

# City Planning Director to Quit Post Next Month

Your Complete Community Newspaper—Every Sunday and Thursday

## Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# MURDER SUSPECT FLEES STATE

## Torrance Man Arrested by Oregon Police

A burly Torrance rug cleaner was due back in Los Angeles late last night to face charges that he murdered a Long Beach woman and dumped her body in a field near here Tuesday morning, according to deputies in the Sheriff's homicide division.

James Blackwell, 28, who had been residing at 2011 W. 220th St., was arrested near Medford, Ore., Thursday after an all-points bulletin that was issued by the Sheriff's Department named him and described his vehicle Wednesday afternoon.

OREGON police spotted the vehicle parked at a motel about 10 miles from Medford, and arrested Blackwell without a struggle, it was reported here. Accompanying him at the time was Mrs. Cora M. Reed, 27, who also resided at the Torrance address.

Blackwell waived extradition and was returned yesterday evening from the Oregon city by Deputies J. G. Lawton and Walt Thornton who headed investigations which led to his identity.

THE SUSPECT is named in a warrant issued here this week charging him with the murder of Mrs. Helen Margaret Johnson, 29, of Long Beach, wife of a sailor who was aboard ship in the Long Beach Harbor at the time of the slaying.

Witnesses in Long Beach told investigating officers that a huge man who talked out of the side of his mouth was seen beating a woman on the street, and then tossing her into a car before driving away.

THE MAN had said something about working in Torrance earlier in a nearby tavern, and his uniform markings identified him as a rug cleaner, deputies were told. A check of Torrance rug cleaners turned up Blackwell who fit the description.

Officers Thornton and Lawton were due back about 11:30 last night with the suspect, the HERALD was told. He had apparently driven from Torrance to the Oregon city on Wednesday. He had talked to his employer Wednesday morning, and had said he would return to work at 2 p.m. that day. He was arrested the next day in Oregon.

## Lynn Fee Case Still Up in Air

Whether Planning Commission President Bert Lynn should have been required to pay a drainage fee of \$1309.92 on property developed here in 1959 and 1960, and if so, who is responsible for waiving the fee has not yet been determined by city officials who were instructed to check into the matter last Tuesday, City Manager George Stevens said yesterday.

In a report prepared for Tuesday's council meeting, Stevens reviewed the history of the case brought up in the council last week by Burt Smith of 23724 Pennsylvania (Continued on Page 2)

On May 12

## Powell Quits To Take Post In Business

George C. Powell, who has been affiliated with the city as a councilman, land use investigator, and planning director for nearly 13 years, yesterday announced that he has submitted his resignation effective next month to enter

In a letter to City Manager George Stevens, Powell said he would leave his post on May 12, and that the effective date of termination would depend on the number of days of vacation time accrued.

POWELL first became active in city affairs in 1948 when he was elected to the city council. He resigned on Feb. 1, 1951, to become the assistant director of civil defense at a time when the West Coast cities were making strong efforts to beef up defense measures on the home front.

He later became the land use investigator for the city, and in 1954 was named planning director, a position he has held since that time. Powell told the HERALD yesterday that he has accepted the position of manager of the new Skyline Mobile Home Park which is now under construction at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd.

HE ALSO plans to pursue several writing projects which he has under way, including a history of Torrance, and to provide private consulting service on planning matters.

"MY THIRTEEN years with this wonderful city has been most enjoyable and I am so very proud to have had a part in its growth from a country town to a metropolitan status," Powell commented in his letter of resignation.

He thanked City Manager Stevens and members of the city council "past and present" for the cooperation he received on city projects, and congratulated city employees on their "unselfish efforts on behalf of a wonderful city."

### New Bridge Opens

A new bridge over Dominguez Channel at 213th St. was opened to traffic Friday, according to the County Road Department.

## City Exec To Demand A Hearing

Reports of a rift in top echelon ranks of the city's public works department were confirmed yesterday when a Torrance attorney admitted he had been retained to present a petition for hearing before the Civil Commission on behalf of an employee.

John Barton told the HERALD he had been retained by Douglas J. "Dutch" Horlander, assistant director of public works, who was allegedly ripped by his superior, Wade Peebles, after requesting that he be relieved of duties as city coordinator.

Horlander's attorney said he was preparing a petition to bring the matter before the Civil Service Commission "as soon as possible." Barton would have been responsible for details of the Armed Forces Day celebration here next month.

## Building Pace of City in High Gear, Officials Say

Issuance of more than half a million dollars worth of building permits during the first week of April indicate that the city's building pace is still in high gear, Building Superintendent Lee Schless told the HERALD yesterday.

Early April permits were led by one for the new J. J. Newberry Co. store at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw issued to Developer Albert Leavitt. It was valued at \$404,300, Schless reported.

TWO OTHER permits which gave a healthy boost to April's early reporting were those issued to DGH, Inc., for two apartments in the 5800 block of Pacific Coast Hwy. which

have a total value of more than \$282,000. One development at 5804 Pacific Coast Hwy. will contain 19 units and attached garages and the other, at 5816 Pacific Coast Hwy., will contain 12 units, Schless said.

Permits issued in March totaled \$2,720,809, and brought the 1961 total to \$7,364,980.

CONSTRUCTION authorized in March included 37 single family dwellings valued at \$738,070; eight multiple dwelling developments providing a total of 107 living units valued at \$710,630; 13 commercial buildings, three industrial buildings, and 27 various other new buildings.

Other permits issued during March included 69 for alterations, alterations and repair of dwellings; 10 to alter or repair other buildings, and 132 for various other projects, which include fences, swimming pools, patios, retaining walls, and others.



SLATED FOR AIRPORT . . . The new control tower which will be constructed on Torrance Municipal Airport is shown in an artist's concept as designed by the architectural firm of Adams, Morgan, Latham, Krippe & Wright of Long Beach. The tower will be staffed by the Federal Aviation Agency when completed. Bids will be called by the city, and construction will be financed by the city and federal government.

### For Church Rector

## Parish-Sponsored Trip To Holy Land to Begin

Nearly a year of planning will be climaxed Wednesday evening when the Rev. and Mrs. Hugh R. Percy of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church begin a six-week tour of the Middle-East, including the Holy Land, as a church-sponsored gift to celebrate Father Percy's 25th year in the Episcopal priesthood.

The couple will leave on American Airlines at 11:15 p.m. Wednesday from Los Angeles International Airport after a send-off at the airport which a large number of friends are expected to attend.

AFTER A JET flight to New York, Father and Mrs. Percy will fly to Rome, Egypt, and Jerusalem for an extended

tour of Biblical lands, returning to the parish late in May. Announcement of the plan to send the Percys to the Holy Land was made last year on Trinity Sunday, his 25th anniversary as a priest.

"IT IS CUSTOMARY in cases like this to give the rector the keys to a new car or some such gift," Robert Sleeth, senior warden of the church and chairman of the anniversary committee said at the time.

"We at St. Andrew's, however, believe this is a more fitting gift, and one that will have a lifetime value to Father Percy and to the people to whom he is ministering," Sleeth said.

During the 10 months which have elapsed since the Trinity Sunday celebration, members of the anniversary committee have conducted a fund campaign to finance the trip over and above the regular financing of the church budget. Only the special funds will be used to finance the gift, Sleeth emphasized.

AMONG highlights of the trip will be stops in Rome, in Egypt where much Biblical history is laid, Beirut, and, of course, Jerusalem.

A report on the trip to the entire congregation is being tentatively scheduled for September, Father Percy said yesterday. He will make color slides during the tour and will share his experiences with the "people of St. Andrew's and the community," he said.

DURING HIS absence, neighboring priests and Diocesan officials will fill in at the church. Among those officiating at services will be the Rev. Father C. Lee Mills of Christ's Church, Redondo; the



CHECKING ROUTE . . . The Rev. Fr. Hugh R. Percy, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, goes over a map of a trip to the Holy Land with Mrs. Percy. Father and Mrs. Percy will leave for New York Wednesday night to begin the six-week tour provided as a gift to the rector on his 25th anniversary in the priesthood. (Herald Photo)

**A Penny for your Thoughts**

"What are the benefits of belonging to the Welcome Wagon?"

Four members of this group and one house-hunter answered as follows:

Mrs. Lee Shaver, 5524 Norton St., housewife:  
 "I think the greatest benefit to belonging to the Welcome Wagon is the wonderful friends I have met thru this organization. It has helped me get acquainted with neighbors. I have enjoyed the luncheons and was very pleased when elected to the board."

Mrs. Charles Furman, 5527 Norton, housewife:  
 "I have gained much by belonging to the Welcome Wagon. I came here from the East and was lonesome for friends until they called on me and acquainted me with their members. I think they are a wonderful group and the luncheons are highlights in my social life."

Mrs. Richard Irwin, 27037 Shorewood Dr., housewife:  
 "The Welcome Wagon representatives called on me when I moved into a new house here in Torrance and I was so much impressed with their hospitality that I joined them. I like to go bowling with members and like the bridge parties."

Mrs. Gale Lowder, 5503 Michelle Dr., housewife:  
 "We've lived all over the West and have found that the easiest way to get acquainted when in a new town is to join the Welcome Wagon. They called on me when I wasn't home so I looked up their number in the phone book and called them."

Mrs. George Lusk, 1403 Victory Blvd., Burbank, housewife:  
 "I am house hunting in Torrance as my husband was transferred to the Douglas plant here. I like Torrance and want to live here. I hope when I do find a house that the Welcome Wagon folks will call on me."

**Adult Center Has Bus Fare Papers**  
 Applications for elderly persons who want to take advantage of reduced bus fares offered by the Metropolitan Transit Authority are now available at the Torrance Adult Center in downtown Torrance, it was announced yesterday. The reduced fares have not been approved for Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.