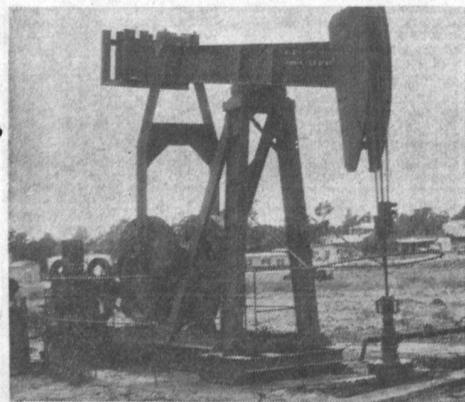


New Ordinance Aimed at Cleanup, Safety of Wells



NO FENCING—This oil well, situated near the northeast corner of Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds., has no fencing as prescribed by city ordinance, which requires chain link fence around all moving parts. Purpose of the law is to protect children from being crushed by machinery.



WOODEN FENCE—This well is located northwest of the extension of Amie Ave., near a new subdivision, and is protected only by a wooden fence. City ordinance provides for a chain link fence around all moving parts.



ATTRACTIVE WELL—In contrast to numerous hazardous and unsightly oil drilling sites, this pumping unit, one of several in the Del Amo Shopping Center parking lot. The pumps are painted blue and gold, and are enhanced by attractive landscape around them. They are also fenced in accordance with ordinance requirements.

Pin Hope on New Oil Law

Hopes for ridding the city of messy oil wells are pinned on a new ordinance to be introduced to the City Council Tuesday. Planning Director George Powell, whose office is charged with inspecting the safety of wells, said the present law has proved extremely difficult to enforce because it is riddled with legal loopholes.

Commenting on a Torrance Press editorial Sunday, Powell said that the present ordinance does not give his inspector the power to clean up the unsightly mess common at many well sites because it is on private property.

Dirty Sites
Rusty tin sheds, dirty equipment, high weeds and debris can be found among a number of pumping sites. A survey taken by the Torrance Press also noted several wells which appear to be in violation of the city code, requiring six-foot, chain link fencing around all moving parts.

The new ordinance will require oil operators to remove derricks, except at initial drilling, by July 1, 1961, increases their license fee and doubles the bond for clean up to \$1000. A fee will also be charged for deepening existing wells.

Powell said that the city "couldn't afford to condemn wells now."

Cost City Money
He explained that it would cost the city approximately \$1000 to clean up an abandoned well site, because the oil operator would only have a \$500 bond posted.

The official said that oil legislation is difficult to write to eliminate legal loopholes, and that the new ordinance was started by him a year ago.

He said that as soon as the new ordinance is approved, Mike McMahon, the land use inspector who supervises the oil fields among other duties, will start checking off violations at each site and that the owners would be given 90 days to comply with the law.

City officials are meeting today with oil representatives to discuss the new ordinance preliminary to its being introduced to the City Council, Tuesday.

Station Robbed 3rd Time

The third time had no particular charm for a service station at 182nd St. and Hawthorne Blvd., robbed Sunday for the third time in the last two months.

Arthur Paine, an attendant, said the bandit forced him to turn over \$68 from the till while holding a gun on him.

The robber had his gas tank filled and oil put in his car and then handed Paine \$10 in payment. While the attendant was making change, the bandit told him:

"I'll take all your money," displaying a pistol.

After he ordered Paine to put the cash in a paper sack, he ordered him into a back room while he drove away.

A suspect who held up the same station twice earlier this year, was captured by police who received a tip on his license number.

'Super' Stadium Sought

Request to construct two Little League fields behind the Civic Center to accommodate televised State play-offs, is under study by the Park and Recreation Commission today.

Bid for approximately three acres of city owned grounds was made by Pat Hogue, chairman of the Torrance Baseball Council.

He said that he had been informed that Torrance may be considered as the site for State play-offs later this year if it had a "superior" field that could accommodate at least 2000 spectators.

Hogue said that the city's Little League will be willing to donate the material if the city will permit use of the land for this purpose.

He said that the Recreation Department can use the facility after the Little League which have approximately 3300 boys enrolled, finish their season.

The commission announced it will consider the request.

PRAISE MAG DRIVE

Student officers of South High School have praised a magazine cleanup campaign sponsored by the City Council and the Torrance Committee for Decent Literature.



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Top Engineering Aides Resign, Take Leaves

Shortage of Help, too Much Work Blamed

Delays in major flood control projects were feared this week following revelations that several top engineering officials are quitting or on leaves.

Ronald W. Bishop, acting city engineer since he voluntarily demoted himself five months ago, said he will quit on June 1.

He blamed a shortage of personnel and an overload of work, for deciding to step out of the office. He had served as city engineer for five years until he stepped down last December, reportedly under council pressure.

It was also learned that John V. Russell, former public works director, who had been slated to fill in temporarily as structural building inspector, has decided to retire instead.

Storm Plans
Since he stepped down as engineer, Bishop was slated to take over design of \$2,500,000 of major storm drains to be financed by a county bond issue.

"It has become a physical impossibility to continue on the job," Bishop explained.

He said that several key men in his department are on leave or have quit.

Among these is Clarence Hall, an engineer who was assisting Bishop in flood control design, who quit to accept a job in private industry.

"I only had one draftsman for a time. One draftsman for a city of nearly 100,000 population," Bishop remarked disgustedly.

On Leaves
John V. Patrick, assistant to the engineer, has been on a leave

of absence for the past two weeks, and is not expected to return for another two weeks. Another engineering official is on a three-months leave of absence.

Bishop said that despite the loss of key manpower, Wade E. Peebles, who took over as director of public works April 1, has dumped considerable work on his shoulders.

He also complained that Peebles removed telephones from his office and that the office is cluttered up while alterations are being made in the City Hall. Patrick's private office was also removed as part of redesigning work space in the public works department.

Peebles said that he had received a copy of Bishop's letter of resignation, and had recommended Stevens approve it.

Money for the four major storm drains has been set aside for Torrance, and can be used as soon as plans are completed and contract awarded, it was learned.

Urge Library in Civic Center Site

Use of a civic center site for the main library was urged this week by W. J. Hanson, chairman of the Library Commission.

He said that a site between the Benstead Plunge and the court house is reserved for a library building in the future.

Hanson added that a prominent location where it will be noticed by the public is necessary for maximum use of a library.



LONG BATTLE—Firemen keep steady spray of water on burning oil storage tank which exploded Sunday night to prevent spreading of flames to other nearby tanks at the Golden Eagle Refinery, 21000 S. Figueroa St. Roof of tank collapsed inside, and firemen permitted fire to burn itself out.

ATTENDS BASIC
Pvt. Thomas H. Smith, son of Mrs. Frances M. Schletter, of 22709 Nicole Ave., is taking basic training at Ft. Ord.

WINS TROPHY
Mrs. Marty Lehr of Torrance and her dog, Einer, won second place in open breeding in the Obedience and Breed Show.

Oil Tank Explosion Is Probed

Cause of an explosion which ignited an 80,000 barrel fuel tank Sunday night, was still under investigation by County firemen yesterday.

Flames roared 100 feet into the air when the huge tank at the Golden Eagle Refinery, 21000 S. Figueroa St., was suddenly ripped by the blast.

Eight fire companies and 50 men immediately set up a curtain of water around adjacent tanks and managed to confine the fire to the one tank which finally burned out, Tuesday.

Although there was another flare-up Monday night, causing additional firemen to be rushed back to the scene, no further damage was caused.

Once the fire was under control in the one tank, firemen allowed it to burn itself out but continued to protect other wells to prevent its spreading.

One tank, containing high octane gasoline, was only 350 feet away, but firemen managed to keep it from igniting.

Damage to the tank, which was estimated to contain only 10,000 barrels, was estimated at \$200,000.

Adjacent streets were roped off and for a while it was feared that families residing near the fire would have to be evacuated. But this move was not necessary due to early containment of the flames.

No refinery personnel or firemen were injured in the blast.

Furs Disappear from Broadway

Disappearance of the six fur coats from the Broadway Department Store, was under investigation by police today.

Security officers of the store told detectives that the furs, valued at \$2500, were delivered to the loading dock Thursday, but never arrived in the fur department.

The pelts are sable, mink and lamb.

STREET WIDENING

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced today that the Board of Supervisors has authorized purchase of 10 parcels of right of way on Manhattan Beach Blvd. between Prairie Ave. and Hawthorne Blvd.



CENTER ADDITIONS—Construction of a new Thrifty Drug Store and Food Giant Market in the Del Amo Shopping Center was announced this week. The two major chain stores will occupy a building east of the Broadway as indicated in aerial photo.

Thrifty Drug, Food Giant Market Construction in Torrance Del Amo Shopping Center to Be Ready in September

Coldwell, Banker & Company, exclusive leasing agents for the Del Amo Shopping Center in Torrance, have disclosed lease negotiations with Thrifty Drug Company and Food Giant Markets have been finalized and an 80,000 square foot building will be constructed 500 feet east of the recently completed Broadway Department Store.

Thrifty and Food Giant will occupy the major portion of the \$1,500,000 satellite building with exception of 4000 square feet of space at the south end.

Food Giant Markets' total requirements will be 56,000 square feet, allowing merchandising areas in excess of 30,000 square feet, largest in the chain. Ted Cummings, president of Food Giant Markets, noted that aside from the most modern display techniques being planned, a complete meat-cutting and packaging department will be featured which allows public viewing of the entire process through glass enclosures, a recent innovation of this progressive chain.

Thrifty Drug Company will occupy the north 20,000 square feet of the building. Display windows facing north on Carsons Street, as well as to the west, will provide Thrifty with an unusual amount of natural light. A unique lunch-counter arrangement will be incorporated along with the customary diversified merchandising lines carried by Thrifty's 143 store chain.

Designed by Welton Beckert & Associates, A.I.A., the westward facing frontage of the building

will be fully glassed, off-set by multi-colored plastic panels at the base of the structure.

The Del Amo Estate Company owners of the proposed building, have appointed the Olman Construction Company of Monterey Park as builders and contractors. Peter De Francisci, planning coordinator for Del Amo, expects Thrifty and Food Giant to take occupancy of their new satellite building by August 31.

Fishline Gets Haul in Riviera Sign Case

A realtor who decided to play Sherlock Holmes to catch a thief who had been stealing his "For Sale" signs, hastily decided to drop the whole matter after a booby trap he set backfired.

Phil Mehan, 314 Vista del Mar decided that enough was enough after 71 signs, valued at \$300, disappeared from property his firm was handling.

Sunday night he tied one end of a 20-pound fishing line to a sign he had posted in front of a house in Hollywood Riviera, tied the other end of the string to his wrist and went to sleep inside the house.

At 4 a.m. Monday, he felt a tug on his wrist. He awoke and dashed out of the house in pursuit of the thief. The pair had words, and a couple of haymakers were exchanged.

Mehan called police and the other man, a prominent resident, active in civic affairs, admitted taking the signs, presumably because he considered them eye-sores.

Mehan said he will not press charges even though most of his signs can't be recovered because they were dumped into the ocean.

"At least I'll be able to sleep in my own home now," he said.

Car Hits Tree in Lomita Crash

A woman driver deliberately plowed her car into a tree after she lost control of it due to a stuck gas pedal.

Shirley Pulvers, 18, of 26119 Oak Ave., Lomita, was treated at Hillside Emergency Clinic after her car jumped the curb at Oak and Lomita Blvds., after a wild-horn-honking drive, deputy sheriffs said.

The driver said that a neighbor pushed her after she was unable to get it started. However, once she got rolling under her own power, the accelerator stuck, and she honked her horn to warn traffic out of the way.

Best Offer Takes Furniture with Press Want Ad

The best offer was what Mrs. Robert Mahoney of 22329 Warmside Ave. wanted when she advertised her living room set for sale in Thursday's Torrance Press. And that's what she got.

She received several calls in response to the want ad and finally sold it Saturday for the top price.

If you have something to sell, rent or buy, call a courteous Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-2345, and let her help you with your advertising problems.