



INSPECTS FIELD—Jack Egan, new boss of Torrance Municipal Airport, views busy field from control tower which will be placed in operation April 1. City assumed operation of the airport last Saturday and hired Egan as airport manager. —Press photo

Airport Fete Proposed by Isen to Council

Celebration of an Airport Day as a public education measure for Torrance Municipal Airport, was proposed Tuesday by Mayor Albert Isen.

"The airport has been so abused and been the subject of so much propaganda, that we should sanction an Airport Day to let the people know what's going on there," the Mayor said.

The Council set the date of the event tentatively for May 3.

Isen suggested the program include an exhibition of planes and possibly an air show.

He asked that the Chamber of Commerce and the Nike base be asked for assistance in promoting the event.

Dope Raid Nets Three Suspects

Three youths face trial on narcotics charges following a Torrance police raid on an apartment at 3829 Spencer st., Saturday night.

Booked on suspicion of possessing narcotics were Bruce Stewart Ferguson, 18, of 14914 Orage ave., Lawndale; Billy Diane Pearson, 18, of 243 E. 138th st., Hawthorne, and John Curt Strom, 18, of 3228 W. Compton blvd., Gardena.

Lt. D. C. Cook said that raiding officers found four and one-half cans of marijuana which the suspects attempted to flush down the toilet.

He estimated that there was sufficient marijuana to roll more than 200 cigarettes.

Gerald Gardner, 19, who rented the apartment was not home at the time of the raid, police said. He was held for questioning when he returned home later and released without charges.

Bail for each of the trio was set at \$1000 at their arraignment in South Bay Municipal Court Monday afternoon.

Sleep Robs Bandit Suspect of Liberty

San Diego man came to a Lide awakening Sunday night. Ardis Oliver Smart, 26, could blame sleep for his arrest on suspicion of robbery and grand theft auto.

He was apprehended by officers Glenn Boyce and Bruce Bishop, who, notified that the car in which the suspect was sleeping, on the stolen auto list.

Before Smart was fully awake, he was handcuffed and booked at the Torrance police station.

The arrest of the man, who Capt. Ernest Ashton, chief of detectives, said is wanted in Los Angeles for stealing a car and robbing a service station, was made at Pacific Coast Highway and Winlock ave.

Recreation Lake to Aid Welteria Eyed

On request of the City Council, city administrative officers are studying the possibility of converting the land for urban development with a loan from the federal Urban Redevelopment Agency.

Don Mansfield, assistant city manager, said that only preliminary studies have been made and that the problem will be investigated for some time before any attempts to obtain federal help are made.

Federal Loan

He explained that under the plan, the city would receive a loan to purchase the 350 acres at about \$7000 per acre.

Creation of a recreational lake and development of 300 acres of land, is the double-barreled solution eyed by city officials for the Welteria Lake area.

Agricultural Use

The large parcel of land north of Pacific Coast Highway and West of Hawthorne blvd., is now virtually useless except for agriculture because of annual inundation of the vast tract.

It is the major undeveloped parcel of real estate in the city. A building ban, because of the flood hazard, has kept it agricultural.

Use For Lake

Between 35 and 50 acres will be used for a permanent recreational lake into which excess water from other surrounding land would flow.

After the drainage is installed, which would dump some excess water into the Lomita channel, the remaining land would be sold at a price high enough to pay for the recreation land and the improvements.

The recreation lake will possibly be located west of Hawthorne blvd.

Mansfield emphasized that the program is still in the study stage and it will take some time to determine if the program is feasible.

Low Flight Probe Launched by Lomita Chamber

A committee to investigate flight conditions around Torrance Municipal Airport was appointed this week by the Lomita Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Warren Low appointed Werner Benson, chairman, and George Larson and Hanley Rogers members of the committee to probe allegations of low flying and hazards made by Vincent Lechner.

The Chamber board also approved the leasing of a new office at 24814 Narbonne ave., beginning April 1. The committee recommended the lease because of its central location.

The board voted to donate \$50 for the senior party fund at Narbonne High School.

Council Praises Elks

A resolution praising the Torrance Elks Lodge for its narcotics education program was approved by the City Council Tuesday on motion of Mayor Albert Isen.

College in City Asked

A proposal for the City Council to endorse a four-year State college in this city or the South Bay area, was shunted to the Coordinating Council after it was described as a "political move."

Request for the Council endorsement of the plan was made by Councilman Nicholas O. Draie.

He explained under questioning by Mayor Albert Isen that he, Councilman Blount and other residents are members of a committee working on the program.

"Why not make this a city-wide thing, why have it so segregated," Isen asked. "I don't see where this is a Council matter."

"This is a political move, and I don't mind telling you so," Councilman Victor Benstead snapped at Draie.

Draie said that other cities receive State aid to establish a four-year college and that the South Bay area with a population should have one, preferably to be located in Torrance.

He added that he wanted the Council to ask Assemblyman Vincent Thomas to get some State action to finance the college program.

Bloody Arm in Car Trunk Brings Police Probe

An investigation into a possible dead body being hauled in the trunk of an automobile, was under investigation by Torrance police yesterday.

A service station attendant at Carson st. and Western ave., called police early yesterday, claiming he saw a bloody arm dangling from the trunk of an auto, described as a 1949 or 1950 Ford with primer paint.

The informant said the car cruised on Carson st., and described the driver as about 25 years old, blonde and wearing a white T shirt.

When police arrived at the scene, the car was gone.

Dairy Health Probe

Health conditions at all Torrance dairies will be investigated on an order from the City Council.

Mayor Albert Isen asked city officials to probe whether any of the milk farms harbor flies or have other unhealthy conditions.

He made the motion after the Council instructed city aides to chlorinate a Southwood sump which was used as an emergency receptacle for storm waters originating in agricultural land on Ocean ave.



TREE PLANTING—Marc Draper, left, supervises playmates at Madrona School as they plant tree in Torrance Park in celebration of Arbor Day which will be officially observed tomorrow. Mounting shovel from left are Chris De Wan, 5; Steve Draper, 5, and Nancy Carlson, 7. —Press photo.

City Puts Ban On Jungle Cats



COLLISION—A witness gives information to Torrance policeman investigating accident between car and two trucks at Hawthorne and Torrance blvds. Debra Carol Scroggins, 38, of Hawthorne, required medical aid. Truck in foreground was driven by Richard Clarence Huey. Car struck truck in rear before it collided with Huey's machine, police said. —Press photo

Owners to Fight Ban on Cats

A northside housewife was ordered to get rid of her cheetah and ocelot within 15 days when the City Council decided in a split vote Tuesday that the animals are not domestic cats.

But Charles Montgomery, attorney for Mrs. Joseph Giacinto, of 2715 W. 178th st., immediately announced he will file an injunction to prevent the city from banning the animals.

"This is a disgraceful abrogation of Constitutional rights," Montgomery charged after the Council refused to give his clients 30 days in which to file legal action to stop the city from carrying out its order.

Overrules Planners

The Council, in effect, overruled the Planning Commission which had recommended that Mrs. Giacinto be permitted to keep one of her two ocelots and the cheetah.

Councilmen Robert Jahn and Willys Blount were unsuccessful in their motion to let Mrs. Giacinto keep one ocelot.

"I'd hate to live next door," Mayor Albert Isen declared. "Maybe they're pretty tame, but it will probably go wild if it sees me."

He asked that the order banning the animals go into effect in 15, rather than 30 days, as had been proposed by Councilman Nicholas O. Draie.

Opposes Ban

"Personally I don't want an ocelot in my house," argued Jahn. "But I don't think that Torrance should set up rules so strict that pets must be either cats or dogs."

Mrs. Giacinto protested that her animals are quite tame, and said that other people have ocelots in monkeys.

Mrs. Lucille Inman, of 18914 Purche ave., said that while her own children had never been bitten, she understood some others were scratched.

Blount charged that Mrs. Giacinto had been guilty of an outright violation of the law, when she permitted a lion and wolf to be boarded at her home.

Mrs. Giacinto's troubles with the city began when a friend boarded a lion and wolf at her home for two nights. The jungle animals brought complaints from neighbors, and city officials ordered her to get rid of the ocelots and cheetah as well.

Request for Political Posters Brings Hassle from Candidates

A request by a councilman candidate to place campaign posters on trees was turned down by the City Council Tuesday, but not without a flare-up between two candidates for mayor.

The request to tack his posters on trees at Sepulveda and Torrance blvds. was made by Richard B. Wilson, candidate for council.

"Since I'm not running for office this time, I move to deny it, and the same goes for others," Councilman Robert B. Jahn said.

"The trees were defaced in the last election, and I don't want a repetition," agreed Mayor Albert Isen.

"Why don't you check the big sign over the house of the chairman of the Planning Commission?" Councilman Nicholas O. Draie, who is running against Isen, wanted to know.

"That's a canvas sign which says 'Retain Mayor Albert Isen,'" the mayor retorted. "That's on a man's private property."

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier agreed that it would be an infringement on traditional rights to forbid a person to put political signs on private property.

"It's funny how these ordinances apply," grumbled Draie. "You can put a sign on your property. Make sure its canvas so it won't hurt anyone," Isen advised.

Support of Play Bond Requested

Support for the \$3,000,000 recreation bond issue was asked by Mrs. Eva Bisou, chairman of the committee which collected the signatures for the initiative petition.

"If we fail this time, it will be a long time before we will have another chance to vote on this," she warned.

Mrs. Bisou said that the bond issue, designed to provide funds to purchase additional land and to develop existing park sites, will cost between 35 and 40 cents a month in taxes, the first year, and less thereafter.

"I don't have to tell you, this is a small price to pay for the safety of our children," she said.

Mrs. Bisou also thanked the volunteers who circulated petitions to place the issue on the ballot in the April 7 municipal election.

Councilmen Back Isen Candidacy at Sunday Rally

Opening gun in a campaign to retain Albert Isen as Mayor of Torrance was sounded Sunday night when the first of a series of "Meet Mr. Isen" meetings was held by a "city-wide committee" at the Higgins Brick Yard Patio Room, Robert Burke, committee chairman, announced today.

Attending the meeting were 100 persons, representing a cross-section of Torrance's population, business, civic and political life and geographical location.

Serving as Mayor Isen's campaign manager will be Robert Burke who was successful in his attempts to help elect Isen to the City Council in 1954.

Indicating their support of Mayor Isen in brief remarks during the meeting were Councilman Victor Benstead, and Robert Jahn, and Bert Lynn, chairman of the Planning Commission. Benstead compared Isen's drive with the growth of Torrance. "The lead Al has provided in the passage of needed legislation," concluded Benstead, "has, I know, contributed substantially to the excellent standing of Torrance among California cities. His record as a councilman and mayor are beyond reproach."

Councilman Jahn concluded his statement to the meeting with a simple "I'm going to cast my vote for Al."

Isen promised "a strong campaign on my part" and remarked that his platform consisted of one plank "... a strong desire for the continued growth and development of our city. This is what I have worked for during the past four years, and what I hope to do for the next four years."

Hahn Asks Channel Speedup

An investigation on how to expedite improvement of the Dominguez Channel from the Harbor north to 120th st., was made this week by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn charged that areas above Torrance were flooded in last Monday's storm because the channel did not carry water properly downstream.

The section between Vermont and Denker aves, south of, and parallel to 174th st. was recently widened and deepened to speed the flow.

Plans are now being prepared for improvement of the next section north, to Gramercy Place, with contract to be awarded next summer.

Tree Planting to Mark Arbor Day

"Green Thumbers" will swing into action tomorrow when Arbor Day is sponsored by the Torrance Recreation Department.

Trees will be planted at Sea Aire, Welteria and El Retiro Parks. The first will be at 11 a.m. and the others at 3:30 p.m.

A preview of the planting day was held yesterday at McMasters Park.

Arbor Day originated last century when public spirited citizens, alarmed over the rapid depletion of forests, decided to replace the trees cut down by early settlers.

THIEVES SEEK DRUGS

Search for narcotics was blamed for the burglary of the dental office of Dr. Stanley D. Challis, 1321 Cravens ave., over the weekend.

Torrance Holds Third Place in Southland Construction Activity

For the second straight month Torrance placed third in Southern California construction activity. Building Superintendent Lee Schlens reported.

Only Los Angeles and San Diego top Torrance in building activity.

Although February building activity dipped slightly below the same month in 1957, construction this year is far ahead due to a heavy January boom.

With February permit valuation of \$1,724,744, a total of \$8,802,155 was recorded in 1958 to date.

Last year to date, the permit valuation was \$3,830,540, with February, 1957 accounting for \$1,724,744.

Of last month's valuation

\$897,120 was for single family residences; six apartment houses with 73 units for a total of \$452,750; three commercial buildings, \$19,577; one industrial building, \$9,250; residential additions, \$60,908; other additions, \$70,400.

Schlens announced that his office has checked plans for several other buildings for which permits may be issued in March.

These include the Riviera Methodist Church, 375 Palos Verdes blvd., \$65,000; a \$20,000 medical building at 2275 Carson st.; an eight-unit apartment building at 2733 Cabrillo; a four-unit apartment at 3542 W. 170th st.; an office building at 1750 Carson; \$28,000; and a storage building at 525 Maple \$18,200.

Bank Planned for Del Amo Center

A new Bank of America branch for West Torrance will soon be under construction.

The bank has bought a large property at the southwest corner of Sepulveda blvd. and Hawthorne ave. and expects to break ground for the building within the next four months, according to Ira E. Ogden, vice president of operations for the bank's Southern California division.

Ogden added that it usually takes about six months from groundbreaking to opening date.

The purchased property is easterly corner of the big new Del Amo Shopping Center, for which ground was recently broken. The property has a frontage of 100 feet on Sepulveda and 394 feet on Hawthorne.

Car Sale No Problem with Ad in Torrance Press

Walter R. Purgason, of 2420 W. 254th st., Lomita had no problem selling his 1954 model auto, when he placed a classified ad in the Torrance Press this weekend.

He received five inquiries and sold it Monday evening at the price he asked.

If you have something to sell, buy, rent or swap, you can have similar success if you call a courteous ad-taker at the Torrance Press at FA 8-2345.