

ATTEMPT MADE TO HALT ANNEXATION

Lease for Airport Commercial Area Signed

Shopping Area Due Here Soon

Store Properties, Inc., proposed developers of the 35-acre triangle on the Torrance Municipal Airport, signed a long-term lease with the city last Friday following official clearance of the title to the land by the federal government, it was announced here by City Attorney James M. Hall Saturday.

Formal approval of the lease by the City Council is expected at its meeting tomorrow evening, which is scheduled to convene at 5:30 p. m. Several commitments have been received for commercial leases on the airport property, but no announcement of what stores might be locating on the new site has been made. Store Properties officials have said they will announce the plans for development of the area as soon as commitments are formalized.

Title Clouded
Clearance of the land for commercial development followed a long endeavor by City Attorney Hall which included a trip to Washington, D. C., several months ago. Title to the land which was given to the city following the war was clouded by a clause in the deed which stated that the government could reclaim the land if it was used for anything but airport purposes. The triangle of land was separated from the rest of the airport last year by the extension of Crenshaw Blvd. to Pacific Coast Hwy. from its former terminus at Sepulveda.

Development of the area is scheduled to include an investment of at least \$9,000,000, the HERALD has learned. It has been reported that one of California's leading department stores is "very interested." In the location, and that other top name specialty stores have been lined up for the new shopping center.

Clearance of the land by the federal government has been held up pending selection of a Nike launching site which the government wants to place on the airport. Locations for the launching site have been narrowed down to the west end of the field, although no final decision on the matter has been announced.

Police Nab Young Pair

The alertness of a Torrance resident, who called the police, resulted in the apprehension of two juveniles, one of them armed, who were attempting to enter a south Torrance cafe last week, according to Torrance police reports.

Arrested by Officers Bob Wright and John Han as they were getting ready to enter the cafe were the two boys, ages 14 and 15. One of them was carrying a .22 caliber revolver, officers said.

Arrest of the pair cleared up a total of 13 burglaries in Lomita, south Torrance, and the Palos Verdes area, in recent months, police said. The boys admitted a series of burglaries which had been baffling police.

Both teenagers were released to their parents pending juvenile court hearings.



HEADS PETROLEUM CLUB
... Jerry L. Evans, division manager of the National Supply Co., has been named president of the newly formed Petroleum Club of Long Beach. He is heading up the organization which plans to build a new clubhouse in Long Beach.

Pair Face Dope Charges as Law Finds Capsules

When he found himself faced with a six months jail sentence, Richard William Calder, 22, of 21806 Moneta Ave., changed his "guilty" plea to "not guilty" on charges of possession of dangerous drugs.

In court he first pleaded guilty, but when South Bay Municipal Judge John Shidler sentenced him to six months, he changed his plea and demanded a jury trial, which will be held on March 9.

Pulled from Bed
Arrested at his home Wednesday night, he was pulled from under a bed by Police Sgt. D. C. Cook, Officer G. A. Rethwisch, Inspectors Hank Dowdy and Bales of the State Narcotics Division.

Officers said they found four jars of assorted narcotics—several, benzadrine, "green devils" and "good balls" in the house. The law men indicated they suspected that he had been selling them to younger children.

In another case Jerry Codd, 21, of 1648 W. 221st St., was picked up again last week on suspicion of narcotics violation.

Narcotics Found
Already facing trial on a similar charge, Codd's garage contained a bag containing marijuana seeds in a drawer and capsules, thought to be barbiturates, police said.

Last month, Codd and three other men were arrested by Torrance police and sheriff's officers for alleged narcotics violations. Thousands of paracetamol pills were found in Codd's home, police said.

Codd denied recent drug activities and said the seeds and capsules were left over from the previous arrest, police said.

Optimist Club To Sponsor Circus Again

The Torrance Optimist Club will sponsor the third annual appearance of the Clyde Beatty Circus, it was announced Saturday by Club President C. A. Woodcock.

The circus, which was purchased last winter by the Ringling Bros. organization, has added several acts to its train, and is billing its 1955 show as the "greatest ever" circus of officials told Woodcock.

The one-day showing of the popular animal show is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13. Matinee and evening performances are scheduled.

East-West Street Plan Under Study

Preparation of a ten-year development program for the widening and extension of major east-west traffic arteries in the southern portion of Los Angeles County was ordered Wednesday by County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Chace declared that there is a great need for the development of at least two highways which could be widened to four or possibly six lanes from the ocean to the easterly limits of Los Angeles County.

Streets to be included in the study as possible through highways were Rosecrans Ave., El Segundo Blvd., and Del Amo Blvd.

VISITED FAMILY ... Pvt. Joaquin Ballad Jr., recently visited his parents at 3729 W. 184th St., Ballad, who is stationed at Fort Ord, has been stationed at that Central California post since last November. He attended Torrance High School.



OBSERVE GOLDEN YEAR ... Commanding the center spot at the head table Thursday evening while the Torrance Rotary Club helped others across the nation celebrate the service club's golden anniversary were Dr. Ray Larsen, program chairman and vice-president of the Torrance club; John Ebbinghouse, president of the Torrance club; and Estes Snedecor, past president of Rotary International. Snedecor was guest speaker at the club's meeting.

Optometrist Dies Suddenly, Services Today

Funeral services will be conducted today for Dr. Robert E. Welch, 36 who died of a heart attack at his Rolling Hills home early Friday morning. Services will be at 2:30 at Gandy's Mortuary.

Dr. Welch the only Lomita optometrist, just opened a new office at 24423 Narbonne Ave. He had practiced in Lomita for several years.

Surviving the young doctor are his wife, Isabella; four daughters, Robin, Sue, Joyce and Pat; his father, Morton G. Welch MD, of San Diego; and a mother, Mrs. Blance Welch, of Los Angeles.

Welch had experienced heart trouble for some time, his wife told County firemen and life-guards who worked with a resuscitator for more than half an hour in an attempt to revive him.

The Welch home is at 26236 Rolling Hills Rd.

Subscription Campaign's 2nd Phase Begins Monday

With the second phase of the HERALD subscription campaign slated to start in just seven days, workers were redoubling their efforts.

Since point values will decrease by about one-half at that time, workers are putting forth their best efforts to beat the deadline. Persons who have been thinking about subscribing should do so before March 7 at 8 p. m. to aid their favorite work.

Points will again decrease after March 19, so speed is of the utmost importance.

The winning campaigner will get a fresh-from-the-factory 1955 four-door sedan while the runners-up will get substantial commissions.

Since the leaders are bunched so closely thus far in the campaign due to their outstanding efforts and because returns have been so heavy, the campaign directors have been unable to determine who is leading.

APPLIANCE STORE TO MOVE FRIDAY

The Liberty Appliance Co. will move from its present location at 1623 Cravens Ave. to a modern new store at 1326 Sartori, across the street from the California Bank, it was announced here Saturday by Mill Isbell, owner of the appliance firm.

Isbell said his firm would be open at the Cravens Ave. address through next Thursday, and then would open at the new downtown location Friday morning.

READY FOR BLITZ DAY

Torrance High School Coeds Pat York (left) 16-year-old junior of 2722 W. 177th St.; and Terry Akers, 17-year-old junior of 22326 Susana, are helping tell the story of the Torrance Red Cross Blitz Day which will be here Wednesday, March 2. Local leaders hope to clean up the local Red Cross quota of \$15,900 on that day.

Siren Test Set For Today at 10

Walls from the Lomita Park civil defense siren this morning at 10 o'clock will mean that the county is holding its monthly state-wide attack warning test.

Although the sirens will be manually operated this morning, plans are being completed for remote control of the 24 giant noise-makers.

Attempt to Halt New Mortuary Beaten in Court

The temporary restraining order which had held up work on the new Halverson Mortuary during the past week was dissolved Friday evening by Superior Court Judge Eugene P. Fay of Inglewood, which opens the way for contractors to resume construction on the new establishment at Engracia and Cravens.

In the same court a week earlier, Judge Fay had issued a restraining order on the petition filed by Atty. Jack Stearns for an injunction against erection of the new mortuary.

It is being built on a variance granted by the Torrance City Council following a lengthy study of the matter because of protests from a few nearby residents.

Friday's hearing, the second in the procedure for obtaining injunctions, ends the matter unless a new appeal is brought before the courts.

Police Seek Two Youths

Torrance police Saturday were seeking two boys wanted in connection with two recent burglaries.

A 18-year-old was being sought for taking \$74 from the Torrance Bowling Alley, 1953 W. Carson St., after hiding in the place until it closed. He then broke into the till, and has not returned home since.

A 14-year-old was wanted in connection with the robbery of the Seaside Market, 24356 Roberts Rd., Wednesday. He loaded up grocery carts with food and took them across the street and dumped them.

He returned to his home Friday night, took all the money in the house, his mother said, and left again.

Red Cross Blitz Day in Torrance Set Wednesday

Wednesday is Red Cross Blitz Day in Torrance.

All set to launch the long-planned one-day campaign are two volunteer contingents—the residential and business divisions, who have been preparing to join forces in an "all-out" effort to bring a \$2500 blitz quota "all in" by the end of the day.

Fully organized and awaiting the go-ahead signal are seven sections of workers—550 all told—who will enlist the assistance of local citizens necessary to make the one-day venture a success, reported Albert Isen, 1955 fund chairman.

Workers from both divisions will begin at 10 a. m. Wednesday to follow door-to-door and office-to-office routes mapped by their leaders, Mrs. Grover C. Whyte residential chairman and Mrs. Murray Rudnick, business chairman.

"We are counting on everyone to take part in our blitz," they declared in the course of a "full speed ahead" pitch delivered to both volunteers and donors.

The Big Push
Wednesday's local blitz, one of a series to be carried out in 13 communities this week, was planned by Isen and local campaign leaders as the "big push" needed to give the annual month-long Red Cross drive the impetus needed to achieve the total goal of \$13,900.

Casting the spotlight on the new slogan, Isen appealed to residents to respond quickly and generously to volunteers, asserting that whether persons are giving or receiving help—"Red Cross serves you best" by giving a full dollar's service for every dollar you give.

Presenting a breakdown of the Red Cross contributor's dollar, he stated that 16 cents is earmarked for the blood program, which collects, processes and distributes 14,000 pints of blood per month to local hospitals—while 13 cents aids local servicemen and their families.

Maintains Services
An ever-all-around nine-cent maintenance fund for health and disaster services, supports Junior Red Cross activities in schools and hospitals, and furnished supplies and equipment to 40,000 local "year around" volunteers.

Continuing the breakdown of the dollar that "serves you best," the area chairman said that "basic maintenance of local Red Cross chapter, rent, and administration of our Red Cross services account for 14 cents with staff and materials necessary for fund-raising purposes using only eight cents.

Provides Insurance
"The other 40 cents are allocated to national and international relief as carried out through our local blood and disaster aid services," he said. By adding strength to these programs, he said, "we are providing ourselves with the best insurance possible against any type of emergency that might confront us personally, as a community, or as citizens of the United States."

"Failure to do this would be a remission in our duty to the people of our country, who for more than 70 years have looked to the Red Cross as a rallying point in time of trouble," he declared in conclusion.

Other blitz campaigns in nearby areas are scheduled. Workers will be in Lomita and Harbor City on Friday.

Goals in this area are set at \$88,000.

Beauty Lover Sought

A man called her on the phone, asking her measurements, Mrs. Arleta Trainor, of 13111 Bailey Dr., reported to police Wednesday. Police also would like the measurements of the caller.

PV Tries To Annex Hill Area

A furtive attempt by the City of Palos Verdes Estates to block the annexation proposal of Great Lakes Carbon Corp. last Wednesday evening may add a little spice to the proceedings of a long series of negotiations between owners of the huge undeveloped portion of the Palos Verdes hills and Torrance officials, the HERALD learned Thursday.

Although Palos Verdes officials refused to talk to a HERALD reporter on the subject, it was learned that a petition asking for the annexation of a portion of the Chadwick school area to the city of Palos Verdes Estates had been filed with the PV City Council Wednesday night. The annexation, if executed, would cut off the possibility of annexing the balance of the Palos Verdes hill area to Torrance as has been proposed.

Time Important
Of primary importance in the entire matter, according to a number of observers, is the time element in the filing of petitions for annexation.

Torrance at the time has a 43-minute advantage. It came about this way:

At 7:15 p. m. Wednesday, a petition from the Great Lakes Properties, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Capital Co., owners of the 6800-acre hill area, was

formerly received at a special meeting of the Torrance City Council. It had been filed with the Torrance City Clerk at 4:15 that afternoon.

At 7:58 p. m. (just 43 minutes later) a petition for annexation reportedly presented by the Chadwick school property interests was filed with the Palos Verdes City Council.

Reporters Rebuffed
Attempts by HERALD reporters and representatives of other newspapers to ascertain the nature of the petition met with a stiff wall in the hands of Palos Verdes City Clerk William Platt and other officials.

City Clerk Platt would only answer, "No comment." To inquiries about the matter which had been before the City Council, information which is generally regarded as public information and a matter of public record. Other officials pursued a like course.

From other sources, it was learned that a strip about 200 feet wide would connect the city of Palos Verdes Estates and the Chadwick school property near Crenshaw and Palos Verdes Drive North. Part of the same area is intended to form a shoestring to connect the huge Palos Verdes hill area to Torrance.

If Palos Verdes succeeds in breaking this strip, the proposed annexation to Torrance would be killed.

Another Phase
Another sideline to the suddenly developed battle is the filing of boundary descriptions with the County Boundaries Commission. Los Angeles interests filed such descriptions several weeks ago with the County agency, the description of the new Palos Verdes boundaries proposed for annexation were filed Wednesday afternoon. Such filings, however, probably will have no bearing on setting priority on the matter, observers say.

Final Hearing Set
In the meantime, the Torrance City Council has ordered a final hearing on the annexation proposal for 8 p. m. Monday, March 7, in the City Council chambers of the City Hall. Final action on the matter presumably can be taken at the next regular meeting of the Council on the following evening, March 8.

Two previous public hearings have been held by the city's Planning Commission, which voted unanimously to recommend the annexation to Torrance with several conditions attached. Among these were the donation of at least two school sites at no cost to the district.

Kiddie Cars Missing

Two child's vehicles were reported stolen to the Torrance police this week.

Mrs. R. H. Brainard, of 211 Paseo de Gracia, said Wednesday that her child's tractor-car was stolen, while Mrs. Irene Emery Friday reported theft of a wagon.