



TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

10c PER COPY

VOL. XI

1 • 2 •

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1959

NUMBER 21

Who's Goofing?

An Editorial

For the second time in recent weeks allegations have been made that all is not well with a street construction project.

When an investigation was conducted on the construction of a section of Arlington Ave., recently, blame for improper compaction of the pavement was placed on a former inspector and poor supervision by engineering officials no longer with the city.

The result was that the city had to pay at least \$10,000 additional to correct the mistake.

Now another probe has revealed that the city is being billed \$14,000 above what it claims it should pay on another road construction project.

A confidential report claims that the contractor on Lomita Blvd. project did not perform the work in accordance with city plans.

While the contractor on Lomita Blvd. was not the same as the one on Arlington Ave., the same city officials were in charge of these street projects, as well as other jobs which so far have not been questioned.

It is interesting to note that one top engineering official who resigned during the Arlington Ave. investigation went to work for the firm which did the construction work on Lomita Blvd.

While we don't believe it does any good to kick a dead horse, there are indications that the horse may not be quite dead.

Certainly the taxpayers have a right to know why there was such sloppy supervision in engineering matters in the past, and to find out if they have been thoroughly corrected so that this does not occur in the future.

If the city is willing to pay top salaries to its top officials as it indicated in passing a salary adjustment measure, it should certainly demand that the top officials are capable of carrying out their jobs.

Otherwise the taxpayers are getting a poor bargain for their money.

Denied Work Because of His Handicap, Starts Business

Unlike other men who dream of someday going into business on their own, John Hefler has established his as a last resort.

He obtained a city business license to perform home repairs Tuesday, because he can't find a job.

Hefler, 34, of 2320 W. 187th Place, claims that an industrial accident which robbed him of nearly all sight in his right eye, has prevented him from obtaining permanent employment with firms where he has applied for jobs.

He said that after he came here in January, he was referred to several jobs in his line—electrician—but was always rejected as soon as his prospective employers learned of his visual handicap.

Hefler claims he was turned down as soon as he told the employers of his eye defect, or after a medical examination, required for most of the jobs.

"I'm not handicapped in working," he said. "I have perfect vision in my left eye, and can do the job," he explained.

He holds an electrician union journeyman's card from Cleveland, Ohio, his former home.

The only job he held for any length of time since he's been here, was in a small plant where no physical examination was required, but where wages were considerably lower, he said.

Finally he decided that for a man in his position, there was only one thing left to do. Go into business on his own.

He now operates the J H home repair service and hopes to be able to land enough jobs to make a living.

"I'm not asking for something for nothing. I intend to work. I have a first class background in electrical work," he points out.

Hefler says he holds no grudges against employers who turned him down, but he feels that he is physically handicapped is held against a person.

Board Nixes Beer Request at Air Fete

It will be a "dry" Airport Day here Sept. 9, the Airport Commission ruled Thursday.

By a 3 to 1 vote, the board turned down a request by the sponsoring committee for permission to operate a beer concession stand during the civic celebration at Torrance Municipal Airport.

"We shouldn't go into the liquor business, we have enough trouble with liquor on the airport," declared President Tom Abrams.

Despite protests by Commissioner Dick Floyd that children are used to seeing their parents drink beer, Abrams, Robert Herrick and John Simpson denied the request.

But the commission left the door open for the sale of soft drinks to quench visitors' thirst.

Quintet Arrested in Huge Forgery Ring Operation

Torrance Printer Nabbed

A \$12,000 forgery ring, led by an ex-con and a flame-haired woman and including a Torrance printer, was broken up Tuesday night and yesterday morning with the arrest of five alleged gang members.

Booked on forgery charges were Inez Moore Graham, 39, who was arrested earlier this year in her Torrance home on charges of "steering" customers to a house of ill fame, and Richard Vernon Florence, 34, owner of a printing business at 1839 Torrance Blvd.

Others seized by Los Angeles and Torrance detectives were Robert Louis Ives, 43, who police said has a criminal record going back to 1936, and Gerald Frank Beers, 58, and his wife, Evelyn, 47.

Counterfeit Checks
Set. Mickey Fisher, who worked on the case with Los Angeles Sgts. Al Barr and Leonard Kamp, said that the gang passed at least \$12,000 of checks which counterfeited those of three legitimate firms and one of a fictitious company.

Mrs. Graham and the Beers, who are from Honolulu, were nabbed in the former's apartment in Hermosa Beach Tuesday night. Florence was also jailed Tuesday night.

Ives was picked up yesterday morning in a San Pedro laundry where he is employed. Detectives said that Ives and Mrs. Graham were the "brains" of the organization which has been operating since January.

Six of the forged checks, varying in amounts from \$50 to \$124 were cashed at Torrance supermarkets. The remainder were passed in Los Angeles County stores.

Legitimate Firms
Three legitimate companies whose payroll checks were allegedly forged and printed by Florence include those of the United States Borax Co., Burke and Reynolds Construction Co., and Wilson Paper Co.

Police got a lead on the quintet when they traced a forged check made out on the Borax firm. They contacted an employee of the firm whose name appeared as the payee on the counterfeited check.

His statement led to a bar where the check had been cashed, and admission that the legitimate check was borrowed by Mrs. Graham presumably for counterfeiting purposes, police said.

Ives has been previously arrested for forgery, narcotics, robbery, car theft and rape, police records showed.

Mrs. Graham is described as a girl friend of Hank Thwait's, of Torrance who is facing murder charges in connection with the slaying of a reputed San Diego Mafia chieftain.

Police said that Florence also printed driver's licenses and other identification used in passing the checks.

Young Autoist Hurt in Crash

A teenaged motorist was taken to Harbor General Hospital Sunday when her car smashed into a power pole at Madrid and Sierra Sts.

Police said that Marie E. Schmidt, 17, of 716 Acacia St., received a possible broken nose and bruised knees when her car collided with the pole.

SELECT ENGINEER
Walter Nollac, 35, assistant city engineer of West Covina, was selected as the new city engineer here. City Manager George Stevens said he will report here on Aug. 1.

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Discrimination Blast Hurlled in Pay Boosts

City employes will have to wait an additional month before they receive a five per cent pay hike.

The delay was caused when three members of the City Council Tuesday opposed an emergency ordinance which would have established the new pay scale.

The City Council also split 4 to 3 on the adoption of the \$4,433,304 budget for the 1959-60 fiscal year, and by the same margin approved a \$1900 annual pay boost for City Manager George Stevens.

All three measures were opposed by Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Victor Benstead and Nickolas O. Draie.

Tax Hike
The budget is tentatively based on a 7½-cent tax increase, but Stevens pointed out the levy boost may be even higher because employe retirement costs could be increased by as much as \$100,000. He said several other cities had been notified that their payments will be higher during the coming year and he expects an increase for Torrance also.

Albert Salcido and Dick DeJmitt, spokesmen for police and firemen dropped an immediate request for a 10 per cent salary hike and longevity pay, but asked an opportunity to bring these requests up next December or January.

Discrimination
Benstead, Isen and Draie explained their opposition to the new salary ordinance and pay boost for Stevens was that they are "discriminatory."

Draie said that individual adjustments give some employes more than others, and he opposes this.

"If we had taken care of this three years ago, it wouldn't have happened all at once, Councilman George Bradford shot back.

Since it takes a four-fifths approval to pass an emergency ordinance, the salary measure had to be resubmitted as a regular ordinance, which takes effect 30 days after adoption. This will delay payment of salary increases by a month.

Apparent low bid for the work was submitted by the Griffith Company, which offered to complete the project for \$1,418,780. The other nine bids ranged to a high of \$1,693,559.

Project is the third in a series which will widen, deepen and improve the flood control channel from Vermont avenue south of Artesia boulevard to 120th street at Crenshaw, Supervisor Hahn said.

The first project, from Vermont to Denker avenue was completed last year and the second project, upstream from Denker to Gramercy is now under construction.

Included in the third unit will be new bridges across the channel at Arlington avenue, Crenshaw boulevard, Cherry avenue and Redondo Beach boulevard.

PUC Blocks Narbonne Water Bid

No more applications for new service will be accepted by a private water company after the Public Utilities Commission rejected an appeal to permit connections.

A. E. Cook, manager of Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2, which serves portions of Lomita and South Torrance, said that his firm will not accept any more applications.

Instead he advised persons who desired new service, to appeal directly to the P.U.C.

The private water company was recently ordered not to serve new customers unless it gets approval from the P.U.C.

Although the firm accepted seven new applications, the P.U.C. returned them, advising that a formal application of modification of its order is necessary.

The P.U.C. order was issued several weeks ago following hearings at which residents asserted they received poor service from the company because it had not improved the system in compliance with a 1953 order.

Chamber Election
Election of a new president and other officers will be held by the Chamber of Commerce board of directors July 14.

Outgoing president Fred Mill was presented with a plaque for his service during the past year Tuesday at a breakfast by O. R. Trueblood, former president of the organizations.

Press Service

Residents within the Torrance Press circulation area who have not received their copy by 11 a.m. on Thursdays will be assured of delivery if they call in their request by 4 p.m.

The carrier boy's income depends to a great extent on the collections he makes on his route. The nominal charge of 25 cents per month is made if the Torrance Press is delivered on Thursday only. Boys will collect 45 cents if delivery is made both on Thursdays and Sundays.

All persons who reside in Torrance will be guaranteed twice-a-week delivery if they pay 45 cents to the carrier.

These boys are independent young businessmen who are building character as well as earning money by working their routes.

Be sure to demand a receipt whenever the boy calls to collect for the preceding month. Collections for June are now under way.



FACE LIFTING—A workman is shown sandblasting Torrance High School's exterior to make a coat of beige, trimmed with brown. The green color on the outside of the school will be replaced by a coat of beige, trimmed with brown.

Hearing Opens in Surgery

Preliminary hearing of a beautician and his wife on abortion charges will continue in Torrance Municipal Court Monday.

A Torrance housewife and her husband, as well as an investigator testified Tuesday as the case against Clarence E. Santee, 47, Burbank beautician, and his wife, Blitz, 26, opened before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett.

The housewife said that she was contacted by a man by telephone and told:

"I hear you need help."

The housewife said that arrangements were then made for the illegal surgery to be performed in her home.

Police were tipped off about the impending surgery and staked out on the home. Later they arrested Santee and his wife in Burbank.

The beautician charged with six counts of abortions including one case in Torrance, another in Manhattan Beach, and a third in Downey. His wife is charged with four counts.

Detectives said that Santee had been convicted of similar charges twice before.

The defendants are free on \$1500 bail each.



SAFETY TEST—Fire Inspector Gordon Clarke checks one of 18 licensed fireworks stands in the city for safety features. Daily inspections are being made to assure safety. Firemen said that only a few minor violations, including lack of an extinguisher and placement of fireworks have been found to date.

Mother of the Year Contest Extended

A one-week's extension in Carl's "Mother of the Year" contest to give as many young people as possible an opportunity to enter, was announced by the sponsors this week.

The contest deadline, originally set for June 30, was extended to July 7, at midnight.

The popular contest has already drawn wide-spread interest among young people under the age of 18, who have been asked to tell why their own Mother should be selected as the Mother of the Year.

The winning Mom will receive a mink stole from the Gay Shop and be guest of honor at Carl's Market grand opening of its new store at 228th St. and Vermont Ave. this month.

Not only will she be the honored guest at the ceremonies but she will receive a gold shopping cart full of groceries of her own choosing.

To win these prizes for Mom, plus a \$100 wardrobe for the young person under 18 who submits the winning entry, all you have to do is to state in as many words as you wish

why your mother should be chosen "Carl's Mother of the Year."

Entries will be judged by a committee composed of Mayor Albert Isen, Dick Fitzgerald, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and W. R. Zapras, publisher of the Torrance Press.

Claim Filed Against City

A claim for injuries received by three children when the car in which they were riding spun out of control at Lomita and Hawthorne Blvds., was filed with the city this week.

The claim was filed in behalf of Lilla, Alice and Nancy Cordero, 4577 W. 163rd St., Lawndale, who were injured in the March 21 accident.

The claim asserts that the city failed to post lights or warning signs near a barricade during construction work along Lomita Blvd.



NEW HOSPITAL—Officials of the Little Company of Mary Hospital, which will be ready for occupancy this fall, were honored at a Chamber of Commerce breakfast Tuesday. Inspecting a model of the hospital at Torrance and Hawthorne Blvds. are (in front) Mother Lucy, administrator, and Sister Carmelita, her assistant. In rear, left, is Robert L. Plomert Jr., chairman of the breakfast, and Fred Mill, Chamber president.