



NO DIAL PHONES UNTIL NEXT SUMMER ACCORDING TO TELEPHONE OFFICIAL

Plan Installation Early Next Year

Torrance will probably not have its dial telephone system in operation before midsummer of 1953, A. B. Smith, district manager, indicated this week.

Smith said the installation of dial service for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. subscribers in the Torrance and Lomita exchanges would probably start in about eight months.

The equipment for the automatic dialing system is to be housed in the recently completed building at Cravens Ave. and Engracia here, he indicated. Additional equipment will be installed in the building now under construction in Lomita. The Lomita building should be completed before the end of the year, Smith reported.

Actual date of the switchover from the manual board to automatic phone selection will depend on the availability of the complicated equipment which contains considerable strategic materials, he said. The equipment is scheduled to arrive about the first of the year.

Smith reported that 120 persons are now waiting for service on the Torrance exchange and that about 600 are on the waiting list at the Lomita exchange, which also serves part of Torrance.

Local Ice Cream Vendor Beaten In Inglewood

Marjorie Holmes, 30, of 17011 Osage Ave. in North Torrance, was in Centinela hospital yesterday with a skull fracture inflicted by a youth who attempted to rob her as she was cruising in her ice-cream vendor's truck Thursday night.

The woman said the attack occurred in front of 1315 Park Ave., Inglewood. A freckle-faced boy, about 17, approached her as if he were going to buy something, she told investigating officers, then slugged her on the head.

Her screams frightened him away before he could get the \$55 in receipts in her wagon.

Hearing Set For Seaside Sewer Plans

A hearing on plans for the construction of a sanitary sewer system in the Seaside Ranchos Sewer District, has been scheduled for 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 13, at the City Hall, residents of the area were reminded yesterday by City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

Protests or objections may be filed with the City Clerk any time prior to the time fixed for the hearing. Protests must be in writing, and no other protests or objections will be considered, the City Clerk said.

Estimated cost of the improvements is \$85,014.42.

Jaycees Plan Summer Dance

The Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce summer dance will be held May 31 at the Key Room of the Hermosa Biltmore Hotel, it was announced yesterday by chairman Gordon Jones.

Bids are now on sale at \$2 a couple, Jones said.

Kenny Perkins and his "Tune Smiths" will furnish music for dancing from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Seaman Gets Six Months to Repay State for Unemployment Frauds

A man who received unemployment insurance checks by forging the name of a friend's husband who was in jail, was given six months this week by the court to repay the \$75 he received.

The defendant, Clarence Eugene Harrison, 21, a Redondo Beach merchant seaman, appeared Thursday before City Judge Otto B. Willett. The judge also suspended hearing on the case which means it can be reopened at any time, and placed Harrison on summary probation.

Harrison was nabbed by special agents of the California State Employment Service, H. T. Cooper and Roy G. Truesdale, arrested Harrison in Manhattan Beach after Cooper had maintained a stake-out at the Torrance office of the employment service.

Harrison claimed he was getting the checks to give to his friend's wife. She said it was Harrison's idea and Harrison said it was her idea.

The nabbed seaman was charged with increasing a false statement to obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

"This is just the first of a series of crack-downs on persons making fraudulent claims against the state," special agent Cooper stated. "We have recently increased our investigation staff, and first on the docket is to clean up some of the claims we know to be fraudulent," he said.

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Red Cross Collects 125 Pints of Blood in Plant

The Red Cross stock of blood was increased by 125 pints here in three hours Friday when employees of American Radiator and Standard-Sanitary Corp. and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. turned out in force on a cooperative sponsoring of the bloodmobile visit.

The unit collected the 125 pints of blood between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. while stationed at the AmStar cafeteria.

'Channelize' Work on Murder Mile Begins

"Channelization" of Murder Mile at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Newton St. was started late last week by construction crews of the Department of Public Highways to end a year-long battle of public officials and citizens to remedy the death-trap situation which had prevailed at the intersection.

Bulldozers Friday were busy ripping out sections of the road shoulder on the north side of the highway to allow adequate widening of the roadway. A center "left turn only" lane will be formed to allow motorists desirous of turning onto Newton St. to clear the through lanes of traffic.

Estimated cost of the project is \$10,000, the state said. Additional street illumination will be provided, although no signals are forthcoming, it was stated.

Local officials, who have urged the state to take steps to channelize the intersection ever since one person was killed and thirteen others injured within a two-day period many months ago, are now seeking safety aid at the Roberts Rd. and PCH intersection, three miles west of Newton St.

Police Chief John Stroth as well as several others are slated to visit the department headquarters in Sacramento in the near future in an attempt to work out the highway problem there.

Noted Violinist Werger Gebauer To Appear Here

The Torrance Concert Orchestra will be heard in a program of popular concert music on Friday night, June 6, in the Torrance High School auditorium, it was announced yesterday by Abe Mlstein, director of the orchestra.

The program will feature Werner Gebauer, violinist, as soloist. Mr. Gebauer has been a recital artist for Columbia Concerts and has appeared with major symphonies in America and Europe. He will be heard in the Wenevski Concerto for violin and orchestra.

Sharing the podium chores with the orchestra's regular conductor will be Joseph Borisoff, Piastro, who will appear as guest conductor. Mrs. Piastro returns to Southern California after an extensive and successful tour of performances in Chicago and the East.

The orchestra, sponsored by the Torrance School of Adult Education, and all concerts are free to the public. Assisting with arrangements are the Senior Woman's Club of Torrance.

Jury Returns Split Verdict In Shooting

A split decision was returned by a jury in Long Beach Superior Court Friday afternoon as to the guilt of former Torrance resident Fay B. Peerson, charged with the double shooting of Mrs. Norma Peerson, his wife, and Cecil Huffine of Los Angeles, in a Lomita motel cabin last January 3.

A six-man, six-woman jury found Peerson guilty of assault with a deadly weapon regarding his wife but returned a not-guilty verdict to a charge that he unlawfully felled Huffine with two slugs.

Peerson, 44, then employed at the General Petroleum Corp. here, also was ruled sane by Judge Fred Miller. He had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity at the time of the shooting.

The trial got under way late Wednesday afternoon after many delays—postponed at least twice because Huffine, who had been shot in the stomach, was hospitalized, his attorney informed the court.

Thursday the court heard Huffine, Mrs. Peerson, two witnesses, neighbors Charles and Ethel Moreno, and Dpt. Wayne Calloway, who stumbled into the incident moments after the shooting, took place.

Thursday afternoon Peerson took the stand in his own defense and told the jury that he fired twice at Huffine after Huffine came toward him, but remembered nothing as to firing four shots at his wife. Both were wounded.

Peerson is slated to appear in court June 6 for sentence and probation hearing.

Moreno, who testified that he and his wife witnessed most of the incident, told the court that offered no resistance.



FAY B. PEEERSON ... Wins one; drops one

Peerson climbed out of the rear trunk of his wife's Cadillac moments after she pulled into the driveway. Huffine pulled his auto into the driveway soon after Mrs. Peerson arrived, Moreno said.

After looking through Huffine's car, Peerson went into his room, secured a revolver and entered his wife's apartment, the witness testified. Moments later, Moreno said, he heard two shots and soon after Mrs. Peerson ran from the house.

The witness then stated that Peerson came out into the front porch and blasted away at his wife. She was struck twice by bullets.

The case went to the jury Friday morning at 11:25, and the verdict was returned at 3 o'clock.

Dpt. Calloway, hailed as he drove by the scene, arrested Peerson, who, the officer said, Mrs. Peerson refused to answer questions posed by her husband's attorney, Bernard Lawler, that Huffine was a frequent visitor to the motel on the grounds that she might tend to incriminate herself.

Huffine denied that he had placed many telephone calls to the Lomita exchange from his Los Angeles phone.

The Pedersons leased and operated the motel where the incident occurred.

A proposed slate of officers to lead the Torrance Ballot Battalion has been drawn up and they are being contacted to see if they will serve, Paul Loranger, temporary chairman of the group, reported after a meeting of the organizing committee Thursday evening.

Loranger didn't reveal the slate, saying that several of the persons had not been contacted yet about the offer.

Ballots will be mailed in the near future to those who have signified their interest in the Battalion by attending the organizational meetings. Others may vote at a meeting to be called in the near future, Loranger said.

"About all we can do now for the school election next Friday is help in every possible way to get the vote out," Loranger said.

Along that line, A. Robinson, who has been appointed publicity chairman for the group, reported yesterday that a total of 30 cars had been lined up to take voters to the polls and that the transportation chairman, Burt Johnson and others in the group were seeking more.

Rides to the poll may be obtained by calling the Dick Barton Chrysler-Plymouth agency at Torrance 606 and asking for Dick; Paul's Chevrolet at Torrance 617, ask for Mrs. King; Post Ave. Nash Motors, Torrance 578, ask for Larry; Schultz and Peckham, Ford, Torrance 3092, ask for Charles Schultz, and Whittlesey Motors, DeSoto-Plymouth, at Torrance 1144, ask for George Whittlesey.

A call to any of the above dealers will bring a car to your door next Friday to take you to the polls.

Loranger repeated his earlier call for volunteers to donate their time that day as baby sitters and precinct workers in an effort to get all registered voters to the polls. He said response to appeals had been very good, but that more volunteers were needed to cover the entire city.

A meeting of the Ballot Battalion will be called in the near future to get the organization set up for the June 3 primaries, Loranger said. Selection of officers would be completed at the next meeting, he said.

Ballot Battalion in Campaign For Heavy School Election Vote

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The new cases occurred in widely scattered points of the County including Inglewood, Downey, Huntington Park, East Los Angeles, Temple City and Altadena.

As a result of the 39 cases reported this year, Pasteur treatment has been given to 149 persons bitten by these rabid animals.

Animal bites investigated by the County Health Department since January 1 total 5265.

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TORRANCE HERALD

—and 8 Companion Newspapers, Total Combined Circulation—22,368



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12

12 PAGES

Parking Authority Says City Has Only Six Months to Straighten Out Parking

Service Pending For Young Wife

Funeral services for Vernetta A. Agapito, 34-year-old wife of William A. Agapito, 1006 Sartori Ave., were pending yesterday following her sudden death at Torrance Memorial Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. Agapito, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Peck, 1103 Portola, was taken to the hospital Friday evening suffering from an asthma attack. Death was due to pneumonia, it was reported.

She had been employed at Kale's Children's Shop here. Stone and Myers Mortuary are handling funeral arrangements.

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Business District Faces Isolation, Group Warns

The "Downtown Business District" was given six months to straighten out the parking situation or die on the vine, Thursday evening as the city's Parking Authority repeated its findings to a handful of merchants and civic leaders in the City Hall.

Attorney C. T. Rippey, chairman of the Parking Authority, repeated the results of the group's survey which indicated that the area needed an additional 850 parking spaces immediately.

"Carson street is fast becoming 'built up,'" Rippey told his audience. He indicated that parking along that street is becoming very limited.

Torrance boulevard is a business street surrounded by residential areas and some of those lots off the street should be acquired, he said.

He reported that surveys indicated that an additional 30 cars per block could be accommodated by parallel parking on the sides and in the center of Cabrillo Ave. and Torrance Blvd. The City Council may be asked to act on a recommendation that center parking on those two streets be provided.

"I believe that if we continue to build on downtown lots as we have, we will isolate the central business section," Rippey said.

He added that the volume of business would not stay at one level if such happened, but would drop steadily.

"We will find ourselves in the same position that downtown Los Angeles occupies. The big stores will build on the fringe area just as they have in Los Angeles," Rippey warned.

He pointed out in answer to a question from the audience that the Parking Authority had the right to condemn and acquire property by paying a reasonable value. He added, however, that the group had no money to buy anything right now.

In response to a question of using parking meters to finance off-street parking, Rippey cited several cities as an example of how meters pay. Bellflower, he said, had 550 meters which returned a gross of \$20,000 a year. Of this about one half is used during the first five years to pay for the meters. A yearly maintenance cost of about \$4300 leaves approximately \$5700 to use for financing off-street parking.

"However," Rippey pointed out, "the Parking Authority would receive everything above maintenance costs once the meters are paid for."

It was pointed out that the Revenue Bond method of financing the purchase of off-street parking was impracticable, and the voters would never approve a General Obligation Bond to finance the project.

"The only thing left is an assessment district or an increase in licenses or, preferably, a combination of the two," the merchants were told.

A question by Jim Krueger as to the feasibility of constructing parking garages was answered by Rippey, who pointed out that the cost per parking space of such structure usually amounted to about \$1200 as compared to about \$500 for lot parking.

Dr. Don C. Moskos advanced a six-point program which he said he would favor:

1. Immediately provide for center parking on Cabrillo and Torrance Blvd.
2. Install parking meters.
3. Acquire fringe area lots and conduct a campaign to have employers and employees park on the fringes.
4. Pass an ordinance limiting any new construction in the downtown area to one half of the unimproved lot, leaving the other half for parking.
5. Form an assessment district and provide for increased license fees for non-owner merchants and professional men.
6. Earmark the sales tax for off-street parking.

City Manager George Stevens, who said he did not want to enter into any of the controversy, explained that the sales tax went into the general funds, and he asked a rhetorical question on "to what extent can you justify spending general funds to benefit a specific group?"

Stevens said in his opinion, the first move that the city should make in solving the problem was the installation of parking meters.

W. E. Bowen agreed, saying that the people of Torrance have had a "tremendous fictitious character" built up on the question of parking meters. He says only the merchants oppose the meters, not the people.

Dr. Arthur Berke said he was certain that most of the city's professional men would agree to an increase in their license fees to provide more parking. The city now receives about \$55,000 a year in business license fees.

Chairman Rippey closed the meeting by saying that the Parking Authority would meet with the City Council in the near future and see what could be started immediately to alleviate the serious threat to the business district.

Members of the committee present included Mrs. Emma Roberts, J. H. Page, Dean Sears, and Charles V. Jones.

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Douglas Worker Killed

Ralph Perry, 32, died late Wednesday at Torrance Memorial Hospital from injuries he received Wednesday evening when a two-ton electrical transformer crashed down upon him at the new Douglas Aircraft Co. plant, 190th St. and Normandie Ave.

Rushed to the hospital by F&M ambulance, Perry died three hours after the incident occurred.

Perry was one of many workers who are now readying the plant for Douglas Aircraft.