

BLOCK 'EM!... SOCK 'EM!

Council Acts to Sue And 'Barricade' Palos Verdes

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ

Torrance's five-member City Council had just about all they could take of their uncooperative neighbor, Palos Verdes Estates Tuesday night when PV informed the council that the barricades will have to stay. The Council thereupon threw diplomacy out the window, ordering a legal suit against Palos Verdes and a virtual counter-barricade.

The P.V. City Council informed our city fathers that Palos Verdes residents once more protested the removal of the barricades. The P.V. Council was therefor simply carrying out the will of the people in refusing to remove its iron curtain border posts.

Councilman Willys G. Blount's motion to sue was quickly

endorsed by the four other members of the Council.

The six-year-old issue erupted again a few weeks ago when the Ellinwood Corp. ordered the closing of five streets from Palos Verdes leading into the Ellinwood development.

Blount's motion was to join with "a corporation and a private party" who are planning to sue Palos Verdes.

"Extensive Repairs"

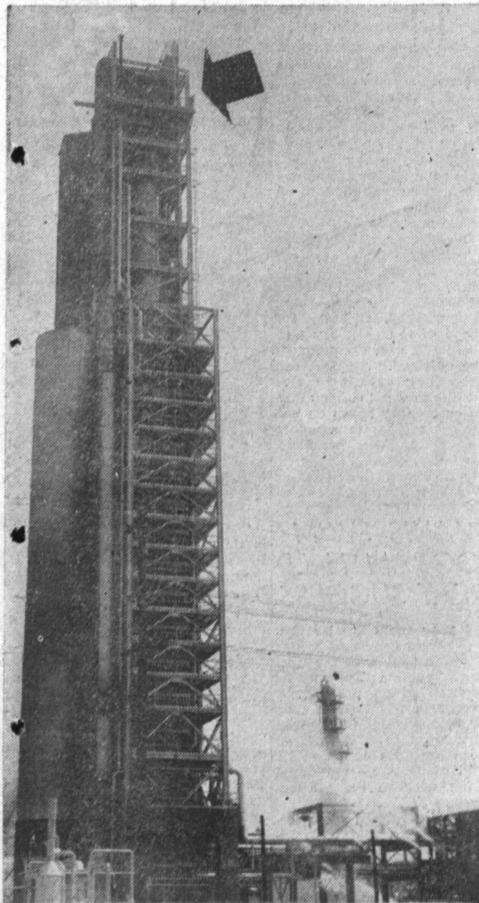
It suddenly "occurred" to Blount and the Council that the Palos Verdes Parkway entrance . . . one of the leading arteries into Palos Verdes—was in need of "extensive" repairs.

"Now I wouldn't want to barricade Palos Verdes," Councilman Blount emphasized, "I wouldn't want Torrance to commit an illegal act—perish the thought. But I really think that Palos Verdes blvd., particularly its entrance, is in need of 'repair.' The 'drainage' ought to be looked into and then let's not order the pipe for a while—with a full explanation to our PV friends.

"Our street department can become very efficient again, of course, if need be.

"I think Palos Verdes blvd. is in bad shape and carries too much traffic. I move that the street superintendent look into it and start 'excavating.'"

Blount's motion was heartily endorsed by the Council.



TRAPPED . . . Harold Bell, 26-year-old engineer (see arrow), headed for the top of the 230 foot General Petroleum refinery tower when a fire starting on the second floor spread all the way to the ninth floor. Bell came down safe and sound a half hour later after the fire was out.

Engineer Saved In GP Refinery Fire

An engineer, who was trapped on top of a 230-foot cracking unit which burst into flame at General Petroleum Saturday, escaped uninjured after GP and Torrance firefighters fought the raging blaze for half an hour.

Harold Bell, 26, of Long Beach, found himself trapped part-way up GP's new TCR (thermo-catalytic reformer) following a powerful explosion.

When he realized that he could not get through the flames which started on the tower's second deck, Bell climbed all the way up to the twenty-second deck, hoping that the fire could be extinguished before it reached him.

Fire Spreads
Bell had no way of telling how far the fire had actually gone. It had raced all the way up to the ninth deck before GP firemen and personnel and Torrance firemen had it under control.

A company spokesman explained that the fire was caused by an instrumentation failure. Damage was estimated at about \$50,000.

The official stated that Bell "probably did the right thing" when he headed for the top of the tower where he waited for firemen to extinguish the blaze.

However, the engineer was never really trapped because he could have come down by a ladder on the west side of the unit, since the fire was localized on the south side, the official explained.

He would only have gotten hurt in the process, the spokesman said.

Telephone communications were completely cut off. Firemen scrawled "Are You Alone" on the sidewalk in giant letters with yellow chalk in order to find out if anyone else was trapped in

the structure. Bell nodded that he was alone.

More than 70 men battled the blaze. The moment the explosion rocked the structure, gasoline vapors were drained out of the tank automatically through a pressure relief valve. A stream of fire was seen shooting from this valve for about 20 minutes.

Ladder Too Short

The only way Bell could have been saved otherwise than by extinguishing the blaze would have been through an aerial ladder or a helicopter, according to Battalion Chief N. T. Whitney and Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Chief Whitney ordered such a ladder from the Los Angeles fire department. By the time the unit arrived, the fire was already under control. Torrance's aerial unit was rolled to the scene but could not be used because its 50-foot ladder was too short, according to Chief Whitney.

Sweats It Out

"I just sweated it out on top," Bell explained. "I knew I couldn't get through the flames. Fortunately the wind blew the flames the other way."

When asked what he was thinking about up there, Bell said, "I was trying to figure out where the fire started."

Two other workmen were in the tower when the fire broke out but were able to escape. They are Francis P. Cassidy, 33, of 2723 W. 157th st., and Wesley

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

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LATE NEWS

EL RETIRO: El Retiro playground will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Playground director will be Miss Vallerie Daniels.

GOOD NEIGHBOR BREAKFAST: Committees are being formed and plans are now being readied for the annual YMCA Good Neighbor Breakfast set for Saturday, October 23, at the Torrance Civic Auditorium, according to D. M. Sowle, chairman.

BEACH SITE: Telegrams asking state and county officials to take immediate action to acquire property near Torrance beach were sent this week by City Manager George Stevens. At present the property is proposed for part of a housing development by the Don-Ja-Ran corporation. The area was intended for a public beach by the city.

SCHOOL BONDS: Approval for the sale and issuance of \$1,400,000 worth of school bonds for the Torrance Unified School District was given Tuesday by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Oscar Maples Sponsors Weekly Football Forecast
Sports fans will welcome a new weekly feature to appear in the Torrance Press, courtesy of Oscar Maples Ford agency in Torrance.

Maples will publish the Joe Harris national, intercollegiate and professional football forecasts which will be found on page 18.

Maples' forecasts are considered the most accurate in the country, predicting the winners and the exact margin of victory in points. A 12-year average shows Harris to be 82.9 per cent right.

The Maples Ford agency is also sponsoring a weekly contest together with this feature. Sport fans may submit their own predictions every week. Those submitting the closest predictions will receive merchandise.

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TORRANCE RATES 5th IN BUILDING ACTIVITY IN 11 WESTERN STATES

Evidence of Torrance's rapid building growth continued to pile up this week when it was learned that this city ranks fifth in building activity in 11 western states for the month of August.

Torrance continued to set one of the most spectacular building records as building activity for the first nine months of 1954 surpassed the total for all of 1953.

Total for the year to date, including the first few weeks of September, stands at \$30,019,521, which is well ahead of \$29,000,000 for all of last year.

\$10 Million Anticipated
Observers expect the building total to reach \$40,000,000 by the end of the year.

In the meantime Torrance is stacking up among the top cities in the southland as well as in the eleven western states as far as building activity is concerned.

During the month of August Torrance was

surpassed only by Los Angeles in the amount of building going on. No other city even approached Torrance's \$7,335,798 figure. Building activity in Torrance surpassed such other cities as San Diego, Long Beach, Pasadena, Glendale, San Bernardino, Beverly Hills, Whittier, Santa Barbara, and San Fernando.

Fourth Place in Southern California

On the basis of an eight month total for 1954, Torrance is in fourth place among Southern California cities, being surpassed only by Los Angeles, San Diego, and Long Beach, respectively.

It was revealed that Torrance placed fifth in issuances of building permits in 11 western states during August. Torrance was ahead of such large cities as Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

2259 Students Return To Narbonne High School

Nathaniel Narbonne High school opened its doors Monday, September 13, to an enrollment of 2259 students. This is an increase of approximately 177 students over last semester. Of this enrollment, 1315 are junior high school students, 7th through 9th grades, and 944 senior high students, 10th through 12th grade.

This increased enrollment entitled the school to seven new teaching positions. One of these positions is a full time driver training teacher, who will give daily "behind the wheel" instructions to pupils who wish to learn to drive an automobile.

Narbonne will continue to be on double session with the students enrolled in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades attending in the morning, and those in the 7th and 8th grades attending in the afternoon. On Monday morning students who attend morning sessions will be at school at 7:30 a.m. and will be dismissed at 11:49 a.m., while the 7th and 8th graders should plan to be at school at 12:15 and will be dismissed at 4:30 p.m.

Following are the teachers new to Narbonne this semester: Arthur Freier, mathematics; Verne Berry, printshop; Miss Annette Lindeman, girls' physical education; Harold Emus, science; Mrs. Anne Boppart,

English; William Cone, English; Lalor, Latin; Douglas, social studies and physical education; John Green, English; William Evanston, science; Miss Janet MacFarland, science; Merle Marks, social studies; Philip Steinberg, driver training.

Residents Invited To See Special Film

A special Red Feather spotlight will fall on the Harbor Area tonight, Thursday, when the noted Community Chest film, "Endless Days" will have an unprecedented local premier showing in Torrance. The film will be shown at the Torrance theatre, 1403 Sartori at 8 p.m. An open invitation has been extended to Torrance and Harbor residents to see this film, according to Mrs. Ella Schwartz, city chairman.

Also appearing on the program will be Peter Graves, star of the film and performer in "Stalag 17."

COUNCIL BRIEFS

FAULTY HOMES: The City Council met with Tony Paravano, Crenshaw Gardens builder, and residents in order to settle the homeowners' grievances. Paravano will meet with Building Superintendent John Russell this week and report back to the Council next week at 8 p.m. At that time he is to state what he intends to do about the complaints.

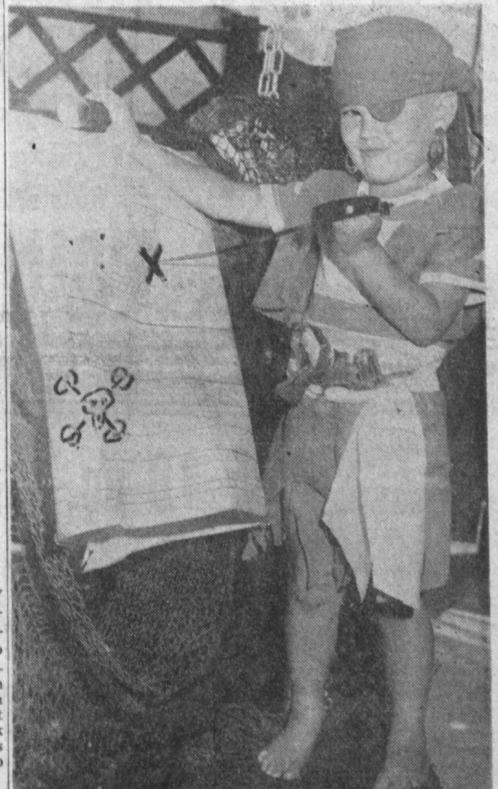
SUSPENDED FIREMAN: A 4 to 1 "compromise" vote was reached by the City Council in regard to Milton T. Langum whose demotion had been asked by Chief J. J. Benner. A 45-day demotion rather than the original 90-day demotion was agreed to by Councilmen Benstead, Blount, Isen, and Schwab. Mayor Drale continued to insist on complete reinstatement.

OIL DEPOSITS: Mayor Nick Drale asked the city attorney to see whether Torrance can obtain off-shore oil rights on Torrance beach.

OFF-STREET PARKING: Councilman Marvin Schwab moved that City Manager George Stevens begin a study of off-street parking sites to be purchased in downtown Torrance through an assessment district. The motion was approved. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

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Deedles the Pirate



'X' MARKS THE SPOT . . . Deedles the Pirate, alias David Star, 4, of 1308 Fonhill, is one of many young "pirates" getting ready for the annual Kiwanis Kids Day planned for Saturday in El Prado park. A Treasure Hunt for adults starts today through Saturday.

Local Woman Produces New Knott's Berry Farm Play

Old-fashioned American melodrama was added to the colorful ghost-town setting of Knott's Berry Farm this month with the opening of the Birdcage theater, featuring "The Streets of New York."

Producer of the show is Mrs. Catherine Coleman, a Torrance resident who at one time was associated with "The Drunkard," a noted melodrama playing in Los Angeles.

Melodrama
The Knott's Berry Farm production, "The Streets of New York," is a melodrama of the 1850's. An olio of vaudeville acts and music is included on the program.

George Stuart, the director and Woodie Wilson, stage manager, both were for many years associated with "The Drunkard."

"This theater is another dream of Walter and Cordelia Knott come true," Mrs. Coleman stated. "The Knott's had been thinking about this for seven years."

Hours
The theater and farm are located in Buena Park. Two shows are staged daily at 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. There are four shows on Saturday: 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 9:30 p.m. The theater is dark Mondays and Tuesdays.

Directing the play is Stella Rae.

Father of Two Dies Of Cancer

John Pierce, 33, a former Torrance resident, died September 12 at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach. The father of two children, had been suffering from lung cancer.

The Torrance Press ran Pierce's story several months ago in order to obtain help for him and his family.

Pierce is survived by his wife Ann, and his children, Johnny 6, and Melody Ann, 3. A sister, Mrs. Francis Rubco, lives at 2508 Sierra st. Pierce's father, John Pierce, Sr., lives in West Newton, Pa.

The Pierces had moved to Whittier from Torrance. The World War II veteran was buried at Calvary Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Burglars Steal \$12,000 In Cash and Cigarettes

A skillful burglary, the biggest in over a year, was pulled off here without a hitch, netting the burglars \$12,000 in cash and cigarettes sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning last week. The neat job was perpetrated against Vend-A-Pack, Inc., a vending machine warehouse located at 2105 Border avenue.

The burglars knew exactly what they were doing, according to Sgt. Ted Morris and Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton, who are investigating the case.

Next Job
They did not make one false

or unnecessary move, the investigating officers stated. The men knew exactly which of six burglar alarm wires 'cut and jimmied the locks on two doors within five minutes.

Once inside, the bandits headed for the storeroom, hauling out 100 cases of cigarettes, coins, currency, and a 2-foot safe.

The job is considered to be one of many which have been pulled by a professional team in the greater Los Angeles area.

70,000 Packs
Stolen were about 70,000 packs of cigarettes and approximately \$2285 in cash, mostly

Ho-Hum De-Dum

Ho-hum, same old thing, results, results, results.

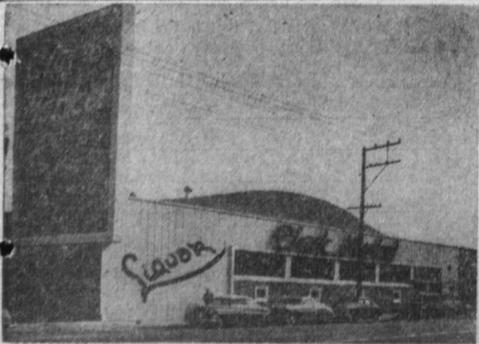
You know how it goes. A woman calls up. Like Mrs. Harold Crove of 1522 W. 219th St., for instance.

She tells us that she placed an ad in the Torrance Press classified section and the calls just kept coming in one after the other until finally she stopped counting them.

Her simple, inexpensive ad read:

FOR SALE—Good chrome set. Best offer takes. 1522 W. 119th St. FA. 8-5806

That's what we hear every week from countless satisfied Torrance Press classified advertisers and we love it!



GOOD NEWS . . . The Torrance Press is happy to announce to thrifty housewives the addition of Clark Market as a regular advertiser beginning with this issue. The closest Clark Market is located at Crenshaw blvd. and Compton blvd. A new Clark Market, now under construction, will open soon at Hawthorne blvd. and Pacific Coast Highway.

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