

CITY MUST REINSTATE BUILDING INSPECTOR FIRED 2 YEARS AGO

Court Upholds Cecil Smith, James Dresser

A two-year legal fight with the city for reinstatement was won this week by former building superintendent, James Dresser, and his assistant, Cecil Smith (since deceased) when the District Court of Appeals ruled Tuesday in favor of the two men.

The court indicated that the Torrance City Council was not acting within its jurisdiction when it reversed the Civil Service Commission's decision two years ago and fired the two men.

The commission only recommended that Dresser be suspended without pay for 75 days and Smith be suspended without pay for 60 days, after which they were to be restored to their posts.

Dresser and Smith were represented by attorneys John E. McCall and James C. R. McCall.

The decision, handed down by Division 2 of the District Court of Appeals, will not become final for 60 days. If the city will not appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of California within that time, a hearing will be held on damages.

Damages would consist of back pay from the time of discharge until the time of reinstatement minus earnings made in the same occupation since that time.

In the case of Dresser, pay would be retroactive to May 25, 1954. In the case of Smith, it would go back to May 10 up to the time of his death, February 8, 1956. His wife, Mrs. Minnie D. Smith, was substituted in the suit since Smith's death.

About 12 charges involving failure to enforce city building ordinances and not keeping records were lodged with the Civil Service Board against the two men two years ago.

The Board found the men innocent of the charges but maintained that they were not as thoroughly familiar with their work as they might have been.

The court found that the City Council did not have the right to overrule the Civil Service Board's decision in this case, stating that the board's findings were final and conclusive, according to James C. R. McCall.

Press Ads Hit Home Every Time

Not just a dozen—but ten dozen calls!

That's what Mrs. Robert Sturges, of 21011 La Salle ave., Torrance, said she had after placing the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

PLAY PEN & PAD, like new, \$10. FA. 8-6610

"Despite the fact that the Press comes out just one day a week, people seem to read it all week long because I had calls until the following Thursday," Mrs. Sturges said.

With such readership and a circulation covering 30,000 families, your ad is bound to hit home.

Want to buy, sell, trade, hire? Do it the inexpensive way—place a classified ad in the Torrance Press. Call FA. 8-2345 now!

RUSS O'HARE, DIAMOND HUNTER AT DOUGLAS

An aircraft plant is the last place one would normally expect to find a cache of diamonds, but the ingenuity of a machinist at the Torrance Location of Douglas Aircraft's El Segundo Division made it possible to recover a cache of 738 carats of industrial diamonds worth \$1254.60 at a cost of only \$39.15.

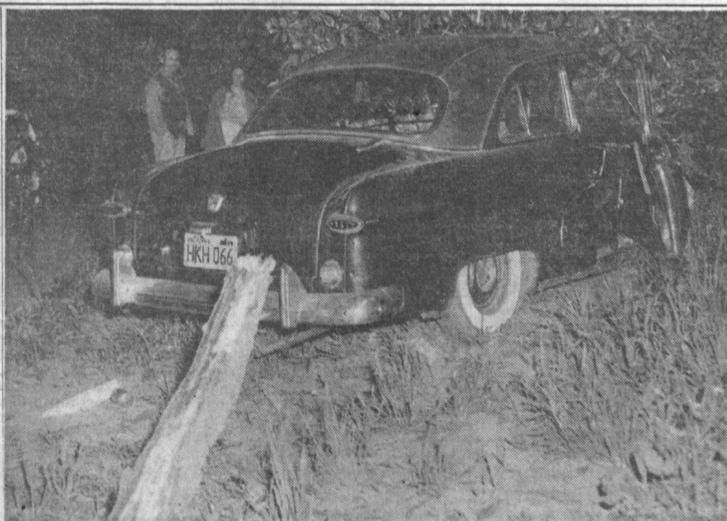
For years the tiny diamond chips, which broke off the grinding wheels in the Perishable Tool Maintenance department, fell to the floor and were swept up because it was considered impossible to recover them.

Leadman Russ O'Hare, 22313 Osage court, Torrance, suggested placing shallow, rectangular pans directly beneath the grinding wheels to catch the chips as they tore loose from their resin binder.

Half the machines were equipped with the pans during a tryout period. The diamonds, as they fell into the pan, became immersed in resin, coolant and dirt. This presented a problem of retrieving them from



RUSS O'HARE... a diamond's best friend



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK
A car driven by Robert F. Feller, 30, of 20323 Valerie st., Torrance, jumped a curb, and crashed into a street light, business district sign, traffic enforcement sign and magnolia tree Monday night at Prospect ave. and Torrance blvd. Feller received cuts on his face and hands. Leo A. Palmer of Glendora, a passenger, was taken for treatment of a possible broken leg. The car went out of control, according to Redondo police.

City Business Stops While Councilmen Play Politics

Election-minded City Council factions are presently devoting themselves to kicking up a lot of dust and laying thick smoke screens over a number of major and minor issues.

The councilmanic ball teams consist of the Blount-Schwab-Drale faction, on the one hand, and the Isen-Benstead faction, on the other.

They were grimly engaged Tuesday night in kicking around recreation, real estate, and road issues.

Frontal Attack
First to suffer under the onslaughts of politics was the 90-acre recreation park proposed near the new civic center.

The original idea was to condemn the land (at a cost of about \$150) so that the land would not be sold or used for other purposes before Torrance voters could decide how much of it, if any, they wanted to use for a centrally located recreation park.

The original proposal was made by Councilman Victor Benstead, running for reelection, and seconded by Mayor Albert Isen.

Councilman Nick Drale, also running for reelection, together with Councilmen Mervin Schwab and Willys Blount, opposed the move.

Action to start condemnation proceedings on the land was therefore defeated Tuesday night, despite the fact that the

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Prudential Agents Hold Walk Out

Members of the Insurance International Union, A.F.L., took part in a one-hour walk-out demonstration yesterday, March 22, in front of the Prudential Insurance co., corner of Cravens and Post avenues.

Men carrying picket signs were all agents working for the local Prudential branch.

The contract between the union and the Prudential management expired midnight Sunday, March 18.

Negotiations have been going on in Washington, D.C. between union and management officials since January 16. The negotiations affect Prudential branches in California, Colorado, Utah, Oregon and Washington.

Agreement on a raise in agent's salaries of \$5.68 per week and agreement on a raise in retirement pension benefits have been reached.

One of three points remaining to be settled is the grievance procedure.

Union officials want the contract signed for a two to three year period, Bob Feruley, local union district chairman said. The company prefers a five year period, although they have announced they will agree to a four year contract.

The union also wants their freedom of territory right put (Turn to Page 7)

COUNCIL BRIEFS

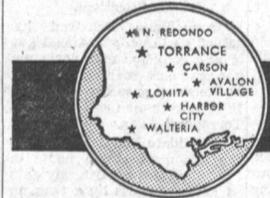
GLENBURN AVE.: The council will ask the Board of Supervisors to hold up the releasing of the bond issue to the Pacific Allied Construction co., until the storm drain project on Glenburn is properly completed. A petition bearing signatures from 85 property owners was submitted by Jack E. White.

ASSISTANT BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT: Council approved appointment of George B. Sands to the post of assistant building superintendent. Sands is a local resident.

FIREWORKS: Request for a free license for fireworks stands requested by a scout group and woman's club were denied.

OFF-STREET PARKING LOT: Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation to purchase a site behind the Richfield station corner Cravens and Marcelina for off-street parking. Price, \$16,000. Council approved.

GRADING ORDINANCE: City Engineer Ronald Bishop was asked to submit a grading ordinance to the council.



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1 2

Thursday, March 22, 1956—Torrance, California

No. 49

EDITORIAL

12 Pussyfooters!

Two weeks ago the Torrance Press addressed an "Open Letter" to the 15 candidates running for City Council.

We asked the candidates to answer 3 questions to enable local voters to form a more concrete opinion of the individuals seeking public office.

The three questions were:
1. Despite a streamlined oil field law passed by the present council, proper oil derrick provisions were sidestepped. Do you intend to propose stricter legislation which will permit the removal of hazardous derricks which, for all practical purposes, are inoperative?

2. The need for off-street parking is a serious problem in Torrance. However, Torrance still does not have a law requiring individuals or firms planning to construct new commercial enterprises to provide proper off-street parking sites. Do you intend to introduce such legislation?

3. A suggestion has been made to propose a \$1,000,000 bond issue to the voters for purposes of providing additional off-street parking sites in Torrance. Do you favor placing that issue before the voters?

Of the 15 candidates only three candidates showed the courtesy and concern to reply.

SEE ANSWERS, PAGE 3

It appears as if the other candidates would rather make meaningless political promises and distribute say-nothing campaign literature than to take an honest, direct and definite stand on concrete issues.

Voters cannot be expected to form an intelligent opinion of a candidate's qualifications if he refuses to express himself on specific problems which concern the city's future.

Some voters may dislike a candidate because they disagree with him, but they still respect him. However, no voter likes or respects a political pussyfooters.

Regardless of what the 14 candidates might or might not have said, we are sorry that they did not even have the courtesy of replying to a public letter published for the benefit of you, the voting public.

Mayor of the Town

There seem to be many new residents of Torrance and some old ones who are not aware of the way in which the local mayor is chosen and how that influences elections, such as the one about to occur April 10.

The strange alliances and the ambitious bid for power made by various political factions result to a large degree from the knowledge that they who control the council control the mayorship.

The mayor of Torrance is not elected by the people at large. The voters only elect the councilmen and the councilmen then choose a mayor from among themselves.

There are five men on the council and it therefore takes three of them to agree on a mayor.

The mayor, as a rule, serves a two-year period, after which he may be re-elected if the council so wishes. The two-year period is not fixed, however, since both Nick Drale and Albert Isen served one year apiece.

Of those now on the council, Mervin Schwab served as mayor two years; Nick Drale, one year; and Albert Isen is now serving out his first year. Councilman Benstead has refused the mayorship repeatedly and is expected to do so again if re-elected to the council. Councilman Willys Blount never has been mayor.

The council's policy in the past has been to rotate the mayorship. It is not bound to that policy, however.

Those seeking reelection to the council are Benstead and Drale. Schwab is not running again.

The election seems to be developing into a struggle for control of the mayorship, with the Blount-Drale-Smith-Garrabrant faction on the one hand and the Isen-Benstead-Jahn-King faction on the other.

What will happen nobody knows. But every vote cast will have a direct bearing on who shall be elected as Torrance's next mayor.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson And Sam Levy Honored

An outstanding Torrance man and woman were selected this week by Mayor Albert Isen to represent the city to be honored by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Sam Levy and Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson will be among the 100 individuals from Southern California who will be honored by the Hollywood Chamber. They will receive the first Annual "Honored Hundred" Award.

Isen appointed Levy "for constructive community and welfare work that he has done for the past 38 years. When city funds were short, he took it upon himself to supervise the building of our YWCA building and a much needed addition to the fire station," the mayor continued. "He worked on and spearheaded innumerable charity drives, and whenever there is a job in this community to be done, it seems to be given to Sam, and he loves it."

Regarding Mrs. Jamieson, the mayor said:

"Mrs. Jamieson has been librarian at the Torrance library for the past 25 years. She is one of the earliest residents of the city of Torrance and over the years has worked actively for local charities and the Torrance Memorial hospital. She has helped to guide and mold the character of thousands of our

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"DIAPERS AND DISHES ARE WORTH IT"

These were Mrs. Albert Oliver's sentiments when she learned that she has been chosen 'Mrs. Torrance' in the California Gas co. sponsored 'Mrs. America' contest to determine the best homemaker in the nation. Local sponsors include the Torrance Jaycees and Recreation Department. Mrs. Oliver lives at 2517 W. 177th st. Jaycee President Phil Lisman (l) and contest chairman Bud Fellers congratulate her.—Press Photo.

Five Candidates File For School Board Election

To date five candidates have filed to run for the May 18 school board election.

Running for the first time for the school board are Dr. Eleanor Thill, optometrist; and W. C. Boswell, Jr., assistant head of publications in the field service department for North American Airlines, Inc.

Incumbents filing are: Mrs. Grace Wright, housewife and former teacher; J. G. Arnold, purchasing agent for Chicago Bridge and Iron; and Darwin Parrish, owner of Parrish Stationers.

April 18 is the last day to file

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declaration of candidacy for the elections.

Forms are available at the Board of Education, 2335 Plaza del Amo; or at the Office of the County Superintendent of Schools, Division of Elections, 808 North Spring Street, Los Angeles 12, Calif.

All candidacy forms must be sent to the Division of Elections office.

Election Day
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on election day, May 18.

Sunday, March 25, is the last day to register in order to vote in the May election.

Between the dates of April (Turn to Page 6)

Romberg Cleared of 3 Charges

Charges of kidnaping, rape, and assault with a deadly weapon brought against Raymond Romberg, 32, of 20011 Anza, were dismissed by Judge C. O. Thompson of the San Bernardino municipal court.

So stated William R. Sweeney, attorney for Romberg. The case involved Mrs. Ila McBride, of Puente, California, mother of three children.

The three charges were dropped and a simple battery charge was substituted, according to Sweeney. The hearing has been set for April 15.

Douglas, IAM Agree On New Contract

Negotiators for Douglas Aircraft company and the International Association of Machinists this morning reached an agreement on terms of a new contract which will be presented at a mass meeting to be held Sunday at the Hollywood Legion stadium.

It would affect 30,000 members of the bargaining unit which includes Local 720, El Segundo division, and Local 1578, Santa Monica division.

Basic benefits under the agreement are similar to those accepted by the United Auto Workers Union members at

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2 Cars Mix In Collision On Carson

A two-car collision at the intersection of Carson and Hickory sts. in downtown Torrance Saturday night resulted in minor injuries to three persons.

Injured were Donald Holmes Brown, 19, of 3121 W. 180th st., Torrance, driver of a '47 Ford involved in the accident; Alice J. Smith, 43, of 3217 W. 180th st., Torrance, a passenger; and John D. W. Schwartz, 20, of 413 20th st., Manhattan Beach; also a passenger.

Leonard Najmowski, 18, of 3221 W. 180th st., Torrance, was the driver of '55 Ford east bound on Carson st. when the collision of the two cars occurred.



UNDERGROUND DEATH TRAP

One of three entrances, easily accessible to children, leads to an underground rectangular cement enclosure which shows signs of caving in and which could be a death trap for children playing there. It is located 50 feet south of Abalone st. and Plaza del Amo. The city should enforce its Kathy Ficus law here.—Press Photo