments, and a sister, Mrs. Barbara Moore of Scott, Mississippi. Mrs. Moore arrived yesterday by air to attend the funeral. Flying here to attend the rites also is his aunt, Mrs. George Frazier of Shaw, Mississippi hometown of the local merchant leader.

The popular business man had taken an active interest in civic and philanthropic affairs since he assumed ownership of the department store in May of 1949. He had contributed musical instruments to the Torrance Area Youth Band, carried more than his share during the past two Kid's Day observances, and most recently supported the students at Torrance High School in re-organizing and resuming publication of the school paper.

Almond first came to Torrance as manager-buyer for H. O. Chaney, then owner of the store located at 1261 Sartori avenue. In May of last year, Almond acquired interest in the store and the name was changed to Almond's Department Store. Almond came out of the U. S. Navy after 26 months' service.



JOHN P. ALMOND
... Heart Victim

Study Ordered

Since Torrance is now without local ambulance service, City Manager George W. Stevens Tuesday night was ordered by the City Council to investigate the possibility of inaugurating a city-operated service.

The situation leaving Torrance dependent upon ambulances from Gardena or Redondo Beach, came about recently when Virgil Sullivan sold his equipment which was used to service the area.

Stevens also was asked to investigate the possibility of private enterprise providing ambulance service for the city.

Developer Wins Sidewalk Waiver

City Employees To Get Raise If No. 1 Fails

City employees were granted a \$10 monthly cost of living wage boost Tuesday night by the Torrance City Council—the offer, however, was contingent on the success or failure of Proposition No. 1 to pass on November 7.

Councilman Nick Drake objected to the "strings attached to the offer" and stated that he thought the offer should be upped to \$15.

City Manager George W. Stevens replied:

"If Proposition No. 1 passes we won't have any money for any raises; in fact, we won't have any money for salaries—period."

Stevens was referring to the loss of \$150,000 facing the city if the voters approve of the measure to exempt personal property from the tax rolls.

A council vote to eliminate the "if" deal attached to the pay hike failed to pass. The original recommendation of the city manager then passed unanimously.

The raise, effective November 1, will mean approximately \$20,000 will have to be appropriated from the unappropriated reserve fund.

Rudolph W. Mayer went away from the Torrance City Council Tuesday night whistling something that sounded like "On the Sidewalks of Hollywood-Riviera."

The tune was barely audible, however, over rumbles of "Call in the Grand Jury."

Scene of the three-act melodrama was the Torrance City Council chambers Tuesday night as the council ignored requests from residents of Hollywood-Riviera that Mayer's Ocean Hills Corporation be required to conform to a city law requiring sidewalks in all new home tracts.

ASKED FOR WAIVER
Mayer, developer of a proposed tract of 80 homes in the attractive beach community, asked the council to waive the sidewalk requirement. When action on his request was deferred, Mayer was reported in a throw-away publication as considering with favor an offer to sell his land to a wealthy eastern group of Negro real estate investors. Representatives of the same throw-away newspaper have been drumming up interest in the Mayer deal for the past month.

MAYER GAINS POINTS
In rapid succession, Mayer won on all three points of his deal:

1. The council agreed to drop the demand for sidewalks;
2. To sell a 2½-acre plot of ground and buy another site on which to erect certain city buildings;
3. To abandon certain easements along the 250-foot Hollywood-Palos Verdes Parkway

and thus allow Mayer access to his property bordering the Parkway.

Earlier, the council had indicated it would not ease the requirements for sidewalks in the area. The City Planning Commission likewise refused to act and indicated it was not to be swayed by Mayer's reported deal with the Negro interests.

ISSUE CARRIES 3-2
Immediately after the council voted 3-2 in favor of Mayer's demands, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett read a letter from the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners Association requesting the council insist that Mayer install sidewalks. This was in face of the

(Continued on Page 2)

Councilmen Hit Law On Appointees

After undergoing verbal attacks by two city councilmen Tuesday night, an ordinance prohibiting members of city commissions and boards from being appointed to the Council in the event of a vacancy, passed 3-2.

The measure, Ordinance 538, was labeled "discriminatory" and a "shut to the 40 or more men serving on the Civil Service Commission and Recreation Commission and other boards" by Councilmen Nick Drake and George Powell.

Earlier a letter from both commissions was read opposing the ordinance.

Drake said that under the terms of the new law Mayor Bob L. Haggard should resign since he came "up through the ranks" from chairman of the Planning Commission.

Gold Rush Days Are Back Again For Everybody

Friday night, and the next nine Friday nights, will be Gold Rush Days!

Staged by the Torrance Better Merchants as a trade promotional campaign, the event is sponsored by 19 local merchants.

Participating in the Gold Rush are the following trading posts:

A-1 Photo, Adams Dress Shop, Allen Jewelers, Almond's Department Store, Baker's Furniture, Bernard's Family Shoe Store, Franks Furniture, Gary's Jewellers, Gay Shop, Kales, Lawson's Jewelers, Sam Levy Department Store, National Home Appliance, J. J. Newberry Company, Payless Drug, Porter's Yardage, Roth's Market, Tiny Tyke and Universal Furniture.



QUEENLY NEIGHBORS . . . When the expected 1500 persons drop in at the Civic Auditorium November 4 during the YMCA's Good Neighbor Day breakfast they will be greeted by Elaine Rehwoldt (center) who was chosen Good Neighbor Day Queen by members of the H-Y Club. Runners-up were Betty Klem (left) and Marion McDonald, both of whom will serve as co-hostesses.—(Herald photo).