

MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT ASSURED AS STATE SIGNS LEASE ON BUILDING

Bids Called for New North Torrance Post Office

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Dense Fog Blamed for Crashes, Traffic Slowed to Standstill

No Drivers Hurt In Foggy Crashes

The blinding fog which hit the Torrance area during the past few days was cited as the principal factor in a number of auto accidents investigated by Torrance police officers.

The fog accidents began early Friday at Western Ave. and Sepulveda when autos driven by Mrs. Elsie Slingerland, of 24721 Senator Ave., and Vernon

Lee Baldwin, 2814 Martha St., collided. Both cars received extensive damage but no one was injured.

A four-car collision at Linda and Sepulveda was also recorded early Friday. Cars driven by Nathan Kamins, of 22569 Redbeam Ave.; William J. Ray, of Redondo; and Wayne S. Merritt, of Culver City, collided at the intersection. While the three were out of their cars inspecting the damage the fourth car, driven by Arlie B. Whitley, of El Segundo, came creeping out of the fog to strike the tangled cars, doing still more damage to them. No one was injured.

Another Crash. A few minutes later police investigated a minor collision at Roberts Rd. and Pacific Coast Hwy. Minor damage only was reported here, and no one was injured.

The spate of collisions continued when the fog returned Friday evening. Raymond H. Anderson, of Hawthorne, reported that he struck a car belonging to D. B. Heatherly, of 3303 W. 190th St. while driving along 190th in the fog.

Billy Crawford, of 2463 Mari-

copa Ave., told police he was going north on Crenshaw Blvd. Friday evening and hit "a bank of fog" when an auto immediately loomed up in front of him. He swerved to miss the car and scraped the left side of his auto across the right rear of the other. He gave the other driver's name as Felix Gagnon of 4307 W. 167th St.

Early yesterday, Jesse Levi Todd, 21, of 2370 Lomita Blvd., hit a power pole on Torrance Blvd. near Western Ave. Todd told police he lost his way in the thick fog and ran his auto off the street.

Police listed another collision at Linda Dr. and Sepulveda, yesterday morning. No one was injured, and no mention of damage to autos made.

A Van De Kamp's bakery truck driven by Harry Brown collided at Western Ave. and Torrance Blvd. early yesterday with an auto driven by Sue Neese, 22, of Lomita. The woman was taken by ambulance to Harbor General Hospital but refused treatment there, police said.

The three-page statement released by the two firms made no reference to the request of Great Lakes to open a 165-acre diatomaceous earth mine in the area. Decision on that matter is scheduled to be handed down by the supervisors Dec. 29.

Huge Investment. Officers of the two firms said a preliminary investment of \$3,000,000 was contemplated to acquire the land, and another investment of \$6,500,000 is planned for development of utilities such as water, sewers, streets, lighting and fire protection.

The plans are now subject only to the approval of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, it was said.

Exhibits prepared by Architect Victor Gruen indicate that 4760 acres have been set aside for single-family residences, 234 acres for multi-family homes, 100 acres for schools, 200 acres for recreational and commercial use. Also set aside were 60 acres for professional and business offices, 40 for retail establishments, 25 for civic services, 40 for parks, and 243 for special



DECORATING SWEEPSTAKES . . . Jaycee Nolan Stuckey, chairman of the Christmas Window Decorating Contest sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, hands perpetual trophy to John Hogan (left) of John's Paint and Window Shade, 1413 Cravens Ave. (Herald photo)

Plans to Continue Development Hinted

Plans to go ahead with the huge residential development in Rolling Hills without reference to the outcome of the hearings which have been conducted before the Board of Supervisors on a permit for a new diatomaceous earth mine were announced yesterday by the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. and the Capital Company, identified as a new partner of the Great Lakes firm in the enterprise.

In a statement issued yesterday by P. W. Anderson, vice-president of the Capital Co. and D. L. Marlett, vice-president of Great Lakes Carbon Corp., it was stated that a planned community to house some 40,000 residents on the Palos Verdes peninsula was assured.

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Lease Effective Jan. 1 Signed For DMV Office

Establishment of a Department of Motor Vehicles office here after Jan. 1 was assured yesterday when Sam Levy announced receipt of a signed lease from the state for a building at 1317 Cravens Ave.

The building, formerly occupied by the Torrance Assembly of God Church, will be converted to provide office facilities for a full-time branch of the department.

Levy, owner of the property leased to the state, said he had been told the department planned facilities to handle about 15,000 persons a month here.

The office will serve the Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, Palos Verdes, and South Bay areas. It will supplement offices in Inglewood and Long Beach.

Services by the new office will include license examinations, issuance of vehicle licenses, transfers, and other department functions.

The lease is effective Jan. 1, Levy said.

Church services of the Assembly of God are now being held at 3654 Torrance Blvd., according to the Rev. Mrs. Ida W. Sande.

More dense and heavy fog will blanket the coast this morning but should be beginning to thin out at 8:30 a.m. and should be almost gone by 10 a.m., the Weather Bureau reports. Hazy sunshine, like yesterday, will follow the fog and there should be little change in temperature, with a high of 65 and a low of 45.

Jan. 16 Deadline On Bids for New Postal Station

Approval for a North Torrance sub-station of the Torrance Post Office was reported yesterday when Postmaster Clara Conner announced that bids for the lease of a suitable building are now being received in the office of Post Office Inspector B. A. Pressly, in Los Angeles.

Pressly's office is in Room 701 of the Federal Bldg., Temple and Spring Sts., Los Angeles. Bids may be offered during the period Dec. 16 to Jan. 16, 1954.

The North Torrance station is to be located in the vicinity of 174th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., Mrs. Conner stated. It will have about 2500 square feet of floor space and will sell stamps, handle parcel post, send out its own carriers, and will probably post office boxes, the postmaster reported.

With a crew of about 70 extra people working full-time, the Christmas rush hit its peak Thursday at the local post office when 100,100 pieces of mail were run through the cancelling machines from 9 a.m. to 12 midnight.

The postmaster recommends the station at 1009 Border Ave. for mailing of packages during the Christmas season. The station is located across from the National Supply Co.

The hospital really needed the equipment," Dr. Don C. Moshos said. He explained that the hospital often had to borrow incubators from neighboring cities to care for premature infants.

Dr. Moshos originated the idea of supplying the hospital with the equipment several years ago and turned the idea over to the Lions Club, of which he is a member.

Miss Elsa Hammerstrom, superintendent of the hospital, was



NEW LIFE FOR INFANTS . . . Miss Elsa Hammerstrom, superintendent of Torrance Memorial Hospital, accepts one of the three new incubators donated to the hospital by the Torrance Lions Club. Presenting the gift are Dr. Don C. Moshos, right, and Roy Peterson, president of the club. (Herald photo)

Hospital Gets Three Incubators from Club

Three new infant incubators arrived at the Torrance Memorial Hospital Friday as gifts of the Torrance Lions Club.

In past years the Torrance Lions Club has given a Christmas party in the Civic Auditorium for Torrance kids, but the growth of the city and decision of the city not to contribute to such functions caused the club to halt the party this year.

"Instead, we decided to help Torrance youngsters before they even learn about Santa Claus," club president Roy Peterson said.

The club put up about \$500 for the three modern incubators which will be added to the club as a natural one for the move was a natural one for the club as it has furnished funds for about two and one-half of the incubators now at the hospital.

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There is an Easter Way—Shop the Christmas Gift Guide in your Torrance Herald.

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"SANTA" FIGUEROA . . . Dave Figueroa, operator of the Shell Station at Torrance and Crenshaw Blvds., helps Santa two of the Davis children with their strange new tri-cycle. Figueroa and five members of the Torrance High School football team collected furniture, bedding and clothing from contributors Friday and trucked it to the needy Davis family, which recently moved from a tent home to a new house. The Davises have nine children and one more on the way. (Herald photo)

(See Story on 1)



DOPE HAUL CHECKED . . . Police Sgt. D. C. Cook checks over a large batch of pills, powders, and ointments found Thursday adjacent to the North Torrance Elementary School. The medicines, in large paper sacks, were checked for narcotics contents. School Custodian Harold Kimball found the bottles and ampules and turned them over to police. A check is being made to determine the source of the stuff. (Herald photo)