

Council Sets Up Kiss of Death for Parking Meters

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Torrance Herald

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MAN ARRAIGNED IN WIFE'S DEATH

Police Say He Admits Beating Her

A 28-year-old electronics firm employe has been charged with murder after an autopsy determined that his wife died of a brain hemorrhage caused by a fall or blows to the head. She also suffered a skull fracture, the autopsy disclosed.

A murder complaint was issued Tuesday charging William Fitzpatrick, of 2021 W. 177th St., with the death of his wife, Barbara Ann, 34, to climax a day-long drinking bout here Sunday.

FITZPATRICK has admitted striking his wife three times with his fist Sunday evening before leaving home and spending the night in a motel, according to Detective Sgt. Don Hamilton of the Torrance Police Department.

Fitzpatrick called police Monday morning when he returned to the couple's North Torrance home and found her dead.

Fitzpatrick told police his wife had berated him about his attentions to another woman. When he struck her, she fell to the floor and he carried her to their bed where he left her, he said.

THE COUPLE'S two children, Kevin, 4, and Brian, 3, were asleep in a nearby bedroom when the altercation took place, investigators said.

The children were taken into protective custody by Policewoman Regina Ryan, who was sent to the scene shortly after the 7 a.m. call. She returned the two boys to the Torrance station where they were given breakfast and then transferred to Juvenile Hall.

THEY WERE still asleep, unaware of the tragedy nearby, when police arrived at the scene.

Sergeant Hamilton reported the victim was lying on the bed clad only in a pink shortie nightgown when police arrived. Her face was streaked with blood and appeared to be bruised.

Fitzpatrick was arraigned before Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong Tuesday afternoon and preliminary hearing was scheduled for Monday, April 25. He is being held without bail.

Motorist in Fatal Crash Due in Court

A 25-year-old Torrance man will answer misdemeanor manslaughter charges here tomorrow as the result of the death last week of a Rolling Hills man in a Pacific Coast Hwy. traffic accident.

Lance D. Young, 22905 Walnut Ave., free on \$1050 bail, will enter his plea at a preliminary hearing before Municipal Judge Donald Armstrong.

The charge against Young was drawn up after a spectacular four-car collision at the entrance to Torrance Municipal Airport last Thursday night which resulted in the death of Dr. William A. Drummond, 41, a veterinarian with offices in Hawthorne.

Investigating officers reported that Young's car slammed into the veterinarian's Volkswagen and forced it across the highway into the paths of two other autos traveling in the opposite direction.

Dr. Drummond, who apparently had been attempting to make a left turn into the airport area, was killed almost instantly.

His death was the first traffic fatality in the city this year.

500,000 Request Vote on Senate

Petitions with more than 500,000 signatures asking for a special election on reapportionment of the California Senate are ready for filing it was reported Tuesday by Supervisor Frank G. Borelli, author of the proposal.



SHY SUSPECT . . . Twenty-eight-year-old William Fitzpatrick turned away from camera men as he was being taken from his home in North Torrance Monday by Sgt. Ralph Walker of the Torrance Police Department. Fitzpatrick was arraigned Tuesday on a charge of murdering his wife, Barbara Ann. (Herald Photo)

Board Hints Another \$1 School Tax

The possibilities of holding an override tax election this October should be studied, the Torrance Board of Education decided Tuesday night.

Noting that both costs and enrollment are continuing to increase while the district has reached its tax ceiling, the board asked Superintendent J. H. Hull to consult with business and financial experts on such a tax election.

The possibility of seeking an additional \$1 override tax was discussed, although no decision was reached. Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip told the board that to maintain the present salary schedule over the next years and to keep up with increases elsewhere would probably require an additional 80 cents.

THE DISTRICT currently is collecting the maximum amount of taxes allowable under the law. Next year's school tax rate will be about the same as this year's \$3.49 per \$100 assessed valuation, although the figure may vary slightly due to bond interest rates. More money will be needed in future years, the board was told, because of a continuing increase in the number of children and the facilities needed to house and educate them. At the same time, costs and salaries are continuing to increase.

"TO GET and keep good teachers, our salaries must be competitive with other dis-

tricts," Superintendent J. H. Hull said. A 75-cent override tax was approved by Torrance voters in October, 1956, to meet increased costs. Since then, the school enrollment has risen from 15,000 to 25,000 and the number of schools from 19 to 32. Inflation also has been a factor in higher costs. At the same time, Torrance's costs per pupil have been about \$50 less per pupil than the county average. Requests for salary increases from both teachers and non teaching employees also were taken under consideration.

THE BOARD received a brochure outlining proposals of the Torrance Education Assn. for salary increases for teachers. Their proposals would raise all salaries, with more consideration given to more experienced teachers. Frank Visca, representing Local 1101, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, appeared to present requests for salary increases and various other fringe benefits to the board. Both requests will be studied by the board.

'Y' Hits \$32,000 Goal

Torrance YMCA officials announced yesterday that the \$32,000 goal for the youth agency's 1960 needs has been reached. The YMCA received cash and pledges from 880 families and firms in order to meet needs for the present year. All funds were raised from local sources, and will be spent entirely upon boys and girls in the immediate neighborhood of Torrance and Lomita.

Board Chairman Scott F. Albright lauded the General Campaign Chairman, Albert Isen. Albright said that this is the second consecutive year that Isen has led the vast team of volunteers to victory for YMCA funds. The Torrance YMCA Campaign was the first of 26 Southland YMCA's to reach its goal. Isen sparked the success by raising over \$6000 personally.

ALBRIGHT ALSO credited (Continued on Page 16)

Top State Officials To Speak

Area councilmen and other city officials will hear top state highway officials at a meeting of the South Bay Inter-City Councilmen's Committee in the Cockatoo Inn this evening.

Speaking to the group will be Robert Bradford, state public works director; J. C. Womack, state highway engineer; and E. T. Telford, assistant state highway engineer for District VII in Los Angeles.

A special invitation has been issued to directors of public works and city engineers of the area to hear the top-level reports on highways and freeways, according to Councilman J. A. Beasley, Torrance's representative on the group.



ROYAL WELCOME . . . Abe Robinson, president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, rolls out a red carpet for Lois Turner as Downtown Torrance merchants ready for "Red Carpet Day." Sales bargains begin today and continue through Friday and Saturday. (Herald Photo)

See Special Ads in Today's Herald

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What is your opinion of daylight saving time? Do you approve or disapprove of it and why?"

Answering were:

Mrs. B. C. Burns, 2020 Arlington Ave., housewife: "I definitely like it for it gives us longer evenings to enjoy barbecues, and to just relax. It makes the mornings seem nicer too for we get up earlier and get the full benefit of the nicest time of the morning, and a chance to get our work done before the heat of the day sets in."

Mrs. Mary Corder, 1017 Font-hill, housewife:

"Well its extremely confusing at first, especially to children. It makes it hard on the boys who deliver papers in the mornings, too, but on the other hand it's good in that it gives the Little League groups time to play their games before dark as there are no lights on the fields. It has both benefits and drawbacks."

Van D. Colburn, 24810 Wood-ward Avenue, steamfitter:

"I don't see where it makes any difference. I have figured and figured and always come up with the same answer; that we have plenty of daylight in the summer months anyhow as your days are longer so what difference does it make?"

Elsie Cook, 20426 Catalina Ave., housewife:

"I'm a little tired of it myself. We have had it a good many years and I can't see where it's done any good. It's hard to get used to getting up extra early in the mornings, but then I think of the extra time in the evenings, I enjoy it enough to make up for it."

Bob Moore, 20611 1/2 S. Ver-mont, student at North High:

"I think day-light saving is a good thing but I think it should start about the first of April instead of the last, and then end about the last of October. I like it because I can get more things done, especially any outside work that I have to do. It also gives you more time for sports, and such things before dark."

For Meters

Current Fund Status Asked

If Torrance's new parking meter maintenance man is going to get all those missing meters in the downtown area back in operation, he'd better get a move on, it was indicated by action of the city council here Tuesday night.

Reconsidering a move to remove the parking meters, which had been shunted to one side a few weeks before the municipal election as being too hot to handle, the councilmen voted finally to send the matter to City Manager George Stevens for a report on the status of the city's obligations from the meter fund.

The council refused to go along with Mayor Isen's suggestion that they order the meters out "forthwith."

Point of difference is a current obligation of nearly \$20,000 on off-street parking sites purchased with the idea that meter revenue would pay the costs.

"Do you intend to pay for lots out of the general funds of the city?" Willys Blount asked the mayor.

"If the merchants can't come up with the money, maybe we should let the lots go back to their original owners," he added.

George Bradford disagreed, saying the city had a respon-

sibility to provide parking facilities.

"You provide parks for children, you have a responsibility also to provide parking for the adults — it's as broad as it is long," he said.

The matter was finally referred to Stevens to come up with a report on the best method of ending the parking meters in the downtown area. Councilmen indicated throughout the discussion that strict enforcement of posted parking laws — probably two hours maximum — would be demanded when the meters were removed.

Man Works 9500 Days Without a Single Absence

When Sidney F. Prigg of Inglewood retired recently from the Mobil Oil Refinery here, he left behind him a record that stands all alone and probably will for some time to come, according to Robert Maescher, refinery superintendent.

Prigg retired with a record of never having been late nor absent in a career which spanned more than 9500 working days.

"No one else ever has approximated Prigg's perfect record," Maescher said.

Downtown Red Carpet Days Opening Today