

Driver Permits Pulled by State

Motorists who ran afoul of the law ran into legal action by the State Department of Motor Vehicles, last week. Those who had their drivers privileges lifted included:

Joseph E. Curtis, 253 W. Ocean St., financial responsibility; Raymond J. Malosh, 25318 Pennsylvania Ave., financial responsibility; Georgia R. Newman, 926 Kornblum Ave., bad driving record; John Ragan, 23022 Petroleum Ave., financial responsibility; Edwin L. Sands, 1255 W. 21st St., auto theft conviction; Ralph O. Somerville, 1211 El Prado, failure to satisfy traffic judgment.

Convicted of drunk driving but no license suspension recommended by the courts were the following: Ramon Almeida, 5202 W. 182nd St.; Leonard T. Cannon, 1676 W. 254th St.

The following had licenses reinstated: Robert A. Eatkins, 4602 Highgrove Ave.; Frank P. Brown, 26832 Narbonne Ave.; William E. Driever, 22506 Ocean Ave.; Jack L. Fuzzell, 310 Harbor Hills; David L. Webster, 1476 W. 185th St.

Technical Classes Slated in Hawthorne

A number of classes in technical fields of interest to industrial workers will be offered by the Centinela Union High School District this fall, according to Adult Education Director R. K. Loyde. Classes will be in the Hawthorne area.

Courses will include technical writing, blue print reading, and others. In addition to stenotype, rugmaking and china painting. Further information may be obtained at O'Regard 1-7541 or O'Regon 8-1740.

Plot in Palos Verdes OK'd by Commission

A 26-acre plot containing 49 single family home lots has been approved by the Regional Planning Commission for location south of Palos Verdes Dr. North, west of Crenshaw Blvd. Owner of the subdivision is the Palos Verdes Corporation, of Rolling Hills. The subdividers is Bjorklund and Smith, of Los Angeles.

FORESTS COMPARED

The forested area of Canada is exceeded in size only by the forest lands in the United States and Brazil.

Smog Sleuths Set Up Shop In East Torrance District

By DICK FRIEND

SMOG, a four letter word that spells weepy-eyes and decreased visibility, especially is bad this time of year, the experts say.

But there are a few men, armed with some tiny bean plants, a can of smoking dry ice, several mechanical brain-like instruments, and backed with a million dollars, hope to do something about it.

One of these men is Richard Hastings, of the sampling section of the County Air Pollution Control District. Part of the money which he gets comes from you—the taxpayer who supports the District.

And from all indications, every penny is well invested.

Run Small Laboratory Hastings, or one of his fellow experts, operates out of a miniature laboratory on wheels in the East Torrance area. They mobile down this way when ever an "inversion" hits, and heavy smog results.

During the current four-month period, the smog season, the lab operates nearly 24 hours a day. Chemists sniff, whiff, peek, and scan the horizon at intervals, then jot down their findings in code-like symbols.

But, oddly enough, the men "back at the office" are finding out amazing things about smog, and consequently, some day will tell you and me how to prevent it.

Another group which has aimed straight at the heart of the smog problem is the Southern California Air Pollution Founda-

tion, a fairly recent newcomer to the smoke scene.

Backed by private industry, commerce, and individuals, this purely non-profit organization will attempt to further the studies of the District, completely uninfluenced by any political or monetary pressures which might conceivably hinder the efforts of the governmental, tax-supported District.

Work Closely The District and the Foundation men work hand in hand often sharing the same little laboratory space, as is the case in the Torrance area.

Down here, the major interest is in finding out how much the gasoline refineries contribute to the smog situation. Results of the exhaustive tests will be made public by the Foundation about Jan. 1.

Other experimental stations are sucking in air samples throughout the County—or the Basin—as the smog men say.

Ten stations, located in the Civic Center, Pasadena, Azusa, Basset, Artesia, East Torrance, Venice, the Wilshire District, and Burbank, are in full scale operation.

Smog Less Here Hastings, the District scientist, said unofficially that he believes current tests will show less of a problem in this area, but increasing in density in the "uptown Los Angeles" areas.

This may be a strong shot in the arm to those who point to the automobile's stinking ex-

haust pipe as a chief smog contributor.

Refineries and steel mills have spent millions of dollars in helping to curb the outlet of eye-irritating gases into the air. Some, however, still offend at certain times of the smog season.

Torrance smog sleuths are concerned mostly with the amount of hydrocarbons, or gasoline vapors, present in the air, and use a complicated "freeze-trap" system employing liquid oxygen to make their calculations.

The trap freezes out all impurities while allowing good air to pass through. Temperature of the liquid oxygen is 183 degrees below zero on the chemists, centigrade scale; this is more than 250 degrees below zero on your thermometer.

Foundation Checks Ozone The Foundation presently is spending large sums in apparatus which measures the ozone content of the atmosphere.

Ozone, which sounds like a TV writers name for a miracle soap, is not new. It's always been with us, but without the publicity.

Technically, it's defined as a "blue gas with a pungent odor," but the chemists point out that ozone itself is not the problem. Ozone is a great mixer, and permits the ready mixing of other obnoxious gases put out by autos, industry, and the backyard incinerator, into the air we inhale.

But with the ozone present in large quantities, plus the nitrogen oxide, the sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and other irritating gases, we have a problem.

Automatic calculators record hour by hour, day by day, the amount and type of gas in the air and these figures are correlated with recordings showing the visibility and eye-soreness present at the same time.

The experts hope to get a giant screen-size picture into exactly what it is that we must get rid of.

Check Visibility Another device used by the Foundation men is the Transmissameter, which shines a beam of light through the air to a photo-electric cell or electric eye. As the smog increases, less light reaches the "eye," and a tiny line



is penciled on a revolving drum. This is correlated with a frequent, and simple, look-see from the nearest tall ladder to determine how the visibility has changed.

Foundation researchers also have a small vegetable garden planted at each smog station. Pinto beans, carefully watered and watched, are subjected to a 24-hour a day blast of smoggy air from an electric blower.

Any sign of wilt or color change on the large green leaves is reported immediately. Pinto beans in this area, incidentally, show little signs of smog wear.

So with test tubes bubbling in tubs of freezing liquid air, fans blowing at the little bean plants, electric recorders inking down every conceivable fact about the air we breathe, and top chemists compiling the figures, we may find some day that Southern California's smog is a thing of the past, a mere legend of the "gray days" of the '50's.

Three Drivers Hurt In Wilmington Crash

Two Torrance men and a Lomita woman drove their cars to Wilmington Tuesday, and were injured in a three-car collision at Anaheim St. and Bay View Ave.

Donald McLeod, 16, of 4727 Greenmeadow Ave.; George Day, 42, of 3506 Senefeld Dr., and Francine Garrett, 31, of 2055 W. Lomita Blvd., were taken to Wilmington General Hospital for treatment.

INFECTON SPREAD

During World War I, many British troops were infected with anthrax, believed carried on shaving brushes imported from Japan.



PRECIOUS PINTOS . . . These tiny pinto bean plants, here being loaded into a station wagon by Gay Siner, are used by smog experts to determine the plant damaging effect of polluted air. The pots are changed daily, transported to Los Angeles for analysis. Norbert Weber, insert picture, checks the Oxidant Recorder, a mechanical brain which sniffs the air and pencils the exact "make-up" onto an endless tape. These devices are used by the sleuths in their East Torrance mobile laboratory.

Election Law Change Sought By Supervisor

Outmoded election laws which require counting and certifying the names of unopposed candidates for Superior Court offices on primary ballots were blasted today by County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

Strong protests always have been received from the voters and from the election officials who must count and register thousands of votes for unopposed judicial candidates.

Hahn was advised last week by the County Counsel that an amendment to the State constitution could bring about an end to the necessity for the voting.

"There were 80 Superior Court Judges' names on the last primary ballot, with only one having an opponent, yet all votes received by each had to be counted and certified, causing con-

fusion to the voters, extra work for election officials, and unnecessary expense to the taxpayers," the Supervisor said.

Final Teenage Dance Scheduled Saturday

The "Back-to-School" dance this Saturday night will be the last teenage dance of the summer season, the Torrance Recreation Department has announced.

An evening of surprises is promised at the dance, which will last from 8 to 11:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium.

Fender Skirts Heisted

Fender skirts from his auto parked near Carson St. and Andree Ave., were stolen Thursday night, Willard T. Faughnder, of 28841 Eshelman Ave., reported to Torrance police.

Harbor Swimming Pool Bids Get Nod from City Council

Bids for construction of the Harbor Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse adjacent to Harbor Junior College were accepted late Thursday by the Los Angeles City Recreation and Park Commission.

George Hjelte, general manager of the recreation department, informed the commission that Carter Mack Builders was the low bidder for the 120x60-foot plunge. Bid was \$197,000.

heated water and have its deck surfaces warmed by radiant heating, open-air dressing rooms surrounded by 10-foot walls, and covered check rooms and rest rooms.

The pool's depth will range from 3½-feet to 9 feet. Hjelte said the pool is financed under provisions of the city's 1947 recreation bond issue. It will be constructed at Figueroa and "L" streets.

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