

# Not A Bad Idea

An Editorial

An experiment to revitalize downtown Toledo seems to have sufficient merit that it should be studied here for possible adoption in the central shopping area. The Ohio city has banned vehicular traffic from four of its main streets, and converted them to pedestrian malls in efforts to halt the drift of retail business to the suburbs.

Under its 45-day test, Toledo has converted the once traffic-choked streets to malls, complete with grass, flowers, shrubs, benches and a kiddie playground.

As was pointed out this week by Councilman Nicholas O. Drake, the program may have some merit in downtown Torrance.

Expanding a bit on the councilman's suggestion, it could be adapted here by closing El Prado and Sartori Ave. to vehicular traffic and making these two streets pedestrian malls.

Parking meters would be removed on these two streets and grass would grow where automobiles now choke up the street. Benches could be placed at strategic locations where shoppers can rest for a few minutes if they so desire.

Municipal parking lots are now located on the perimeter of the downtown area where shoppers can park their autos. If these do not suffice, it might even be possible to narrow the width of El Prado Park between Cravens Ave. and Arlington to provide diagonal parking stalls on each side.

The local program would involve blocking off only four blocks, shaped in the form of a cross. El Prado would become a pedestrian mall from Cravens Ave. to Cabrillo, and Sartori would be closed down to cars from Post Ave. to Cabrillo.

Not only could the mall idea appeal to shoppers who have been drawn to out-of-town shopping centers, but it might even increase business for the deficit-run Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

The program may not be feasible here. But it certainly merits careful consideration.



NO CARS?—As outlined in editorial, Sartori Ave. and El Prado, shown in photo, could be included in a plan to convert these two streets to pedestrian malls. This experiment to attract more shoppers is now being conducted in Toledo, Ohio. —Press Photo

## Hull Defends Policy on School Bldg. Use

School facilities were used by outside groups on an average of 11 times a day, Dr. J. H. Hull, district superintendent, explained today.

His statement apparently came in answer to blistering criticism hurled in his direction Tuesday by Councilman George Bradford in commenting on the homeless Torrance Area Youth Band.

The musicians will be evicted from the Civic Auditorium Sept. 1, when that building is taken over by the bank which purchased it.

James Van Dyck, director of the band, told the council that the school auditorium was "unavailable" to his organization except for paying high fees.

Bradford sent a verbal blast in Dr. Hull's direction accusing him of not making public buildings available to local groups but permitting it to be used free of charge for political rallies.

The school superintendent said that school facilities were used 4000 times during the past year, including the city Recreation Department, Girl and Boy Scouts, PTAs, Little League, Y groups and home owner and civic organizations.

## Hope for Defrosting of Escrow Co. Funds

Hope that \$320,000 in escrow funds tied up in the bankruptcy proceedings of a Torrance firm will be unlocked in the near future, was expressed this week by the court-appointed receiver-trustee.

Frank Chichester, a Los Angeles attorney, who was named trustee for the Heath Escrow Co., said he hopes that the funds will be released in from 60 to 90 days.

The bulk of the cash, \$300,000, has been frozen in the Torrance Bank of America since June 15, by order of the State Corporation Commissioner, Chichester said.

The cash had been deposited with the Heath Escrow Co., branches in Torrance, Welteria, Gardena and Long Beach for 366 separate escrow proceedings at the time Marvin Heath filed voluntary bankruptcy action on June 16, Chichester said.

He said the delay in unfreezing the money has caused hardships to a number of persons who had deposited assets in escrow transactions, and he hopes that the

funds will be unlocked as quickly as possible.

As soon as this step is approved, the escrow proceedings will be concluded by the Lawndale Escrow Co., which is acting in cooperation with the South Bay Escrow Owners Association to complete the delayed transactions.

Chichester said that there had been no indication of misuse of funds.

The firm also had offices in Manhattan Beach and Santa Maria.

A number of hardships have been caused by the delays in escrow clearance which included home and business properties.



ACCEPTS—Dr. Louis Kaplan, 44, now an SC administrator, has accepted the post of assistant superintendent in charge of special services with the Torrance Unified School District. He will report here Sept. 1.

## OK Tracts But Cite Flooding

Two subdivision maps were accepted by the City Council despite some question of drainage problems.

One of these includes the 26-home tract of Councilman Robert B. Jahn at 231st St. and Arlington Ave., which was held up by the City Council last week because it was not satisfied with the flow-off.

However, it sailed through Tuesday after Wade E. Peebles, director of public works, reported that the intersection of Arlington Ave. and 231st St., will still pond, even without water from the new subdivision. He said he hopes that eventually the excess water will be collected by a storm drain to be built with bond funds.

Concern over drainage was also expressed during the approval of a tentative tract map for a 338-lot subdivision to be constructed on recently rezoned land at the southwest corner of Crenshaw and Sepulveda blvds. by Don Wilson and Ray Watt.

The bulk of the lots will be developed with single family homes and the remainder with apartments.

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## Recreation Golf Bid Attacked

Mass mailing of bid forms for sporting equipment costing \$321 came under sharp attack by councilmen Tuesday.

The Recreation Department had sent out 15 bid forms to firms as far away as Anaheim, and only received one bid for 10 separate golf equipment items.

"It seems surprising to me that only one bid was received with so many sent," commented Councilman Robert Jahn puzzledly.

"I wonder why they sent for bids all over Southern California. They are not bidding on the Empire State Building. It's ridiculous to send them to Anaheim," Councilman George Bradford snorted.

After Councilman Willys Blount commented on the clerical cost of obtaining the bids, Bradford resumed the attack.

"The paper work in city hall is worse than in the federal government," he declared.

Harry B. Van Bellehem, director of the Recreation Department said he was surprised that no Torrance stores had bid, and pointed out that previously the City Council had indicated it wants as many bids as possible.

The contract was finally awarded to a Maywood firm.

## Propose Hike in Trash Pickup Cost to Homes

A program which will increase the price for municipal rubbish collection by 50 per cent, will be submitted Tuesday for City Council consideration.

The recommendations for a new ordinance which will hike residential collection fees from \$1 to \$1.50 per month, was submitted for study by Wade E. Peebles, director of public works.

The official said that the raise in cost will eliminate the subsidy of the rubbish program from general fund sources. Last year the city had to cough up approximately \$400,000 from the general fund to support the service.

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The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach



# TORRANCE PRESS

1406 CRAVENS AVE.—FA 8-2345

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VOL. X

1 • 2 •

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1959

NUMBER 32

# Official Demands Action to Save Local Freeway

## Federal Squabble Threatens San Diego Freeway Work

South Bay cities will be left holding the bag unless continued federal funds for freeway construction are coming.

Councilman J. A. Beasley predicted that San Diego Freeway construction will come to a grinding halt because of a dispute between President Eisenhower and Congress over financing the federal highway program.

"As far as the South Bay is concerned, this is a major stumbling block in its development. We can't expect industry to locate here unless we have a good transportation system," declared Beasley, Torrance's representative to the Inter-City Highway Committee.

He said that no funds will be available for any new construction on the vitally needed San Diego Freeway, because it has been financed largely out of federal contributions.

A cut-off of U. S. cash, will delay the \$43,000,000 project to bring it to 190th St. by at least two years, Beasley said. Presently, the target date is 1963.

He said that extension of the Harbor Freeway from 190th St. to Pacific Coast Highway may also be affected by the threatened elimination of federal cash.

Beasley said he will urge the City Council Tuesday to fire off letters to Congress urging passage of the highway program before it adjourns.

The program faces death because the President wants it financed by a 1 1/2 cent gas tax increase, while Congress wants to obtain funds through bonds.



CHEW MAIN COURSE—With an Oriental theme set for city parks this week, a practice session with chopsticks was held by Gary, Julie and Tim Chang as they attend a picnic in El Retiro Park. —Press Photo

## Dr. Moshos Returns Home Faces Additional Surgery

Dr. Don C. Moshos, 48, critically injured in an Alaska automobile accident, was back in Torrance Friday, but only for a few minutes.

The Torrance physician was picked up by a Goodhue ambulance when the airplane in which he was brought back on the final leg of the journey, touched down at Torrance Municipal Airport. He was taken to White Memorial Hospital, Los Angeles, where he faces additional surgery.

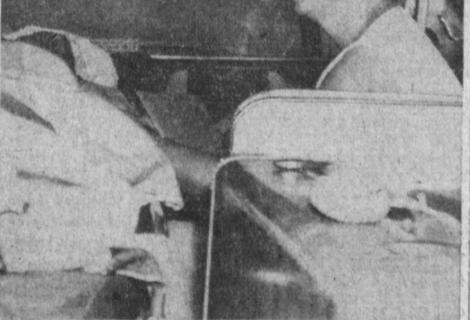
Dr. Moshos, who suffered critical internal injuries July 14 when his car collided with a government dump truck, has been convalescing for the past few weeks in the Elmdorf Air Force Base Hospital in Alaska.

An evacuation plane brought him to Travis Air Force Base Thursday night where he was picked up by Henry Halverson who brought the doctor and Mrs. Moshos to Torrance.

Mrs. Moshos said her husband suffered a ruptured spleen and other internal injuries when he was crushed by the steering wheel. His wife suffered a cracked rib, and their daughter, Dorella, 10, received a broken nose.

Their other children, Dennis, 12, Donna, 12, the twins, and Don C. Jr. escaped with a few minor bruises.

Halverson, a friend of Moshos, piloted the Piper-Apache, for the final leg of the journey home.



BACK HOME—Mrs. Bernice Moshos comforts her husband, Dr. Don C. Moshos, inside ambulance which met the plane in which the physician arrived from Alaska, where he was critically injured in an auto accident nearly a month ago. —Press Photo

## Thieves Abscond with Store Cash

The sale of a soda pop caused him an \$80 loss, John Tracy, owner of a liquor store at 2506 Torrance Blvd., sadly, told police.

He said one customer came in and ordered the 12 cent drink. The patron handed him a \$5 bill and then looked around for a bottle of whiskey. While the cash register was open, two other men grabbed \$80 out of the register and the original customer left with them.

The official said that the raise in cost will eliminate the subsidy of the rubbish program from general fund sources. Last year the city had to cough up approximately \$400,000 from the general fund to support the service.

As proposed by Peebles, the new ordinance will specify standard type containers for trash disposal, amount of rubbish permissible and other restrictions.

## Assault Pair to Face Trial

Two youths will face Superior Court arraignment Aug. 21, after they were held to answer on assault with deadly weapons charges by Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett.

The pair, Tony Pusich, Jr., 20, and James Britt, 18, are accused of assaulting two other youths near Torrance beach with a tire iron and a longshoreman's hook.

Officers said they also found a rifle, a shotgun and a knife in the suspects' car.

Pusich received a knife wound in a struggle with one of the alleged victims.

## Torrance Pair Win Fair Post

Two Torrance area leaders were named to a World's Fair Committee this week by Supervisor Burton W. Chace in order to expedite the event.

They are L. O. Griffith, president of the Harbor District Chamber of Commerce, and John Calas, president of the Carson Chamber of Commerce.

"To the best of my knowledge, very little recent progress has been shown and several European cities are extremely interested in getting the exposition for themselves," Chace said in urging appointment of a 15-member committee.

The supervisor reminded his colleagues that the proposal for the international fair in 1962, possibly to be held in the Torrance area, has been urged by the State Legislature.

"So that we not lose out," Chace, supported by the Board of Supervisors, sponsored a motion to create a 15-member World's Fair Committee. Two members each are to be appointed by the supervisors, and five by Los Angeles Mayor Norris Poulson.

The committee's job will be to determine the present status of the fair and to do all within its power to bring the fair to this County.

The restriction followed three days of public hearings in Lomita on service complaints, particularly low pressure. The company serves some 1100 customers in the Lomita and Torrance areas.

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## Watch The Press for Red Tag Day Specials Thursday

Watch Thursday's Torrance Press for outstanding values to be offered by downtown Torrance merchants during Red Tag Days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Press will be check full of the best bargains of the year to be offered during the three-day sales promotion. Also listen to Radio Station KBIG for news about Red Tag Days.

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## Stork No Bird of Paradise to Morton

The stork is a much maligned bird these days. Particularly as far as Robert Morton, personnel director of the Torrance Unified School District is concerned.

This is why: 1. The stork will be responsible for 2000 additional students next month. This means hiring 60 additional teachers to bring the total to 950.

2. An average of 45 female teachers resign annually because of the advent of Mr. Stork.

Last week Morton and his assistants, Lloyd Reist and James Sibert signed up a number of new teachers. At the same time they accepted the resignation of four teachers for maternity reasons.

"We can't win," says Morton sadly. "We'll have every classroom full in September, but it seems sometimes that the stork has us, coming and going."

## Oriental Theme at City Parks Special Program

The mystic East will provide the motif for special events at Torrance play areas this week, according to the Torrance Recreation Department.

"Oriental Days" activities will include:

Torrance Park—Oriental costume parade, noon Wednesday; Oriental games, 11 a.m. Friday; Far Eastern quiz, 1 p.m. Thursday.

Walteria—Oriental hat contest and cook-out (bring coat-hangers), 12:30 p.m. Wednesday; carnival tournament, 11 a.m. Monday.

El Retiro—Beggars' Day costume parade, feed and marshmallow roast, 1 p.m. Friday. (Bring lunch in scarf on pole.)

Sea-Aire—Costume parade, games and cook-out, 11:30 a.m. Thursday.

## PUC Modifies Building Ban in Lomita Area

The California Public Utilities Commission announced today it has modified its decision on the Narbonne Ranch Water Company No. 2 to permit service to new customers who were issued building permits prior to May 4, effective date of the order.

The Commission, in an interim decision handed down April 14, prohibited the company from providing new service without prior approval. In a second interim opinion and order, effective Aug. 17, the Commission noted that several parties had obtained permits to construct business buildings or residences within the company's service area and were without a water supply.

"New customers" the Commission said, "shall not be construed to include persons who had a bona fide issued building permit issued prior to May 4."

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