

County Plans Beach Improvement Program

Torrance will have one of the area's finest beaches in the near future, according to plans revealed this week by the County Recreation and Park Department.

In prospect for construction this spring is a parking lot which would accommodate about 130 cars and serve to protect the area from erosion.

Proposed for development during the next fiscal year, are a pedestrian walk-way from the parking area to the beach, a dressing room, addition to the lifeguard station, and landscaping of the earthen bluff overlooking the strand.

All these improvements would be on county-owned property seaward of Paseo de la Playa and south of Via Riviera.

Drawings and specifications are now being rushed by engineers for the 200x250-foot parking area so that they may be presented to the Board of Supervisors within the next month. Officials hope that the paving may be completed by late spring. The area now is a dusty section where cars park in a helter-skelter manner.

One important reason for the paving is the protection of a storm drain which carries excess rain waters from much of the Hollywood Riviera residential section. Several sections of this drain were carried away or damaged during recent rains and currently are being repaired by city crews.

The paving also would protect the lifeguard station, completed only last month, from the effects of rain-caused erosion of the bluff behind it.

Attack of Girl Prompts Lodge To Hit Complacent Parents

A campaign against complacent parents was opened this week by the membership of the Torrance Loyal Order of Moose, according to Joseph Platt, public relations officer.

Object of the attack is the type of parent who boasts that "it can't happen here," then when it does, decries the type of police protection that allowed it to happen. Basis for the campaign was the criminal assault on a Torrance child Jan. 11, during which the 10-year-old girl was kidnaped and raped in an apartment or house near here.

"A militant citizen, observant of suspicious cars and drivers, wary of the unknown and repeated visitor to a neighborhood, and with common sense enough to take down a license number or description," said George Powell, civic affairs chairman, "would be of the greatest assistance to the law-enforcement agencies of this area. Certainly," continued Powell, "he or she could contribute that little extra help that might very well prevent a crime involving a son or daughter."

Marvin MacArthur, governor of the Torrance Moose Lodge, instructed the membership of his organization to keep a sharp watch in their residential areas, to ask their neighbors to do likewise, and to report instances of the type mentioned by Powell to the police. "One instance," said MacArthur, "where such assistance results in the apprehension of a sex degenerate may do much to prevent future occurrences."

"A wide-awake community," concluded Governor MacArthur, "is the best protection against crime of any kind... certainly against the kind that hits so close to home."



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