



TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. X

1 • 2 •

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1959

NUMBER 76

Firemen's Hot Issue

By Kurt Liepman

A long smoldering dispute over fire department promotion practices is expected to come to a head shortly at a hearing before the Civil Service Commission.

At issue is the charge by Engineer Jerry R. Hollomon that he was by-passed without explanation for promotion to captain, although he was top man in the civil service examination, and had been acting captain for nearly two years with high efficiency ratings.

James A. Watkins, attorney for Local 1138 of the Fire Fighters Union, said he will file a request for a formal hearing this week and that Fire Chief J. J. Benner will be subpoenaed.

Members of the Local, of which Hollomon served as president until last month, claim that Benner abused the right to choose from the top three candidates in the exam by bypassing Hollomon.

Under the civil service ordinance, a department head has the right to select one of the top three candidates on the eligibility list but is required to base a decision on the merit of the men involved and not personal reasons, they claim.

They point out that not only did he receive high efficiency ratings from his superiors while serving as engineer and acting captain, but also has an imposing educational background in fire department courses at SC and through the Department of Public Education.

As further proof of Hollomon's qualifications for promotion, they cite that he had the highest scores ever obtained in civil service tests for engineer and captain in the city's history.

To bolster their case, the firemen also claim that since Benner became chief eight years ago, he has by-passed 30 men in making a total of 45 promotional appointments, for a by-pass batting average of 66 per cent.

A survey made by the Local disclosed that no other fire-fighting agency polled, skipped as many men as Torrance. The study claims that Los Angeles made 1500 promotions during the past 25 years, and only by-passed two men. Out of 500 men the county promoted in 10 years, only one was skipped over.

Ten-year records for smaller cities show similar records. Redondo Beach promoted seven men, without any by-pass. Santa Monica promoted 25 with one skipped. Inglewood, 32 promotions and two by-passes, Long Beach, 125 promotions, no by-passes.

As for the reason for Hollomon being passed over? He claims that he was never officially informed of any reason, except that he was told by the chief that he was "too mouthy."

It is a public record that Hollomon last Oct. 13 told the City Council bluntly that "the whole thing stinks," referring to a salary increase action.

Less than a month later, he was by-passed for promotion. Three days before Christmas he received a written reprimand from Chief Benner for his statement to the Council.

While Hollomon's remark may have lacked diplomacy, fellow firemen contend that it was his right to address the City Council during oral communication, the same as any other citizen.

His colleagues on the fire department, in launching this attack on alleged promotion abuses, have no quarrel with the chief's choice of the man who got the captain's job. They readily concede he is well qualified.

But they do object if Hollomon was passed over for personal reasons rather than because of lack of merit.

Employer Knifed in Fight Over Payroll Withholdings

A sandblaster who allegedly stabbed his former boss in an attempt to collect social security and income tax withholdings was captured Friday night.

Booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon was Tom Villareal, 31, of 510 N. Elena St., Redondo Beach.

He was accused of stabbing Arthur Tartaglia, 54, when he went to his ex-employer's home, 2378 W. 231st St., to collect \$150 in payroll withholdings.

Tartaglia, who was treated for a stab wound in his forearm, said that when he told the suspect to get off his property and refused to give him the cash, the suspect broke down the door molding.

Tartaglia said that Villareal kicked him in the stomach and knocked him down. After the victim struck the suspect with a piece of the door molding, he said he felt the wound in his arm.

The victim stopped the bleeding by applying a tourniquet.

Villareal was arrested while driving at Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd St.

Hearing Set for Driver in Fatal Car Crash

Preliminary hearing for Kenneth Roger Thomas, 27, on manslaughter and felony drunk driving charges will be held before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett Monday at 1:30 p. m.

Thomas is accused of causing the death of a young woman who was killed when his car ramed into a power pole guy wire on Jan. 2.

Killed was Manola Thomas, 20, of 18903 Hawthorne Blvd., who was no relation to him.

Thomas is being held under a \$2500 bail.

Dr. E. J. Tarr Moves to Modern Offices

Offices of Dr. Ernest J. Tarr, noted Torrance credit dentist, have moved to a new modern \$100,000 medical building at 2418 Torrance Blvd.

The new building, which artistically blends Palos Verdes rock and glass and includes a landscaped patio, contains three suites with a floor space area of 2000 square feet.

Dr. Tarr's suite will include six operating rooms, a separate sterilizing room and will have a complete laboratory equipped for emergency needs.

In addition to a waiting room, the office will include a recovery room where patients may rest after oral surgery.

Dr. Tarr said that the building was designed by Architects Lusby and Jonch and built by Hinwinkel Construction Co. He announced that he will continue his policy of liberal credit

terms for all dental needs, and that office hours will be from 10 a. m. to 7 p. m., Monday through Saturdays. In addition, Dr. Tarr will be available on 24-hour call, and has portable equipment with which to treat bed-ridden patients with dental problems.

He pointed out that no appointments are necessary for emergency care, and no charge will be made for house calls on invalids.

Dr. Tarr, a veteran of both World War II and Korea, when he served in the Air Force, established his practice at 1311 Sartori Ave., Torrance, three and one-half years ago when he returned from Korea.

He was raised in Los Angeles and attended Los Angeles City College and UCLA, and received his degrees in dentistry and den-

Five Arrested on Dope Charges at Local Hotel

City Attorney to Report on Poison Plant Law

An oral report on possible legislation to control poisonous plants in Torrance will be given to the City Council Tuesday by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer and Park Superintendent Casper Clemmer.

The two city officials were instructed to make a report after the City Council received a petition, signed by 143 residents, asking that the city enact a law to regulate castor bean plants.

The petition was circulated by Mrs. Vera Kiesler, North Torrance housewife, as means to prevent fatal poisoning of youngsters who might chew the beans.

Health officials have said that chewing the beans can result in death, and a youngster died of the effects of the poison recently in Fontana.

Clemmer was instructed to bring a castor plant to the council meeting, and Remelmeyer was to report on what other cities have done to regulate this and other poisonous plants.

Councilman J. A. Beasley told his colleagues last week that there are approximately 200 varieties of ornamental plants which are poisonous, and cited that a specie from which arrow poison is made is grown here.

Both streets will become major thoroughfares once the new Del Amo Shopping Center is opened on Hawthorne Blvd., between Carson and Sepulveda Blvd. They will vary in width, but each will serve four lanes of traffic.

Patrick said that the width will vary from 42 to 76 foot roadways, depending on easements obtained for the project.

He emphasized that contractor's will be asked to give priority to the sections between Madrona Ave. and Hawthorne Blvd. Both projects should be completed in 60 days, he said.

Library Pact on Agenda

A two-year extension of the present contract with the county for library services here will be submitted to the City Council Tuesday.

The pact was negotiated by City Manager George Stevens.

The extension of the contract will give Torrance additional time in which to decide whether it wants to create a municipal library system or join a county library district.

Last year the county notified Torrance that it will end its library contract and that if the city wants to continue to use county services, it must join a district, which is more expensive than the present contract.

The City Library Commission voted 3 to 2 to join the county district rather than start a municipal service.

The City Council asked Stevens to negotiate another extension of the contract.

Savings Firm to Build

Marina Federal Savings and Loan Association has acquired property at the southeast corner of Hawthorne and Sepulveda Bldvs. and will shortly begin construction there of a 10,000 square foot building, according to a joint announcement made by R. C. Chase, president, and William Richardson, assistant vice president and manager of Marina Federal's Torrance office.

The property, which was acquired through the Sepulveda Investment Co., is located in the new Del Amo shopping center. Marina Federal's new building will face many of the large retail outlets already up, including Sears, Broadway, etc. Construction details were not available at this time but it is believed the Marina building will be considerably larger in capacity than the present downtown Torrance office on Marcelina Ave. Approval for this project was given Marina by its supervising agent, the Federal Home Loan Bank board in Washington, D. C.

Marina Federal, with current resources of more than \$20,000,000, was formed out of the merger of the former Palos Verdes Federal and Westchester Federal Savings Associations. Chase said the new building when completed in the fall will greatly increase multi-office service offered by Marina Federal in the Marina-South Bay districts.



POISON PLANTS—Park Superintendent Casper Clemmer looks over castor bean plant which he will bring to the City Council Tuesday when discussion of regulating poisonous plants will be taken up again.



WILLIAM D. RICHARDSON

Nine Arrested For Robbery of Narcotics

Four men and the girl-friend of one of them were arrested on narcotics and robbery charges by Torrance and Los Angeles detectives here Wednesday.

Arrested on suspicion or complicity in the robbery of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital, 1210 W. Pacific Coast Hwy., Tuesday, were Roy S. Jennings, 34, of Lynwood, and Barbara Helen Dyer, 20, of 1906 Camino de la Costa, when they returned to their room at the Torrance Hotel, Carson St. and Cabrillo Ave.

Detectives said they seized a supply of morphine and demerol and a .45 caliber pistol allegedly found in Jennings' car.

Police said the narcotics were identified as part of the loot taken in the robbery of the hospital.

Others Nabbed
Three youths, arrested on suspicion of narcotics violations, were picked up when they allegedly attempted to contact Jennings, while officers were still in the hotel.

Turned over to Los Angeles narcotics officers were Charles Gordon Moore, 19, of 19349 Flavian Ave., Russell Marvin Ward, 19, of 2342 W. 238th St., and Don Alan Clair, 19, of El Segundo.

Just a few hours before, a lone Barstow policeman arrested four other youths, allegedly the persons who actually held up the hospital, while they were on their way to Nevada.

Nabbed in Barstow
Taken into custody in Barstow on suspicion of robbery were Gary R. Bell, of 2614 Brian St., Heber C. Themm, 21, of 2125 W. 256th St., David W. Darst, 20, of 25006 Andree St., and Terry R. Fuetze, 19, of 2321 W. 249th St., of Lomita.

Following the arrest of the quartet in Barstow, police received information that Jennings and Miss Dyer were staying in the Torrance Hotel.

Torrance detectives Miles Hamilton and Lee Ashman joined two Los Angeles narcotics officers in the stake-out of the hotel room.

They said they were led to the other three suspects when one of them came to Jennings' room. The others were arrested in their car parked in the area.

All suspects were turned over to Harbor Division police.

Land Slippage Opinion Backed

A special counsel will back up City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer's opinion that the city is not liable for land slippage on Portobello Drive.

James M. Hall, former Torrance city attorney, submitted a report in which he agrees with Remelmeyer that the city has no responsibility for the erosion which threatens to crumble one house.

City officials have suggested that a drain could be constructed to take care of the run-off water which is blamed for undermining one house and has caused minor damage to another.

RANSACK HOME

A burglar ransacked the home of James David Warden, of 4301 Sepulveda Blvd., and made off with \$5, police reported.

STEAL TRANSIT

Burglars took a surveyor's transit from a construction office at 2172 1/2 Pacific Coast Hwy., and car keys from a used car office in front of it, deputy sheriffs reported.

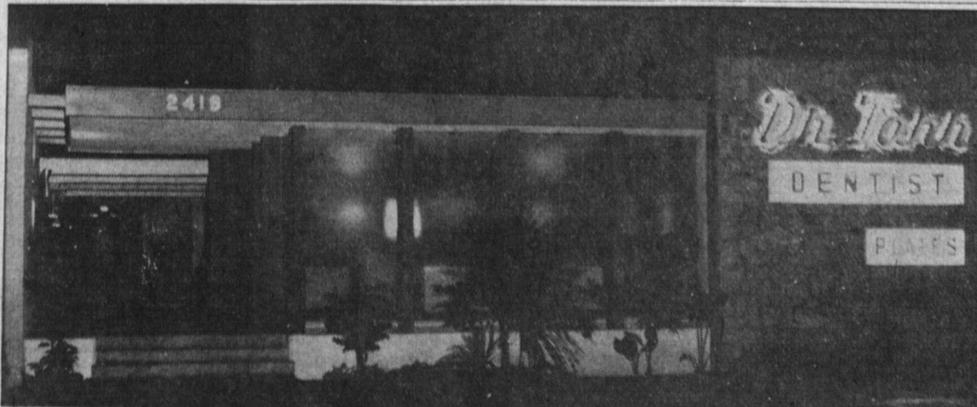
Furniture Goes Fast at Right Price with Ad

Sale of her maple dining set and buffet proved a simple matter for Mrs. John Fry of 18708 Florwood Ave.

She inserted a want ad in Thursday's issue of the Torrance Press and sold it to one of 10 parties who called, on the same day.

Mrs. Fry reports that she received the price she asked for the furniture.

If you have something to sell, rent or buy, call a Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-8456 for immediate service.



NEW BUILDING—This is the new office building at 2418 Torrance Blvd. occupied recently by Dr. Ernest J. Tarr, credit dentist and oral surgeon. All offices are located on ground floor and a spacious parking lot adjoins buildings. —Press Photo