

Cost of Removing Parking Meters Put at \$23,000

Your Complete Community Newspaper

Torrance Herald

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FIREMAN DENIES 'POLITICS' RAP

Vows Fight On Charges; Has Backing

"If it has to go to the Supreme Court of the United States, that's where we'll go," Fireman Richard DeArmitt told the HERALD yesterday.

DeArmitt, a member of the Torrance Fire Department since 1954 and president of the Fire Fighters Union Local 1138, has been formally charged with illegally participating in the recent municipal elections.

Fire Fighters officials that I will receive their backing in this thing," DeArmitt said.

CHARGES WHICH could lead to his expulsion from the city service were filed by Fire Chief J. J. Benner with the approval of City Manager George Stevens. The fireman is alleged to have violated city statutes and the state government code "by rendering a political service for the candidates for the office of Councilman of the City of Torrance, to wit: Nickolas O. Drale, David Viera Figueredo and R. I. (Pat) Hogue."

Only Drale was elected at the polls in the April 12 balloting.

IN THE CHARGES filed by Benner and Stevens, DeArmitt is specifically charged with parking his pickup truck bearing signs for the three candidates in front of the central fire station at 1701 Crenshaw Blvd. before the election.

The charges also accuse him of circulating a letter asking for support for the three candidates. The letter was signed by Loradelle J. DeArmitt, the fireman's wife.

BENNER, WITH Stevens concurring, discharged DeArmitt from the fire department, but suspended the discharge until the Civil Service Board can hold a hearing on the matter. This hearing is expected to be scheduled sometime in May. "I have hired an attorney, and have received assurance from the local firemen, and from state and international

"I'M SHOCKED and so is my family," he said. "I don't feel I've violated any rules or regulations, either of the city or of the state. As a taxpayer and citizen, I have some rights."

He said his wife wrote, produced and distributed the letter referred to in the charges.

"It looks like I'm guilty until I can prove my innocence," he said. "I always thought it was the other way around, but apparently when you work for the city, that rule doesn't apply."

THE PRACTICE of placing candidates' stickers on the bumpers of private vehicles has been widespread for a number of years among city employees, he indicated.

He had never been told and other firemen had never been told that it was illegal to have such stickers on their cars, he said.

Member of the local fire department voted Friday night to help defray legal expenses in the matter.

DEARMITT JOINED the local department in September 1954. He attended El Camino College where he played on the varsity football team in 1947 and 1948, winning All-Metropolitan honors. He and Mrs. DeArmitt are active in Boy Scout and Little League activities, she teaches a Sunday School class at the Lutheran Church, and has been secretary of the Newton PTA.

The DeArmitts reside at 5102 Pacific Coast Hwy.

'Surprise' Breakfast On Tuesday

Tuesday's "surprise" breakfast meeting of the Chamber of Commerce is well on its way to being the best attended of the events, it was reported here yesterday.

To be revealed at the meeting is the name of a large electronics firm which has made plans to erect a huge facility here.

The firm has reportedly purchased 40 acres of land on Lomita Blvd. north of the Torrance Municipal Airport and will construct its main offices and plant here.

A number of top officials of the firm will be at the Tuesday meeting to explain plans for their new Torrance facilities.

Serving will start at 7:20 a.m. and the meeting will conclude promptly at 8:30 a.m., according to Chamber President J. H. Paget. George Powell and Hal Frenz are co-chairmen of the Tuesday breakfast.

City Manager Lists Costs For Project

It will cost the city about \$23,000 to get out of the parking meter business in downtown Torrance, City Manager George Stevens determined this week.

In a report prepared for the city council, Stevens reported that the city owes about \$17,600 on the two off-street parking lots it is still buying; that the parking meter fund now has a \$2000 deficit which must be made up; and that it will cost an additional \$3500 to remove the meters and posts from the downtown streets.

New Firm Buys Site

Another well known industry has selected Torrance as its new home, according to an announcement by President J. H. Paget of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Kaag Trophies, one of the nation's best known manufacturers of trophies, plaques, loving cups and awards, has purchased a site on 174th St., just west of Western in the North Torrance Area, said K. O. Dean, partner-owner.

Dean, who resides in the Hollywood-Riviera section of Torrance, said his firm made the decision to leave Los Angeles after more than 20 years to locate in Torrance, because of the "Better Business Climate" here. Dean said, "Torrance City and Chamber officials are cognizant of the importance of industry, and have done everything possible to cooperate with us — I know we will be very happy here."

Dean and Al Larsen are partners of the firm which will employ some 125 people on property purchased by the profit-sharing trust of the firm's employees.

Thrifty Students Bank \$500,000

Local school children have saved more than a half million dollars through the elementary school savings program, according to a recent report to the Torrance Board of Education.

The Torrance schools stand first in Southern California in number of weekly deposits, the bank reported, and second in total number of accounts.

THE PARKING meters are completely paid for, Jerome I. Scharfman, director of finance reported. Of the 725 on the streets, 544 are in service and 181 are being repaired, he said. Another 25 are in stock. He added that 266 of the 544 now operating have been repaired and placed in service since March 28.

In addition to forking over the money to get out of the meter business, the city will have to repeal its parking ordinance, adopt a new parking ordinance for the area, and make arrangements for enforcement, the city manager's report indicated.

THE CHANCES of recovering some of the expenditure by selling the used parking meters are pretty slim, it was indicated.

Warren Lintz, city of Los Angeles purchasing agent, told Torrance officials that he did not believe his city is interested in buying any of them, but promised to check with the traffic department.

Stevens reports that the city has been unable to get any offers for purchase of the meters.

"IT MAY BE advisable in any case to keep some of the meters so that they may be placed on parking lots at a later date or be available for use in other sections of the city if there is a request for them," he said.

The council asked for Stevens' report last week before taking final action on removal of the downtown meters.



SCHOOL TO OPEN AGAIN . . . Principal Joe T. Brandon and some students get ready to move back into Fern Elementary School, Torrance, when it reopens on Monday, April 25. The building has been earthquake-proofed and modernized. Double sessions at the Fern-Greenwood plant will end with the opening. Helping move some of the kindergarten supplies are Manuel Vasquez, Cathy Hanson, and Danny Hatch.

Met Her in Korea

Torrance Family Adopting 14-Year-Old Korean Girl

Home will soon mean two brothers, a mother and father, and Torrance, for a 14-year-old girl who is being adopted from an orphanage in Osan, Korea, financed by the Air Force's Airways and Air Communications headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

The girl, Oh, Jung Ja, is being taken into the home of Maj. Paul G. Francis, of 5510 Emerald St., Torrance, a former AACS officer and now a project officer for the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile, "Minuteman," which is being developed at the Air Material Command's Inglewood Ballistic Missile Center.

MAJOR FRANCIS, a native of Baker, Ore., became attached to the child during his one-year assignment as commander of the 1248th AACS Squadron, Osan, Korea, from August 1958 through June, 1959.

The adoption was planned between Major Francis, his wife, Juanita, and two sons, Gary, 13, and Robert, 8, when he returned to the United States.

AACS Orphanage in Korea established in 1951, is financed primarily by AACS personnel and was managed by the airmen until 1955 when day-to-day management was turned over to Ewah University for Women, located nearby. General management and supervision is still retained by AACS personnel.

MAJOR FRANCIS, who served as president of the board of directors of the orphanage during his stay in Korea, graduated from Hollywood High school and holds a bachelor of science degree from Oregon State College and master's degree from Ohio State University, Class of 1957. He has been

an amateur radio operator since he was 14 and has served (Continued on Page 15)



EVICTED . . . A fire which started sometime after midnight Wednesday put the Alpha Beta Personnel Agency on the sidewalk until furniture and interior can be renovated and business again conducted inside the office at 1611 Cabrillo. Extent of the damage has not been determined. (Herald Photo)

A Penny for your Thoughts

"With most of us living such busy lives, do you think there are many who will take time out to be a good neighbor?"

Answering were:

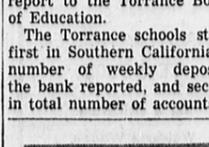
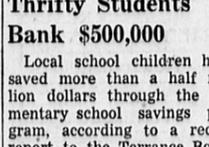
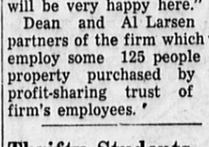
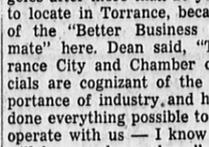
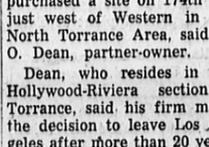
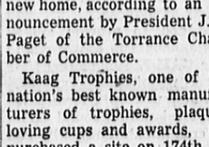
Mrs. Virginia Gallatin, 1424 Hickory Ave., peach rancher: "There will always be good neighbors, but you have to be one too. You have to be considerate of others, and you would not expect others to do something you would not do yourself. I think if you meet people half way, you will find that most of them are good neighbors in return. It's simply the golden rule."

Mrs. Opal Rustrum, 2408 W. 237th, housewife: "I think there are plenty of people who are willing to take the time to be a good neighbor, because I think that basically they are all good and willing to help their fellowman. I don't know my immediate neighbors very well, but I'm sure they would help me if I needed it; the one who lives across the street especially, as she already has."

Mrs. Irene Houston, 1787 Calamar St., housewife: "Yes, I think there are, at least I have found them to be generally so. When we first moved in to our present house, our son died and all my neighbors here did all they could to help us, even though they didn't know us very well. I think there will always be someone who is a good neighbor."

Mrs. John G. Cox, 904 Ampala, housewife: "I believe there are. In our neighborhood they are wonderful but maybe in some other area they might not be, I couldn't say, but I think people are the same the world over, and are interested in others and in helping others if they can. I, myself, want to be a neighbor and friend to others."

Earl R. Estler, 12111 LaSelle, office supt. for U.S. Gypsum Co.: "I definitely think so, especially in our neighborhood. We just moved in about three weeks ago and already the neighbors have called on us and have accepted us. I think basically people want to help. They may think they are too busy, but when the chips are down, they manage somehow to find the time to be a good neighbor."



FAMILY PORTRAIT . . . The addition of Oh, Jung Ja, (inset) 14-year-old Korean whose father was killed during conflict, will be made to Maj. Paul G. Francis' family as soon as adoption is completed. Other members of the Torrance family are Mrs. Francis, Gary and Robert.