3 BOYS KILLED WHEN TRUCK HITS BIKE

Architect Shows Councilmen Plan On Fire Station

Torrance City Council gave the green light to construction of the city's model headquarters fire station Tuesday, approving preliminary design and plans of a $200,000 structure to be erected at the corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St.

Bids for the new building termed one of the most efficient establishments of its kind in the nation by Fire Chief J. J. Benner, who worked closely with Architect Marion J. Varner of Pasadena in evolving the design, may be expected within the next 60 days, Councilmen said.

All fire prevention activities as well as actual fire fighting within the jurisdiction of the Torrance department will be directed from the new headquarters station. The building will contain a total of 17,000 square feet, which will include offices, classrooms, and shops for equipment maintenance.

Dormitory space will be provided upstairs for 35 men, who also will have ample locker room, recreation and cooking facilities. In addition to the members of the crew, four battalion chiefs and four captains also will be accommodated.

Four Bays

The station proper will have four equipment bays. Flanking the fire truck parking sections will be carefully arranged stowage spaces planned to provide the maximum possible efficiency of overall operation. Among other facilities will be a novel stowage and handling section to take care of the very large and heavy tarpaulins used in some phases of fire-fighting.

The building will be constructed of reinforced brick in combination with steel and wood framing. Design will be executed in simple, contemporary, functional lines to blend with the purpose and trend of the community, according to Varner, the architect. A 10-car paved public parking lot is included in the plans.

Eyes on Future

Officials of Torrance have planned this phase of the municipal function with an eye on future expansion of the area, the fire chief said. Torrance has grown rapidly and is expanding both industrially and in residential construction. In developing the fire-fighting program, city officials are seeking to prevent major fire disasters. The new structure probably will be supplemented by a projected substation in the near future, according to city Councilmen.

Design studies for the new station were begun several months ago by Varner, who surveyed the best facilities of the most recent fire station construction. A study of these together with recommendations by a score of the nation's leading fire chiefs supplemented a large amount of data collected by Chief Benner. From this research stemmed the design of the new station.

Construction of the Torrance headquarters station will be the third major project for Varner in this section of Los Angeles County. He just recently completed rebuilding and modernizing the Inglewood City Hall at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars and also modernized the Inglewood Elks' Clubhouse.

Deadline For Election Told

Thursday, Sept. 9 is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 2 general elections, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett announced this week.

The City Hall will be open until 9 p.m. that evening to accept registrations. Anyone who has changed addresses since last registering or who did not vote in the last election, must re-register.

Those who recently reached the age of 21, if they have lived in the city and county for one year, may register.

MODEL FIRE STATION . . . Above is the $200,000 model headquarters fire station approved by the City Council Tuesday for construction at the corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Carson St. Its 17,000 square feet will include offices, classrooms, shops for equipment maintenance, and upstairs dormitory space.

TORRANCE FIRE DEPT. HEADQUARTERS
MARION J. VARNER & ASSOC. ARCHITECTS. PASADENA INGLEWOOD

The building will be constructed of reinforced brick in combination with steel and wood framing and was designed by Architect Marion J. Varner of Pasadena in co-operation with Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

Building Zooms Toward '53 Mark

Building permit totals this year in Torrance have almost reached the record-breaking figure set in 1953—and there's still four months to go.

August's total of $7,321,548 in permits brought the figure for the year to a phenomenal $27,634,732, compared to the record-shattering $29,315,265 mark set in all of 1953, according to Walter C. Bradford, senior clerk in the city building department.

Less than two million dollars below the 1953 mark, Torrance seems bound to skyrocket past the record this year. August's total is more than double that of Aug. 1953—$3,167,082.

The total for two-thirds of this year has increased by almost $10 million over last year's eight-month figure, which was $19,571,680 at the end of August.

Boosting August's permits were $1,800,000 issued to Carbide and Carbon Chemical Corp. for their new plant here, $80,000 worth for the Owl Drug Store at Hawthorne Blvd. and 101 Hwy., and permits for a $120,000 Plywood Plant at 2201 Dominguez St.

Trial Set In Crash Death

Trial date has been set for Oct. 7 for Donald Lee Lambert, 27, of 143 W. 234th St., who has pleaded innocent to traffic manslaughter charge.

Lambert, who is free on bail, was driving a car that collided with a grader parked along Figueroa St. on April 30, police records show. Wilfred J. Royko, 27, of 25061⁄2 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, was killed in the collision.

Trial will be held in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Attendance Boundaries Announced

Realignment of elementary attendance areas for the beginning of school Sept. 20 to include all the new home developments was announced here yesterday by school officials.

The new attendance boundaries will not affect many children who were in school here last spring, according to Administrative Assistant Albert Posner. The following attendance zones have been established:

Ellinwood—All children of the Ellinwood tracts will attend the Walteria Elementary School.

Victoria Terrace—All children in Victoria Terrace will attend Meadow Park School.

Torrance Heights — Children living on the south side of 226th St. will attend Meadow Park School. Children living on the north side of 226th St. will attend Madrona Elementary School.

Kauffman Tract—All children in the Kauffman Tract at 190th and Hawthorne will attend the El Nido School.

Schools Open

All schools are now open to register new pupils, Posner said. School officials suggest that parents enroll their children as soon as possible to avoid last-minute crowds on Sept. 20.

A child must have been born prior to Dec. 2, 1949 to be eligible for kindergarten or prior to Dec. 2, 1948 for the first grade. Birth certificates are required.

WEATHER

Showers are expected today but they won't break the 90-degree heat wave, the weatherman reports. Yesterday's high in Torrance was 90, Tuesday's 91.

ADD 27 NEW CLASSROOMS FOR TORRANCE STUDENTS

The new Meadow Park School, plus additions to other elementary schools, will give Torrance 27 new classrooms in which to greet an expected enrollment of 11,000 students when school opens on Sept. 20, Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull said this week.

The 12-classroom Meadow Park building will serve the area south of Sepulveda Blvd., relieving pressure on Seaside School.

Four classroom wings have been added to the Walteria and Riviera Elementary Schools and four bungalows have been moved to the Carr and three to the El Nido schools.

Now under construction and due to be completed later in the year are the Crenshaw School, near 190th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. and the Hillside School, near Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd.

Construction also has started on the North Torrance High School, but it will not be completed until about June, 1955.

Schools now on the drawing boards are an 18-classroom elementary plant near Hawthorne Ave. and Del Amo Blvd. and a 19-classroom building in the Ellinwood tract — the Pacific School.

Other additions being planned are two double classrooms and a double kindergarten unit each for the Perry and North Torrance Schools and three double classrooms and one double kindergarten for the Seaside School.

The population of the city is just 3000 short of the entire city seven years ago, when the School District was formed, Hull said.

Huge Realty Firm Options Airport

Request by Coldwell-Banker Co. for a six-months option to lease from the City of Torrance, 23 acres at the northeast corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and 101 Hwy. with an eye to building a shopping center met approval of the City Council Tuesday night.

Offer was made for Store Properties, Inc., a subsidiary corporation of Coldwell-Banker Co. which seeks a 50-year lease on the property. Plans for development include a complete shopping center, to be built at the corporation's own cost and valued at several million dollars.

Granting of the option on motion of Albert Isen climaxed a long series of discussions with Coldwell-Banker Co. and city officials, including the Airport Commission and City Manager George Stevens. The six-months prior to beginning of the lease was asked to give the corporation time for proper financing and obtaining of necessary statistics.

Other terms of the option are as follows:
1. The lessee will pay six per cent of the appraised valuation of the land, monthly in advance.
2. All real estate and improvement taxes will be paid by the lessee.
3. Terms of the lease shall be agreeable to the City of Torrance and the lessee.
4. All real estate commissions will be paid by the lessee.
5. Property shall be rezoned commercially.

Council Puts 'Blue' Laws Under Study

Times may have changed, but on Torrance statute books it is still a law harking back to the days of our Puritan ancestors—the prohibition of dancing on Sunday.

City Council voted Tuesday to amend but not repeal Ordinance 291. Amendment will clearly define the distinction between public and private dancing, and the ordinance will prohibit all public dancing after midnight Saturday to midnight Sunday.

Speaking against the law, Albert Isen challenged it as unconstitutional and unenforceable. Police Chief W. H. Haslam assured that it would be enforced as are other city ordinances, and urged retainment of the statute to keep out of the city "jam sessions which are detrimental to youth."

"The ordinance is an effective means of controlling such events," he said, "and if repealed would leave the city 'wide open' with little means of control."

Oilmen To Study Water Pollution Problems Here

A committee of oilmen has been appointed to make a survey and find methods of preventing the possible pollution of Torrance water by discharge of waste waters from oil fields here.

The committee was appointed Monday night at a meeting of
(Continued on Page 27)

Two Brothers, Friend Killed

Three Torrance lads ranging in age from 6 to 13 years were killed instantly late Tuesday when a heavy truck and trailer smashed into the bicycle they were riding on the highway near Point Mugu—about 50 miles from their homes.

Dead are Gregory Frank Scott, 6, his brother, Patrick Michael Scott, 9, of 18281 Ashley Ave., and John David Slatten, 13, of 18329 Roslin Ave. All were students at El Nido Elementary School.

Police Lt. Karl Friberg, who notified the boys' parents of the tragedy early yesterday, said the trio had apparently left their homes sometime late Tuesday morning, all riding young Slatten's new bicycle. They were about five miles south of Point Mugu on Pacific Coast Hwy. when struck, according to reports of the California Highway Patrol.

Charles Slatten, 16-year-old brother of John, told the HERALD that his brother and the two Scott boys might have been heading for Ventura where the Slattens have relatives. Friends of the dead boys said they had talked this morning of going to Santa Monica.

Coroner Virgil Payton in Ventura County reported to Torrance police that he was able to make identification of the trio only through a metal tag worn by young Pat Scott which gave his name and address.

Reported Missing

Young Slatten was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Slatten Sr. The boy's father had reported him missing to Torrance police a short while before the accident occurred.

The Scott boys were the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scott. The elder Scott is a merchant seaman aboard the SS Santa Maria, Union Oil Co. tanker. Efforts were being made yesterday to contact him aboard the vessel at sea.

Surviving the Scott brothers at home are their parents, a brother, Bobby, 8, and a sister, Sandra, 20 months.

Surviving the Slatten lad besides his parents are brothers Charles, 16, and Ted, 4; and sisters Patricia, 13, Mary, 12, Kay, 8, and Sue, 13 months.

The bodies were taken to Reardon's Mortuary in Oxnard. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

Hearing Date Set For Battle Over Second Mortuary

A "show cause" hearing has been set for Sept. 34 in Dept. of Los Angeles Superior Court for the City of Torrance to show why it should not kill a variance which would permit construction of the city's second mortuary.

The City Council recently granted a variance to Henry Halverson, owner of a San Pedro mortuary, to build a mortuary at the corner of Cravens and Engracia Aves., across from Stone and Myers, the city's sole funeral home.

Legal Action Filed

A legal action to prevent the mortuary was filed by attorneys last week in behalf of Earl P. Miller, of 1304 Arlington Ave. The variance was protested under City Ordinance 612 and reasons for the protest were listed as: a) that the city had failed to establish legal ownership of the property;
b) that the applicant had failed to establish that there are specific conditions which apply to the property;
c) that the Planning Commission had failed to find that the variance was necessary to protect valuable property;
d) that it had not been shown that the variance would not damage adjoining property;
e) that no evidence had been offered to show that the applicant could proceed with the proposed construction if the variance was granted.

The city will be represented in Superior Court by City Attorney James M. Hall. The city must either rescind the variance or show cause why it does not. Judge Arnold Praeger will hear the case.

GETS BREAK . . . Ron Anderson, Torrance High School baseball star, will pitch batting practice for the Hollywood Stars prior to the opening of their cross-town series with the LA Angels. It will just be a "look-see" proposition for the young flinger, who has two years to go in high school.

HELPING HAND . . . Torrance's Mayor, Nickolas O. Drale, Commerce and Industry Division chairman of Harbor Area's 1954-55 Community Chest campaign, assists Harbor Area Chairman Tommy Thompson in hanging a Red Feather banner in the new campaign headquarters at 335 W. Sixth St., San Pedro.

SOUTHLAND WONDER OPENS . . . Tourists and local residents alike filled local roads and highways over the weekend as 24,361 persons visited the new Marineland Saturday and Sunday. Huge crowds are expected again this week-end—a holiday week-end.