

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS HIT

Council Battles over LL Equipment Rental Bid

Flat Tire Nets Four Suspects

Four burglary suspects locked up in Torrance jail can blame their capture on a few pounds of air and a keen-eyed policeman today.

The quartet was apprehended while ransacking the offices of the Star Brick Co., 17799 S. Western ave., over the week-end.

Officer Jim Kirby, assisted by a reserve policeman, Dale Bigler, became suspicious when he saw two men pretending to change an automobile tire in front of the brick plant around midnight, Saturday.

Closer examination of the supposedly "flat" tire revealed that it was in good condition.

Kirby arrested the two men changing tires and then went inside the plant, where he nabbed two others who were "assertively" hiding in a small shack and in a rest room.

The four suspects were identified as James Lee Nathaniel, 35, Andrew Lee Jacobs, 27, Carl Gary Allen, 49, and Herbert Barlow, 43, all of Los Angeles.

Kirby said that the suspects had entered the firm through a window and had ransacked the offices.



LAST LOOK—Peggy Barbara Swick, who has agreed to move out of property bought by school district for Hamilton School site, takes last look at place she has occupied for 12 years. Miss Swick was served with eviction notice to force her off the property. —Press Photo

Peggy Swick Loses Battle with School

Peggy Barbara Swick's battle to keep her home at 2534 W. 182nd st. appeared lost today after the Board of Education turned a deaf ear to her last-minute plea to change the site of Hamilton School.

Despite arguments by her attorney, Walter Kroneberger, school officials refused to change their mind about locating the new school, for which contract was awarded Tuesday night, to a different site.

Traffic Danger

Kroneberger said that the school will be at an extremely hazardous site, since most of the students will have to cross 182nd st., a heavily traveled artery.

Although an eviction notice, which became enforceable last Monday, was served on Miss Swick Friday, school officials are permitting her to remain through this week-end to clear out her belongings.

School officials notified the sheriff's office Monday morning that they need not evacuate Miss Swick forcibly, following an informal agreement that she will leave by Sunday.

Award Contract

A contract for \$455,700 to build the new school on the 10-acre site, which includes Miss Swick's two acres, was awarded Tuesday night to Jones Vider Company on its low bid.

"No site is ever perfect," Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told the board. "This is the best we could find."

"If you get one child killed up there, you haven't served the community well," Kroneberger declared.

Miss Swick, who has resided

OK Policy To Lease Machines

All non-profit organizations will be able to rent city construction equipment and manpower in the future, the City Council decided Tuesday.

The policy was adopted 5 to 2 after a bitter battle over a request by the North Torrance Babe Ruth and Little Leagues to rent grading equipment to develop their ball parks.

Use Machinery

Jeff Bell, president of the Babe Ruth circuit, asked to use a bulldozer, grader and other city-owned machinery to grade a diamond at 190th and Beryl sts.

He offered to pay a city employee to operate it.

"You realize we are spending public funds on private property, and this should be carefully considered," pointed out Councilman Willys Blount. He seconded a motion by George Bradford to table the request for one week until a recommendation could be made by City Manager George Steven.

The motion to table was approved 4 to 3, with Robert Jahn and Victor Benstead supporting it.

Adopt Policy

Mayor Albert Isen then moved that the council adopt a general policy of letting civic and church groups use city equipment on weekends as it could be spared.

"You mean if I need some construction equipment from the city, I can come in and use it?" Jahn, a contractor by occupation, asked.

He was promptly criticized as being "comical" by Mrs. Eva Bisou, leader of the unsuccessful park and recreation bond drive.

"I don't appreciate the remark," Jahn snapped. "I am not in Little League because my son doesn't happen to be old enough."

He declared that the council did not receive the motion in proper form and should be given time to study it.

The new policy was then adopted by a 5-to-2 vote, with Jahn and Nicholas O. Drale opposing it.



TOOLING UP — Newly elected candidates George Bradford, Albert Isen and J. A. Beasley take up saws and level to help carpenters extend their dais to make room for two additional members of the City Council. Bradford and Beasley were sworn in as the additional councilmen while Isen became the first directly elected mayor. Council podium was extended to make room for seven-man council. —Press Photo

City Dad Late for Ceremony

Freshman Councilman J. A. Beasley missed being sworn-in to office with other newly elected officials Tuesday night when he left the city hall to eat dinner.

The unprecedented event occurred after the "lame duck" City Council completed the nearly two-hour chore of canvassing the returns of the April 8 election.

Beasley and George Bradford, the other newly elected councilmen, were waiting around the city hall for the tabulating to be completed so that they could be sworn-in.

No Beasley

By the time City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was ready to administer the oath to the newly elected officials, Beasley could not be found. That was at 7:20 p. m.

"I think he's gone home to dinner," Bradford informed the clerk.

The meeting was recessed for five minutes in hopes that Beasley might return, with a full stomach.

After recess, all the newly elected officials, including Bradford, Mayor Albert Isen, Councilman Willys Blount, Bartlett, and City Treasurer Harriett Leach were sworn in, reading the oath of office from prepared forms.

Beasley Arrives

As they finished up, Beasley sauntered back into the council chamber.

"We've all heard of the man who came to dinner," Isen chortled. "Mr. Beasley, you will go down in Torrance history as the man who went out to dinner."

Bartlett then swore Beasley in separately.

"I went to a restaurant to get a sandwich. I didn't have any lunch today," Beasley explained.

No Changes

The vote canvass revealed no changes from the election returns, which all candidates won by a comfortable margin.

Although the council now has seven members, including the mayor, no significant changes in conducting the meetings were noted except that it is more difficult to keep track of a close roll call vote.

To make the enlarged council more comfortable, the dais has been extended a total of five feet.

Sputnik Imitators Face Federal Rap for Confusing Government Probers

A Torrance engineer and two friends who broadcast on the frequency used by the Russians' Sputnik I will be arraigned in Federal Court Monday.

Although Fred W. Field Jr., 29, of 26226 Delos drive, Torrance, and Rufen D. Jensen, 30, and Deal L. Hanson, 29, of Los Angeles, indicated the Soviet moon signals as a "hoax," the U. S. Government is taking a dimmer view of the matter.

The trio is being charged with transmitting without a license, Assistant U. S. Attorney Conrad Judd said.

He explained that the defendants placed the transmitter in Angeles Forest sometime before Christmas.

"The signal was heard all over the United States and some other countries. The government thought that Sputnik had come down in the U. S.," Judd said.

He revealed that federal men swarmed all over the forest area, taking a demolition squad with them. It took several days, including Christmas, to locate the transmitter.

"It created quite a stir in Washington," Judd said.

Field and his friends were traced through the serial numbers on the equipment. They will be arraigned on misdemeanor charges before U. S. Judge Thurmond Clarke.

Industry Welcomed To City

Three new industries which will provide a payroll of between 250 and 450 persons were officially welcomed Tuesday morning at a breakfast sponsored by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Albert Isen presented keys to the city to the management of the three firms.

"In the teeth of this so-called recession, we've scheduled the largest expansion plans in our company's history," declared Harry Roth, president of Arrow Brands, Inc., one of the plants honored at the Salute to New Industry breakfast.

His firm, which produces aluminum foil, is located at 1900 S. Crenshaw Blvd. It will employ between 50 to 100 persons.

"Our production from our Torrance plant will make headlines in more than one industry," predicted Roth.

Fulton Container Company, 555 Maple ave., was represented by R. J. Gigger, sales manager. It will manufacture multi-wall paper bags. The firm will employ between 100 and 250 persons.

W. E. Upton, president of Independent Building Materials Company, received the welcome in behalf of his company, which is located at 525 Maple Ave. The plant will employ between 50 and 100 workers.

Don Lassell and Sy Frank served as co-chairmen for the event.

Young Bicyclist Hurt in Traffic

A five-year-old boy suffered a broken leg and facial injuries when his bicycle was struck by an auto at 236th st. and Arlington ave. over the week-end.

She will have to move herself, two horses, 11 dogs, two parakeets and an uncounted number of chickens by Sunday.

Young Bicyclist Hurt in Traffic

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Lions Nominate Officers Slate

Nominations for the May 6 election of officers by the Torrance Lions Club were made this week.

The slate proposed by the nominating committee includes Sam Van Wagner, president; Robert Barrett, Ralph Morris and Bill King, vice-presidents; Fred Boren, secretary; Milt Pagle, treasurer; Lysie Albo, tall-tailster; Ray Wyatt, lionmaster; Paul Burnam and George Colburn, directors.

Phillips Named Rancho Days General Chairman

Jack Phillips has been named general chairman of Torrance's 1958 "Rancho Days," it was announced this week by President O. R. Trueblood of the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce.

Phillips, co-owner of Paramount Builders Supply, stated that the gigantic event would be held July 23-27. Highlights include a five-day midway with all game booths and food concessions operated by local organizations; a giant parade at 10 a. m. Saturday, July 26; a two-day rodeo co-sponsored by the Mounted Police and the Torrance Lions Club; Miss Torrance Contest and many exhibits and surprises.

The first organizational meeting was held on Tuesday night, at which local organizations indicated strong community support for the project.

All proceeds from thrill rides and a percentage of other events are slated for donation to Torrance's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day, Phillips said. This arrangement was possible due to the generosity of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce, it was added, who turned the carnival operation to the chamber as long as proceeds were given to the float project.



JACK PHILLIPS

Crawling Thief Loots Market of Cigarettes

A thief walked out of a market with 25 cartons of cigarettes, but finally was noticed when he started to crawl out of the store on his hands and knees with another load of smokes.

Gilbert Martinez, owner of the market at 16625 Crenshaw Blvd., said that his checker, Rae Smith, noticed the suspect as he crawled out of the store.

After being questioned, he bolted out and ran to a waiting car.

Loss of the 25 cartons was estimated at \$50.

April Building Slow

The first half of April started slowly in the amount of building permits issued in Torrance.

As of Monday afternoon, permits with a valuation of \$183,547 were issued. This compares with \$1,136,712 for all of April, 1957.

54 Projects in Area Listed for School Bonds

Elementary school facilities in the harbor and south areas will receive extensive additions and improvements if Los Angeles citizens approve a \$158,500,000 bond issue—Propositions D, E and F—for school construction at the June 3 election, city school officials announced today.

A total of 54 projects is earmarked in the 1958 bond book for additions and new elementary facilities for an area served by four high schools from Rosecrans boulevard south to San Pedro, according to figures compiled by the City Schools Public Information Office.

Three new schools, sites for three additional future schools, new classrooms, improvement of lighting and acoustical facilities in older classrooms, alterations and improvements, and playground surfacing are among the projects which will be constructed by the Los Angeles system in the areas served by Banning, Gardena, Narbonne and

Suggest Policy Changes

Considerably fewer Torrance high school graduates go on to college than the national average.

Ways should be found to beef up the academic standards in the Torrance Unified School District to reverse that trend.

This was the charge and recommendation made to the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee by leaders of the Science Education Council at a luncheon meeting Monday.

Robert Younkin, president of the council, a newly formed group of parents, said that while on the national average 53 to 56 per cent of the high school graduates request transcripts for college admission in Torrance the rate has only been 17 per cent for the last five years.

Junior College

Younkin said of the 17 per cent, two-thirds go to junior colleges. Only one-eighth of the graduates of the junior college from Torrance continue to the upper division schools.

"This group is the most responsible to make these corrections," declared David Thayer, vice-president of the council, as he addressed the TEAC, a group of laymen interested in education.

He recommended that two steps be taken to obtain higher academic results in the Torrance high schools:

One change he proposed is to segregate students by ability, as he claims is done in the nation's top 21 schools.

Teacher Training

The second step is to launch a program which will encourage age high school science teachers to obtain advanced degrees in their specialties, rather than in general education.

"In the nation's top schools, nine out of 10 high school teachers have degrees in their specialties," Thayer said.

He pointed out that even in the best rated schools, classes consist of 30 or more students.

"Can we expect All-American Schools in an All-American City?" he asked. "I say yes."

Thayer later explained that during the past five years, only 10 to 15 Torrance High School students have gone on to four year colleges and universities from each graduating class. Another 30 to 40 went to junior colleges, mostly El Camino.

Higher Turnout

He said that North High School has had a considerably larger number of students continue higher education, approximately 80 to 70. He said his group had not studied the reasons for the higher turnout as yet, but will make an analysis.

"I admit we are a pressure group but a pressure group for the good of the city. There is no coincidence about Sputnik or the rate of scientific accomplishment by the Russians," Thayer said.

Younkin said that a combined 125 students from Torrance and North High Schools go on to college each year.

"You should be concerned with these figures," he told the audience.

Kinard Av. Sewer Petitions OK'd

Supervisor Chace announced that hopes for installation of sanitary sewers in the Kinard ave. area came a step closer to realization today when petitions for this improvement were authorized for circulation by the County Board of Supervisors.

The petition requires the signatures of the owners of 60 per cent or more of the area involved and should be returned on or before April 1, 1959. Betty L. Conner of 22716 Kinard ave., Donald D. MacKinnon of 22712 Kinard ave., and Cyril R. Pearson of 22720 Kinard ave. are local residents circulating the petition for signatures. As soon as the necessary number has been obtained, the Board of Supervisors will order the preparation of plans for the work, Chace said.



WELCOME ABOARD—Leaders of three new industries which have moved to Torrance were welcomed at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast. They are from left: W. E. Upton, president of Independent Building Materials; R. J. Gigger, sales manager of Fulton Container Co.; Mayor Albert Isen; Harry W. Roth, president of Arrow Brands; and R. I. Plomert, past president of the Chamber. —Press Photo

Speedy Results From Torrance Press Want Ad

When Mrs. Eric Swanson of 20930 S. Dalton ave. needed light house cleaning help last week, she enlisted the assistance of the Torrance Press.

She placed a want ad in the Torrance Press last Thursday, offering work. Within a short period after the newspaper was delivered, she received six calls and immediately engaged one of the applicants.

If you need assistance with a particular problem, call a helpful ad-taker at the Torrance Press, FA 8-2345, for speedy results.