

'Was to Meet Someone In Japan' Youth Tells Vetterli Jury

Official Demands Apology; 'No' Says City Councilman City's Worth Up Only 4 Per Cent

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

37th YEAR—No. 28

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1951

20 PAGES

5¢
Delivered By Mail
\$2 Yearly



EARNING HIS FINIS . . . Jo Ann Herbst, a recreation director at El Retiro Park, gives Johnny Borman a swimming lesson during the first city-sponsored trek to Alondra Park pool on Tuesday. More than 300 kids made the trip the first day. The Torrance Kiwanis Club has underwritten the cost of hauling local youngsters to the pool twice weekly. Kids between 6 and 12 may register at any park in Torrance. The trips are made Tuesday and Thursdays.—(Herald Photo)

Rookie Cops Pull Neat Bluff on Sink Bandits

Two rookie Torrance policeman this week borrowed a trick from the poker table—"the bluff," to capture two men stealing a sink and dishwasher from a new home tract.

Although unarmed, Officers Jay H. Stroh and Bruce Gooler shouted to one of the suspects:

"Come on out from under there or we will blast you out."

Water Manager Ends 17 Years Of City Service

Upon the completion of his vacation on August 15, William H. "Bill" Stanger, superintendent of the Torrance Water Department will end a career of public service to this city dating back 17 years.

Stanger, one-time Mayor of Torrance, tendered his resignation at a meeting of the Torrance Water board (same membership as the City Council) on Tuesday July 3 after he suffered a mild heart attack that day.

"I have had three doctors tell me to quit before they have to carry me out. As long as I am paying them for advice I guess I had better take it," explained Stanger.

ELECTED MAYOR IN '36

Once a field service representative of The National Supply Company, Stanger first entered the civic picture in 1934 when he was appointed to serve out the unexpired term of the late C. Earl Conner as a member of the Torrance City Council. He ran for the office and was elected at the next election. He was elected Mayor in 1936.

He resigned in 1937 to accept the position as Superintendent of the Torrance Water department.

RESIDENT SINCE '17

Stanger has been a resident of Torrance since he first came here in 1917 with the exception of two years he served with the Navy during World War I. He worked for the National Supply until December 1929 when he was a victim of a hit and run accident that put him on crutches for four and a half years.

In effect, Stanger's long career of public service will end on August 1 when he will clear off his desk top to start a two-week vacation. His successor for the present is Angus McVicar, assistant superintendent of the Water Department. His permanent successor will be picked following a civil service examination for the job.

TAKE IT EASY

Don't plan to do much in my spare time—can't do much if I follow the advice of the med-ics," said Stanger. "Just sit on the porch and take things easy."

He lives at 1605 Cota avenue with his wife Cleora, who served as first Matron of the Torrance Chapter of Eastern Star, Mrs.

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'Making Every Effort to Get Hospital'—King

Representative Cecil R. King (D-Calif.), writing about the proposed Naval hospital to be located in the harbor area, told the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board this week that: ". . . every effort is being made to locate the facility in the San Pedro area."

King's letter to C. J. "Paddy" Ryan, president of the local realty group, was in answer to the realty board's telegram urging King to back the proposal for the hospital to be located in this area.

The board had suggested the possible use of a Navy-owned site at Western avenue and Palos Verdes Drive, now used as a storage for surplus landing craft. Enclosed with King's letter was a communication from Under Secretary of the Navy Dan H. Kimball. The high Navy official explained that the site was also being used for another Navy use which would not make it desirable as a hospital site.

Although he could offer little news that was definite concerning a near-by site, Kimball did state that no decision had been made regarding the type, size, or location of the proposed hospital.

Vetterli Perjury Trial Opens in Federal Court

A strange tale of spying in Japan was recounted yesterday by a young Japanese-American at the perjury trial of Clarence H. Vetterli, 41-year-old El Camino College journalism instructor.

Taking the stand yesterday in the trial which opened before U.S. Judge Pierson M. Hall Tuesday, Ted Miwa testified that Vetterli gave him \$600 in 1941 and told him to go to Japan where he would be contacted by an "unknown person."

Miwa testified that he was told to wear a panama hat and smoke a cigar while standing under a famous Tokyo statue. He said "someone" was to meet him there. After waiting three days and three nights, Miwa said, he was approached by no one.

The young Japanese-American said Japan got "too hot" for him, and he returned to the United States by way of the Philippines. He said he joined the Army after returning to the States.

REPEATS ORDERS

Under questioning by U. S. Attorney Ernest Tolin, Miwa said he had distinct orders from Vetterli to ignore any instructions he might receive which would endanger his citizenship rights, or be adverse to United States interests.

The purpose of the Japanese trip was to work against the Tojo-led government, he testified.

Vetterli was indicted for allegedly giving false testimony to a Federal grand jury in 1949 during its investigation into espionage cases. He tried to plead guilty to one of the charges when he originally appeared before U.S. Judge William M. Byrne last May 22, but the judge refused to accept his plea and ordered the case transferred to Judge Hall for trial.

The El Camino instructor allegedly denied furnishing Miwa, a Japanese merchant, money to go to Japan in 1941. He also denied that he knew Ignacy Samul Witezak was a Communist agent. Witezak fled the country in 1945 after he was named a member of a Canadian Russian spy ring.

Vetterli lives at 17107 Crenshaw boulevard in North Torrance.



FIRST THINGS FIRST . . . Firemen spray water on the tall timbers of this burning oil derrick which threatened several homes in the Kettler Knolls area last Friday afternoon. A slipping bull wheel belt is believed cause of the fire which did an estimated \$2500 to \$3000 damage to the rig.—(Herald Photo).

FINE METED OUT TO GAS PIRATES

Two service station operators who hijacked their gasoline by tapping a General Petroleum Corp. gasoline line were jailed yesterday after paying \$200 fines.

Bernard D. Schaffer, 31, and Raymond C. Lloyd, 31, both pleaded guilty to 10 counts of petty theft and were fined and sentenced to 180 days in jail.

Busy Firemen:

No Chance to Cool Off 'Twixt Derrick Fires

Three oil derrick and sump fires, one of which threatened several homes in Kettler Knolls, kept Torrance firemen on the go this week.

Most spectacular of the three was an oil derrick fire which destroyed a wooden rig at 236th street and Walnut street last Friday afternoon.

The blaze, sending a dense black curtain of rolling smoke into homes adjacent to the fire, had several homeowners spraying water on fences and roofs.

Damages to the rig was estimated at \$2500 to \$3000. Owner of the derrick was listed as D. W. Elliott of Long Beach. A slipping belt on the bull wheel is believed to have ignited the tower. Earlier the same afternoon Torrance firemen were called to extinguish a grass fire near the destroyed derrick.

On Saturday, July 7, the local fire department rolled in answer to a fire call that a pile of derrick timbers were ablaze opposite West 229th street. A grass fire is believed to have ignited the timbers owned by the Segundo Oil Company, Torrance Well Number One.

On Monday morning the Central Torrance station equipment sped to 236th street between Eshelman and Arlington avenues to squelch a grass fire which got out of control and set fire to a small oil pump. The property is owned by C. T. Rippey and J. W. Robinson.

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Demands Public Apology

Had it happened 100 years ago instead of at the Torrance City Council meeting Tuesday night, it might well be that a councilman and a transportation executive would be meeting today to settle with pistols a matter of honor.

Slapped was Councilman Nick Dralle by a literary glove in letter form which was wielded by C. L. Craven, a leading transportation consultant, who indicated he had been insulted by remarks alleged to have been made by the city councilman.

HIRED BY CITY

Craven, hired by the city to attempt to find out "Why is it costing the city \$30,000 a year to operate the city garage?" demanded an apology from Dralle for remarks the councilman is alleged to have made and which appeared in a local newspaper (not the Torrance Herald).

"While I am sympathetic with the natural desire of an elected public official to see his name in the paper and to pose as a friend of local business," wrote Craven, "I resent very seriously the liberties that Mr. Dralle has taken with my personal reputation."

"... These statements reflect upon my personal integrity," Craven said.

OBJECTED TO QUOTE

Craven objected to a quote by Dralle in which he claimed "Most" of the purchases for the city garage and bus department were going to the Harval Truck and Equipment Company in Los Angeles.

Craven had suggested that the city could save money at the Los Angeles firm because of a fleet discount offered by the firm.

"The fact is that during May and June, the period I was employed as Automotive Engineer, a total of \$1908 was spent by the city garage and bus department, and of this sum only \$145 was spent with

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Council Okays:

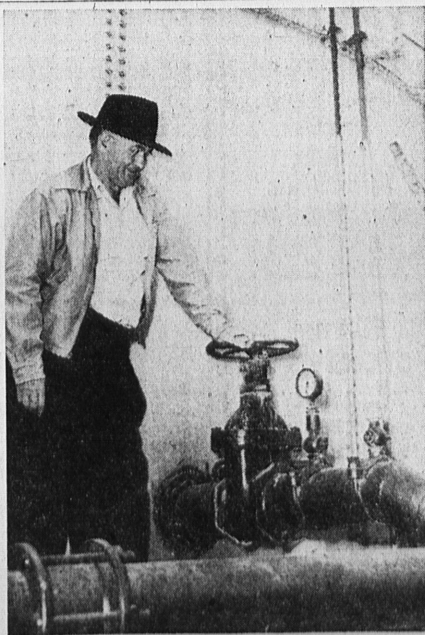
\$1000 Per Year Salary Increase To City Manager

In view of a three-year contract and a \$1000 per year salary increase granted Tuesday night, City Manager George Stevens said yesterday he was withdrawing his application for the same job with the city of Arcadia.

Granting of the salary boost, the first for the city manager since he came to Torrance three years ago, was voted by the Torrance City Council in a regular meeting Tuesday night.

The increase brings his total yearly salary to \$11,000. Stevens said he would have accepted the Arcadia position if offered because the position paid more money.

The motion to grant the increase passed four to one—Councilman Nick Dralle dissenting.



WILLIAM H. "BILL" STANGER
... Shuts Off Long Career of Public Service