Mayor to Propose Parking Plan

Mayor Albert Isen has announced a new proposal for obtaining off-street parking in the downtown Torrance area and reports that he will present it at an informal meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Parking Committee and members of the City Council this afternoon.

The mayor's proposal would hinge on the formation of an assessment district among downtown property owners, he reports. Several individuals in the downtown area with whom he has talked have shown interest in his proposal, Isen said.

Under the mayor's plan, downtown property owners would proceed immediately to form an assessment district.

Would Sell Bonds

Such an assessment district would be able to sell revenue bonds, when formed, and retire those bonds through payments made by the owners of property in the area, which includes the shopping district in central Torrance.

Upon the formation of the district, a total of $100,000 would be made available through city and private funds for the immediate acquisition of strategic parking lots in the downtown area.

To Use Meter Fund

To get the $100,000 fund, the $15,000 now in the parking meter fund would be made available, the city would furnish $35,000 on a loan basis at interest, and private capital would match the funds. The $35,000 loaned by the city and by private financing would be repaid with the sale of the first revenue bonds.

This method would permit the city to tie up strategic downtown parking areas now without waiting until the final legal formation of the assessment district, Isen says. Formation of the district has been estimated to require at least one year and possibly more because of the strict legal requirements imposed by bond buyers.

The money loaned to the Parking Authority (which is the City Council) to purchase off-street parking spaces would be repaid when the funds from revenue bonds were made available, the mayor said.

Receives Support

Several leading businessmen in Torrance contacted by the HERALD Saturday expressed an interest in the proposal.

"It is certainly an indication that the mayor is trying to help us solve the parking problem here," one businessman said. "I am quite optimistic about it."

With the steps taken to form the district, and with the $100,000 "in hand," the city would move "as fast as legally possible" to institute condemnation action against the properties selected for parking, Isen will suggest.

Lots On Cravens

"If and when the old central fire station on Cravens Ave. is razed, the site could be sold to the assessment district," he said. Property adjacent to it at Cravens and Marcelina should also be added, he reports.

Property owners, members of the Council, and the Chamber's parking committee will meet at 4 p.m. today at the Chamber office to discuss the mayor's proposal.

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OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY

Christmas Clubbers Get $138,000 in Checks

California Bank Christmas Club checks, totaling $138,000, were mailed last week to club depositors throughout the Torrance area, according to Arthur O. Otesa, vice president, and manager of the bank's Torrance office.

"For the past several years the number of our Christmas Club depositors have been increasing and this year we had a record number of club members," Otesa said. "Our 1956 Christmas Club is now open and depositors may choose from six different savings plans."

Unlocked Car Entered

Someon entered his unlocked car and took a radio and cigarete lighter, Henry Asch, of 460 Palo Verdes Blvd. reported to local authorities Saturday.

SHOESTRING INSTALLATION . . . Councilman John S. Gibson Jr. installed the new officers of the Shoestring Councilmanic Advisory Council at a meeting held recently. Shown are (standing) Harold Unander, past chairman; Mrs. Ralph Robertson, treasurer; Thomas Murphy, chairman; Gibson; (seated) Mrs. S. C. Beech, secretary, and Frank Nelson, vice chairman.

Obituaries

Johanna Marie Sands

Final rites for Johanna Marie Sands, 89, a resident of Torrance for more than 30 years, were held Friday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, with the Rev. Richard A. Parker officiating.

A native of Denmark, she lived at 2322 El Dorado. A member of St. Andrew's church, she was buried in the Inglewood Park Masoleum.

Survivors include two daughters, Anna C. Sandstrom, of Torrance, and Mary A. Wagner, of Costa Mesa; a son, William C. Sands, of Palm Springs; a brother, Walter Bertelsen, of New York City; four grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Elmer Joseph Funk

Services for Elmer Joseph Funk, 62, of 1605 W. 223rd St., will be held in Ferndale, Mich., his former home. He died Wednesday in Harbor General Hospital.

A native of Ohio, he had lived in Torrance for seven years. He was employed as a truck mechanic.

He is survived by his widow, Ethel Biery Funk; a son, Gor-Funk, of Gardena; three sons, Louis, of Oak Park, Mich.; Will-Funk of Ferndale, Mich., and C. M. Funk, of Royal Oak, Mich.; and a sister, Mrs. Ray Cockrell, of Vallejo.

Stone and Myers Mortuary handled arrangements.

Frank Arthur

Frank Arthur, who resided in Torrance 30 years prior to moving to Colorado four years ago, passed away of a heart attack Nov. 4, in Colorado. He was an oil company employee.

Funeral services were held Nov. 8, in Castle Rock, Colo., with burial in Cedarwood Cemetery.

He is survived by a niece, Mrs. Leroy H. Pope of Pueblo, Colo.

Pianist Pennario In Recital Here

Pianist Leonard Pennario will appear tonight, at 8 p.m., in Civic Auditorium, in joint recital with the Torrance Area Youth Concert Band. The musical offering is sponsored by the Youth Band-Artists Concerts Assn.

Pennario, who at 12, was a soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, is the first artist to appear in a series of concerts offered by the Youth Band-Artist Concerts groups.

Season tickets for the concerts, which will include also Cellist Joseph Schuster and Claramae Turner, contralto vocalist, are still available. They are priced at $2 for students and $3 for adults.

Pennario debuted with the New York Philharmonic Symphony in 1943, and was hailed as "brilliant" by a number of New York critics.

Shortly after his success in New York, he entered the service. Three years and three Bronze Stars later, he resumed his career with a coast-to-coast recital tour. Critics agreed that not a single aspect of his talent had been lost in service.

Works With Conductors

Since that time, Pennario has achieved honors in both recital and with leading orchestras in the United States and Canada. He has been soloist under such conductors as Mitropoulos, Monteux, Rodzinski, Wallenstein and Steinberg.

His credits include six recitals in New York's famed Carnegie Hall.

For the past few years, the artist's recordings for Capitol Records have been up at the top of the best-seller lists. Radio listeners have heard Pennario on such programs as the Telephone Hour and the Kraft Music Hall. Movie goers heard him play for Joan Fontaine in "September Affair."

European audiences have raved at his virtuosity, too. In the spring of 1952 he made his first tour through Holland, France, England, and Italy, which was climaxed at a sold-out performance at the Salle Gaveau in Paris.

Schuster Next Artist

In the spring of 1954 he was a success in a recital in Honolulu.

Schuster will be the next artist featured here. He is scheduled to appear on Feb. 16. Miss Turner will appear on April 10. The winners of four $100 Cash Music Scholarships, eligible to students in piano, voice, strings and wind instruments, will be featured in the last concert of the series, slated for may 23.

W. E. Bower is the president of the Youth Band group, while Mildred Baker is general chairman of the Youth Band-Artists Concert Assn.

POSSE FAILS TO UNEARTH 'PANTHER'

The South Torrance panther, if that's what it was, apparently went into hiding last week as residents kept their eyes open and a posse made unsuccessful search for the black beast.

Police investigated several more reports of panther appearances, but found nothing. A man reported seeing the beast on a hill above his back yard and two boys said they saw a large animal running through the hills.

A posse, including sheriff's deputies, police, humane society officials, a hunter, and hound dogs, scoured the hill area behind Winlock Rd. Wednesday, but found nothing but some large tracks.

The animal first was sighted by Mrs. Herbert Minten, of 2632 Winlock Rd., and Mrs. Jason Stephon, of 2908 Winlock Rd., Wednesday as they were conversing in a back yard. They said it looked like a big, black panther, and officials found some large tracks in the hills on property owned by Torrance Sand and Gavel.

CAR, COW COLLIDE ANIMAL IS KILLED

A cow, owned by Verburg Dairy, was killed late Thursday night when it strayed from safe grounds and was struck by a car near the intersection of Crenshaw Blvd. and 178th St., police reports state.

Walter L. Forsyth, 28, of Los Angeles, was driving north on Crenshaw when he reported to police that he "hit something." After stopping his car, he found out it was the cow, he told authorities.

Carter at Fleet School

Robert L. Carter, stewardsman, USN, husband of the former Miss Christine St. Clair of 1007 W. 256th court, Harbor City, is serving at the Fleet Sonar School, San Diego.

He reported for duty in October from the attack transport USS Menarp.

Before entering the Navy in May, 1952, Carter attended Moor High School.

Hub Caps Stolen

Four hub caps were stolen from his car as it was parked behind 2230 Pacific Coast Hwy., Leslie C. Sleigh, of 2219 W. 254th St., told sheriff's deputies Thursday. Value of the caps was $36.

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