

CITY APPROVES MORTUARY VARIANCE

ESTABLISHED 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

PRINTED AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVENUE IN TORRANCE

Published Sunday and Thursday—Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at postoffice, Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.

40th Year—No. 64

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUG. 12, 1954

PHONE FAirfax 8-4000

13

32 PAGES

SERVING:

Lomita - Harbor City
Walteria - Hollywood Riviera
Seaside - El Nido - North
Torrance - Pacific Hills
Keystone - Avalon Village

10¢ per copy

30¢ per month by Carrier



FLOWERS FOR THE QUEEN . . . Runnerup Ella Mae McLeod looks on as Community Fair Chairman Paul Diamond presents a regal bouquet to Queen Jackie Pagac. Miss Pagac, a 17-year-old beauty, was crowned queen of the fair at ceremonies Wednesday night.

New Fair Queen Is Jackie Pagac

An Auburn-haired, brown-eyed beauty was crowned queen of the Community Fair by Western Star Doye O'Dell yesterday evening in ceremonies marking the start of the five-day event. Jacqueline Pagac, 17, a senior at St. Anthony's High School in Long Beach, leader throughout the contest, was named winner Monday night. Sponsored by the Soroptimist Club, Miss Pagac received 26,670 votes in the contest, followed by Ella Mae McLeod, Lions Club candidate, with 19,255, and Pauline Clueckert, Red and Gun Club nominee, with 13,401. After graduating from St. Anthony's, Miss Pagac hopes to go to drama school in Pasadena and to become a dancer. She is five foot two, and measures 34-24-33. A native of Torrance, she enthusiastically sold tickets for herself, and for the Soroptimist Club, of which her mother is a member. \$700 in Tickets Sold The total number of tickets sold in the queen contest

Dresser Verdict Is Guilty

Former City Building Inspector James Dresser was found guilty on one count of practicing architecture without a license by South Bay Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett yesterday. Dresser's attorney, John E. McCall, indicated that he would file a motion for a new trial. Judge Willett set Monday, Aug. 16, as the date for a hearing on the motion. Both Dresser's attorney and Deputy District Attorney James Ford had submitted briefs in the case. Dresser and his assistant, Cecil Smith, were fired by the City Council following investigation of charges that he had allowed homes in North Torrance to be improperly constructed.

Money, Gals Lead To Jail

A man's biggest problems—money and women—have cost William E. Miller, of Lomita, his freedom. In Long Beach Superior Court Tuesday, Miller admitted writing \$200 in bad checks to help out a Harbor City girl friend. He also admitted writing \$105 in bad checks for another lovely lady last January. If this weren't bad enough, Miller declared that his wife had walked out on him because he didn't have enough money.

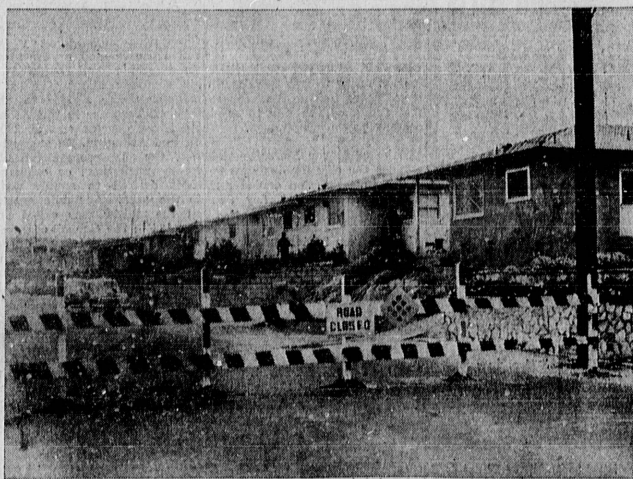
Council Closes Street

As an aftermath to last week's near-riot at the intersection of Torrance's Palos Verdes Parkway and Redondo Beach's Avenue E, the Redondo City Council Monday night ordered a barricade placed across Avenue E. Acting after Avenue E residents placed a barricade of old furniture and lumber across their street, the council decreed an end to traffic from Torrance to Redondo Beach by that route. Police put up the barricade Tuesday. Redondo residents at the council meeting claimed that speeders were using their 30-foot-wide street as a freeway between Torrance and county territory, Avenue E serves a connecting link between Torrance's four-lane Palos Verdes Blvd. and the county's equally wide Prospect Ave. Redondo Beach territory is only a block wide at that point.

The street will remain closed until the matter is resolved," Redondo Mayor J. Russell Shea declared. Richard Newton, field deputy for County Supervisor Burton W. Chase, was on the scene Tuesday, interviewing residents and investigating the situation. Widening Avenue E to the width of Palos Verdes Blvd. would bring the street up to the front doors of residents. The one-block long street is bottleneck to traffic movement between Torrance and western points. Meanwhile, Torrance police received several complaints from Susana Ave. residents that speeders had been diverted from Avenue E to their street. Susana Ave. is less direct route from west Torrance. The situation is confused by the fact that the short block comes under three jurisdictions. Torrance owns a small portion of the east end, Redondo Beach the center, and Los Angeles County a short strip of the west end.

Union Official Sees No Jump in Haircut Prices

Torrance men who had considered that "long look" for their hair after hearing discussions of raising barber prices to \$2 can relax, according to G. J. Berger, secretary-treasurer of Local 861, Barbers' Union. "The matter has never been discussed in union meetings, and is not likely to be, at least for the present," he declared yesterday. At the convention of California barbers in Los Angeles, F. C. McDuffee, national president of the Associated Master Barbers, told assembled hair trimmers that the public should be prepared for a fifty cent boost, to \$2, "within six months." The Barbers Union and the Associated Master Barbers are entirely separate organizations, Berger explained. "I don't know anything about any price raise for haircuts," he said.



PERMANENT DETOUR . . . Redondo Beach police set up this roadblock at the eastern end of Avenue E, where it joins Palos Verdes Blvd. in Torrance. The action followed a near-riot last week in which Redondo residents barricaded the street as a protest against speeders. The block-long strip of Redondo territory joins Torrance and Los Angeles County territory.

Aug. 16 First Issue of New Monday Herald

Next Monday will be H-Day in Torrance. On that date, Monday Aug. 16, the Torrance HERALD will publish its new Monday afternoon paper, which will give residents of the Torrance area the most up-to-the-minute news coverage of Torrance events available. The new paper will replace the Sunday HERALD which has been published since March, 1952. Publisher King Williams announced. The new Monday HERALD has been planned to offer readers in the greater Torrance area a complete week-end news coverage. New features in the Monday edition of the HERALD will include a television log of the week's programs especially for this newspaper. Regular features which readers of this newspaper have found in the Sunday edition will be continued. Publication of the Monday paper will afford merchants a good place to offer first-of-the-week bargains. News and advertising deadlines of the HERALD will remain the same. Delivery of the HERALD will be completed during the afternoon. Subscribers who do not receive their copy by 7 p.m. Monday should call FA 8-4004. There will be no paper issued Sunday.

CAR CRASH INJURES 3

Three children were slightly injured in a traffic collision at the intersection of Hwy. 101 and Hawthorne Ave. Sunday. The collision involved cars driven by the children's father, Glen de Vail Hark, 3316 Winlock Dr., and Oakley Jordan, 1248 Lomita Blvd., Lomita. Injured were Hark's children, Glen 6; Kathleen, 5; and Ellis, 3.

WEATHER

Low clouds this morning but sunny this afternoon and little change in temperature with a high of 81 degrees and a low of around 60.

State Calls For Bids on Highway Job

Bids for widening and resurfacing of Pacific Coast Hwy. from Hawthorne Ave. and the Torrance-Redondo boundary will be called next week, it was announced in Sacramento yesterday by the State Division of Highways. Length of the project is 2.4 miles. The project, for which bids will be due Sept. 10, is included in the program which recently was authorized by the state. The state has allocated \$185,000 for the highway improvement, which will include channelization and installation of left-turn protective lanes.

Petitions Ask Bay Hospital

Petitions containing more than 500 signatures were presented to the County Supervisors Tuesday, requesting formation of a South Bay Hospital District. The proposed area would embrace Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Manhattan Beach, with a combined population estimated at 112,000 persons. The Board sent the list to the County Registrar's office to see if the petitions contained enough legal signatures. On a motion made by Supervisor Burton W. Chase, the Board accepted the petitions and set the preliminary hearing for Aug. 31.

Council Grants OK By 4-1 Vote

The long controversy over granting of a variance to Henry Halverson to construct a mortuary at Cravens and Engracia was ended by the City Council Tuesday evening in a 4-1 vote favoring concurrence with the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the request. Approval of the variance came after an hour-long discussion during which the Council was warned that its action might be illegal. Atty. Jack R. Stearns, who told the Council that he was representing two opponents, Harry E. Massie and Earl Miller, told the Councilmen that the requirements of the city's land use ordinance had not been met in this matter and that their approval of the variance might be subject to question on its legality. Cited Free Enterprise Gordon Mothersell, president of the Torrance Masonic Lodge touched off the discussion by stating that "this country is founded on free enterprise, not monopoly." He said the property was not suited to business, that it had been found that the association of like businesses is best for all, and that the construction of a mortuary at the location would benefit the city considerably. Attorney Stearns maintained that provisions of the land use ordinance setting up procedures for granting a variance had not been followed. Stearns listed six main objections raised by his clients:

- 1. That the applicant had failed to establish fact of legal ownership.
2. That the applicant had failed to establish that there are special conditions which apply to the property.
3. That the Planning Commission had failed to find that the variance was necessary to protect a valuable property.
4. That it had not been shown that the variance would not damage values of adjoining property.
5. That the application for a variance does not set forth in detail facts which would justify granting of such variance, and that no evidence had been offered to show that the applicant could proceed with the proposed construction if the variance was granted.
6. Speaking on behalf of his request, Halverson said the custom of most other cities was to situate mortuaries on spot zones.
7. Councilman Albert Isen, sole objector to the request on the Council, tried to have the matter held up until a written legal opinion on Stearns' charges (Continued on Page 28)



IT FLIES THROUGH THE AIR . . . Headed for destruction when it hits the ground is this 40-foot section of an oil derrick in the Torrance oil field. The top was sawed off Wednesday as the first step in demolishing the entire structure, which was pulled over later. The derricks are being removed as part of a City Council campaign to clean up the oil fields.