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Alondra Seeks to Join Torrance

A Living from the Air—Is Essence of New Plant

When James LaFleur was a boy, growing up in Los Angeles, his mother told him to stop day-dreaming and go to school; that he could not live off the air.

LaFleur grew up, went to Cal Tech, became an engineer and proved his mother wrong. He is making a living—and a very successful one—off the air. That's right, from the air all around us—the air we breathe.



JAMES LaFLEUR
... Air Plant

LaFleur, in his thirties, married, and the father of three girls, at 2500 Via Anacapa, Palos Verdes, is now the head of LaFleur Enterprises. This week he applied to the city for permission to construct an air separation plant at 16659 S. Gramercy Place.

"What in the world is an air separation plant?" asked cautious city councilmen. "Will it create a fire hazard? Will it smell? Will it disturb residents? Is it dangerous?" LaFleur explained that his proposed plant is none of these things, but quite safe, and an "asset to the Torrance industrial picture."

In essence, LaFleur's air

separation plant does just that—it sucks in air from the atmosphere, and separates it.

When the process is completed, ordinary air—composed of 79 per cent nitrogen, 19 per cent oxygen, 1 per cent argon and particles of hydrogen, krypton, neon, carbon dioxide, smog and dust—is cleaned, "filtered" and liquified. It is then separated into its components by distillation. It is deep blue "Lox"—not the smoked salmon that comes with cream cheese on a bagel—but liquid

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GEORGE W. POST
... new board member

—Photo by Photo Arts

George Post Elected to Fill Hospital Post

New board member of the Torrance Hospital Association George W. Post has assumed duties replacing O. A. Kresse, who served as a member of board for 20 years, Henry W. Creger, president, announced today.

The board of directors is the governing body of the association, a non-profit corporation, which owns and operates the Torrance Memorial Hospital.

Post, manager of the Torrance branch of the California Bank, has been a member of the hospital association for a number of years. He was a member of the Industrial Solicitation Committee during the fund drive for the maternity-surgery wing, opened in 1957.

Currently, Post is serving as vice president of the Torrance Rotary Club, and member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce. He was treasurer of the recent March of Dimes campaign and has been active in work for the Community Chest and Red Cross.

Walteria Roundup Gains Momentum

South High School girls are "primping like fury" in anticipation of Walteria Roundup Days beauty contest Robert Waegner, general chairman of the Sept. 9-11 event, announced today.

Sponsored by the Walteria Businessmen's Club, the beauty pageant will be staged at the Polynesian Restaurant, Friday evening, Sept. 9.

Accordianist Bill Cosby, 14, 911 Faysmith, Torrance, is one of the entertainers slated to participate in the program, Waegner declared.

Young Cosby has won honors in the Rocky Mountain Accordian Festival in Denver, the Western States Festival in Long Beach and at the California Festival.



HAPPY LOT—Welcomed to the Torrance Police Department patrol division by Chief Percy Bennett are new graduates of the Sheriff's Academy, who received their diplomas this week. They include (left to right) Officers Richard Schwanbeck, 21822 Ladeen Ave.; John P. Brady, 4180A Redondo Beach Blvd.; Lt. Donald Nash; Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess; Lt. Gus Rethwisch; Julian Paul Lembke, 3128 West 185th St.; and Warren E. Sible, 24244 Ocean Ave.

Two Booked on Suspicion of Theft

Arrested on the charges of suspicion of burglary, two suspects were booked after being apprehended near "The Hut," a beer bar at 3703 W. 190th St.

The suspects are Robert Owen Johnson, 18, 22232 S. Denker, and Clyde Milam Jr., 22, 1453 W. 214th St.

Milam was picked-up by the police as he was walking eastward on 190th St. Johnson was found in the Milam's car at the scene.

A window of the bar was smashed. A footprint, which appeared to match one of Milam's go-aheads, was found nearby.

Water Main Probe Ends as Civic Tempers Flare

The water-main probe, which has involved Torrance and its city government officials in charges and counter-charges, came to a head this week as the city-manager turned in information he had known for six months, as the water superintendent was reprimanded, a city councilman publicly apologized, and the mayor admonished against any further councilmanic favoritism.

Brought into focus recently by charges of laxity in granting former Councilman Robert Jahn water-main line extension, without a complete deposit as required, the

full report was made a matter of public record by councilmanic vote.

Jahn, head of Jahn Construction Co. prior to his filing bankruptcy, had built a four-unit apartment building for city councilman Willys Blount, without depositing the full amount of \$4,157.32 for the water-main extension. It was divulged that Councilman Nick O. Drale sold the land to Blount.

Jahn had deposited \$1000. With other companies receiving water services subsequently, and paying proportionate costs, the amount due the city of Torrance has been reduced to \$1903.68.

Asked if there were any pressure put on water superintendent Angus McVicar by councilmen to do the job

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MS HOPE CHEST DRIVE—Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Charles Thaxton, 46, and wife, Eleanor, of Palos Verdes, confined to wheelchairs as a result of multiple sclerosis, join in urging support for annual Hope Chest Drive starting today.

Annual March for Sclerosis Starts Today

Multiple Sclerosis' annual Hope Chest Drive gets underway today, Thursday, with a door-to-door solicitation.

Participating in the county-wide march throughout the Torrance area will be the Beta Eta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, national philanthropic sorority. Mrs. Dan Crawford, 5103 W. 123 Place, aided by Mrs. Kenneth Munson, 4621 Toucan St., are in charge of the march.

Funds raised during the four-day march, Aug. 18-21, will go toward the care of MS patients, and to support research into the cause and cure of the disabling disease.

College Appoints Assistant Dean

Appointment of Kenneth R. Williams as the Assistant Dean in charge of extended day classes at Harbor College was announced today by Wendell C. Black, president of the college.

Chamber to Honor Newest Torrance Security Branch

Torrance's newest bank, the 242nd branch of Security First National, will open tomorrow, Friday, at 190th and Anza with colorful ceremonies.

The first of three Security banks under way in the area, the branch will be managed by Gilbert Pando. The second local branch is now under construction in downtown Torrance at 174th and Crenshaw.

The bank's open house, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., will include Flip the Clown, balloons, refreshments, and "samples of the bank's merchandise," according to bank officials.

A "salute" to the bank will be the theme of the monthly membership breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Aug. 30, at the Masonic Lodge, 2326 Cabrillo Ave.

School District Increases Staff

The biggest employer among all the industry of Torrance this fall will be the Unified School District, which will employ 1525 employees, according to school officials.

This represents an increase of about seven per cent over last year's 1416 employees. During the same period, school enrollment showed an increase of approximately eight per cent.

On the payroll this fall will be 1008 certificated persons, including teachers, principals, counselors, and others directly concerned with instruction. The classified staff, including clerks, custodians, groundsmen, and other non-teaching persons, will number 516.

During recent weeks, the personnel department has had to hire 250 new teachers, both to fill vacancies and to take over classrooms created by the increase in enrollment.

Special Vote Decides Move

In an unprecedented move, instituted by residents of the proposed Alondra addition, request for annexation to Torrance came before the City Council this week and received unanimous and enthusiastic councilmanic support.

Inaugurated by the El Camino Civic Association, a home-owners association, less than a decade old, banded together to foster community improvements, the request for annexation was accompanied by a sheaf of petitions.

William Sterling, 15427 Corday St., association president, presented the stack of 947 names to the council. Sterling explained the petitions had been signed in a ten-day solicitation drive, and each name had been verified for validity by the registrar of voters.

The signatures represented 10 more than the required 937 signatures, one-fourth of the registered voters in the area, Sterling said.

The Alondra Addition area is bounded by Prairie Ave. on the west, Compton Blvd. on the north, Van Ness Ave. on the east, and Manhattan Beach Blvd. on the south.

A connection strip running along the east side of Crenshaw Blvd. from Manhattan Beach Blvd. to Redondo

Beach Blvd., the northerly boundary of Torrance, will make the area contiguous to the present Torrance boundaries, Assistant City Attorney Robert K. Dower, declared.

According to Section 35116 of the California Government Code, governing annexation of inhabited territory, upon receipt of a petition of 25 per cent of registered voters in an area, a city legislative body shall pass a resolution to annex an area.

A public hearing on the annexation is scheduled for early September, with an area designated special election slated within three months, Dower announced.

The City of Lawndale sought to annex the Alondra Addition recently, however, homeowners in the section chose not to join the city.

Torrance now has exclusive jurisdiction of the area, with no other city permitted to seek incorporation or annexation until all steps of annexation proceedings are completed.

Joining Torrance, which is a chartered city with the legislature of California, will mean extension of numerous civic services, fire, police, traffic, etc., to the 4030 registered voters and property owners of Alondra Addition.

Mrs. Bernice Leight, secretary of the El Camino Civic Association, spearheaded the drive to obtain the petitions for annexation.

Ride on Whip Lands Teenager in Sick-Bed

This story might be called "don't let your teen-age daughter sit on boys' laps or she'll get whipped."

Dixie Claudette Miller, 14, 2426 W. 236, Torrance, went visiting friends in Ontario. With a boyfriend and another couple, the foursome took in Crafts' Carnival.

Climbing into a ride called "the whip"—which holds three—Dixie sat on the boy's lap. She was thrown as the car spun on its whirling dirish way, and landed on the asphalt parking lot.

Dixie, Torrance High sophomore, is nursing a sprained shoulder and neck, and "severe bruises" on her lip, according to her mother, Mrs. Kenneth Miller.

Ewell to Try for Hi-Speed Record

Jack Ewell, service manager at Don Turpin Motors, 946 N. Avalon Blvd., a area resident for 25 years, and past president, DRI Racing Association, will leave for Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, Saturday, Aug. 20 for a speed record try.

Ewell will drive a Duncan-Kamboor class A coupe, shooting for better than 213 miles per hour. The car is powered by a Chrysler engine, with fuel injection and Herbert Roller tappet camshaft.



DIG THIS CRAZY HEAT—Man, like this is no coolsville. The Marines have landed in Twentynine Palms, and leatherneck reservist Pfc. Robert J. Brumfield, 21909 Palos Verdes Blvd., Torrance, mops his brow in the 120 degree desert heat. Members of the 5th Communications Co. from the area are on two weeks annual field training, participating in "Operation Charger," four-day joint air-ground maneuvers, Aug. 21-24, one of the largest Marine Reserve exercises ever staged.

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