

SUSPENDED CITY INSPECTORS DENY LIST OF CHARGES, DEMAND HEARING

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Two Officials File Answers to Ouster

Requests for hearings before the Civil Service Board into charges which led to their suspension from city jobs have been requested by James S. Dresser, head of the city's building department, and his assistant, Cecil Smith.

In an answer to a letter listing the charges, Dresser denied that his suspension was "for the good of the service."

Answering a charge that project cards in the permanent files were incomplete, Dresser said if the cards lacked evidence of inspection it was "because of a condition in the office over which I had no control and is in no part chargeable to lack of diligence on my part."

Dresser also denied that he promoted subdivisions on city time or that he was interested financially in any subdivision except property he and his wife owned. The small amount of time he spent on that development was on his own time, he replied.

"I admit having helped prepare plans for residential construction in the City of Torrance and received compensation for this, but I deny doing it on city time," he said. He said he could see nothing wrong in approving plans which he had helped prepare.

Dresser also denied authorizing construction contrary to specifications and he denied altering job permit cards in the office.

"I deny authorizing any work in violation of the Building Code at any time," he stated. He also stated that he has spent much of his own time to assist other employees of the city as well as persons dealing with the city in connection with work of his department.

Smith's answers were similar to those submitted by Dresser, indicating that similar charges had been brought against both. Smith denied that he had failed to make the required four inspections on new homes, that he was careless or negligent in his inspections, or that he had altered job permit cards.

Walter A. Bradford, secretary of the Civil Service Board, said a hearing into the charges would be held by the board, probably about the 14th of April. Suspension of the two inspectors by the Council two weeks ago followed an investigation by City Manager George Stevens ordered as a result of a State investigation into complaints that homes in a North Torrance tract were not satisfactorily built.

State Newcomers Warned on Taxes

Robert C. Kirkwood, chairman of the Franchise Tax Board, yesterday cautioned the many thousands of persons who moved into California during 1953 that they may be liable to file a California income tax return. Those individuals who became residents are taxable on their entire income after becoming residents.

Non-residents are taxable on income for services performed in California and from tangible property located in the state.

Returns for 1953 must be filed by single persons who had a net income of \$2000 or more and married couples who had a net income of \$3500 or more. Any newcomers to California who are uncertain of their residence or income tax status may call at the local office of the Franchise Tax Board at 206 State Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles for assistance.

Bankers Hear Loan Talk

A panel discussion of loan conditions featured the March dinner meeting held in Los Angeles of the Independent Bankers Association of Southern California, of which the Torrance National Bank is a member.

City Engineer Starts Probe Of Weston Hills Drainage

Report Due For Council On April 14

A complete investigation of grading and drainage at the Weston Hills home tract in South Torrance got under way this week as City Engineer Ronald Bishop began a lot-to-lot survey of the area, on orders of the City Council.

The probe was ordered by the Council after Councilman Nick Drake remarked he was tired of hearing charges and counter charges on the matter.

Residents of the area who had appeared before the Council previously complaining returned this week to renew efforts to get the drainage around their homes improved.

Several residents said that driveways, which should drain their yards, were several feet higher than the surrounding area and did not serve as a drain but a dam.

Others reported that recent rains sent water into their homes.

An investigation of every home in the tract is under way by the City's Engineering Department, as a result of the Council's action.

The engineer's report is due at the April 14 meeting of the City Council.



THERE'S A CRITIC . . . Carol Davis, young Torrance High School playwright-director, shows actor Ronald Jadin where to aim as David Smith looks on, pistol in hand. The action took place in the play "Road to Freedom," written by Miss Davis and Carl Larson, which was presented last night as part of the school's annual Original One-Act Play tournament.

THS Girls Given Press Day Awards

Carol Berra and Thelma Smith brought distinction to Torrance High School Friday, winning awards in the feature writing division of the second El Camino College Press Day.

Miss Berra placed second in competition with student contestants from seven high schools in the El Camino College district, with Miss Smith winning honorable mention.

Frank Myers of Inglewood won out over Miss Berra in the feature writing contest, while Joyce Peace, Inglewood, nabbed the editorial section. Virginia Lane, Redondo, and Steve Lester, Leuzinger, were winners in the news and sports fields, respectively.

Also attending from Torrance were Rodney Williams, Jerry Westmoreland, Pat Hanover, Billy Almeida, Frank Sheffield, Ray Webber, and Dick Abbot. The group was under the direction of Myron Roberts, Torrance High School journalism instructor.

Baptist Church Worship Service To Be Televised

The 11 a.m. worship service of the First Baptist Church, 2118 Carson St., will be televised over Channel 11, KTTV, next Sunday morning as part of the "Great Churches of the Golden West" TV series, according to the Rev. C. Miles Northrup, pastor.

Each Sunday morning the television program visits a different Southern church, giving viewers a chance to see the services from their living rooms.

The history of the Baptist Church here will be read as part of the program. To illustrate the history, pictures of the various steps in the church's progression will be shown.

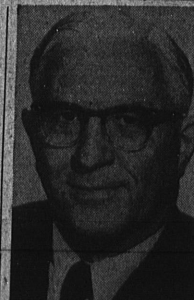
Patrolmen Begin Checking Cars for 1954 Auto Tabs

Motorists who fail to exhibit evidence of 1954 vehicle registration may be questioned by traffic officers, it was reported this week.

Paul Mason, State Director of Motor Vehicles, has notified all traffic law enforcement agencies in the State that 1954 vehicle registrations applied for during the renewal period from Jan. 4 through Feb. 4 have been issued, with the exception of a few, applied for after Feb. 1, which presented complications. "These are being applied for

cleared up at a rapid rate," Mason said.

Visible evidence of registration issued for all vehicles registered in California comprises the single 1954 red tab, which should be attached to the rear license plate, and a 1954 registration card which should be displayed in plain sight in the driver's compartment of the vehicle. Any motorist who has not received the tab should be able to display a receipt or other document of Motor Vehicles as evidence that registration has been applied for.



BURTON CHACE . . . Makes Official Bid

Burton Chace Files Petition

Supervisor Burton W. Chace made his candidacy official this week when he filed his petition for reelection to his post as representative of the Fourth Supervisorial District.

Among those signing the supervisor's petition were Sam Levy, prominent local businessman; Mrs. Ella Schwartz, Democratic leader in the area; and Ben Haggott, developer of Seaside Ranchos.

To date, no opposition has appeared to the candidacy of the popular supervisor.

WEATHER

Sunday drivers will have clear sailing today, according to the Weather Bureau, which predicts "mostly clear today with early morning fog near the coast and little change in temperature, with a high of around 74."

Stolen Payroll Checks Hit Area Detective Warns

Torrance area merchants were warned again yesterday to be on the lookout for another batch of stolen payroll checks which have been showing up here.

Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Dept. said yesterday that 400 checks stolen from a cabinet shop recently have been circulating in the area.

The checks, bearing the imprint of Albert Zeeman and Albert Sacka, are drawn on the Hollywood State Bank and two signatures are required.

Checks cashed here so far have been made out to a Colleen Mae Terry, described as a blonde, 26 to 27 years old. Checks are being passed at shoe stores, music shops, package liquor stores, and super markets, Bennett said.

He asked anyone obtaining such a check to get in touch with him at the Torrance station.

Another warning issued by Bennett concerned a former employee of a Long Beach radio and TV appliance store who has passed checks, usually for \$20, to merchants in Torrance, Redondo, and San Pedro while visiting the store on his rounds. The checks were made out to cash and signed by a Ralph H. Perkins, Bennett said. His account at the bank has been closed.

BPW Endorses Candidacy of Herma Tillim

Herma Tillim, only woman running for the City Council in the forthcoming election, has been endorsed by the National Business and Professional Women's Club, Bess Tufts, corresponding secretary of the local club, reported this week.

Selected by local members as their candidate because "a woman in Council is a must," Mrs. Tillim was screened by the women in politics committee of the Los Angeles Sierra Mar District BPW. Endorsed by this group, she automatically received the approval of the state and national organizations.

The candidate told a neighborhood political gathering in Hollywood Riviera Thursday evening that if elected she would at all times serve the people of Torrance and feel that she was their elected representative.

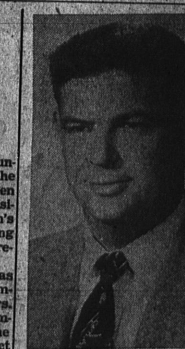
"I will work with others on the Council," she said, "for I am for a unified Torrance. I will work to see Torrance city government, shopping centers, transportation facilities, and recreational facilities meet the increasing population needs."

Torrance is still a city of home owners, Mrs. Tillim continued, but the time is not far away when the expanding population will require more multiple dwellings, creating new problems. (Continued on Page 3)

Soldiers Escape Injury In Crash

A pair of Fort MacArthur soldiers escaped injury early Saturday morning when their car jumped a curb on Calle Miramar and struck a power pole, shearing it off at the base.

Police booked the driver, Carlos Eugene Medley, 21, on a drunk driving charge. His passenger, Charles Sigler, 21, was taken to Harbor General Hospital but was released when it was discovered that he had not been injured in the crash.



MARV KENT . . . 1954 Drive Chairman

Firemen Request Salary Boosts

A request for increases in salaries of local police and fire departments has been taken under advisement by the Council. The Torrance local of the International Association of Fire Fighters, which represents some 100 members of the Torrance department made the request.

Hollywood Riviera Group Backs Blount, White for City Council

Election of Incumbent Willys G. Blount and Candidate Jack E. White to the Torrance City Council at the April 13 election is being recommended by a group of prominent Hollywood Riviera residents following a meeting there Thursday evening.

Organized as the Hollywood Riviera Voters Committee at a meeting held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Antonio DiMayle, 200 Paseo de Gracia, last Thursday, the group composed of prominent community leaders discussed the slate of candidates and agreed to endorse Blount and White for the Council and Mrs. Harriet V. Leach, incumbent, for City Treasurer.

Kent To Head Cancer Drive

Marv Kent of Prudential Insurance has been named 1954 chairman of the Cancer Drive in Torrance city proper, according to Dr. Arthur Berke, last year's chairman.

Walter A. Bradford, secretary of the Civil Service Board, said a hearing into the charges would be held by the board, probably about the 14th of April. Suspension of the two inspectors by the Council two weeks ago followed an investigation by City Manager George Stevens ordered as a result of a State investigation into complaints that homes in a North Torrance tract were not satisfactorily built.

CAP Craft From Local Airport Join Search

Three planes of the Civil Air Patrol, out of Torrance Airport, joined the search yesterday for a yellow Stagger-wing Beechcraft that disappeared enroute to Calico Wednesday night, with a pilot and three beautiful young girls aboard.

Joining in the hunt were Bob and Bert Pinkney, search pilot and observer, of Palos Verdes; Lt. Maurice Allman, search pilot, and Nancy Gessner, observer, and Everett Craig, search pilot and Lee Wynn, observer.

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