



TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL X

1 • 2 •

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1958

NUMBER 62



BIRDS OF FEATHER—It's getting that time again when people look forward to the family Thanksgiving dinner. Needless to say, this feeling of happy anticipation is not shared by the main dish, the turkeys. Here Nancy Vaccaro, 5, and her sister, Cindy, 4, look over the selection.

Rehear Water Co. Rate Case

The California Public Utilities Commission announced today it has set December 16 for further hearing in Lomita on an old rate case involving the Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 2 in which the company was required to make substantial improvements in its system to provide adequate service.

The hearing will be before Examiner Grant Syphers at 10 a.m. in the American Legion Hall, 24702 Narbonne Avenue.

In December, 1953, the Commission authorized the company to increase its rates but at the same time ordered the improvements after several customers complained of the service, particularly low water pressure throughout the system.

In the order reopening the case, the Commission said the company "may not have made the improvements" required by the previous decision. The purpose of the further hearing is to determine whether the decision should be "altered or amended in any respect or whether additional orders" should be made, the Commission said.

The company, which recently has been the target of additional complaints involving low pressure, serves about 1100 customers in the Lomita and Torrance areas.

Slippage Counsel Requested

Torrance will appoint a special counsel and researcher to determine the city's legal status in a land slippage situation of Portobello Dr.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier requested that former city attorney James Hall be employed to double-check his own legal findings on the erosion problem which may threaten several hillside homes.

Remelmeier previously opined that the city not finance the correction of the slippage because any measure of this type may make it subject to suit.

John V. Russell, director of public works, estimated that a necessary pipe and drainage basin, might cost as much as \$30,000.

The erosion problem which has affected two houses and may cause hazards to other property, has been blamed on an underground seepage.

The slide also poses danger for a municipal reservoir.



FAREWELL—Cindy and Nancy cuddle turkey as they bid the bird into a holiday meal. Their uncle, John Vaccaro, gets ready to convert Press Photos by Dot-Daniel

Somebody Goofed On Sidewalk Project

There were some red faces around city hall this week when a bill for \$213.44 was submitted for payment.

It seems that some time ago, the city wanted to pave 851 feet of sidewalk on Torrance Blvd., west of Bishop Montgomery High School.

Assuming it had a 25-foot easement on the south side of the street, the city started to build a sidewalk to help students get to and from school.

But there was one stumbling block. This was a water line servicing a trailer park owned by Louis R. Rosenthal. He was ordered to lower his line in order that the sidewalk work could proceed.

Rosenthal, who apparently also thought the city owned the easement, hired a contractor and had the work performed for \$213.44.

But when he received his tax bill, he found out that he, rather than the city owns the easement, and demanded reimbursement for the expense of lowering the water line.

City Council ordered that the bill be paid, and also wants to get title to the easement from Rosenthal.

Man Booked on Narcotics Charge

A Gardena man was turned over to sheriff's narcotics officers following his arrest on suspicion of burglary and narcotics by two Torrance policemen Monday night.

Officers Jim Doyle and Bob Stone said they found 47 benzodrine tablets on Miguel Morales, 28, when they found him in a parked auto in the 2200 block on 171st St.

They said the suspect told them he was waiting for his girlfriend. But when officers searched his pockets, they said they found the pills.

FACES FORGERY HEARING

Preliminary hearing for Elmo Williams, 31, of 2634 Pacific Coast Hwy., will be held in Torrance Municipal Court Dec. 11.

The defendant is accused of issuing bad checks in the South Bay and Centinela Valley area, four of them in Torrance. He is free under \$1000 bail.

House Fire and Lion Stir Neighborhood

Zero Hour Looms for Turkeys



Housewife Spots Cat on Hill

A house fire and a mountain lion churned up their share of excitement on Highgrove St. Friday.

The smoldering blaze in the home of Leland L. Winters, of 4602 Highgrove St., was discovered by a passing bakery salesman, known only as "Jeff", as he made his delivery rounds in the morning.

Firemen said that the fire probably was started by a cigarette in an overstuffed chair. The smoke had blistered the floor and walls of the living room by the time smokeeaters arrived at the scene.

They said that the alarm turned in by the bakery man probably prevented major damage to the hillside house.

Just before the fire arrived, Mrs. Pat Michalek, who resides next door at 4538 Highgrove St., burned up the wires to the police department to report that she had spotted a mountain lion on the hillside above her home.

"The police probably thought I was crazy, but there are so many small children that I thought I better report it," she said.

Mrs. Michalek said that the animal looked like a bob cat but had no tail. But it was the same size and color of a mountain lion.

She said she observed the animal for 10 minutes through her binoculars before she called police, who in turn notified the South Bay Humane Society.

Reports of mountain lions and the legendary black panther have been turned in from time to time over several years by residents of Walteria and the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

H.R. Club Razing Begins

Sledge hammers are giving the coup de grace to the Hollywood Riviera Club, gutted by a disastrous fire two months ago.

The 30-year-old landmark, most of it an empty gutted shell, is being razed by its owners, the Huntington Land Co., as a safety measure.

An early-morning fire destroyed the western part of the club house, while salvage workers tumbled the tower which dominated the landscape for a generation.

No future plans have been announced for the site, but Mayor Albert Isen recently suggested that the county build a regional youth center to serve South Bay teenagers.

Heavy demolition work is not scheduled for another week, workmen announced.

Ford Dealers Injured in Auto Accident

Veil Miletich, Torrance Ford dealer, and Oscar Maples, former Torrance Ford dealer, were recovering from injuries they received in a traffic crash Friday.

The two agency heads were driving to a dealers meeting in Beverly Hills, when they were struck by another auto on La Cienega Blvd.

Miletich was treated for multiple cuts and bruises on his face, body and legs as well as sprains at Torrance Memorial Hospital, where his condition is described as "good."

Maples, who formerly owned the Torrance Ford dealership until he sold it to Miletich last February, was treated for cuts and bruises in Centinela Hospital, Inglewood. Maples now owns the Ford dealership in that city.

Candidate Boycott Threatened In Bay League Tiff

One way to eliminate "fun" candidates and eliminate violations of election laws, will be to require a filing fee.

That was the content of a report to be submitted to the City Council Tuesday by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier.

In a memo, he pointed out that British election laws require payment of a filing fee in order to eliminate some candidates who are not serious about their campaign, and run only for the sake of fun or publicity purposes.

Remelmeier's report came as a result of the last municipal election when one candidate for city clerk withdrew under pressure after it was learned that he had not resided in Torrance for a year, as required by the election code.

The candidate in question, Barney Miller, had lived in the city for less than a year, and following a discussion with Remelmeier, he withdrew from the race, although his name still appeared on the ballot.

He was running in a three-way race with A. H. Bartlett, who won handily, and Mrs. Herma Tillim.

In the race for mayor, one candidate made no visible attempts to campaign.

Name Disaster Board Members

Five persons have been nominated by Mayor Albert Isen as members of the newly created Civil Defense and Disaster Commission, subject to approval by the City Council Tuesday.

They are Mrs. Jean Gerold, Cmdr. William Nason, James Burchett, Clifford Peterson and Alvin Schoonover.

A sizzling campaign to kick Santa Monica High School out of the Bay League, will come to a head Dec. 13 when the C.I.F. Council decides the recommendation of its re-leaguage committee.

While Torrance Unified School District administrators urged a less drastic tactic, three other school boards have announced that they will refuse to play the Santa Monica school which has dominated the loop for several years.

Contrary to the action taken by the South Bay Union, Centinela Valley Union and Inglewood Unified Districts, Dr. J. H. Hull, Torrance superintendent, has advocated a frank discussion of the problem with Santa Monica officials.

Never won Torrance High School, which has been in the Bay League for 12 years, has yet to win its first victory over Santa Monica, which has dominated the conference.

Administrators of the other schools claim that the best they can do is to try for second place, since they concede first place to the bay city, which has a much larger student population, and therefore a larger selection of players.

The difficulty started several years ago when the other school district constructed new schools and reduced the number of students at each one. Santa Monica still has only one high school with double or triple the enrollment of other schools in the conference.

Paper League Rather than have a "paper league," the re-leaguage committee of the C.I.F. will recommend that Santa Monica will be eliminated from the Bay League for football purposes only, and instead play as an independent.

It also recommends that the Crescent League, in which South High School is now a member, be abolished, and that both Torrance and South High Schools

Garrett Zoning Gets OK from Planning Board

A zone change for the Garrett Corp.'s AResearch plant and smooth sailing before the Planning Commission Wednesday, and will go before the City Council Tuesday.

The company had requested a change from agricultural to A2 zoning on a 66-acre site on the north side of 190th St. between Crenshaw Blvd. and Arlington Ave.

There was no opposition voiced against the proposed \$15,000,000 facility which is expected to employ 5000 persons when completed within three years.

AResearch is presently located in Westchester. Company officials said that the Torrance plant may replace that one, or be used as an additional facility.