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WARMING UP—Thomas Ramskill, 1604 West 220th St., chieftain of the United Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, to be held Saturday in Burbank, warms up on his bagpipe. Annual event will feature bagpipe contest, dances and Highland games such as tossing the caber. —Press Photo

Building Sale Starts Recreation Hassle

'Wall Street' Threatens Program

Creation of a "Little Wall Street" threatens to curtail Recreation Department activities.

Director Harry B. Van Bellehem, said that sale of the old city hall to a savings and loan association, will bring the arts and crafts program to a halt unless other facilities are obtained.

He made the statement Thursday after the City Council accepted an offer from the Home Savings and Loan Association to purchase the municipal building at 1511 Cravens Ave. for \$100,000.

Move Crafts

Although the Recreation Department administrative offices will continue to remain in the building, the space now devoted to the arts and crafts program will be occupied by the finance institution.

Van Bellehem said that the arts and crafts program, which has an enrollment of approximately 500 adults and children per month, may be halted as early as this Friday. At the latest, it will either have to be dropped or sharply curtailed as of Sept. 1.

The recreation chief said that there is a possibility that the program may be continued to a lesser extent at either Sea Air Park or in the Benstead Plumbing dressing room.

Storage Problem

Another problem facing the department is the storage of some 850 chairs, more than 30 tables, pots, pans and other equipment now stored in the Civic Auditorium.

This building will be taken over by the Security-First National Bank of Los Angeles as of Sept. 1.

The bank purchased the building at El Prado and Cravens Ave. for \$125,000 and intends to use it as downtown Torrance branch.

Van Bellehem said the equipment could possibly be stored in buildings at Torrance Park which have been vacated by the Park Department.

Sears Welcome Set by Chamber

"Welcome Sears" will be the theme of the Aug. 25 Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting to be held in the Masonic Lodge, 2326 Cabrillo Ave., starting at 7:20 a.m.

The event is designed to honor officials of Sears, Roebuck and Co., whose new store will open shortly in the Del Amo Shopping Center.

Commissioners Flay Role of 'Ignorance'

Almost two years after a mass resignation, Park and Recreation Commissioners are again stewing over being ignored by the City Council. One member, Ralph Morris, submitted his resignation Wednesday night at a meeting during which commissioners expressed views that they are being by-passed in the development of the civic center.

They indicated their displeasure by wondering why they had not been consulted at all in the creation of a 15-member Civic Center Promotion Committee which will be charged with planning the municipal center.

Not Invited

"I wonder why the Commission has not been invited to submit ideas or suggestions," declared Mrs. Naomi McVey at Wednesday's meeting. "I feel this is an area of duty for the Commission."

Chairman Bernard Dougan said the Commission will not do anything until it finds out what duties will be assigned to the new committee whose members have not yet been appointed.

"We're not interested in controversy," he declared. "We need peace, we need money for the recreation program."

Creation of the 15-member committee was suggested by Councilman J. A. Beasley and was subsequently approved by the council despite the opposition of Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Victor Benstead.

Mayor Opposed

They opposed the procedure for appointments and the mayor termed the committee structure "cumbersome."

Under the plan accepted by the City Council, each member will appoint two members and the 14 nominees will select a chairman. Purpose of the committee is to plan buildings and other facilities to be developed in the civic center.

Morris, a member of the commission for two years, said that his resignation had nothing to do with the dispute over the committee functions, but admitted that he felt that the Commission "isn't going any place."

He said that he "couldn't put his finger on anything specific," but that the defeat of two bond issues and the scuttled plan for a dump golf course gave him a feeling of not accomplishing any-

Torrance Goes Down to 6-4 Loss in Playoffs

Torrance Babe Ruth All-Stars went down to a hard-fought 6-4 defeat Friday in the Western Regional play-offs at Stockton.

The local crew, which had copped the Southern California championship, was defeated by Palo Alto, Northern California champs, in the "sudden death" tourney.

Cary Hubert, who took the mound for the Torrance team all the way, gave up 12 hits. The locals scored their 4 runs with 5 hits. Both sides were booked for one error.

Worker Crushed to Death

A Torrance man was crushed to death in a ceramic tile mixing machine Thursday afternoon.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Wayne Medical Clinic was Thomas E. Sims, 43, of 1302 West 227th St.

Sims and his brother-in-law, Jack Hawley, 26, of 218 East Dominguez St., were inside the seven-foot-high mixer at the B & W Tile Co., 14600 South Western Ave., Gardena, making repairs.

Suddenly the machine, which had previously stalled, started operating, and Sims was crushed between a blade and the wall of the mixer.

Hawley was astride a metal arm of the machine and escaped injury.

As suddenly and mysteriously as the machine started up, it suddenly stopped. Other employees of the firm aided Hawley out of the mixer.

Sims, father of two children, was badly crushed in the incident. His body was taken to McCormick's Mortuary.

Suicide Ruled in Fatal Leap

Death of Mrs. Helen Lawrence Klum, 44, wife of a millionaire insurance man with extensive enterprises in Torrance, was ruled a suicide by investigators.

The woman plunged nearly 20 feet to her death from the roof of a home under construction next to her own at 748 Via Somonte, Palos Verdes Estates, Wednesday.

Detectives said that the wife of A. L. Klum, board chairman of Mercury International, had been under a doctor's care and was apparently despondent over ill health.

Investigators said that Mrs. Klum used a step ladder to climb to the tile roof of a house under construction, tied her ankles with a sash cord, and then fell backwards to a cement driveway.

The body was discovered by Mrs. Bess B. Kendall, of 4217 Via Pinzon, owner of the house under construction.

Officers found two crumpled notes addressed to Mrs. Klum's mother, which had apparently been started and then tossed into the fireplace.

The Klums had been married 14 years and had no children.

'Average' Resident Invites 'K' to Home

A Torrance resident is still awaiting a reply to his invitation to Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev to have dinner with his family.

Bernard Allen, 25, of 20618 Mansel Ave., said that he had extended the invitation to the Russian leader and his wife about a week before Mayor Albert Isen extended his.

"I felt that we are a very average family, and that Krushchev should have a dinner in an average home with average people," the engineering technician for an aircraft firm said.

Allen said that his job, and the size of his family, his wife, Margaret, a son, Scott David, 2, and daughter, Jody Dena, two months, qualify him to be considered average.

He said that unlike Isen, who directed his bid to Secretary of State Christian Herter, his own invitation was airmailed directly to Krushchev in care of the Kremlin, Moscow.

Krushchev is expected to arrive here in mid-September to tour the United States, and Torrance is one of several cities which have invited him.

Carson Bridge Opening Held

Opening of the Carson Street County Road Department, the bridge is of pre-stressed concrete girder design with a reinforced concrete deck. It is 257 feet long and provides for four lanes of traffic with sidewalks on both sides. Contractor for the project was O. B. Pierson, Incorporated, who submitted the bid of \$232,707.66.

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Too Many Chiefs Hit by City Dad

Airport Manager Jack Egan was instructed to wait a week after his request to promote one of four airport attendants to a higher classification was stalled by councilmen.

Egan said that he was one of the quartet designated as senior attendant to help supervise, since with days off, he himself doesn't see some of the men for four days at a time.

"You mean to tell me you haven't time to direct four employees?" Councilman Victor Benstead asked.

Egan said he did not, since his time is taken up with administrative matters.

"I'm afraid that as soon as this man will become a boss he will do no more work," Councilman Robert Jahn observed.

"It's pretty good if a man can't take care of four men. What would he do if he had 50?" Benstead asked.

David Stewart, president of Vegas Airways, a member of the audience, interjected:

"If they weren't so busy riding around in automobiles, he could keep track of them."

Councilmen said they expect Egan to return next week to explain his request further.

Wife Pays Fine to Drop Charge Against Husband

The wife of a defendant in a battery case was assessed \$25 even though charges against her husband were dismissed Friday.

Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett ordered that the money be paid for court costs and the inconvenience caused to the police department after Mrs. Dorothy Rumas of 927 Arlington Ave., asked to withdraw the complaint against her mate, Louis Thomas.

Rumas, a cook, was arrested Aug. 8 on complaint of his wife and his trial was slated for Aug. 26. But Mrs. Rumas appeared in court Friday and asked that the charges be dismissed.

OBEDIENCE CLASS SET

A Harbor Lite dog obedience class will start Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. in Peck Park, 560 N. Western Ave., San Pedro. Graduation for the present class is slated Wednesday at 7 p.m.

SLATE DANCE

Members of the Northrop Institute of Technology student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers will hold their annual mid-summer dance Friday evening in the Mayflower Ballroom in Inglewood.



HONORED CUSTOMER—Mrs. Billie Robertson, "Mother of the Year," checks out a shopping cart of groceries during grand opening celebration of Carl's new supermarket at 228th St. and Vermont Ave. She won the groceries as part of contest. With her are daughters, Lana and Laura, while Rhett Siegfried, a store employee, is checking her out. Story in Women's Section. —Press Photo



PROGRAM THREATENED—Brent Moser and Janet Thomson ponder where to conduct the Recreation Department's arts and crafts program now that its space in the old city hall will be taken over by savings and loan firm which bought municipal structure. Crafts program may have to be abandoned because of lack of space. —Press Photo



SWAN SONG—Elyse Aehle, conductor of the South Bay-Torrance Symphony Orchestra, goes over the score with Eugene Minor, 18, of Torrance, who will be guest conductor at an Aug. 30 concert. The program will be the final one in the Civic Auditorium, which will leave public ownership Sept. 1 to become a branch of Security-First National Bank. The concert is sponsored by the Recreation Department.

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