

Popular Restaurant Hit By Fire

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Torrance Herald

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Old-Time Christmas
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(Editorial, Page 16)

50th Year — No. 99



OFFICE AND PLANT, 1619 GRAMERCY AVE. — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1963

10c Per Copy 56 PAGES

CHIEF TESTS GO TO VOTERS

A Penny
for
your
Thoughts

After conducting a group of South High students through The HERALD this week, the Pennies photographer asked five of the students, "What do you find most interesting about the newspaper?"

Kern Vore, 4701 Paseo de las Tortugas: "The most interesting aspect I encountered while touring The HERALD was seeing the mass operation scale and the cooperation and the friendliness of the staff towards the students and themselves."

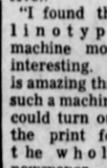


Donna Honnette, 26219 Delos Drive: "The most interesting process to me is the way in which pictures are made. The way in which the print is made and the finished product is completed is very interesting."

Eddie Barrera, 2273 W. 255th: "The most interesting part of a newspaper to me is the sports page. It gives good up-to-date information on local sports as well as national and citywide sports. Seeing how it is done is really something."



Peggy Wolff, 23205 Ladeene Ave.: "I found the linotype machine most interesting. It is amazing that such a machine could turn out the print for the whole newspaper. It is fascinating to watch the machine set type as quickly as it does."



John Moyer, 5132 Mindora Drive: "Because photography is my hobby and I plan to make it my career, I am very interested in the photography section. Making the plates looks very interesting to me, and I would like to learn more about it."



Two-Alarm Blaze Shuts Dining Spot

Flames which started in the grease stop flue from the kitchen did extensive damage to the kitchen and caused smoke damage in other parts of the popular Parasol Restaurant at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard Tuesday evening.

Torrance Fire Department crews led by Bn. Chief Billy Slonecker sent four engines, the 85-foot aerial ladder unit, and a salvage crew to answer the two-alarm blaze.

While most damage was confined to the kitchen, smoke damage throughout the unique

Firemen Get New Platoon

City Councilmen adopted an emergency ordinance Tuesday evening to put the three-platoon system for the Fire Department into effect Jan. 1. At the same time, the council also adopted a regular ordinance at its first reading.

The emergency ordinance was required because of time elements requiring the publication of a regular ordinance. The normal ordinance should not have become effective until late in January.

The new system in the Fire Department is designed to reduce the work week from 67 to 60 hours and allow more flexibility in vacations. A number of promotions are to be made from within the department to establish the third platoon.

Councilmen voted unanimously for both the emergency and the regular ordinance.

restaurant forced owner Angelo Pappas to keep it closed yesterday. Estimates on the monetary loss incurred during the fire could not be obtained yesterday as restaurant and insurance appraisers were still checking the extent of the smoke damage.

FLAMES WHICH raced through the maze of grease traps and ventilation ducting did minor damage to the top floor of the restaurant where motors and other equipment are housed.

Restaurant officials attempted to open for the coffee trade yesterday but the heavy pall of smoke which filled the restaurant during the fire the evening before caused them to keep the business closed.

"We'll work night and day to get it opened," one official told firemen checking the scene Wednesday morning.

Several police units were sent to the busy intersection to aid in the control of traffic during the height of the blaze.

Sidewalk Okayed

A temporary asphalt sidewalk will be installed on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway from Ocean Avenue to South High.

The City Council approved a resolution authorizing the mayor to sign agreements with the state for an encroachment permit and instructed the City Manager's office to order work done as soon as possible.



RESTAURANT BLAZE . . . Firemen scale the city's 85-foot aerial ladder to reach the top of the Parasol Restaurant at Pacific Coast Highway and Crenshaw Boulevard Tuesday night after flames raced through the kitchen ventilation system causing extensive damage to the popular dining spot. Flames were confined to the kitchen and venting area, but smoke damage forced closing of the restaurant for repairs. (Herald Photo)

Bandits Take Money, Guns From Loan Shop

Search for suspects who may have been implicated in the Monday robbery of a downtown Torrance jewelry and loan company spread throughout the county yesterday as investigating officers sought to link the bandits to other Southland crimes in recent weeks.

Det. Lt. Don Hamilton told The HERALD yesterday that several clues relating to the identity of the bandits were being checked out by Torrance and other Southland police.

Albert W. Sorensen, owner of the Torrance Loan and Jewelry, 1312 Sartori Ave., said two bandits entered the store as customers and waited until there were no other customers in the downtown store.

ONE MAN displayed a 45-caliber automatic pistol and the other a 38-caliber revolver, Sorensen told investigating officers. One of the bandits ordered the store owner to remove cash from the safe and cash drawer, and as he moved to do so, the proprietor of a nearby shop entered his store to inquire about an item. Sorensen said he was told to wait on the customer as though nothing was wrong.

After the customer left, Sorensen and a friend, William Baker, who was visiting in the store, were forced into the back room where they were tied up by the bandits. One foot and both hands were tied

behind the backs of each of the two men before the bandits fled onto Sartori Avenue. No vehicle was seen by the victims. Two guns and about \$600 in cash were taken from the store.

A search throughout the Southland also is continuing for a bandit that held up a north Torrance branch of the Security First National Bank last Friday afternoon. Police said the robbery was similar to another in the county in November and may have involved the same gang members.

In the Friday robbery, one man vaulted over the counter while two others stood guard at the doors with shotguns. The trio fled in a car, changed to another car nearby and disappeared. The abandoned car was found to have been stolen from a Lancaster business firm.

Man Burned As Tractor Fuel Flares

Flames which ignited his clothing as he worked on a heavy tractor here sent a 38-year-old La Puente man to Little Company of Mary Hospital with severe burns Monday.

Leon O. Padie told investigating officers that he had removed a sparkplug from a tractor engine when fuel shot from the opening and ignited.

Fellow workers on the project near 236th Street and Hawthorne Avenue stripped the clothing from Padie and he was rushed to the nearby hospital by ambulance. His condition later was described as good.

A check on a partial license plate identification given to officers was continuing yesterday.

DESCRIPTIONS of the bandits furnished to police have led to the search for suspects believed to have been involved in similar crimes in the county.

The provisions include a minimum passing score of 70 per cent on the written examinations and a requirement that no veterans exemption would be given.

Must Register

Today is the final day for voters to register in order to be eligible to vote in the Feb. 4 tax override election.

Registrars will be at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd., until 5 p.m. today. Voters who can not go to City Hall should call their PTA president for the location of other deputy registrars.

JAMES ELAM SELECTED FOR NEWSBOY HONORS

James Elam of 26021 Matfield Drive has emerged as the "top dog" of the Torrance HERALD's circulation department carrier grading program for the month of November, it was reported yesterday by Circulation Manager Darrell Westcott.

All factors of newsboy performance are considered in selecting The HERALD's top carrier each month, he said.

"We are endeavoring to make it possible for each carrier boy to receive outstanding business training and the value of sales incentives," Westcott said.

Voters May Be Asked to Settle Feud

Open examinations for police and fire department chiefs — a matter that has caused some controversy among members of the City Council in recent weeks — will be decided by the city's voters at the April municipal election. At least for now, that is the plan.

Councilmen voted 5-2 Tuesday evening to instruct City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer to prepare the necessary ballot measures for inclusion on the April ballot. There was little discussion of the motion, made by Victor Benstead, chairman of the council police and fire committee.

Remelmeyer told The HERALD yesterday he expects to present the resolution placing the measure on the ballot, together with the Charter amendment, to the council at its Dec. 30 meeting.

THE CHARTER amendment, if adopted by a majority of the voters at the April election, would open examinations for both police and fire chiefs to men in the first three ranks of the local department and to men of the first three ranks of departments in California cities of 80,000 or more population. Exams also would be open to the first three ranks in the sheriff's department of all California counties.

Other provisions include a minimum passing score of 70 per cent on the written examinations and a requirement that no veterans exemption would be given.

THE PROVISIONS of the amendment are substantially the same as the ordinance which failed to get the necessary five votes during council consideration in September. Amendments to the Civil Service Ordinance require a vote of five of the seven members of the council.

The city attorney told The HERALD only four votes are necessary to place the amendment on the ballot. He also said it is possible that Tuesday's action could be reversed at any point before the deadline for submission of the (Continued on Page 2)

'I Shot My Wife,' Man Says

A Carson area man is being held in Los Angeles County jail without bail today on charges of suspicion of murder.

Fred Stanley Davis, 42, of 421 E. 229th St., called the sheriff's office Monday evening and told a deputy, "I just shot my wife." While he was on the phone, his 17-year-old son returned to the home. Davis told his son what had happened and blocked the entrance to the living room.

The youth went outside and returned a few minutes later. He told the deputy waiting on the line, "My God, it's true." Davis was booked on suspicion of murder at the Firestone station and arraigned in Compton Municipal Court. He has been ordered to return Dec. 18 for preliminary hearing.

Davis told police he and his wife had been drinking and had had an argument. After the shooting, Davis said he fell to the floor beside his wife and moaned, "My God, what have I done?" He then said he called the Firestone sheriff's office.



MY HOW YOU'VE CHANGED . . . Councilman Victor Benstead takes a second look at the Santa Claus who occupied Mayor Albert Isen's chair during the opening moments of Tuesday's City Council meeting. The plastic inflated Santa Clauses were placed in each councilman's chair before the meeting. At least one councilman was heard mumbling, "They look better than we do!" (Herald Photo)



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