

\$4500 SPENDING SPREE NETS ROBBERY, KIDNAP CHARGE FOR 19-YEAR-OLD YOUTH

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Consolidation of School Board, City Council Elections Proposed

PROPOSAL MAY GO TO VOTERS

An explosive element which might soon burst into a major controversial issue was introduced at Tuesday night's City Council meeting when the proposal was made to combine City Council and School Board elections. They have been kept independent of each other in the past.

The proposal was made by Councilman Victor Benstead and "informally" approved by the other council members. Benstead introduced the proposal as part of other charter amendments presently being considered by the council. These proposed amendments would be placed before the voters in April.

'Unrepresentative'

General dissatisfaction with the way School Board elections have been handled was expressed by the council. The basic argument was that only a few hundred people now elect the School Board whose members are supposed to represent 67,000 residents.

The elections were consolidated (Turn to Page 6)

Serious Fire Damage Avoided

A fire which burned the exhaust fan, motor and most of the housing, as well as quite a bit of tar paper on the roof, caused about \$150 damage at Mom and Don's Bar-B-Q, 1975 Torrance boulevard, Saturday, December 17, according to Battalion Chief Bob Lucas of the Torrance Fire Department.

No one was hurt or endangered by the fire, Lucas stated. The fact that the fire was reported instantly prevented more serious damage, Lucas said, stating that roof fires are particularly dangerous and spread rapidly.

Customers, it was reported, were not so much disturbed about the fire as they were about having their meal interrupted.



INSTANT SOUNDING of the fire alarm was credited with keeping damage to Mom and Don's Bar-B-Q, 1975 Torrance blvd., down to

a minimum Saturday. The fire started in the kitchen. Damage was estimated at around \$150.

Silent Night, Holy Night...



TYPICAL of the many Christmas programs being presented throughout Torrance is this scene of the Nativity being depicted by members of the South Bay Church of God, 17661 Yukon ave. The Christmas story is portrayed nightly at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. up to and includ-

ing this Saturday. The six tableaux are accompanied by background music and narration. Seen (l-r) are Mason Compton, Paul Hale, Mrs. Tierney, Rev. Clifford Tierney, and Abe Neufeld.—Press Photo.

What May We Expect Of 'Little Red School House'?

Will the "little red school house plan" now being tried in a number of classes at Walteria elementary school spread to other schools and possibly the whole

Special Feature

Torrance school district? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the plan? For the last in a series of four articles turn to page 2.

LATE NEWS

CHRISTMAS: Monday, December 26, will be observed as a legal holiday, since Christmas falls on Sunday. Banks and businesses will be closed.

POST OFFICE: Residents who have received notices to call for packages should pick these up at the National Guard Armory presently being used by

the post office. Located at Cabrillo and Lincoln (near Plaza del Amo), it is open all day this week up to and including Christmas day.

RAPE: Dick D. Fields, 19, of 1620 219th st., Torrance, pleaded guilty to rape in South Bay Municipal Court Tuesday. He (Turn to Page 6)

'Bullet' Leaves its Mark...

A Torrance Press classified ad is a lost dog's best friend. Because of the Torrance Press, "Bullet," a red doberman, was reunited with its owner, Mrs. R. E. Woodley of 2150 W. 240th st., Lomita.

When Mrs. Woodley found that the dog was missing, she placed the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

LOST—Red doberman. Ans. to Bullet. Cal. DA. 6-6037

The dog was missing for two days. A woman, living two blocks from the Woodleys, found it, but unable to identify the owner, kept Bullet until the Torrance Press came out.

She saw the Woodley ad as she looked through the lost and found column. In a matter of minutes, Bullet and the Woodleys were reunited.

For fast results, call FA. 8-2345. A friendly classified sales girl will help you set up your inexpensive ad just right.

Court Campaign Continues

Torrance's community-wide campaign to obtain a municipal and superior court continued its determined course this week as Councilmen Nick Draie and Willys Blount announced that they would appear personally before the County Board of Supervisors to:

- 1) Present resolutions endorsing such a court submitted by numerous local groups and organizations; and
- 2) Make sure that each of the supervisors learns that the city has offered a free piece of land on the civic center in return for such a court.

Resolutions favoring the establishment of such a court (Turn to Page 6)

Residents Terrorized By Snipers

Phantom snipers are being sought who terrorized Torrance residents, striking in three places and injuring and imperiling a number of persons, according to police reports.

Wounded with .22 caliber bullets were:

Joseph Paul Natter, 18, Narbonne high school senior, of 23028 South Meyler street. Natter was shot through the left wrist, according to police.

Mrs. Mammie Marie Burks, 44, visiting from Missouri, who was hit above the left eye, according to sheriff's deputies.

A half dozen juveniles are believed to be involved.

Mrs. Burks was struck Tuesday night, as she rode in an automobile with her husband, Winfred, and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Day of 944 South Elden avenue.

Their car was paralleled by a hot-rod as they moved along Santa Fe avenue near Del Amo.

A shot was fired from the hot-rod which then sped off.

Mrs. Burks' injury, it was stated, could have been fatal if the bullet had not been deflected by the window.

Natter was wounded while decorating a Christmas tree at 916 Beech street, Torrance, the home of Mary Skipper, 18, Torrance high school student.

Prior to that, a .22 caliber bullet was fired through the front window of the home of Thomas L. Kulp at 918 Amapola street.

Kulp told police his son, (Turn to Page 6)

Leslie Alter, Prominent Pioneer Realtor, Dies

Leslie Alter, 75, prominent Torrance realtor, died in Hollywood Presbyterian hospital, Los Angeles, Tuesday morning at seven, December 20. He entered that hospital recently for special care of an incipient malignancy. The funeral is announced for 1 p.m., Friday, December 23 at Halverson-Leavelle mortuary, 1223 Cravens ave. Burial will follow at Roosevelt Memorial cemetery.

A familiar figure in local business circles since 1936, Alter has participated in most of the city's spectacular expansion, having seen Torrance grow to ten times its size since he came.

Lured by the genial climate and sensing the extraordinary growth, he settled in Torrance for a very active career. He has lived and had a part in the development of nearly every quarter of the city.

Many Friends

In his real estate, building, and notarial counseling service he has earned a host of close friends, through his steadfast integrity, his earnest sympathy, and especially the practical but usually gratuitous guidance characteristic of the Olden Time Country Esquire.

Sharing Alter Building company operations with his son, Gerald, in the beginning, he went into general real estate in 1939. Crowning his career he and Gerald formed and incorporated Alter Realty & Insurance in 1948.

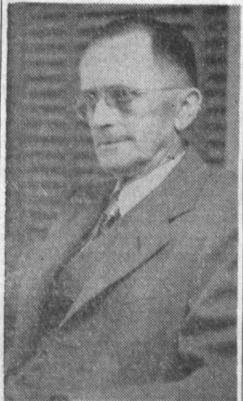
Leslie Alter was vice-president of the company, but served only in an advisory capacity, since his retirement two years ago.

Born in Indiana

Alter was born November 22, 1880, on Riverside Farm, Jasper County, northwestern Indiana. Son of John E. Alter, farmer, journalist and civil engineer, Leslie was educated at Rosebud rural school and Valparaiso University, Indiana.

He early attained leadership in local agricultural, social and political circles. He organized and became business manager of the first community grain threshing pool; and organized and headed the Jasper County Livestock Shipping Association, of Parr, Indiana.

He later took charge of the (Turn to Page 6)



LESLIE ALTER ... mourned by many

COUNCIL BRIEFS

WATER COMMISSION: Proposed ordinance to establish a water commission was tabled by the City Council. Councilmen Schwab and Blount thought such a commission would hinder efficient operation of the water department. Councilmen Draie and Benstead thought the department needs a commission, like any other city department, especially since it handles large sums of money. Mayor Isen indicated that he would go for a modified ordinance but not the present one.

EL NIDO ANNEXATION: The City Council plans to consider annexation of the El Nido area presently in the county at the December 27 meeting, 8 p.m.

DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL: County Flood Control officials indicated that there will be \$4,000,000 in the budget in the next two years for channel improvements. They hope to have the channel improved as far as Redondo Beach boulevard within three years.

PREMIUM CONCRETE: The council agreed unanimously not to pay a "premium" for concrete to continue work on (Turn to Page 6)

Employees Locked in Refrigerator

One week following the \$4500 robbery of a grocery store during which one shot was fired and three men locked in an ice box, a 19-year-old Torrance youth and a companion were arrested on suspicion of robbery and possible kidnaping.

Admitting the robbery of Von's market in Gardena were Rocco James Pallumbo, 19, of 22111 South Halldale Torrance, and Leslie Roy Butts, 27, of Huntington Park, according to Capt. Roy Tracey of the Gardena police department.

Only \$698 of the \$4500 were recovered. The men said they spent the money on clothes and "doing a lot of things they wanted to do," Tracey stated.

LATE BULLETIN: Pallumbo and Butts will appear for their preliminary hearing on charges of robbery, kidnaping, and assault with a deadly weapon, December 29, according to South Bay Municipal Court officials.

The robbery occurred Sunday morning, December 11. The men were arrested Sunday, December 18.

Locked In Refrigerator

The two suspects allegedly entered the store before closing time Saturday night and stayed all night, according to Tracey. When three employees in the produce department reported for work the following morning, the suspects locked them up in the refrigerator and continued waiting until the manager came.

Each wielding a gun, they confronted Manager Gordon Forbes as he put money into a cash register and forced him to hand over the money.

The two men fired one shot at an employee who tried to follow them as they sped away in their '51 Oldsmobile. The bullet went wild.

Involved In Collision The men were involved in a (Turn to Page 6)

Councilman Goes Native—Almost!

Chop sticks were the order of the evening at a special Japanese dinner prepared by Bob Mimura, Jack Sakauye, and Bob Kikuno for fellow members of the Walteria Businessmen's club last Thursday.

While everyone balanced barbecued chicken, rice, and salad for better or for worse on the precarious tips of their chop sticks, Councilman Nick Draie, a guest, unable to bring the food into swallowing position, swallowed his pride instead and asked for an accidental knife, and fork.

The tasty meal was thereupon enjoyed by all.

Torrance Goes Over Top in Chest Drive

Torrance went over the top in the Community Chest drive this week, reporting 100.06% of its goal, totaling \$18,521. Its quota was \$18,510, according to Phil Lisman, city chairman.

Lisman stated further that additional funds are still coming in and that the city will go even higher.

Percent of quotas attained so far in surrounding cities is as follows: Gardena, 90.77; Harbor City-Lomita, 89.69; Palos Verdes, 102.84; Rolling Hills, 124.93; San Pedro, 71.12; and Wilmington, 88.99.

The Harbor Area Chest campaign lacks only \$7000 to make 100 per cent winner's circle. James Visceglia, chairman announced at a Los Angeles Area report meeting held last week at the Statler Hotel.

Visceglia reported that \$77,571 had been collected, or 91.62 per cent of the Harbor Area Chest goal. Overall Los Angeles area report was 95.03 per cent or \$9,027,850.

Volunteer workers are urged to turn in collections and completed assignments as soon as possible, to the Chest Service Center, Visceglia said.

Persons not contacted can mail contributions to the Chest Center, 1427 S. Pacific ave., San Pedro, TE. 3-5227 and receipts will be mailed to them.

"With this last-minute cleanup and callbacks, we can put the Harbor Area at 100 per cent," Visceglia said, in urging volunteers to complete the job.



THE ONLY CATCH to the special Japanese dinner served members of the Walteria Businessmen's club last week was that it had to be eaten with chop sticks. Manipulating the chop sticks with varying degrees of perfection are

Jack Brown (l) and Bob Waegner (r) while their hosts, Bob Mimura (center), and (back row, l-r) Jack Sakauye and Fred Kita show them how it's done.—Press Photo.

A Merry Merry Christmas To All Our Readers!

from the Staff of the Torrance Press and the Newspaper Carrier Boys