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HOME BILL FIGHT LOOMS



ROOF-TOP TREE—Members of the Torrance Fire Dept. perch precariously atop the central fire station as they trim Christmas tree traditionally placed there. Holding unsteady ladder is unsteady Fireman Harry Drake. Battalion Chief Gene Walker bravely mounts ladder to drape strands of multi-colored lights on tree. Fireman Ed Polston does his level (?) best to lend assistance to Walker. Results of their painstaking efforts can now be seen atop the station.

Planners, Council To Tangle

The question of whether or not to increase the city's minimum square foot requirement for single-family dwellings to 1,000 square feet will get the joint consideration of both the city council and the city planning commission after highly disputed action taken by the council Tuesday night.

Over protests of Councilmen Nick Draie and Victor Benstead, the council voted to meet with the planners to give further study to the proposed law.

Protests of both Draie and Benstead were based on the planning commission's opposition to the law as expressed in a letter from the commission.

Councilman Willys Blount tried to sidetrack the vital issue by bringing in personalities. Blount has vigorously supported the move to enact the law, which has received heated criticism from city planners, other city officials, local realtors, and many private citizens.

In the letter accompanying their recommendation the planners stated that it was their consensus of opinion that a raise in the minimum requirement to 1,000 square feet would cause a hardship in a great many cases and that the present minimum was a fair and adequate requirement.

Blount, apparently choosing to take issue with the nine planning experts, indicated that he would like to see the matter pursued even further.

Neither Mayor Marvin Schwab nor Councilman Harvey Spelman have shown any particular enthusiasm for the 1,000 square foot law, which has been termed "dictatorial and autocratic" by prominent realtors.

Councilman Nick Draie stated that he felt that upping the minimum footage more would not protect the city from "ding bats," houses built of inferior materials and workmanship. He recommended that the city building code be studied and revamped, if necessary, to obtain this goal.

The planners, meanwhile, are standing solidly behind their decision to veto the bill, no matter what a very small segment of the council may try to do.

Roth's Market Seen on TV

All seven Roth's Southern California Markets will be honored on Leo Carillo's Dude Ranch variety show on KTTV, channel 11, this Friday evening between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Roth's market is local headquarters for Tagg's Vitamins and Minerals, sponsors of the TV show.

Christmas Fete

Christmas will be observed at Normandale Community Center with an evening program on Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

The program will include a party, games, dancing, and a dramatic presentation.

1 Killed, 2 Hurt in Week-End Accidents

A Keystone man leaped to his death from a moving automobile and two Los Angeles men were seriously injured when their car crashed into an Edison pole, as Torrance police reported two major accidents over the past week-end.

Killed early Sunday was John Blanchard West, 34, of 1816 S. Figueroa St., Keystone, who was a passenger in a car driven by Mrs. Frances LaBrier, 30, of the same address.

Police said the couple had been arguing when West opened the back door of the car and stepped out.

The car was in front of 1811 W. 182nd St. traveling at a 40-mile-an-hour clip, officers said.

After striking the pavement, West was run over almost immediately by a car driven by Willie Turner of Hawthorne. He was not held.

West was taken to Harbor General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The body was transferred to Stone and Myers Mortuary in Torrance, where funeral arrangements are pending.

Mrs. LaBrier was booked by Torrance police on a charge of drunk-driving. Both she and West had apparently been drinking be-

Land Grab Threat Ignored by Council

(An Editorial)

While elected officials of the City of Torrance are bickering over minor matters, two adjacent cities are threatening to move in and grab lands that could be very valuable to this city, now and in the future.

This city is menaced on the north by Gardena's threat to annex a strip of county land bounded by Torrance, Gardena, and El Camino College. The move is reportedly aimed at the college.

We are also menaced now by Redondo Beach on the west. Redondo Beach city council this week took action to annex a large tract of ground on the northwest corner of 190th Street and Hawthorne Blvd.

The fact that our city council has completely disregarded the Gardena grab in our backyard, and now appears to be ignorant of Redondo's threat, is quite alarming.

Torrance is growing rapidly and the need for room to expand is becoming critical. Is an indifferent, uninformed city council going to permanently hamper the growth of this city by allowing land available for annexation to slip into the fingers of more far-sighted communities?

Torrance Goes Over Top in Chest Drive

Torrance has gone over the top in its Community Chest campaign, and volunteers and the donating public can take a bow for their generous support of the 160 Red Feather services and the USO, according to local Red Feather workers. The quota of \$12,384, has been raised.

First of local teams to report for the Honor Roll was the residential division of which Mrs. Ella Schwartz is chairman, also the first in the entire Chest campaign which covers 855 square miles to reach its quota.

Ed Raphael and Paul DiMarco, co-chairman headed the business district workers and also got their place on the Honor Roll.

\$100 Short
Ed Karlow and the volunteers in Commerce and Industry, are within \$100 of their objective and are expected also to make quota.

Don Armstrong was city chairman for the campaign. Gardena took honors of being the first city in Harbor Area to go over the top, volunteers serving under the direction of Steve Bero, city chairman.

Palos Verdes also is on the Honor Roll with its quota of \$5600 collected. Mrs. Don Armstrong was city chairman, and Mrs. Harry M. Brandel, residential chairman.

Other cities rank as follows: Harbor City, Harry B. Bowker, chairman, \$806, 75.53% of quota; Lomita, James L. Decker, chairman, \$1720, 86.81%; Rolling Hills, Mrs. R. L. Priuy, chairman, \$2359, 88.39%; San Pedro, Ira Kaye, \$18,482, 65% and Wilmington, H. V. DeMott, chairman, \$11,163, 78%.

For the first time since the war years, the entire goal of \$8,000,000 is within reach, with more than 90 per cent subscribed, according to reports from general headquarters, with scores of cities, towns and neighborhood teams reporting "100 per cent of quota."

A general rally of volunteers has been called for Wednesday, Dec. 17th, at noon in the Statler Hotel.

Carpenter's Dilemma

Who's On Third And Who's Out?

The recreation department, long a sore spot with the city fathers, held the lime-light at Tuesday's meeting of the city council, when the letter of resignation of the department's director was made public.

Frank Carpenter, for three years this city's recreation department head, last week told the council that he wished to quit on April 1, 1953.

Resignation Rejected
This week, the council, by a slim



FRANK CARPENTER

majority, declined to accept the resignation.

Whether or not the council's action will result in Carpenter's being retained as recreation head depends on two things: whether Carpenter takes next Wednesday's civil service exam for his job; and whether Carpenter passes the test.

A third obstacle arises when the council is required next month to select one of the top three on the civil service eligible list to fill the position. Assuming that Carpenter takes and passes the examination, he will still have to compete with as many as two other applicants for the post.

Public Aroused
At this time, feeling against the recreation department and its program is running high. Charges that the children have been cheated, and that excessive amounts have been spent by the department for salaries alone have fired public opinion against the department.

However, whether the opinion of

a large body of taxpayers will guide the actions of the majority of the council remains to be seen.

Motion Made
Councilman Victor E. Benstead made a motion to bow to Carpenter's wishes and accept his resignation. Councilman Nick Draie seconded the motion. The roll call vote was two to accept and three to decline the resignation.

Councilman Willys Blount, in justifying his vote, stated that he felt Carpenter did a good job, particularly in buying land for parks and building recreation halls. He made no mention of the use these expensive acquisitions were being put to. He also ventured a gambler's guess that, although the city might get a better director from the civil service examination, we might also get a worse one.

(Editor's comment: Better, apparently, we should stick to the known, no matter what quality, than stick our necks

(Continued on Page 7)

Torrance Boy Injured When Toboggan Tips

What started out to be a gay holiday trip to the mountains ended in near tragedy for a 19-year-old Torrance youth.

Dale Whistler, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Harris, of 806 Beech Ave., sustained severe back injuries when the toboggan on which he was riding went over a four-foot precipice.

He was rushed by ambulance 110 miles from Big Bear Mountain to Torrance Memorial Hospital, where doctors said he will be encased in a cast from his neck to his hips for more than three months.

The youth graduated from Torrance High School in summer of 1950. A former employee of Shell Chemical Co., he was scheduled to report for Naval induction yesterday.

\$93,564 Added To City Coffers

Three Torrance taxing authorities were \$345,576 richer today after General Petroleum Corporation paid the first installment of its taxes on the company's huge Torrance refinery.

R. I. Plomert, General Petroleum's tax representative, said the company had sent in a check for \$1,496,691 to Los Angeles county tax collector H. L. Byram in Los Angeles—just like all the other citizens in the county are doing. It covers the corporation's taxes on Los Angeles county mining rights, real estate, improvements and personal property.

Over a third of this total was for taxes on the Torrance refinery.

Here's how the Torrance taxing authorities fared out of the total: Torr. Unified Sch'l Dist., \$206,270; City of Torrance, \$93,564; El Camino Jr. Col. Dist., \$45,742.

\$345,576

Next April when the second installment of 1952-53 taxes becomes due the same three taxing authorities will receive a total of \$206,817 out of a payment of \$1,496,863.

Plomert said the \$345,576 almost equaled the amount received last year when the first installment of the company's taxes was paid despite the fact that petroleum inventories were \$500,000 smaller this year.

The \$800,000 worth of oil,

Ad Brings a Dozen Calls

"I got nearly a dozen calls last week when I advertised a 1941 Chevrolet club coupe. It takes a good paper to get such good response. Needless-to-say, I sold the car."

That is the statement of Mr. W. L. Johnson, of 23211 Huber St., Lomita, who ran the following Press Classified ad.

41 CHEV. Club Coupe '50 motor. New W. W. paint, upholstery. After 4:30, 23211 Huber Street. Phone: Lomita 3730-W.

Whether you buy, sell or serve, you'll find your customer among the 100,000 persons who read the Torrance Press each week.

The cost of a Press classified is small: the response is great. All Torrance 1185 to place a quick-acting Press classified ad.

See Need For City Prosecutor

The City of Torrance will very likely find itself in the position of needing a city prosecutor when the court re-organization program goes into full effect on January 5, 1953.

In the event that criminal cases from this city are tried at the new South Bay Municipal Court in Redondo Beach, it is doubtful that City Attorney Jim Hall will have time to prosecute them.

Hall, who serves as a part-time employee, handling the city's legal affairs, has been serving as city prosecutor while the court remained at city hall.

He stated this week that if too much additional time is required for both jobs after the court moves, the city will have to hire a part-time prosecutor.

Both police and administrative officials had hoped that the county district attorney would prosecute our criminal cases. However, the state law holds that the county need not act in this capacity for a sixth class city such as Torrance.

A city prosecutor, Hall disclosed could be obtained for about \$250 per month.

The city council will hear a report on this matter in the near future, Hall said.

New Bus Line Begun This Week

Better bus service for residents of the southwest section of Torrance went into effect this week with the commencement of another bus route through that district.

Marshall Chamberlain, superintendent of buses, announced that the new Hollywood-Riviera-El Camino line has begun service.

Route of the line is: Carson St. to Madrona Ave.; south to Sepulveda Blvd.; west to Ellinwood Dr.; through Allied Gardens, Sepulveda Gardens, and Seaside Heights to 101 Highway; then the regular route through Hollywood-Riviera.

This line will bring more frequent trips to both Hollywood-Riviera and Waverly, Chamberlain said.

New schedules are being printed and will be ready for distribution early next week, he said.



WINDOW TRIM CONTEST—Plaques and perpetual trophy to be awarded in the annual Junior Chamber of Commerce store window Christmas decoration contest are displayed by the judges (left to right) Dale Stanton, Bob Curry and Phil Lisman. Winners of the competition will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 16, and awards will be made then.

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SHOPPING DAYS
TIL CHRISTMAS