

Councilmen Relax Ban Against Junkets

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BATTLING FLAMES . . . Torrance firemen spent nearly an hour yesterday noon battling flames which enveloped the Solvent Coating Corp. plant at 1031-33 Engracia Ave. near downtown Torrance. Much of the

7500-sq. ft. building was destroyed when solvent used in preparing special paper products erupted in flames. Damage will exceed \$100,000 it was estimated. (Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

\$100,000 Fire Hits Local Paper Firm

Flames Destroy Factory

By HAROLD W. FISHER

Press-Herald Staff Writer

Flames which apparently erupted when burning paper was moved from an oven into a bath of flammable solvent destroyed a Torrance manufacturing plant and threatened an adjacent warehouse operated by the firm here Tuesday noon.

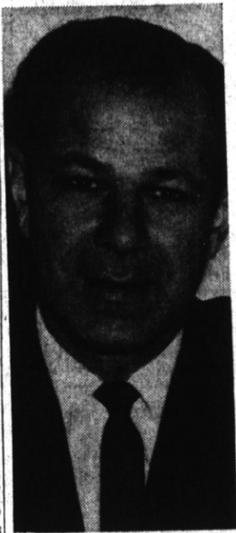
Firemen answering the two-alarm blaze under the command of Acting Chief Robert Lucas took nearly an hour to control the flames which sent a huge tower of black smoke billowing into the sky, attracting thousands of onlookers.

President David J. Morrison of the Solvent Coating Corp., 1031-33 Engracia Ave., told the Press-Herald that the firm made tracing paper for the government and for the aerospace industry. He said 27 persons were in the building when flames erupted shortly after 11:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Morrison said the paper was being fed through a converting oven and into a solvent bath made up of resin and kerosene. Some of the paper apparently flamed up in the oven and ignited the solvent bath when it came into contact with it, he said. Morrison estimated the damage to the equipment and contents of the building at \$150,000 and said another \$80,000 damage may have been done to the building. Fire officials said later that the damage would probably exceed \$100,000.

The building was declared a total loss, although flames were stopped short of an office which contained many of the firm's important records. A warehouse next door which had just been completed and occupied by the firm contained much of the inventory which would have been in the plant a few days earlier, Morrison said. The new warehouse received only a minimal amount of smoke damage, firemen indicated.

Four engines, a ladder truck, and a salvage unit were sent to battle the fire in the plant, which serves as the main headquarters for the firm. No injuries to company personnel or to firemen were reported.



BERT M. LYNN
Board President

Lynn Named New Board President

Bert M. Lynn, a member of Family YMCA and has served on the executive committee of the Western Little League Tournament.

He and his wife have two sons, Bart, 14, and Brian, 18. The family lives at 1208 Greenwood Ave.

A charter member of the Sam Levy Chapter of the City of Hope, he is active in numerous civic and charitable organizations.

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, elected to the board in 1965, was named vice president.

Mrs. Pauline (Polly) Watts was seated for her second term.

Dr. Kurt Shery, also re-elected in the April 18 election, was absent from Monday's session. Dr. Shery, who was stricken last Thursday with an apparent heart attack, remains in Torrance Memorial Hospital where his condition is reported as fair.

Lynn, a resident of Torrance for some 22 years, served from 1956 until 1961 on the city's Planning Commission. He is a past board chairman of the Torrance

Gas Leak Blamed as Man Dies

Inert poisonous fumes killed one man and critically injured another employe working at the Shell Chemical rubber plant in Carson Monday.

Don Mackey, 35, of 5203 Doris Way, Torrance, was pronounced dead on arrival at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

At the same hospital Roy E. Dean, 23, of 14812 Chadron St., Gardena, was in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

Shell officials said Dean and Mackey were working in a pit at the plant attempting to close a water line valve which ran beneath the butadiene chemical section when the fatal gas escaped.

Both men inhaled the fumes before they could escape. Company investigators are trying to determine the cause of the leak, it was reported.

Supervisors Refuse Billion-Plus Budget

(Special to the Press-Herald)
In a surprise move late Tuesday, the County Board of Supervisors refused to accept the new county preliminary budget of \$1,223,251,469 which had been submitted to them earlier in the day.

Four of the supervisors got up and walked out of the

auditorium. Supervisor Burton W. Chace was reported out of town and did not attend the meeting.

BY THEIR unprecedented action, the supervisors are in danger of violating one of their own ordinance which stipulates that a preliminary

budget must be accepted by May 5. Technically, the board has until July 20 to adopt a preliminary budget under state law.

The preliminary budget would mean a tax raise of 25 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, according to figures submitted by Chief Administrative Officer L. S. Hollinger.

Last year's budget called for an expenditure of \$1,179,162,321 and boosted the tax rate at that time to a high of \$2.38 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

TO THE OWNER of a home valued at \$20,000, the tax increase would mean about \$12.55 more per year in property taxes with the home assessed at 25 per cent of its market value or \$5,000.

One of the highest recommendations was \$437,427,518 for public welfare. This includes an increase of \$55,681,194.

Another big increase was a \$22,273,228 hike in salaries for 42,000 county employes. This does not take into account requests from Sheriff Peter Pitchess, the coroner, the health department, probation department, and others for an additional \$13 million.

"IT CERTAINLY is going to be distasteful if anything like a 25-cent per \$100 tax increase is placed upon the overburdened taxpayer," Supervisor Frank G. Bonelli said.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said flatly that he "will not support this budget. It is too high and we don't have to buy it."

Public hearings on the preliminary budget will begin June 10 and continue until a preliminary budget is adopted. The county must begin operating on the new budget as of July 1.

City Dump Vetoed by Councilmen

A proposal to establish a municipal dump on a 42-acre site northwest of the Torrance Civic Center was quietly abandoned by Torrance councilmen last night.

Councilmen unanimously voted without comment to accept a report of its Public Works Committee which recommended that the proposals be filed.

The report was signed by J. A. Beasley, David K. Lyman, and Ken Miller. Lyman was not present at last night's meeting.

THE COMMITTEE report noted that some persons have expressed concern that the proposed dump would be too close to residential areas. The committee also said it was influenced by a "feeling that the city should not be in the dump business."

Following the vote, a motion by Mayor Albert Isen calling for the city's studies of the proposed dump site to be forwarded to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (See CITY DUMP on A-2)

Brief City Ban On Travel Ends

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald City Editor
Torrance councilmen last night ended their brief, self-imposed ban on travel outside the city.

The move, approved by a 5-1 vote, came on motion of J. A. Beasley. Councilman David K. Lyman was absent and Mayor Albert Isen voted against the proposal.

The ban was adopted last February as an "economy move" when Isen questioned a request for two members of the city's Planning Commission to travel to Texas for a convention.

AT THE Feb. 7 meeting, Isen indicated he wanted to "clarify" remarks made a week earlier and Councilman George Vico abruptly moved to cancel all travel. The motion was approved with Beasley dissenting.

Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta Sr. last night described that move as "foolish" and said the council "did this on the spur of the moment." Sciarrotta said the council acted on "the theory someone was going to expound on this and make us all look silly."

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier will be the first to benefit from the new move.

Remelmeier will leave today to attend a conference in Sacramento.

THE UNITED States Conference of Mayors is scheduled to meet in Honolulu, Hawaii, later this spring.

Beasley last night indicated he wanted the council's Finance Committee to study the matter of a policy on travel. Ken Miller warned that he would not vote to send the matter back to committee since a special three-man committee had been unable to meet on the issue.

The committee was to have met last Friday, but Isen withdrew from the group at the last minute. He said last night he withdrew "because I could not serve and then be a critic to a recommendation I knew would come out of the meeting."

MILLER said he favored returning to a policy established two years ago.

Isen, noting that a blanket ban on all travel for a 15-month period would save some \$38,000 in expenditures, said he felt it was time to look at the policy "regardless of the past." He is unhappy about the provisions for members of the city's advisory groups, he said.

Ex-Officer's Wife Sues On Sergeant's Promotion

A law suit charging that the promotion of a Torrance police officer was illegal has been filed against the city by the wife of a retired police officer and the Torrance Police Officers' Association.

Top city officials were served with papers yesterday. Police Sergeant Thomas H. Woodriddle, whose promotion triggered the legal move, also was served.

The suit was filed by Mrs. Yvonne Nicolai and the Tor-

rance Police Officers' Association on behalf of the city's taxpayers and the officers of the Torrance Police Department.

It seeks to have the position now occupied by Woodriddle declared vacant and filled by normal civil service procedures and also asks that each of 10 top city officials repay funds which were paid to Woodriddle.

At issue is the procedure whereby Woodriddle was "blanketed-in" the rank of

Youth Gets Six Months For Theft

An 18-year-old Torrance youth has been sentenced to 180 days in the county jail on a charge of attempted grand theft.

Daniel Raymond Siacotos, arrested last Feb. 27 in connection with an attempted purse snatch in the West Torrance area, has been placed on probation for three years. He must serve the first 180 days in jail.

Judge Bernard Lawler also ordered Siacotos not to drive a motor vehicle until he has been properly licensed as a condition of his probation. Siacotos pleaded guilty March 21 in Superior Court.

New Court Date Given Arizona Man

William Popeye White, 19, of Phoenix, Ariz., Monday was ordered to answer a charge of child molestation in Superior Court.

White, who was arrested April 16 in Arizona and extradited to Torrance, is accused of molesting a 13-year-old Torrance girl last Feb. 20.

He was ordered to appear in Department A of the Southwest Superior Court May 15. He remains in custody in lieu of \$2,200 bail.

Area Man Released To Sheriff

A 23-year-old Hawthorne man arrested last Friday by Torrance police investigating the robbery of a local market has been released to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Police said Douglas C. Miller, 23, of 11305 1/2 Burin Ave., had escaped from the Lakewood Sheriff's Station. Robbery charges against Miller have been dropped, it was reported.

A 22-year-old widow arrested with Miller also has been released, police said. Jerlyn Faye Zimmerman was taken into custody at the Burin Avenue address when police found what they believed to be marijuana in a kitchen cabinet.

Science Fair to Open

Some 300 exhibits prepared by students in the city's elementary schools will be on display tomorrow and Friday during the second annual Elementary Science Fair, to be held at the Torrance Recreation Center. Judges will tour the exhibit tomorrow between 1 and 3 p.m. The fair will be open to the public from 9 a.m. until noon tomorrow and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday. Awards will be presented at 7 o'clock Friday evening.

Rafferty to Speak Here

Dr. Max Rafferty, state superintendent of public instruction, will be the featured speaker Thursday, June 1, at the annual Spartan Laurels banquet at South High School. The banquet honors students for their achievements in non-athletic areas. Tickets for the banquet, which will be open to the public, may be reserved at \$2 per person.

Torrance Major Dies in Combat

Air Force Major Morrison A. Cotner, whose wife lives here at 23436 Evalyn Ave., became the community's eleventh Vietnam war casualty of 1967 on April 28 when a light observation plane he was piloting crashed into the South China Sea near Nha Trang. A 15-year veteran of Air Force service, Major Cotner had been on duty in Vietnam since last August. Full details of the officer's death have not been reported.