

Huge Space Science Firm Comes Here

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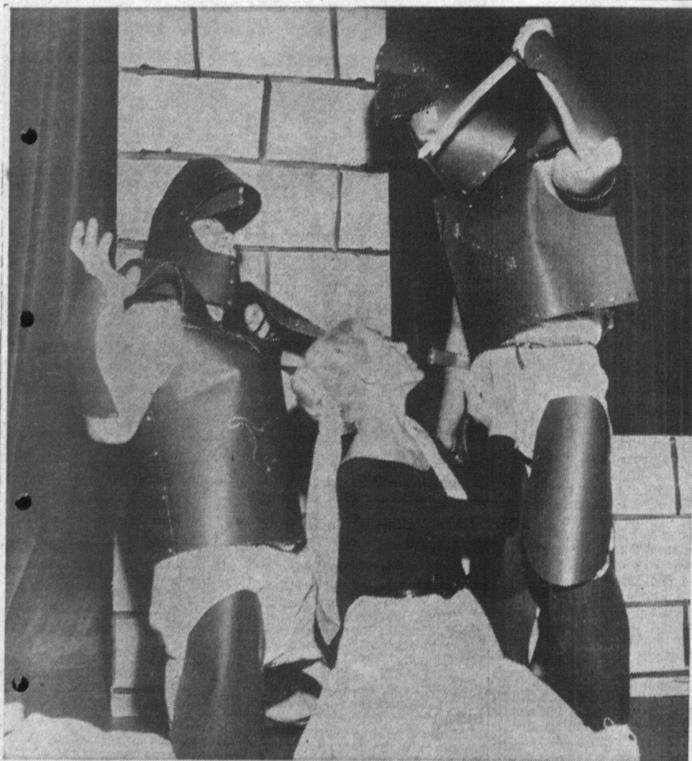
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CHIVALRY RETURNETH—Judy Weiss pleads with Sir Short Knight (Dick Reynolds) to spare the life of Sir Long Knight (Vern Clary), who has been defeated in joust. The medieval scene was enacted to call attention to the Knights of

Olde theme to be carried out this month in Torrance parks and playgrounds. Special games to be played are Storm the Castle, King on the Hill, Jump the Moat and Slay the Dragon. —Press Photo

Police Smash Major Gang Fight on Beach

Variance Sought in Northside

Indications that a 64-acre parcel at 190th st. and Crenshaw blvd. will be the new home of Ramo-Woolridge's Space Technology Laboratories crystallized in two developments this week.

1. The Planning Commission received a request for a variance for the property to permit electronic research development, and

2. Ramo-Woolridge announced plans for the separate incorporation of its Space Technology Laboratories.

All the Planning Commission knew officially was that a multi-million-dollar development is planned on the land, which is situated just east of Crenshaw blvd.

Link with Firm

A quick check, however, revealed that Melville C. Branch Jr., the official applicant for the zone variance, is an executive at Ramo-Woolridge.

Planning Director George Powell said the application to permit the development in an A-1 zone was received by his office only three hours before the Wednesday night commission meeting.

The application was referred to a committee composed of Commission President Bert Lynn, John Mulvihill, Thirvin D. Fleetwood and Kenneth Uyeida.

Official Silence

Ramo-Woolridge maintained an official silence when asked whether they were behind the variance application.

However, they did issue a statement that the Space Technology Laboratories, now a separate, autonomous division of the company, will become a subsidiary corporation.

The lab is now responsible for system engineering and technical direction of the Air Force Atlas, Titan and Thor ballistic missile programs.

According to Dr. Dean E. Woolridge, president of the firm, now located in plants in Inglewood and El Segundo, the reorganization is taking place to improve the efficiency of the Space Laboratories by completing its operational separation from the different kind of work performed by the other half of the Ramo-Woolridge corporation.

Jail Term for Noise

A noisy motorist was sentenced two days in the county jail Friday after he pleaded guilty to his third loud muffler offense in a year.

Jerome Clyde Brodie, 22, of 1513 Cota ave., was ordered to the jail term by Municipal Judge John A. Shidler.

COMPLETES RADIO COURSE

Army Pvt. Aaron G. Purcell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Purcell, 20506 Raymond st., recently completed a radio operator course at Fort Hood, Tex.

Groundbreaking for Market Slated in Airport Triangle

Groundbreaking for a \$250,000 Foods Company supermarket in the Airport Triangle Shopping Center next month was revealed to the City Council Tuesday.

The council approved the plans pending final check by the building department on the land leased by the city to Jefferson, Inc.

The developers said other stores are planned for the 36-acre tract.

Walter Sapp, North High School Grad, Receives \$2500 Scholarship from Firm

M. D. Schwartz, president of the Pacific Smelting Co., announced this week that Walter Arthur Sapp, 18-year-old graduating senior from North High School was awarded the 1958 Pacific Smelting Foundation Educational Scholarship.

A scholarship plan was set up in 1957 by the Pacific Smelting Foundation exclusively for graduating seniors in the Torrance School System who desire to enroll in a university to obtain a scientific or engineering degree.

The recipient of this scholarship is chosen on the basis of scholastic record, character, citizenship, leadership, aptitude for a science or engineering career and general educational outlook.

Each applicant presented a written report of his qualifications and was given a personal interview by a committee from the Pacific Smelting Foundation. Applications were received from North High and Torrance High. The scholarship provides Walter with \$500 a year for five years, or a total of \$2500 to assist him in paying his college expenses. He is permitted to attend any accredited college or university of his choice. It is his intent to enter the Department of Mathematics at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Walter is the son of John N. Sapp, 4808 Merrill st., Torrance, and Mrs. Mildred B. Downes. He has one brother and two sisters.

Officials Hit Influence Peddling Through Gifts

Influence peddling through lavish gifts to councilmen and city employees has never been a problem in Torrance.

"We've never had a written policy for our employees, probably because there has never been such a problem," City Manager George Stevens said.

He said that employees do receive some small gifts at Christmas time, such as candy, cigars or an occasional bottle of whiskey.

"There's never anything more than that. It's sort of traditional," Stevens said.

Councilman George Bradford looks on gift-giving as a way to corrupt an official.

"If a fellow who has a matter before the city council wanted to dine and wine me, I'd throw him out of my office," he declared.

"Any official who would take a bribe is not representing the people of Torrance; he just represents one or two people."

He conceded that an official sometimes will have to accept an invitation to lunch, "but that's his personal life."

Councilman Nicholas O. Drile said a small gift at Christmas time, like a box of cigars, or a fifth of whiskey, are acceptable, but that's where he draws the line.

"A public official should not receive any gifts of more than that, or he leaves himself wide open. As far as I'm concerned a man serves the community and as such does not go around accepting gifts from individuals," he said.

He said that in his decade in office he has never received anything more substantial than a box of cigars or a bottle of whiskey at Christmas time.

Councilman J. A. Beasley

feels it's all right for a public official to accept a lunch or dinner invitation, but if any substantial gift is involved, he's opposed.

"If an official indicates to outsiders that he is favoring a giver, he's in hot water. I usually have to pay for my own lunches. Gifts to a man in a policy-making position will color his outlook," he said.

"I've never had an offer of anything substantial," Councilman Robert Jahn said.

He said one Christmas he received a box of cheese and he accepted and kept it.

"If it were anything more, I'd send it back," he explained.

He feels it's quite all right for city employees to receive small gifts at Christmas time.

"If you can eat or drink it in one day seems to be the yardstick in use by most cities," Jahn said.

Nab One Suspect in Brawl

Police from four cities broke up a major gang fight on Torrance Beach Friday afternoon, with one youth arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.

Witnesses told officers the brawl began after a group of youths strolled onto the sands with clubs, saps and a sharpened putty trowel, while another fired blank shots in the air with a gun.

The group, said to be from San Pedro, was assailed by other youths, who attempted to disarm them, thereby kicking off a brief but large-scale battle on the hillside behind the lifeguard station.

More than 300 persons flocked to the scene and watched the battle at 2:50 p. m.

The only person arrested was William C. Grondahl, 22, of 1201 W. 81st st., Los Angeles, a service station attendant. Witnesses told police they observed him firing the gun and place it in a car. Officers said they were unable to find the gun in his possession.

Lifeguards said they learned from spectators that several of the youths were injured but none was treated by lifeguard first-aid personnel.

"I guess they dragged their wounded with them," one witness to the fight said.

Another witness said he learned that the group which came armed was from San Pedro, while the ones who fought them were from Narbonne High School.

Torrance police, six men armed with tear gas, which they were not required to use, were reinforced by officers from Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Palos Verdes Estates.

Most of the action took place on the planted hillside east of the sand.

Murder Trial of Nurse Will Start This Wednesday

Trial of Mrs. Mary Strong, 56, on second degree murder charges is scheduled to open in Long Beach Superior Court Wednesday.

Mrs. Strong, a nurse of 2216 W. 236th pl., will be charged with the abortion death of Mrs. Priscilla Young, 37, in her home last March 31.

The defendant will stick to her story that Mrs. Young showed evidence of a miscarriage when she arrived at Mrs. Strong's home the night before her death.

Ray Choate, attorney for Mrs. Strong, said that the case, which is expected to last for three to five days, will be centered on medical testimony.

THEFT FOR THE BIRDS
Theft of \$15 from a dresser drawer was reported to Torrance police by Henry Wolfe of 17812 Florewood ave. He also complained the burglars released his parakeets.

Industry Expansion Seen Here

Two steps to bring additional industrial and apartment developments in the city are now under study by the Planning Commission committees.

Development of industry near the civic center was seen by plans for street development in a triangular 80-acre parcel owned by the Santa Fe Railroad.

The land is bounded on the west by Maple ave., on the south by Maricopa, and on the north and east by the Santa Fe tracks.

Buffer Zone
Planning Director George Powell told the commission he has asked the developers of the property, zoned for heavy industry, to create a buffer system north of and parallel to Maricopa.

The buffer would consist of a 50-foot-wide planter strip north of Maricopa and a 60-foot service road north of the planted area.

Powell said that streets will be installed by the developer, listed as Central Manufacturing District, Inc.

Apartment Units
With an eye to pressure for additional apartment development near the Del Amo Shopping Center, the commission also appointed a committee to study the creation of a buffer strip north of Sepulveda blvd.

Powell proposed that the area bounded by Monterey and Jefferson sts. from Crenshaw blvd. to Maple ave. be rezoned to R-3. This would create a buffer between an R-2 area to the north and industrial land south of Jefferson, he said.

Slate Ice Rink
Plans for the development of property at 230th st. and Hawthorne blvd. with an ice-skating rink, stores, car wash and service station will be submitted to the City Council next month.

Application for a variance was made to the Planning Commission by Joe-Don Enterprise, Inc.

Bond Issue for Elementary School Building Seen Here

A bond election to get additional money to continue the Torrance Schools elementary building program may be needed this fall, assistant superintendent S. E. Waldrip told the board of education Tuesday night.

Waldrip presented figures indicating that the district is nearing the end of the \$10,000,000 approved by the voters in 1955 to finance the building of new elementary schools.

To be eligible for state aid funds in school building, the district must be bonded to 95 per cent of its capacity. Additional sale of bonds will bring the district below that figure later this year, Waldrip said.

Torrance receives state aid for its elementary building program, but the high school building program is maintained entirely through local taxes and other funds.

County to Raise Tax Eight Cents

Last vain attempt by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to hold the line on taxes and bring about a six-cent reduction below this year's rate, failed this week as the County Board of Supervisors adopted a record-breaking budget of nearly \$434 million and boosted the tax rate eight cents to a final figure of slightly more than \$2 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Emphasizing that the time to cut the tax rate is while the budget is being adopted, not when the taxpayers receive their bills, Hahn submitted a list of projects totaling \$14,600,000 that he urged be cut out of the budget.

"The taxpayers will not fully understand the results of the all time high county budget until they receive their tax bills during the first week of November."

Hahn reminded the Board of Supervisors during the debate on the budget that after last year's protest on taxes, members of the board all pledged themselves to help reduce the county taxes.

Southwood Home Owners to Protest Assessment Hikes

Letters of protest against increases in assessment and taxes will be sent by the Southwood Home Owners Association as a result of a mass meeting at the Anza School Wednesday.

Nearly 400 persons jammed the school to receive a report from the association's officers on their findings during a visit to County Assessor John Quinn earlier that day.

President Lee G. Sechler reported that land values were raised but not the assessment budget of nearly \$434 million and boosted the tax rate eight cents to a final figure of slightly more than \$2 per \$100 assessed valuation.

He said that he estimates it will cost the average home owner an additional \$25 to \$40 a year provided the present total tax rate is raised from \$7.3511 to \$8 per \$100 assessed valuation.

Protest Letters
Sechler said that the association will send out letters objecting to tax or assessment increases to Quinn, the board of supervisors and local governmental agencies.

The county this week approved a tentative budget which will raise its tax rate by 8 cents to \$2, while the Torrance Unified School District expects to hike its rate by 20 cents from \$2.91. The city's rate is expected to remain the same.

Another home owners association, the Southwest Park Improvement Association, has shelved any action until President Roger P. (Pat) Hogue re-



SCHOLASTIC PRIZE—Walter Sapp, North High School graduate, receives \$2500 scholarship from M. D. Schwartz, left, president of Pacific Smelting Company, as his father, John Sapp, looks on. —Press Photo



BIG MEAL, BIG MENU—Dr. Rollin R. Smith, chairman of the YMCA Good Neighbor Breakfast Oct. 18, and Paul Biernam, YMCA secretary, study oversized menu. Meal, which will feed 3000 persons to assist 5500 youngsters, will require 60 pounds of coffee, 600 pounds of sausage, two barrels of pancake flour, 187 gallons of orange juice and 1000 pints of milk. —Press Photo