

Blond Gunman Loots Cleaning Shop

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NATIVITY SCENE—Erected annually at the Torrance home of Stone and Myers, funeral directors, this year's nativity scene will feature live animals in the farmyard scene. Figures in the background are symbolic of the

original scene around the manger. Live animals have been the center of focus for children and passers-by since project was completed Tuesday evening. Project is on the mortuary grounds at 1221 Engracia Ave.

Weed Cleanup Furor Ends in Settlement

Local Cleaners Shop Looted by Blond Gunman

A blond gunman, brandishing a .45-caliber automatic pistol Tuesday morning cleaned out a local cleaning shop of nearly \$2,000 and made his escape.

John Lococo, 4809 Vanderhill Road, Torrance, and manager of Esquire Cleaners, 3858 Sepulveda, reported that the man met him as he opened his shop in the morning. Pointing the gun at him he told Lococo, "Lets go back to your office. Where is the money? I want it all."

After taking the money he ordered the manager to remove his trousers in an apparent effort to prevent pursuit. As he left the building he threw the trousers away.

Gunman was described by Lococo as blond, about 5-11" tall, weighing about 165 pounds, wearing blue jeans and a light tan jacket.

Tony Peretti, operator of a Flying A gasoline station at the corner of 226th and Hawthorne, told investigating officers that he saw the suspect roaring away in a 1957 beige or off-white Chevrolet sedan.

Lococo estimated the loss at between \$1,500 and \$2,000.



DRUM MAJOR — Appointment of Carl Jordan as drum major for the contingent of local high school bandmen scheduled to appear at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena Jan. 2 was announced last week. Local high school bands will appear for the first time in the spectacular Southland tourney.

City Council OK's Tax Bill Modification

Controversy over exorbitant costs of city weed abatement program ground to a halt Tuesday evening as city officials and owners of the firm employed by the city to implement the program, modified or completely eliminated bills for the cleanup program.

Charges of exorbitant costs for the program, reflected on county tax rolls as the official collector for the city, had flown at council meetings for the past three weeks.

Only sixteen complaints had been lodged with the city before Tuesday's deadline. Mayor Albert Isen pointed out that the complaints listed comprised only about two percent of the properties that had been serviced.

City manager's office, which had received the complaints and city engineers and planners, who had screened them, reported that in the majority of cases, satisfactory settlements had been reached.

Council action effectively erased the \$33 bill of John Macanovich for cleaning a piece of property and cut in half the \$129 bill on a second piece of property owned by the same man.

A piece of property owned by William Kulpaca, 4300 Emerald St., Torrance, which had received a staggering \$4,075 cleaning bill, was reduced by \$3,075. Councilmen reported that the balance will be paid by Kulpaca and that the reduced amount will be collected from the holder of

the mineral rights to the property.

Ironically, collection of the fee from the mineral right holder will aid in clearing a clouded title to the property which the owner would like to be able to sell.

A cleaning bill on a piece of property near Emerald and Anza, owned by Nick Mlagenovich of Whittier, was reduced from \$388 to 150 after the owner pointed out that the land had been leased to growers of flowers during the time of the cleanup, and that the entire parcel of land had been either covered with flowers or disced at the time.

Council let stand bills against Lon W. Raley of \$1,374; Joseph D. Parvey, \$607.42; and Harry Rappaport, \$1,099.

BALLOT 997 TO 753

Torrance Aluminum Plant Employees Reject Bid of United Steelworkers

Employees of Harvey Aluminum in Torrance this week roundly rejected union representation by a vote of 997 to 753 in an election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Company spokesmen reported that the rejection of the United Steelworkers of America by the employees was a "vote of confidence for the company and its employment and compensation practices."

Harvey Aluminum is the only aluminum producer in recent years whose employees have rejected representation by any union.

Management of the firm felt that the contributing factor to the election outcome was capacity produc-

tion by the company, whereas unionized basic producers were working plants at lower rates of capacity with substantial layoffs and shortened work weeks. Another influencing point was the fair employment practices of the company. The firm has gained industry recognition for its policy of equal opportunity and equal pay for all employees and for completely wiping out discrimination because of race or religion.

Rates of pay were not an issue in the election since all of the major aluminum companies operate at approximately the same scale.

Union representatives said that objections are being filed with the National Labor Relations Board

in a move to upset the results on grounds that supervisory personnel at the plant had tried to influence voting before the election.

They reported that the union will intensify its campaign to organize the Harvey employees, and noted that they came closer to winning at this election than in either of the two polls held since 1951.

Union also asked Assemblyman Tom Bane, head of the Assembly Industrial Relations Committee, to check allegations that the firm has developed an employee layoff policy that deprives them of jobless pay benefits and thus pays less into the state unemployment fund than other employers do.

County Animal Shelter Planned For Carson Area

Supervisor Burton W. Chace announced Tuesday that work on the Carson Animal Shelter will begin on Monday.

County's new animal shelter, which is located at Broadway Ave., and Victoria Street in the Carson area, will include an office building, two kennel buildings and a barn and utility building.

Contract for building the new shelter was awarded by the Board of Supervisors last week to James E. Rowe of Lynwood for \$244,600. It will contain a total gross area of 11,944 square feet.

Road Projects Begin in Area, Says Supervisor

Improvements on streets in the immediate area of Torrance was announced this week by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

The supervisor reported that the improvement of Eshelman Ave., northerly of Allbrook St. in Lomita is now underway.

Recent traffic counts on Eshelman, a secondary highway on the county's Master Plan, showed that over 2,500 vehicles travel along this section of the highway daily.

In a second announcement the supervisor said that the widening of a half mile stretch of Sepulveda Blvd., between Figueroa and Main, was nearer reality with the awarding of the contract to the Tomel Construction Co. for the amount of \$190,842.

Chace said that the improvement of the road will provide an important access to the Harbor Freeway which is now being extended across Sepulveda at a point between Vermont and Figueroa St.

Sepulveda now handles about 14,000 vehicles daily. He said that work on the project will begin immediately.

RIBBON CUTTING

Civic officials and representatives of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce will participate tomorrow morning in ceremonies opening the Gingham Girl Donut and Waffle shop, 5325 Torrance Blvd. Mayor Albert Isen will cut the ribbon officially opening the store.

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MOVING, MULTI-COLORED BIRD . . .

Chamber Approves Rose Parade Entry; Float Will Feature Educated 'Owl'

A multi-colored 'educated' owl will be Torrance's entry in the Tournament of Roses Parade, scheduled for Pasadena on January 2, it was announced this week by President R. S. Pyle of the sponsoring Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

Pyle said the "Owl" entry would be titled "WHOO!" and he would be of unique construction. Most floats, Pyle added, are mounted on long, flat-bed chassis—not so with the Torrance entry. The "owl," as yet unnamed, will ride down the line of march mounted on a 15-foot square text book. He will stand 15-feet high and will

feature a diploma under his arm and graduation cap on his head. For the first time in Torrance, the float will feature a moving part, as the right eye will blink.

Chamber officials said last year's "Choir Boy" float, received unequalled photo coverage because of the "up and down" construction allowed for easier photography—hence, the repeat in design.

The float is once again being designed by the nation's "top" float designer—Mrs. Isabell Coleman of Altadena.

Mrs. Margaret Clark will once again be decoration chairman, assisted by

Kenny Uyeda. Mrs. Clark has been in charge of volunteer crews that captured first place awards for the past 2 years. The initial entry placed third.

FORMAL DEDICATION

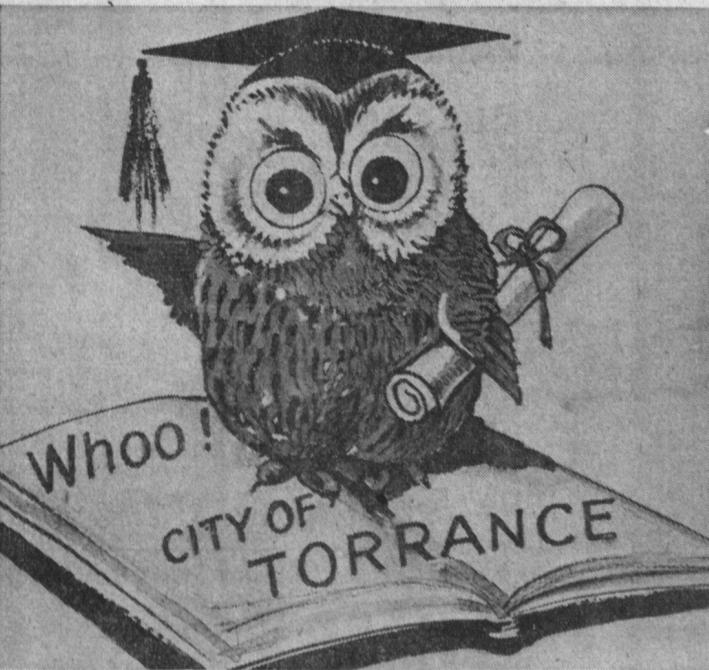
Formal dedication of the new community building in General Winfield Scott county park in Carson was held yesterday afternoon. Present for the ceremony were Supervisor Burton W. Chace, John Galas, president of the Carson Chamber of Commerce, and Mrs. Earl Boner, secretary of the Scott Recreation Council.



LONG-TIME EMPLOYEES HONORED—Torrance Postmistress Clara A. Connor here congratulates two local postal employees for outstanding service to the community and to the department. Left, she presents trophy to clerk Paul Bennett, as outstanding employee of the year. Active in community affairs,



Bennett is a committeemen in the Madrona School scout troop. Right, she again congratulates Larry R. Letulip, recipient of a bonus check for devising labor saving and safety measures. Monetary award was presented by postmaster general.



APPROVED DESIGN — Members of the sponsoring Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week approved designs for the local entry in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade, Jan. 2 in Pasadena. Basic design will

be a huge multi-colored owl, with moving eyes, wearing a mortarboard hat and clutching a diploma. Chamber prexy R. S. Pyle reported that this year's entry will be sure to head the list of prize winning floats of the