

OUSTED CITY OFFICIALS PLAN TO FIGHT DISMISSAL, CLAIM CITY COUNCIL ERRED

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING
—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

10¢
Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday
Home Delivered by Carrier
30 Cents Per Month
(Average 9 Issues per Month)

TORRANCE HERALD

Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at post office Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.
—and Torrance Herald Shopper reach 100,000 Buyers

40th Year—No. 37

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1954

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

12 PAGES

Buried Alive

Cave-In Buries Walteria Lad, Brought Out Safely

Council To Hear Appeal Tuesday

Two discharged city employees will petition the City Council for reinstatement on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to fire them, Attorney John McCall said yesterday.

A petition asking the City Council to rescind its action in discharging Building Inspector James S. Dresser and his assistant, Cecil W. Smith, will be presented to the city, probably tomorrow, McCall told the Herald.

Dresser and Smith, who had been dismissed earlier by the Council, were dismissed two weeks ago when the Council threw out the recommendation of the Civil Service Board who heard their appeals and voted 4-0 for dismissal. The board had recommended suspensions for a period of time, then reinstatement.

McCall said he was basing an appeal for the two employees on his interpretation of the city's civil service ordinance which makes the board's decision final in any matter concerning a civil employee hired or appointed by a department head or the city manager. The attorney says Dresser and Smith were appointed to their positions by City Manager George Stevens, therefore the Council could not override the decision of the civil service board.

Charges Denied

Dresser and his attorney both contend that the findings of guilt on some of the charges of alleged building code violations should be reviewed inasmuch as it appears that no violations existed.

"Our interpretation of the code in many of the respects where we were charged with violations is the same interpretation followed by other agencies using the same code," Dresser said. He pointed out that Los Angeles uses the code and applied it in the same manner. He referred specifically to the charge that he allowed 12-inch foundations where it is contended that the footing should have been 18 inches deep.

McCall, who served the city as City Attorney for a number of years, will present other facts to the Councilmen Tuesday night, he said yesterday.



IN ASCENDANCY . . . Torrance's favorite blonde, Sandra Lea Constance, THS student and "Miss Torrance of 1953" faced the second round of eliminations in "Miss 1954" contest last night in Los Angeles as the judges began to get down to the finer points in classing Southern California beauty.

Weston Hills Home Builder Offers to Correct Drain

A spokesman for developers of the final block of Weston Hills Homes at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw told city officials this week that the firm would take steps to correct the grade on lots in the home tract.

Speaking for Cottage Grove Properties, Inc., was Attorney Gail Eagleton, who said he would appear before the City Council Tuesday evening to formalize an agreement.

The action follows a house-by-house survey of the area by City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop and a series of meetings with homeowners in the area concerning drainage of the lots.

During rains early this year, residents complained that water threatened and in many cases did enter homes. Bishop's survey resulted in a report that the grade on much of the tract

WEATHER

A few showers, probably left over from April, will drizzle down on the May flowers today according to the Weather Bureau, which predicts cloudy weather and occasional drizzles, but pretty sunny skies this afternoon. High temperature should be around 64.



OBSERVANCE ORDERED . . . Mayor Nicholas O. Drahe signs a proclamation naming Saturday as Armed Forces Day here. Looking on are Commander W. P. Watts, executive officer of the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot; Captain P. W. Clarke, commanding officer of the depot; and Lt. Commander Tom Adams.

Armed Forces Day Observances Set

With the theme "Power for Peace," Armed Forces Day will be observed throughout the nation Saturday, May 15. Mayor Nicholas Drahe has issued a proclamation urging all citizens to display the flag that day and to take part in the activities planned at military installations in the Harbor Area.

The Torrance Annex of the Naval Supply Depot, at Plaza Del Amo and Arlington Ave. will celebrate Armed Forces Day with an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will provide elephant train transportation to all areas of the annex, including fire station, salvage yard, garage and machine shop, carpenter shop and drum storage area.



KIWANIS SPEAKER . . . Commander W. P. Watts, executive officer of the U. S. Naval Supply Depot, will kick off Armed Forces Week observances in Torrance tomorrow evening when he addresses the Torrance Kiwanis Club. He will speak on the events which are being planned for Armed Forces Day May 15, and give some background for the celebration.

Mother Claws At Sand Pile, Rescues Son

A seven-year-old Walteria youth, buried for more than five minutes when a sand bank caved in over his head, was resting at home yesterday evening after being brought out of the sand unharmed.

While firemen and police raced to the scene, mother of young Paul Fink frantically dug with her hands and the boy had been lifted out of his near grave just as Engineer Harry Drake and Fireman Ed Polston arrived from the Walteria station. An inhaler squad from the Torrance station arrived at the scene seconds later and the lad was bathed and put to bed—apparently unharmed after the ordeal.

The son of Mr. and Henry Fink, of 2924 Newton St., young Paul had been digging in a gully which runs along the foot of the hill behind his home. He was tunneling into the sand bank when it caved in above him, burying him under several feet of sand.

"I think I'll just play in the sandbox from now on," Paul said later from his bed.

Acosta To Enter Plea Wednesday

Former laborer Corrales Acosta, 25, will enter plea Wednesday on two counts of manslaughter arising from an auto crash at Hawthorne Ave. and Pacific Coast Hwy. in which a mother and her nine-month-old son were killed.

He was arraigned Wednesday in Long Beach Superior Court. The laborer is accused of stealing a taxicab April 3 and running it through a red light at the intersection, where he hit a car driven by Douglas Von Delden and fatally injured Mrs. Patricia Von Delden and her Kim. The husband was also injured in the crash.

Drive for 'Chuckie' Smith Hits \$1000 Mark, To End Wednesday

More than \$1000 has been contributed by generous Torrance citizens to the parents of "Chuckie" Smith, 2½, Walteria lad who is dying of cancer.

St. John Maestri, Torrance police officer, announced that collection jars will be picked up in Torrance tomorrow and in Walteria Wednesday. The drive ends Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith, 3514 Clevelwood St., parents of the incurably stricken child, spent all of their money in attempts to save him and were prepared to sell their home to pay their debts, which amounted to \$1000.

When Torrance residents learned of the family's plight, they responded immediately and started



SCENE OF RESCUE . . . Fireman Ed Polston inspects site of cave-in where 7-year-old Paul Fink of 2924 Newton St., was buried for several minutes yesterday afternoon. This spot is within a few yards of the spot where eight-year-old Robert Holst fell three weeks ago, receiving serious injuries.



LEADERS SWITCH . . . Loring Bigelow (right) and Virgil Hancock (left) steps down as Virgil Hancock takes over the reins of Walteria Businessmen's Assn. Installation of Hancock and his staff took place last Thursday evening at a dinner meeting of the club.

New Officers Seated By Walteria Group

Virgil Hancock became the eighth president of the Walteria Businessmen's Assn., Thursday evening following a dinner meeting of the group in the club room on the Ed Nichols Poultry ranch.

In ceremonies presided over by outgoing president Loring Bigelow, Hancock received the official gavel of office, a hair piece from one of the club's jokesters, and a few words of advice from three of the club's past presidents.

Installed in office with Hancock were Jack Brown, vice-president; Frank Fischer, secretary; Don Whann, treasurer; and Tom Jones, George Olding, and Loring Bigelow, members of the board.

Other action during the evening included reports on the community fair, for which the club indicated that it would enter a candidate in the "Miss Community Fair" contest; a report on the Chuckie Smith fund campaign, and a discussion of final details for the club's annual spring dance at the Fish Shanty Saturday night, May 22.

The club voted \$50 of its funds to aid the family of Chuckie Smith, who is stricken with cancer described as incurable.



HERSCHEL E. POST
Assigned to Torrance

New Pittsburgh Manager Named, Wagen to Leave

Appointment of Herschel E. Post, one of the nation's top authorities on industrial finishes, to be general manager of the Pacific Coast Paint Division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. was announced this week by E. D. Peck, vice-president in charge of the paint and brush division.

Post will succeed A. D. Wagen, who opened the Pacific Coast headquarters here in Torrance about four years ago.

Associated with the paint industry for more than 30 years, Post joined Pittsburgh in 1930 as manager of the Sacramento store after operating his own paint store there for nine years.

In 1932 he was named sales manager for the Oakland district and eight years later was appointed factory manager of the Houston paint division. Since 1942, he has been general sales manager, industrial finishes, at the company's general offices in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Wagen, who has been active in work of the Torrance Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and other civic groups during his four years in Torrance, is being assigned to the Milwaukee division.

Lapidary Show Slated

The Glendale Lapidary and Gem Society will sponsor its seventh annual Gem Show Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16 at the Glendale Civic Auditorium, 1401 Verdugo Rd. Admission is free.