

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING

TORRANCE HERALD

5¢
Sunday and Thursday
Home Delivered by Carrier
30 Cents Per Month

—and 3 Companion Newspapers, Total Combined Circulation—22,868

34th Year—No. 14

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1952

PHONE TORRANCE 444

12 PAGES

FATHER OF SIX JAILED HERE FOR \$5000 BURGLARY JOBS

Police Make Pinch In Waleria Cafe

At least three recent burglaries were cleared from the files Thursday morning when two Torrance policemen surprised a 33-year-old Waleria father looting a Pacific Coast Hwy. cafe, according to detectives.

Patrol Officers R. E. Wright and Tom Pattishal said they pulled up in front of Whitrows Cafe, on the highway at Neece Ave., and watched one Jacob Zitzer load his car with items taken from the restaurant.

Herald to List Election Issues. Recommendation

On April 8, a week from Tuesday, the voters of the City of Torrance will go to the polls to elect three city councilmen.

Running for the office are five independent candidates and the three-man TTT ticket.

Involved is a number of issues vital to the City of Torrance and its 31,890 residents. A recap of the issues and a review of the qualifications of the various candidates running for office will be published in next Thursday's issue of the Torrance Herald.

Next Thursday the Herald will give its recommendations and name the three candidates it believes best suited for the office of City Councilman.

Next Thursday's Torrance Herald. Watch for it!

Traffic Victim Still Critical

Leslie Pringle, 59-year-old Waleria traffic victim who was saved from death by heart massage after his heart had stopped functioning for nearly two minutes, is still in critical condition, Harbor General Hospital reported yesterday afternoon.

Struck by a car while crossing Pacific Coast Hwy., Pringle received serious internal injuries. He was undergoing surgery when his heart stopped. A doctor, identified as John Stephen Getz, urological specialist, opened the chest and massaged the heart.

Pringle is recovering, the hospital said.

Police had received a phone call shortly after 4 a.m. from Mrs. Arthur James, 24651 Neece Ave., who said she and her husband were watching the suspect load his car.

James is owner of the building housing the eating establishment.

Wright and Pattishal grabbed the suspect. The father of six children, Zitzer is now in county jail awaiting his preliminary hearing here before City Judge Otto B. Willott next Friday.

Detective Capt. Ernie Ashton and Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett said that Zitzer told Wright and Pattishal that he owned the building, but James, who came from his house next door to assist the officers, called his bluff.

The suspect was hauled to the home of James Withrow, manager of the restaurant who, officers said, denied ever having known Zitzer.

"He (Withrow) owes me \$900 and I was taking it out in merchandise from the cafe," investigators said Zitzer told them.

A check of the suspect's home at 3618 Newton St. revealed a cache of food and merchandise said to be valued at more than \$3000. Two cash registers, an adding machine, crated cabbage and lettuce heads, sacks of potatoes and other vegetables, a radio and cases of toys and food were found.

Manager of the Fish Shanty restaurant in Waleria identified the cash registers and a coffee machine as those swiped from their place of business last Jan. 31.

Much of the food and some frozen food found in a locker at the Zitzer home was said to have been lifted from a ranch market at Torrance Blvd. and Hawthorne Ave. on Feb. 17.

In Zitzer's car, found at the looting scene, were a cash register, toaster, radio, pots pans, dishes, food and assorted other items.

Quantities of freshly lead vegetables, believed taken earlier in the night from a produce truck, were found at his house, police say.

The suspect, who came to California from Wisconsin in early 1950, had been employed at a service station here for the past

(Continued on Page 3)

Permalite Plant Closes

Production facility plant of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. Permalite plant will be shut down and all employees are being transferred to other divisions, the company announced yesterday.

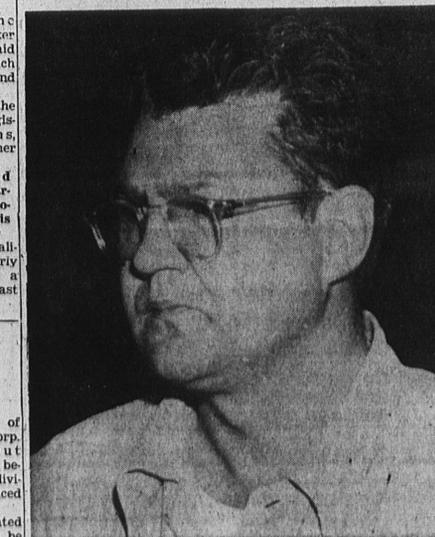
The production plant, located at 21615 Madrona Ave., will be left on a caretaker status for an indefinite time.

The closure came after the company franchised the product to another firm.



INSPECT LOOT . . . Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton, at left, and Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett list the articles found in a Waleria garage following the arrest of Jacob Zitzer, father of six children, on a burglary charge. Cash registers, adding ma-

chines, freshly crated lettuce, cabbage, toys, apples, a radio, lighting fixtures and other items valued at \$5,000 were discovered. At least three recent burglaries were solved by Zitzer's capture, police say.



JACOB ZITZER

... Lettuce and apples bring jail

Herald Support of Bond Drive Praised

The Torrance Herald was singled out for special praise this week by the California Teachers Association for its part in the recently successful campaign for passage of the \$3,000,000 bond issue for the Torrance Unified School District.

In a press release originating in the association's San Francisco headquarters, the CTA emphasized how newspaper publishers and national advertisers

have demonstrated public responsibility in widespread support of school bond elections.

"The Torrance Herald carried a front page editorial (Herald, Feb. 21, 1952) entitled 'Carpenters Build Houses Faster Than Schools,'" the release said.

"It (the editorial) pointed out how 54 classrooms provided for 2600 students four years ago. The district now has 6100 students requiring 154 classrooms. Three elementary schools and a high school were urgently needed. Taxpayers were reminded that a favorable vote would cost them only one cent a day."

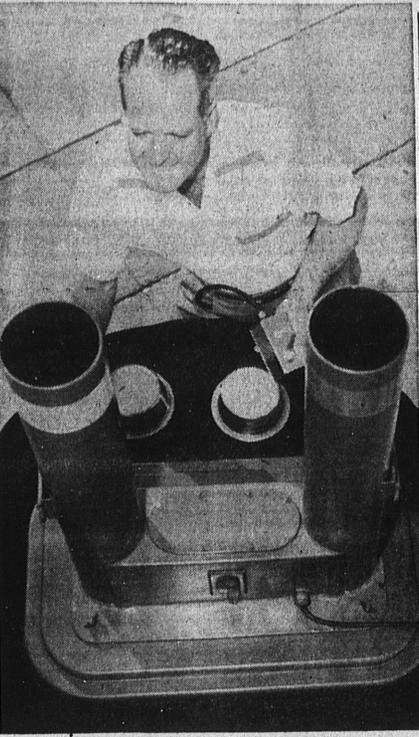
The CTA headquarters also referred to the General Petroleum advertisement carried in the same edition of the Herald, which illustrated an underprivileged child carrying a placard which read: "Got a nickel so's I can learn to read?"

The CTA is the official professional organization of all California teachers.

Preliminary hearing for Raymond Ramirez, who is charged with the brutal beating and attempted rape of Mrs. Pauline Wright, mother of a Torrance policeman, is slated to be held Tuesday in South Bay Justice Court.

The hearing has been postponed twice because Mrs. Wright was physically unable to appear in court. She was released from Harbor Hospital only recently.

Police charge that Ramirez knocked down and beat the 44-year-old woman as she was walking near a drive-in theater at 182nd St. and Vermont Ave. last March 9.



—HERALD PHOTO

(See Story on Page 12)

THE THING . . . Inventor Vic Chatten looks over his new air raid warning device which works on the same principle as a Fourth of July sky bomb. Official Civil Defense circles are buzzing with excitement over the new thing-a-ma-jig.

Carl Pagac Jailed On Theft Charges

Carl Pagac, 40-year-old secretary-treasurer of the Torrance Bowling League, was booked in the San Pedro jail Friday on a grand theft charge, after he admitted spending \$4700 of the league's funds, according to Harbor detectives.

Pagac's arrest followed an investigation of a burglary report filed by Pagac last Thursday.

Det. Lt. Ralph Weyant, commander of the Harbor division detectives, and Det. Adrian Thornberry, investigated Pagac's report in which he claimed his home at 1336 W. 218th St. had been burglarized. Pagac told the detectives he returned on that date from Seattle to find a screen had been cut by someone who entered his home and stole the \$4700 he had hidden in a thermos jug. Missing also, he told detectives were 25 silver dollars, some money from a woman's purse, and \$5 in loose change.

Thornberry stated he detected something "fishy" in Pagac's story and launched another investigation. Confronted with what the detective uncovered

Pagac subsequently confessed to spending the funds on furniture, doctor bills, and other purchases.

He was booked on a grand theft charge and for filing a false report.

Detectives said they would seek a complaint from the district attorney tomorrow.



CARL PAGAC
... Lands in Pokey

Young Housewife Held on Hot Check Charges

Betty L. McCune, 28, of 3742 W. 177th St., is in custody of Redondo Beach police on five felony counts of passing checks with insufficient funds, Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett reported yesterday.

The young housewife wrote a \$2.37 check to the Municipal Water Co. and a \$25 check to Lawson's Jewelers, police said, and both bounced.

Bennett said that two counts charged by Torrance will be included in the five which Redondo charges.

Mrs. McCune, officers report, stated that she thought her husband, Elmer L. McCune, had deposited enough money in the bank to cover writing all of the checks. Bennett said that McCune will be questioned regarding the alleged writing of two checks on a Los Angeles and Lomita bank.

Bail was set at \$600.

State to Continue Hwy 101 Surveys

The state will make further studies of the traffic situation from Roberts Road in Seaside Ranchos to the western limits of the city on Hwy. 101, a member of the Department of Public Works told City Manager George Stevens Friday.

M. E. Cessna, District VII engineer, told Stevens that a serious study of the hazards along the bloody mile of road leading from the top of Seaside Ranchos into Redondo Beach would get under way right away.

Stevens had taken the matter to the engineer in an effort to find "just what the status of the situation was."

Cessna also told the city manager that the channelization of Hwy. 101 and Newton would be started very soon. Cessna said the work had been scheduled earlier, but that unusual flood work brought about by the heavy rains earlier this year had put the highway crews behind on the schedules.

As for 174th St. through North Torrance, the engineer told Stevens that the 1952-53 budget

would make funds available for the acquisition of right of way for the state road through Torrance, and that the 1953-54 budget would carry the funds for surfacing the highway.

Stevens explained that Torrance has acquired the rights of way where the adjoining property has been subdivided, but that a considerable portion of the highway through the city had not been cleared.

A committee headed by Councilman Harvey B. Spelman Jr. has been studying the Hwy. 101 situation and it is prepared to go to Sacramento if necessary to push the city's claim for adequate traffic control measures in the area.

NOW — THE HERALD ON SUNDAYS TOO!