

MEN LOSING WAGES, WIVES SAY; DEPUTIES BREAK UP DICE GAMES

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OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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12 PAGES

Officers Join Workers on Job

Complaints from housewives that their husbands were losing their pay checks before they ever got off the job led to the arrest of 10 construction workers here Friday afternoon at a huge chemical plant at Del Amo and Hawthorne Ave.

The raid, led by officers of the Sheriff's vice squad under the direction of Capt. W. A. McMann, followed weeks of investigation in which members of the department put on work clothes and steel helmets and joined the construction crews on the job.

Arrested were Randall D. Abbott Jr. of Lynwood; John C. Bramble, 46, of Los Angeles; Bert R. Dillard, 29, of Los Angeles; Chris E. Elkins, 36, of 25445 Fiejoa Ave., Lomita; Virgil Gorham, 45, of Inglewood; Orville L. Jarrrett, 35, of Norwalk; Watson H. Jones, 62, of Long Beach; Thomas L. Marra, 54, of Los Angeles; Clayton F. O'Leary, 39, of Huntington Park; and Clifford P. Royce, 39, of Downey.

Some were charged with participating in an illegal poker game and some accused of participating in a dice game.

All were booked at Torrance jail and will appear for arraignment in South Bay Municipal Court this morning. Bail was set at \$100 each for the suspects with the exception of Bramble who was being detained on \$250 bail on the charge he was operator of the dice game. Authorities said the card game operator got away when the vice detail began making arrests.

Torrance Police Chief Willard H. Haslam said the complaints were first given to police here by wives of some of the two construction workers now building the huge chemical plant here.

Fearing that Torrance officers would be recognized by many of the suspects, the sheriff's vice detail was called in to handle the case. Deputies, dressed as workers, spent several Fridays—paydays at the plant—at the gambling tables, establishing contact with the gamblers before moving in to break up the illegal activity.

The vice squad members appeared again on Friday and at about 12:30 p.m. began arresting the suspects. Eight sheriff's deputies were in on the cleanup.

Torrance Detectives Mickey Fischer and D. S. Hamilton assisted the raid detail by hauling the accused men to the city jail. Officer H. G. Trease drove over to the plant and loaded the gambling equipment onto a truck for return to the local station.

Authorities here said the equipment for the illegal games was set up in enclosures and other isolated areas at the plant in order to avert discovery by other workers.

Letter To Gov. Knight Requests Aid For Schools

Torrance's need for help in maintaining its schools' building program was stressed in a letter to Gov. Goodwin Knight, sent recently by Charlton A. Mewborn, president of the Board of Education.

The letter asked state support and consideration by the governor of a new short-term loan proposal in providing additional building funds for local schools.

According to Mewborn, "Torrance has 5000 children on double session, with an enrollment increase from 1900 to 16,000 since 1947. We've kept up with the growth on our own money until now."

Six school plants are now under construction, he told Gov. Knight in the note, but the city lacks the bonding capacity to start work on other badly needed structures. Mewborn also pointed out that \$10 million in bonds were voted here for school construction, but so far only \$2 million have been sold.

"If our bond retirement schedule and increasing assessed valuation could be anticipated with temporary state backing, we think we can solve most of our building problems now and repay the state in less than five years with the sale of the rest of our bonds," the letter continued.

Mewborn concluded his plea for state aid by saying that Torrance, with a population of about 75,000 and \$100 million assessed valuation, is entitled to have the needs of its children considered by the legislature at this time.

BANKS MERGED
Merger of Hollywood State Bank into California Bank was approved by shareholders of the two banks Thursday and will become effective at the close of business Friday, April 6.

CIO Endorses White, Lewis And Benstead

Three candidates for the Council in the election to be held here next week have received the endorsement of the Greater Los Angeles CIO Council, it was revealed here Saturday by Albert T. Lunceford, secretary-treasurer of the Council.

Endorsed by the CIO, on the recommendation of the Harbor Political Action Committee (PAC), were Incumbent Victor E. Benstead Jr., member of Steelworkers Local 1414; Gordon A. Lewis, member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Local 1-519; and Jack E. White, member of Local 384 of the International Association of Machinists.

The union endorsement cut across political tickets in backing the trio. Benstead has bolted the union ticket to campaign with Salesman William E. King Jr. and Builder Robert Jahh, who are labeled as "Al Isen" candidates.

White and Lewis are running independent campaigns, with White being considered a strong possibility to break up the two tickets and win a seat on the Council. He has been a candidate twice before.

City Approves Airport Bond Legislation

City approval of pending legislation which would enable revenue bond issues for airport development was sent to Sacramento Saturday by City Manager George Stevens after a poll of City Council members during the week.

A letter on the Council's approval of the measure, Assembly Bill 33, was sent to Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who had asked about the city's wishes on the matter.

Under the terms of the proposed legislation, which will probably be considered by a Legislature this week, a city could issue bonds to be retired entirely by revenue from an airport.

With the development scheduled at Torrance Municipal Airport, such legislation would enable Torrance to float such a bond issue in the future and repay it from airport revenue. This would permit airport development without using city tax funds.

Other measures to be considered by the Legislature also received the approval of the City Council, Stevens said. These include the proposal for a State Department of Water Resources, a continuing annual census adjustment done by the Department of Finance, a flood relief bill, a state planning proposal, and a clarification of bond validation on annexed territories.

POPE PROMOTED IN GERMANY

Donald L. Pope, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Pope, 1542 W. 219th St., recently was promoted to specialist third class in Germany where he is a member of the 73rd Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion.

Specialist Pope, a mail clerk in the battalion's Battery B, entered the Army in July, 1954, and arrived in Europe the following December. He completed basic training at Fort Ord. Pope was graduated in 1953 from Narbonne High School in Lomita.

Burglars Take Car Radio From Vehicle in Lomita

Theft of a radio from his car was reported to Lennox sheriff's deputies Tuesday by Robert J. Blison, 21, of 2227 W. 254th St., Lomita.

The victim told authorities that someone broke into his car during the night and took the radio. The vehicle was parked in the driveway at his home when the burglary occurred, he said.

17th District Republicans Pick Candidates

Fact finding meetings of the 17th Congressional District have been concluded and four candidates have been selected and endorsed to represent the Republicans of the district in the June 5 primaries, Chairman Charles Soderstrom reported Saturday.

The candidates receiving the GOP endorsement for the district elections are: Charles Franklin, candidate for Congress, 17th District.

Charles Chapel, incumbent, 48th Assembly District.
Dick Trethewey, candidate, 67th Assembly District.
Tom Brewer, candidate, 68th Assembly District.

A concerted effort to register all Republicans before the April 12 deadline will be made now, Soderstrom said.

Thief Steals Wheels, Tires in Clean Sweep

John Bucholz, of 18811 Cranbrook, reported to police Thursday that someone took the front wheels off his car while the machine was parked during the night at the Harvey Machine Co. lot.

The thief, Bucholz reported, took the wheels, white wall tires and tubes in a clean sweep.

Local Man Is Acquitted On Driving Count

Charges of felony drunk driving against a 47-year-old Torrance man were dismissed Thursday in Compton Municipal Court by Judge Ralph C. Dillis.

Richard H. Knott, 47, of 1848 W. 220th St., who appeared in court in a wheel chair, still in a cast for a broken back, was acquitted. The accident took place last June 20 at El Segundo Blvd., just off Wilmington Ave. in Compton.

Two Gas Motors Stolen From Storage Area Here

George H. McCarthy, 50, of Los Angeles, reported the theft of two gas-powered motors from a storage area at 21105 Earl St. to sheriff's deputies Thursday.

McCarthy, a gas company owner, said the theft took place Wednesday night. He stated that the two motors were removed from their mounts by the thieves.

Value of the stolen motors was estimated at \$300.



EASTER EGG HUNT... Hundreds of children jammed into El Prado Park Saturday morning for the annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by Torrance merchants and the Torrance Recreation Department. The Easter Bunny was there for those who could not find any hidden eggs in the park.

VFW Officers to Be Installed At Mass Ceremony

The sixth annual Joint Mass Installation, honoring newly elected post and auxiliary officers of the fourth district, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium.

Slated to be installed from Torrance are the following: Clifford Boots, commander; Cornelius Doyle, senior vice commander; James McVey, junior vice commander; Art Moore, chaplain; Robert Riggles, quartermaster; Al Verrine, surgeon; George Spaulding, advocate; John Hunt, adjutant; Ernie Slabotsky, service officer.

Also being installed from the local post will be Cy Weber, patriotic instructor; Lee Muleck, legislative officer; Bud Licht, officer of the day; and Harold Boots, Joe Furguiville and Paul Grossman, trustees.

Approximately 30 posts and 20 auxiliaries will take part in the ceremonies. Timothy J. Murphy, national commander, will be the installing officer. Preceding the installation, a banquet will be held at a Long Beach hotel at 8 p.m.

Robert P. Clancey, chairman of the fee, has announced that the El Toro Marine Band will open the program.



MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS... Mrs. Frank Genta, of 2720 Martha, observed Good Friday rites with her three daughters, Susan 2, Francine 6, and Martha Ann 4. Herald Photographer Mit Svenski caught Mrs. Genta along with other Torrance residents shown here today.



NEW FOR EASTER... Charming Rosanne Hamilton, 18100 Fayamith, poses with her new Easter outfit while on her way to Good Friday services. Miss Hamilton portrays one of the Easter traditions, the new spring fashions which make their appearance at this time.



AN EASTER BONNET... Not to be outdone by other style leaders, Patricia Ann Shallow, 14 months, shown here with her father Charles, takes a minute to show off her new Easter bonnet. The father and daughter live at 2305 W. 185th St., north Torrance.



THE BICYCLE SET... Scenes like this were repeated throughout the city Friday afternoon as the Bicycle Set paused in its rounds long enough to attend one of the several services observing traditional pre-Easter worship. These boys were attending the Nativity Catholic Church rites.