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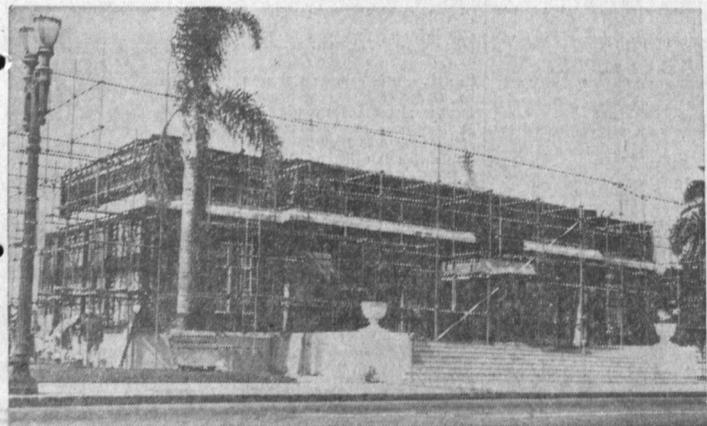
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1959

NUMBER 44

Change of the Times



PILE OF RUBBLE—That's what the Civic Auditorium looks like during reconstruction of former municipal structure to a bank building. Workmen started chopping down interior last week and will turn to the exterior this week. —Press Photo



FACE-LIFTING—Former city hall is being remodeled to suit its future purposes as office for Home Savings and Loan Association. Delay in shipment of Italian marble will probably delay completion until after Oct. 1. —Press Photo

Youth Arrested in Stolen Auto Chase

'Freeloader' Label Given Commission

Planning Commissioners were labeled "a bunch of freeloaders" Wednesday night during a hearing on an ordinance to set up a downtown apartment house district. The remark was made by Arthur Lamb, 2223 Gramercy Ave., who claimed the commission expects residents to move out of the area.

"Nobody up here is getting paid," Commission President Bert Lynn shot back.

He explained that the ordinance, if approved, creates an R-R-3 zone which provides that present structures must be removed completely before new apartment construction can begin to prevent the area from becoming cross-grained with rooming houses additions and slum-breeding structures.

Approximately 50 persons opposed the change during the first of two hearings to be conducted by the commission. Following the next hearing on Oct. 7, the case will go before the City Council.

The area eyed for the new zone is bounded by Carson St., Plaza del Amo, Arlington and Cabrillo Aves.

Lynn further explained that if the rezoning is approved, nobody will have to move unless he wants to develop his property with apartments.

City Hit on Street Condition

Demand for a more satisfactory solution to an alleged unsanitary condition of Bluff St. was made this week by Helen M. Sadlon, spokesman for a group of residents.

She said following the original petition to remove stagnant water from the street, the city repaved the end of the road. But after that, a fire hydrant in Palos Verdes was opened to flush the debris.

In her letter to the City Council she said that a thick coat of mud is now on the street, which is tracked into driveways and garages and causes small children to fall.

"If this is what you feel is a remedy to the situation, then we feel that the City of Torrance is indeed in very poor hands and that the city certainly has little to hope for in the way of progress as a beautiful and healthful city," Mrs. Sadlon wrote.

"We are very unhappy with this situation and your so-called solution of it and demand that something further be done for a better and more permanent solution," she added.

Navy Site School Hits Snag

Development of the Navy Depot site for industrial research use instead of a high school was urged Wednesday by Bert Lynn, president of the Planning Commission.

He requested city administrators, the Chamber of Commerce and brokers all over the county to point out the availability of the land to firms which could locate research centers here.

The 25-acre parcel on Crenshaw Blvd. between Carson St. and Sepulveda Blvd., is expected to be sold at auction to the highest bidder after being recently designated as surplus by the Defense Department.

First to call attention to the site was Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, who suggested that the Board of Education eye it as the location of a fifth high school in Torrance.

Lynn's suggestion for industrial use apparently runs counter to school officials' ideas for the property.

Restrooms Needed

An Editorial

Sale of the Civic Auditorium has brought some major problems to the Recreation Department, but one that has been overlooked so far is equally worthy to note.

This is the closing of the public comfort stations located at the corner of Cravens Ave. and El Prado. While the city fathers undoubtedly are burdened down with far greater problems than the disappearance of a restroom, to the people in the downtown area lack of a comfort station is of some concern.

The public stations housed in the auditorium were the only ones easily accessible to people who come downtown.

We understand that even service stations have lately succumbed to a trend of installing pay toilets to discourage their use by non-customers.

Certainly comfort stations are vitally needed and the city could perform a great service by installing some facilities downtown, either in El Prado Park or at the new bus station at the Torrance-Sartori-Engracia triangle park.

Uproots Lawn, Hits Vehicle

A 16-year-old youth was captured by police early yesterday after a fast-paced chase during which one car was struck and lawns uprooted.

Officers Jerry Snyder and Philip Joseph said they first noticed the car, later discovered stolen from Riverside, at Hawthorne and Torrance Blvds. while it was engaging in a race with a pickup truck.

When the officers attempted to halt the passenger car, it veered across the center divider and raced through the Sears parking lot, smashing into the cement curbs.

The fleeing car left the lot on Sepulveda and ran over a lawn in front of 3530 Sepulveda Blvd. It turned several more corners and tore through the parkway in front of 22409 Madison St. and rolled across another lawn before it was finally halted when it crashed into a parked car.

Officers said that the driver of the vehicle darted across the backyards of houses in the area and disappeared. The 16-year-old passenger, a Redondo Beach youth was arrested.

New Traffic Rule Bared by Chace

New traffic and parking regulations in various portions of the Fourth Supervisorial District were disclosed today by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Chace said, after consultation with the County Traffic Committee, he recommended the following which were approved by the Board of Supervisors:

(1) Adopting an order prohibiting parking on any day except Sunday on the east side of Eshelman Ave. from a point 150 feet south of the south property line of 254th St. to a point 837 feet south of said south property line. Revision of the regulations in this area will provide parking space for a church in the vicinity on Sunday.

(2) Place boulevard stops on each side of Cypress St. at its intersections with 248th St. and 255th St. in the Lomita District. Chace also recommended that the County Road Department make an additional investigation at the intersection of Cypress and 247th St. now that the school term is open again in order to determine the traffic pattern, including school child pedestrian movements at this location.

(3) Traffic control signals at Vermont Ave. and 220th St. in order to more adequately control potential conflict at the intersection.

(4) Boulevard stop signs on each side of Crest Road at its intersection with Crenshaw in the Palos Verdes district.

The Los Angeles County Traffic Committee, which approved the changes, consists of representatives from the Automobile Club of Southern California, the California Division of Highways, California Highway Patrol and the Los Angeles County Road Department.

Driver of Car Which Hit Train Said Recovering

The driver of a convertible which crashed into a train Tuesday and killed her passenger, was reported in "good" condition, Harbor General Hospital officials reported yesterday.

Mrs. Susan A. Love, 26, of 25220 Loyton St., suffered a fractured leg and neck injuries in the accident which caused fatal injuries to her companion, Mrs. Juanita Buchanan, 27, of 21733 Barbara St.

The death left seven children motherless.

The crash occurred Tuesday night when the two women, employees of a Torrance insurance firm returned from bowling. The car in which they were riding rammed the front end of a diesel engine pulling freight cars at Torrance Blvd. and Madrid St.

Enrollment Here ZOOMS to 25,000 Mark First Week

Enrollments in Torrance schools hit 25,053 at the end of the first week of school, according to officials.

Total enrollments included 20,039 elementary students, 4930 in high school, and 84 in special classes. Kindergartners outnumbered high school seniors by 3055-970, indicating even larger enrollments in the future.

By classes, the enrollments were as follows:

Kindergarten, 3055; first grade 2489; second grade, 2416; third, 2236; fourth, 2019; fifth, 2088; sixth, 1935; seventh, 1891; eighth, 1767; ninth, 1387; tenth, 1336; eleventh, 1132; and twelfth, 970.

Bids Received for Employment Office Building

Contract for the construction of a California State Employment office is expected to be awarded by the end of the month.

A low bid of \$205,810 was submitted this week by Ruane Corp. to the State Division of Architecture. A total of seven bids, ranging up to \$224,000 were received.

The 11,000 square foot building would be constructed on land on the northeast corner of Cravens and Engracia Aves. It is expected the structure will be completed in the middle of next year.

Presently the office is located in leased space at 2007 W. Carson St.

AIRBORNE SOLDIER

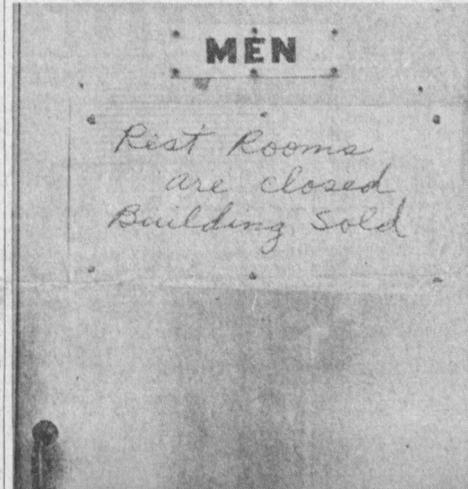
Alexander Denecochea, who lives at Torrance Hotel is the father of Army Pvt. Alexander D. Denecochea, who was recently assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

STUDY REZONING

A petition by Walter L. and Nellie E. Lipper to rezone an 0.8 acre parcel west of Figueroa St. and 500 feet north of 213th St., from agricultural to manufacturing, is being studied by the County Regional Planning Commission.

GETS COMMISSION

Ronald V. Larson, son of Major and Mrs. V. E. Larson, of 1605 Crenshaw Blvd., received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force during commissioning ceremonies for ROTC cadets held at the University of Texas on Aug. 20.



DISPOSSESSED—Public comfort stations in Civic Auditorium, which is now owned by the Security-First National Bank, were closed this week with the notice that the building has been sold. —Press Photo



ROUND AND ROUND—Shelly Gartner, 5, held by Recreation Department at eight parks in city. Sea-Aire Park. Activities for pre-schoolers are

Missing Girls, 10, Returned

Two 10-year-old Gardena girls who spent the night near a riding stable, were finally found Friday morning in Torrance by their teacher.

Nearly 100 persons, including police and their parents searched frantically all night for the pair before they were finally discovered at 227th St. and Denker Ave. Friday at 9:30 a.m.

The girls, Kathleen Louise Baker, of 16227 Dalton Ave., and LaNea Blanche Hammer, of 1556 W. 162nd St., both fifth graders at the Denker Ave. School, decided to stay out all night because they had previously been punished for not coming home on time.

The youngsters were last seen at approximately 6 p.m. Thursday near Artesia Blvd. and Western Ave.

They were finally spotted Friday morning by Mrs. Marie Bunch, a teacher, who was unaware that they were missing. When she heard about the disappearance, she told police she had seen them.

The youngsters were finally found an hour later, grimy and tired.

Convicted Killers to Appeal for New Hearing

Hearing on a motion for a new trial was set for next Friday for four men convicted of the first degree murder of a San Diego tavern owner.

The quartet, including Henry Thwaites, 46, a Torrance longshoreman, are expected to be sentenced to life imprisonment on the same day if their motion fails.

Thwaites, along with Wilfred Sonny Robearge, 49, of Manhattan Beach, Victor F. Buono, 50, and Ernest N. Murray, 45, of Perris, were tried for the slaying of Tony Mirabile, San Diego bar owner, shot last December.

The jury which convicted them also recommended life imprisonment for the defendants.

Low Cost per Pupil Saved in Tax Rate

The fact that Torrance Schools' costs per pupil were lowest in the county instead of "average" saved local taxpayers 79 cents per \$100 assessed valuation last year, Superintendent J. H. Hull told the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Figures compiled by the County Superintendent of Schools indicated that in 1958-59, Torrance's cost per pupil again were lowest in the county. At \$343.22 per pupil, Torrance was some \$57 lower than the county average, \$400.75. Highest was \$610.

If Torrance had been "average" last year, the budget would have been \$1,425,000 larger and the tax rate 79 cents higher, he said.

"Torrance emphasizes spending money where it affects children directly and emphasizes streamlined operations," Hull said. "It is a relatively new district and has some lower costs for that reason. As the district grows older, buildings grow older, teachers advance on salary schedules, and costs increase."



DOWN SHE GOES—Janet Lee, 2 1/2, gets thrill out of zippy ride on slide in Walteria Park. Now that the older children are back in school, the toddlers have a clear field for their activities.