

Board in Dispute on Portable, Permanent Buildings

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Torrance Herald

CAPITAL CITY of the GREAT SOUTHWEST



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CAR HITS, KILLS LOCAL WOMAN

A Penny for your Thoughts

With Christmas just four days distant, the Pennies Photographer took his camera into the toy department of a local department store and asked youngsters: "What is Santa Claus going to bring you for Christmas?"

Cathryn Mattox, 22012 Bonita St.

"I have not really made up my mind what I want yet, but I would like a pair of skates, some wood dough and a Barbie Doll set. I have not had a chance to talk to Santa Claus or write him a letter yet, but I will before Christmas."

Cecilia Cappiello, 4610 Buena Vista

"My sister and I came down here today to see Santa Claus and tell him what we want for Christmas. I am going to tell him that I want a doll, but my sisters have not decided what they want."

Anthony Shimko, 220 Ave. B

"I have already talked to Santa Claus, and he promised to bring me everything I asked for on Christmas. I asked him for a bike, a rope and a gun. Maybe I will think of something else before Monday and come back to tell him."

Jim Holland, 1242 W. 144th, Gardena

"When I talked to Santa Claus, he told me he would bring me what I asked for. I would like a microscope and a chemistry set so I can become a scientist. I also want some more things, but I could not think of them when I talked to him."

Mike Bouy, 4502 Green Meadows

"Santa Claus has already come to our house. He brought us a Christmas tree. When he comes back again Christmas, I would like some airplanes and a train. I can hardly wait for Christmas to come. I am so excited."

Pis Operators Awarded Pins

Fifteen Torrance Municipal Bus operators recently received Safe Driving Pins from National Safety Council. The awards totaled 88 years of safe driving.

The Torrance Municipal Bus Lines insurance carrier, Transit Casualty Co., is responsible for reporting chargeable accidents to the National Safety Council.

School Board Splits, 3-2 For Portable

Controversy over the proposed additions to Victor School flared up at a six-hour meeting of the Board of Education Monday evening, which was punctuated by board member Bert Lynn's walking out of the meeting. The trustees voted to use steel portable classrooms instead of brick classrooms.

Survey of Shelters Due Soon

A revised civil defense plan for the City of Torrance has been turned over to city department heads for evaluation, reported John Bramhall, assistant City Manager. The plan has been prepared by the City Manager's office in cooperation with the Civil Defense Commission.

Bramhall said the plan would be written up incorporating the suggestions of the department heads and forwarded to the Civil Defense Commission for a recommendation to the City Council.

The Commission was informed at its meeting last week that the Federal government will conduct a shelter survey in the city in February. The survey will encompass all private and public buildings with a capacity of 50 or more persons.

The Commission was also told that Captain Joseph Rochefort had requested about 700 more packages of additional medical supplies for Torrance. The packages are similar to those which the City already has.

Rochefort also reported that the medical supplies had been inspected, and all but the plasma was in good condition. He said, however, that it may be possible for the plasma to be sent in for reconstitution.

Buses Planned

Special buses will again make the trip to Pasadena for the Tournament of Roses parade Jan. 1, according to an announcement made this week by Municipal Bus Lines officials. The buses will depart from the City Hall at 7 a.m. and return immediately after the parade.

After the vote, Lynn walked out, exclaiming, "It's late and I am tired." Board President Bill Hanson pleaded in vain for Lynn to "come back and wait for the meeting to be adjourned."

The controversy began when the board began to discuss the additions to the Victor School. Lynn and William Boswell favored the use of brick classrooms, noting that the "aesthetic value is worth something." Hanson insisted that economy was his major concern and was supported in his stand by members Albert Charles and Dr. Kurt Shery. Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, also favored the portable classrooms.

COST OF THE steel units is \$13,000 less than the brick classrooms, and require about two months less construction time. They can also be disassembled and moved to other locations. Dr. Hull cited the Meadow Park School as an example, claiming that the district will sell the property in the future and move the entire school to a more suitable location.

After considerable discussion, Lynn moved that brick units be built, but the motion was defeated 3-2, with only Boswell voting with Lynn for the motion.

THE BOARD then voted 3-1, with Boswell dissenting, to erect the steel portable units after Lynn had left.

After a long discussion, the trustees approved the hiring of a principal and assistant principal and two secretaries to work on the opening of West High School. The staffing will take place Feb. 5, 1962, despite Lynn's contention that it was "a bit premature."

On an information item requested by Charles, the board expressed dissatisfaction at the "lack of economic literacy" in the schools, and asked the administration to attempt to work out a method by which stu-

(Continued on Page 2)



ACCIDENT VICTIM . . . A Torrance police officer comforts Mrs. Barbara Ann Nelson, 21, Long Beach, Tuesday afternoon after her car was involved in a collision on Crenshaw Boulevard north of Pacific Coast Highway. Four persons suffered minor injuries in the accident. (Herald Photo)

Masked Trio Binds Market Employees, Steals \$30,000

Two men wearing black paper bags over their heads fled with \$30,000 early Monday morning after cutting a hole in the roof of a market at 16920 Prairie Ave. and waiting for the manager to open the store.

Manager Sam DiBenedette of the Better Foods Market arrived with four other employees about 7:15 a.m. at the store and began preparations to open the store for business when the black-hooded pair emerged from a store room, tied up the employees, and forced DiBenedette to open the safe.

POLICE said the suspects had cut their way into the store during the night and

Santa To Visit Southwest Park

Santa Claus will visit the Southwest Park area Saturday, giving out special treats and cheery greetings to all the small fry.

His visit is sponsored by the Southwest Park Civic Assn. The organization, composed of residents of the district, meets the first Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Carl Steele School cafeteria.

waited for the market employees to arrive. When DiBenedette and the other four employees entered the store and began work in their respective departments, the bandits forced William Dessert, 19, to bind the hands and feet of the other employees.

One of the pair ordered the manager to open the safe, and when DiBenedette became nervous, the gunman jammed the gun in his ribs and told him to "open it or I'll blow your guts out."

The suspects fled from the market carrying the money in a brown paper bag. They were still wearing the black hoods and brown denim hats.

ANOTHER market employee, Robert Sally, arrived at the store shortly after the bandits had fled and untied the five other employees. Sally then called police.

Witnesses Bob Edwards, Los Angeles, John Chrisafites, Los Angeles, and Francis Gould, Bellflower, told police that the gunmen forced Dessert to bind their hands and feet. After manager DiBenedette had opened the safe, he was taken to the rear of the store where the gunmen forced Dessert to

tie him. One of the pair then bound Dessert and left all five men on the floor of the produce department.

Sally arrived a few minutes later and found the other employees.

County Gets Property to Fix Beach

After years of negotiation, enough oceanside property has been obtained by Los Angeles County to develop Torrance Beach, Supervisor Burton Chace's office has announced. Acquisition of five lots for \$139,500 from the Huntington Land Co. and the city of Torrance was completed this week.

Los Angeles County has right of entry with a 400-day option to buy five other lots, multiply owned, along Torrance Beach. Prior to the acquisition of the five lots, the county owned 11 lots along the beach. The lots were not contiguous and therefore, their development was not practical.

Several Hurt In Traffic Crashes Here

One woman was killed and several persons were injured in traffic accidents in the area during the week.

Dead is Mrs. Anastasia Hyrniak, 57, of 1036 1/2 Plaza Del Amo. She was struck by an auto while carrying lumber across Western Avenue.

The driver of the car was identified by police as Robert L. Hodges, 24, of 1604 S. Catalina Ave., Redondo Beach. Police said they did not know where Mrs. Hyrniak got the four 15-foot boards which she was apparently carrying to her home.

The accident occurred at Western Avenue and Plaza Del Amo Monday afternoon. Mrs. Hyrniak was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

FOUR PERSONS suffered minor injuries about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in a two-car accident on Crenshaw Boulevard north of Pacific Coast Highway.

Treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital was driver of one of the vehicles, Mrs. Helga Vanca, 36, of 1628 Date Ave., and a passenger in her car, Michael Vanca, 5; driver of the other car, Barbara Ann Nelson, 21, of Long Beach, a nurses aide at Community Hospital in Long Beach, and a passenger in her car, Michael Nelson, 17, also of Long Beach.

In another accident, James Edwin Brown, 64, of Lawndale, suffered major injuries after his station wagon was involved in a collision with a sedan driven by Michael Odor, 42, of Los Angeles, who also suffered major injuries. The accident occurred about 3 p.m. Tuesday at Western Avenue and 182nd Street.

Jury Trial Scheduled In Test Case

Three Torrance residents will appear as defendants in a jury trial Feb. 1 in Division 3, South Bay Municipal Court, in a first-of-its-kind case in California.

The trio — one a manager of a discount store at 20225 S. Western Ave. and the other two clerks at the same establishment — are charged with violating a new loss-leader law that makes it illegal to sell merchandise below cost and to limit the quantity purchased by a customer.

Their attorney, Gerald L. Romanik, lost a motion to have the charges dismissed when he appeared before Judge Donald Armstrong Tuesday.

Accused are Thomas R. Hughes, 49, 22722 Marjorie Ave.; Arthur G. Valdez, 19, 20919 Jamison St., and Ellison G. Murray, 22, 1324 W. 214th St.

Newsrack Law Asked For City

Following the discovery of an officially endorsed Communist Party newspaper found chained to a city traffic signal, the Torrance City Council Tuesday night called for immediate preparation of an ordinance to govern placement of newsstands on city sidewalks.

"The People's World," which "A Report on the Southern California District of The Communist Party" issued by the House Committee of Un-American Activities describes as a West Coast Communist publication, was found chained to the signal post on the corner of Torrance Blvd. and Arlington and weighted down by two, 75-pound cement weights.

Al Richmond, executive editor of "The People's World," is quoted in the report as saying at a Communist Party state convention:

"THE PAPER will invite the expression of a diversity of views, but its general orientation will reflect the distinct policy of a united front in which Communists participate."

City Attorney Stanley Remel-meyer was asked to draft an appropriate ordinance.

Overruling the planning commission, the council voted to deny a petition for variance in land use zones C-2 and R-1, located between Redondo Beach Boulevard and 168th Street, west of Yukon. The change in variance was asked so a 66-unit cooperative apartment with 72 garages and 100 paved parking spaces could be constructed.

APPROXIMATELY 25 citizens protested the variance change. The citizens claimed the apartments would increase the population density and the number of cars in the area, thereby creating a hazard to young children.

Councilman Nick Dralo moved that the variance be denied, and it was unanimously approved by the council.

A PETITION by Ralph Garland and Kenneth Battram, 14527 South Western Ave. for variance to construct a 22-unit apartment building located between Prairie and Doty Avenues at 3850 West 182nd St., in R-2 and A-1 zones was set aside to be taken up at the Jan. 2 meeting.

During one of the lighter moments of the meeting, Santa Claus appeared to present each of the councilman and Mayor Isen with a Christmas gift.



NEW SHOPPING CENTER . . . Plans to develop the Carson Center community shopping center at Carson and Normandie Ave. were announced this week by Norman and Arthur N. Reicher, developers of the project. Scheduled to open by mid-August, 1962, the center includes a Pacific State

bank, Boys Market, Thrifty Drug Store, a W. T. Grant department store, a service station and a restaurant. Parking will be provided for about 450 cars. The W. T. Grant store will contain 21,000 square feet, the Thrifty Drug store 17,200 square feet.

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