

City Officials Eye \$89,000,000 Program of Street Improvement

Project Would Take 15 Years

By REID BUNDY

A program to meet increasing traffic demands and to correct the deficiency in city streets and highways would cost about \$89,000,000 in the next 15 years, according to a report compiled here recently by the city's department of public works.

The report, compiled to comply with Section 210 of the Highway Revenue Act of 1956, is designed to add emphasis to the demands of the state for federal aid for local roadways.

Freeways Planned
The two freeways would meet east of the new South High School, according to the city's plans. Each freeway would have room for eight lanes of traffic with six lanes being developed in the first phase.

Whether this ambitious program of highway construction is undertaken and completed by 1971—the end of the 15-year period—depends on the allocation of federal funds under the Highway Revenue Act.

Highways Eyed
Major highways in the city would include 190th St. from Redondo Beach to Western Ave., Anza from 190th to Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach Blvd. from Hawthorne to Gardena, Crenshaw from Redondo Beach Blvd. to the city's south boundary, Prairie and Madrona from Redondo Beach Blvd. to Lomita Blvd., and all of Torrance Blvd., Carson St., Lomita Blvd., Palos Verdes Blvd., Calle Mayor, Western Ave., and Hawthorne Ave. south of Pacific Coast Hwy.

Improved secondary streets would total 12.15 miles and cost \$4,307,000 for grading, right-of-way, surfacing, and bridges.

Secondary Streets
These would include all of Arlington Ave., Cabrillo, Post Ave., Marcelina, and 182nd St. The roadways would be on 84-ft. rights-of-way, Russell's report said.

In addition to these major streets and expressways would be 279 miles of residential streets with 60-foot rights-of-way. Cost of improving these in the next 15 years has been set at \$32,399,000.

Freeways in addition to the proposed San Diego Freeway which will go through north Torrance were shown in the report but were not included in the \$89,000,000 cost figure because they will be state projects. These include the Coast Freeway which would run roughly parallel to Anza through Torrance to Pacific Coast Hwy., then join the

Ocean Freeway where the present Pacific Coast Hwy. lies.

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Board Approves Site Plans for Three Schools

Site plans and preliminary drawings for Magruder and Yukon Elementary Schools and Columbia Special School were approved Tuesday night by the Board of Education.

Architectural drawings moving the shop and homemaking facilities from the Yukon site to the Magruder site were approved. Magruder School, to be located at 186th and Amie, will draw children from the old El Nido School. El Nido, in turn, will be torn down and replaced by Columbia School, to be used for teaching severely mentally retarded children. Yukon School will be located at 178th and Yukon Ave.

Both Yukon and Magruder schools will have 14 classrooms, two kindergartens, a multipurpose unit, and administration building. Columbia School will have six classrooms, two kindergartens, a multipurpose unit, and administration building.

The board also gave final approval to the \$8,280,254 budget for the 1957-58 school year, and indicated that only about 35 cents of the authorized 75-cent override tax would be used.

Assignments of five elementary vice principals were switched as follows: Walter Buetgenbach, from Casimir to Wood; Edwin Brown, from Crenshaw to Fern-Greenwood; Donald Credell, from Fern-Greenwood to Carr; Albert Noccio, from Carr to Crenshaw; and Dale Wickstrom, from Madrona to Casimir.

Holster Deters Fast Draw; Man Shoots Himself

Hereafter, John R. Pearson, 63, of 1935 S. Crenshaw Blvd., is going to leave the fast drawing to the movie and television cowboy heroes.

Pearson was taken to Torrance Memorial Hospital Friday when he shot himself in the left leg while trying to sharpen up his "fast draw" technique.

According to police reports, the accident occurred when he tried to pull a revolver from a "clam type" holster.

Police said the holster, which has a spring release mechanism, is designed for a fast draw, and accidents such as Pearson's are not uncommon.

Suspect Uses Gun in Holdup

A man wearing a "Jerry Colona" type mustache held a gun on a liquor store employee and left with \$344 in cash.

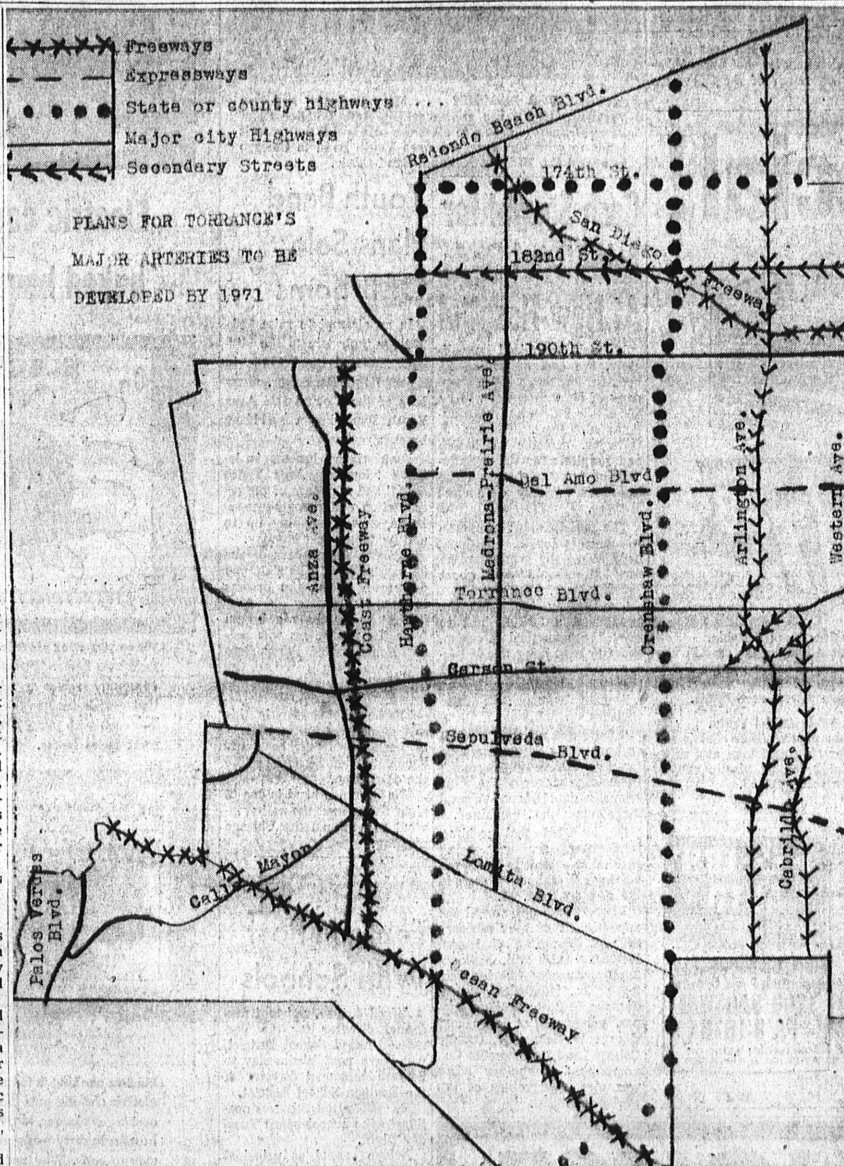
Entering while the clerk was refilling the ice box, the suspect forced the victim to lie down on the floor while he took money from the cash register, a bottle of whiskey and some cigarettes.

The liquor store is at 23739 Arlington Ave.

Groceries Stolen

Three bags of groceries were stolen Monday night from a parked car in front of the public library.

June Aitchison, 5601 Via del Collado, reported to Torrance police, the groceries were valued at \$12.



PROPOSED MAJOR STREET SYSTEM . . . This was the plan for development of major arteries throughout Torrance by 1971 as developed by city officials. The plans are subject to change, officials said, but this was a general outline. The Coast and Ocean Freeways in southwest

rance have not been approved by the state, but are proposed by county officials. Much of the development on this map will be several years away if plans finally mature, it was emphasized.

8 Persons Hurt In 5 Accidents

Eight persons were injured in five separate accidents in Torrance during the first part of this week.

Robert Grajeda, 18, of 2150 W. 203rd St., was seriously injured Monday when he tried to ride his brother's motorcycle, police reported.

Officers said he apparently lost control of the machine and it crashed through a wooden fence at his home. He was taken to Harbor General Hospital.

Council Miffed About County's Letter of Reply

Upholding the city's opposition to the Lakewood plan of incorporation, city councilmen were downright miffed at a letter received from a county official asking if Torrance wished to discontinue 10 county services.

Councilman Robert Jahn expressed his "extreme displeasure" at the letter from Richard Newton, field deputy to Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Newton listed 10 services now provided by the County and used by Torrance and asked if the city wished them stopped.

City Pays for Services
"Torrance pays for these services in full or they are services that the county is required to give by law," Jahn said.

Mayor Albert Isen described the communication as "no joking matter," and also expressed surprise at the letter appearing in a "Sunday paper." "As far as I know, only the city manager and myself were supposed to have received copies of the communication," he added.

The article appeared exclusively in the Torrance HERALD, Sunday, July 28.

In other business the council denied two claims for damages amounting to \$71,000.

Robert A. Owens, 23239 Ocean Ave., asked \$66,000 for alleged injuries suffered during a car accident.

Quarantined Pet Escapes From Yard

The search is on today for a small black and brown dachshund which had been quarantined as possibly rabid.

The dog escaped or was taken from the backyard of his owner, Mrs. Ben C. Dey, 338 E. 231st St., over the week end.

He had been placed under a modified quarantine by Health Department officials after the dog bit Mrs. Dey last week.

The dog, which has a knotted tail, was not wearing his collar and license tags when he disappeared, Mrs. Dey said.

The owner asked that anyone finding the dog, contact her or the County Health Department.

Rivets Reports

It'll be a good day for doing whatever you have to do, Rivets reported, as he made plans to go to the beach, where high temperatures will be about 78. In downtown high temperatures should be about 80.

There may be early morning low clouds, clearing about 11. High and low temperatures this week were: Sunday (87-61); Monday (78-64); Tuesday (79-61); and Wednesday (79-62.)

Injured Seriously

Colleen Mae Pratt, 18, of Paramount, was treated for serious injuries at Harbor Hospital following a four-car smashup at Sepulveda and Crenshaw Blvds. Monday.

The injured woman was one of the drivers involved in the crash. Police reported the other three drivers were uninjured.

Involved in the collision were John Merrifield Lyons, 34, of 22636 Lupine Ave.; Miles Wesley O'Dowd, 32, of 3703 W. 227th St.; and Howard Edwin Bagley, 33, of Wilmington.

Hit-and-Run

Jailed on suspicion of hit-and-run driving was Frank Heard Jr., 27, of Inglewood, the result of an accident at 186th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. Sunday. The other car involved was driven by Fred Brown, 43, of 424 El Camino Real, Redondo Beach. A passenger in his car, Berral Brown of the same address, was treated for minor injuries.

Police arrested Heard at his home following the accident.

Cars Collide

Two Harbor City residents suffered minor injuries when two cars collided in an alley east of Cravens Ave., and south of El Prado.

Anthony Robinson, 6, and Hilda Cowman, 27, passengers in a car driven by Letha McNary, 30—were treated for injuries. All three listed the address of 1270 W. Pacific Coast Hwy. The other car was driven by Frances Drews, 30, of 4526 Darien Ave.

Three persons were injured Tuesday afternoon when two cars collided at Hawthorne Ave. and Torrance Blvd. Receiving care were three passengers in the car driven by Jesse R. Foster, 36, of 23948 Madison St. They were Dorothy Foster, 38; Linda, 10; and Randy, 4.

Freeway Work Requested by City Chamber

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce has approved a strongly-worded resolution urging that construction of the Harbor Freeway be expedited, according to President A. E. Thompson.

The resolution in support of L. A. County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and the Torrance City Council, points out that the southwest area represented by the Inter-City Highway Committee comprise . . . a area of approximately 100 square miles and has over 5,000,000 people who pay \$10 million dollars annually in gas taxes.

In face of these arguments, the resolution adds, no funds have been budgeted for the completion of the section of the Harbor Freeway from 124th to 190th although the design is completed and 98 per cent of right-of-way is now secured.

'Handy Andy' Sends SOS to Destroyer



SIGNALS DESTROYER . . . When Andy Cochran and two fishing pals got stranded in the channel aboard a 22-foot boat he remembered his Navy training and signaled a passing destroyer with a mirror like the one shown above. His SOS signal was relayed to the Coast Guard who arrived three hours later to tow the boat ashore.

Andy Cochran, 723 W. Ocean St., lived up to his nickname of "Handy Andy" when he and two companions spent more than six hours adrift off the shore of Catalina Island.

What started out to be a pleasure jaunt in a 22-foot fishing boat across to Catalina turned into a trial of endurance when the inboard motor conked out.

The engine failure occurred about 3 p.m. Monday on the way back from the Island, where they had already put one passenger ashore who was suffering from seasickness. The remaining trio found themselves out on the high seas, in extremely rough water and fighting a high wind, and no hope of starting the engine.

Plagued by the winds, rough swells and with the other two men suffering from "mal de mer" Cochran tried in vain to signal passing fishing boats.

An ex-Navy man, the localite heaved a sigh of relief upon spotting two United States destroyers. Remembering that destroyers always keep a lookout man on duty, Cochran put

his nickname into action. "Handy Andy" found a mirror in his tackle box and flashed an SOS signal to the destroyer. The ship, receiving the signal, in turn radioed the Coast Guard and a rescue ship was on its way.

The trio was picked up about 9 p.m., according to Cochran, some three hours after being sighted by the destroyer.

Another Torrance man, the Rev. Morgan Gates, pastor of the First Baptist Church, had started the voyage with Cochran and the others. "He was the only lucky one," Cochran stated.

"He got seasick when we stopped to fish off Catalina, so we ran him over to Avalon and he took the steamer back home."

The rough seas condition didn't subside, according to "Handy Andy," and in addition, a heavy bank of fog started to roll in just before the Coast Guard arrived.

Despite all the trouble, it was a successful trip, Cochran said. "We caught lots of fish."