

CIVIL SERVICE BOARD REVERSED; COUNCIL FIRES TWO INSPECTORS

Exam To Be Held For New Building Post

One of the first surprising moves made by the new city council came Tuesday night when that body voted to permanently remove two recently suspended building inspectors. The council thus flatly rejected the Civil Service Board's ruling of last week to reinstate the two men.

The Civil Service Board voted last week to reinstate James S. Dresser, building inspector, and Cecil W. Smith, assistant building inspector.

Conditions

There were two conditions attached to this move. Dresser was to remain suspended without pay for a period of 75 days and Smith, 60 days.

In addition, the board called for an in-service training program for all building inspectors, including Dresser and Smith.

Dresser was found guilty of eight out of the original 10 charges. He was found not guilty of using city time for promoting subdivision developments or alteration of permit cards.

Smith was found guilty of 11 out of 12 charges. He was found not guilty of altering job permit cards.

Over-rides Board

The council's surprise move was based on the fact that City Manager George Stevens has appointive authority over the board. Upon his recommendation, therefore, the board's decision may be overruled by a four-fifth affirmative vote of the city council.

Stevens declared Tuesday night that the testimony presented on behalf of the two suspended inspectors did not alter his thinking in any way. Councilman Willys Blount made

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Earle Lloyd Resigns Post

Two resignations were submitted to the city council this week.

Earle A. Lloyd, planning consultant to the city of Torrance, asked that his resignation become effective as of May 31. He wished to resign "in order to devote more time to my business which requires my undivided attention."

Luther Mumford of the city planning commission also submitted his resignation to be effective immediately. No explanation was given.

The city council asked that letters of appreciation for services rendered be sent to both men.

Press Offers Service For Busy Shoppers

She was in a dither over the selection of several gift items and her time was limited . . . so she used our personal shopping service. Another mother wanted to please her girls with the blouses they described in detail. Where can I find it? This is the question we want to answer for you. The shopping service is for you, our reader, and there is no cost or obligation. Phone FAirfax 8-2345, and ask for Margie.

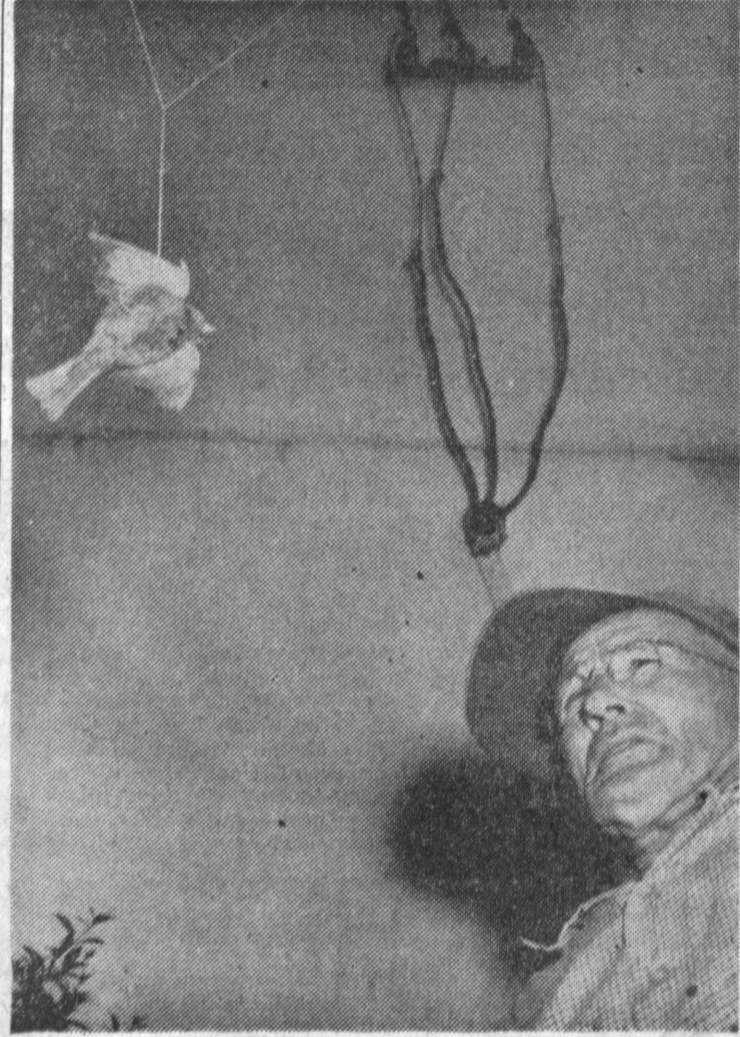
Torrance Girl Sought For Dazzling 'Miss Rheingold' Beauty Contest

For the very first time a Torrance girl will have a chance at the richest prize in the modeling field—the title of "Miss Rheingold." This is being made possible by the Lewis Carter School of Charm and Modeling in Hollywood which announced this week that it will sponsor a local girl to compete in this spectacular beauty contest.

The winning candidate will receive \$50,000—a prize of \$20,000 and guarantee of modeling fees totaling \$30,000. In addition, she will receive a furnishing of an extensive wardrobe, tours in the United States and a trip to Puerto Rico.

Qualifications

To qualify a girl must be unmarried and between the ages of 18 to 26.



THIS MAY NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN in a million years. A happy-go-lucky sparrow got caught in a dangling kite string in the alley behind the Civic Auditorium and was rescued by City Employee Romy Lee. A nearby Press photographer caught this rare picture before this bird was released.

Contractor Proposes Plan To Correct Faulty Homes

A contractor formerly associated with the Princeton Construction Co. made an overture to correct "construction faults" in the Crenshaw Gardens tract at Tuesday night's meeting of the city council. The action followed upon the heels of a 20-count suit filed by the city against the company last week.

A difference of opinion arose, however, over the number of homes involved and the extent to which "construction faults" are to be corrected.

Lloyd Wright, Jr., attorney for Henry Albachten, explained that his client would like to work out a formula whereby "those justified complaints over construction" might be corrected in the five or seven houses named in the state inspection and where "no reasonable doubt over the interpretation of the building code" exists.

Wright pointed out that he does not represent Princeton Construction Co. and that his client is no longer associated with them. Albachten's offer is simply made "in good faith" because he was once associated with the company and does not want a criminal complaint brought against himself personally, Wright explained.

Full Inspection Asked

Residents and the city council insisted that a full inspection be made of all the 32 homes involved in the complaint, since the state carried out only a spot check. They asked Wright to check with his client to see whether he was willing to correct the building faults in all instances where such faults could be attributed to building code violations.

Meeting

Wright was asked to make arrangements to meet with the council when he has an answer to these questions.

"We would have to consider the fact that the Torrance building department passed

these houses as satisfactory," Wright said during the discussion. "If at a later date this matter (of improving the homes) proves financially impractical, we would have to take the above point into consideration."

Drive Starts To Assist Cancer Family

Funds started to roll in this week for the Chucky Smith family as a result of a spontaneous reaction from all quarters of the community on reading of the little boy's hopeless fate last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith of 3514 Crickwood street have been informed that 2½-year-old Chucky was incurably stricken with cancer and probably would not live to see his third birthday. The Smiths, who had expended all of their funds on medical bills were ready to sell their home in order to pay the \$1000 which they still owed.

Containers, Posters

The Torrance police and the Walteria businessmen's association will place posters and containers in local businesses throughout the area to take up a collection. The businessmen's association will cover the south Torrance area while the police

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TORRANCE PRESS

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VOLUME VI

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1954 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA



5¢

100,000 READERS

NUMBER 3

Residents Fight New Dicalite Mine Permit

NINE HOMES BURGLARIZED THIS WEEK

Nine burglaries scattered throughout the Torrance area were reported over the week-end. In every instance the burglary was facilitated by unhooked screens or windows, according to Torrance Detectives Capt. Ernie Ashton and Sgt. Percy Bennett.

Entering through the open front room window, one or more burglars stole a Lord Elgin "Drake" watch, a Ronson lighter, cuff-links, rhinestone choker, bracelet, earrings and a Toastmaster from the Richard J. Leiser home at 4007 West 175th street sometime Saturday evening.

The home of Kenneth Perkins, 2830 Eldorado was also ransacked Saturday night. Stolen were seven dollars and four packs of cigarettes.

Before the burglar or burglars at the home of Mrs. Godfrey Lovell, 18415 Eriel street left, they ate the pastries which they found in the kitchen. The burglars gained entry through an open bedroom window. They took \$2.50 in change plus costume jewelry before they made their exit via the kitchen door.

Penny Stolen

Burglars at the home of James W. Willson, 18409 Eriel gained admission through an unlocked bedroom window Saturday night. They ransacked the house completely pulling all the drawers from the dressers in both bedrooms. Taken were a Motorola clock radio in a white plastic case and the entire contents of a piggy bank consisting exactly of one old penny (vintage 1853 or 1854).

An attempted entry was made at the home of William T. Sprankling, 16914 Ardath sometime Saturday night. The at-

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Demos Elect Gately

Frank Gately was elected president of the Torrance Democratic club at a meeting held last Friday night at the CIO Hall. It was announced this week.

Elected to serve with Gately

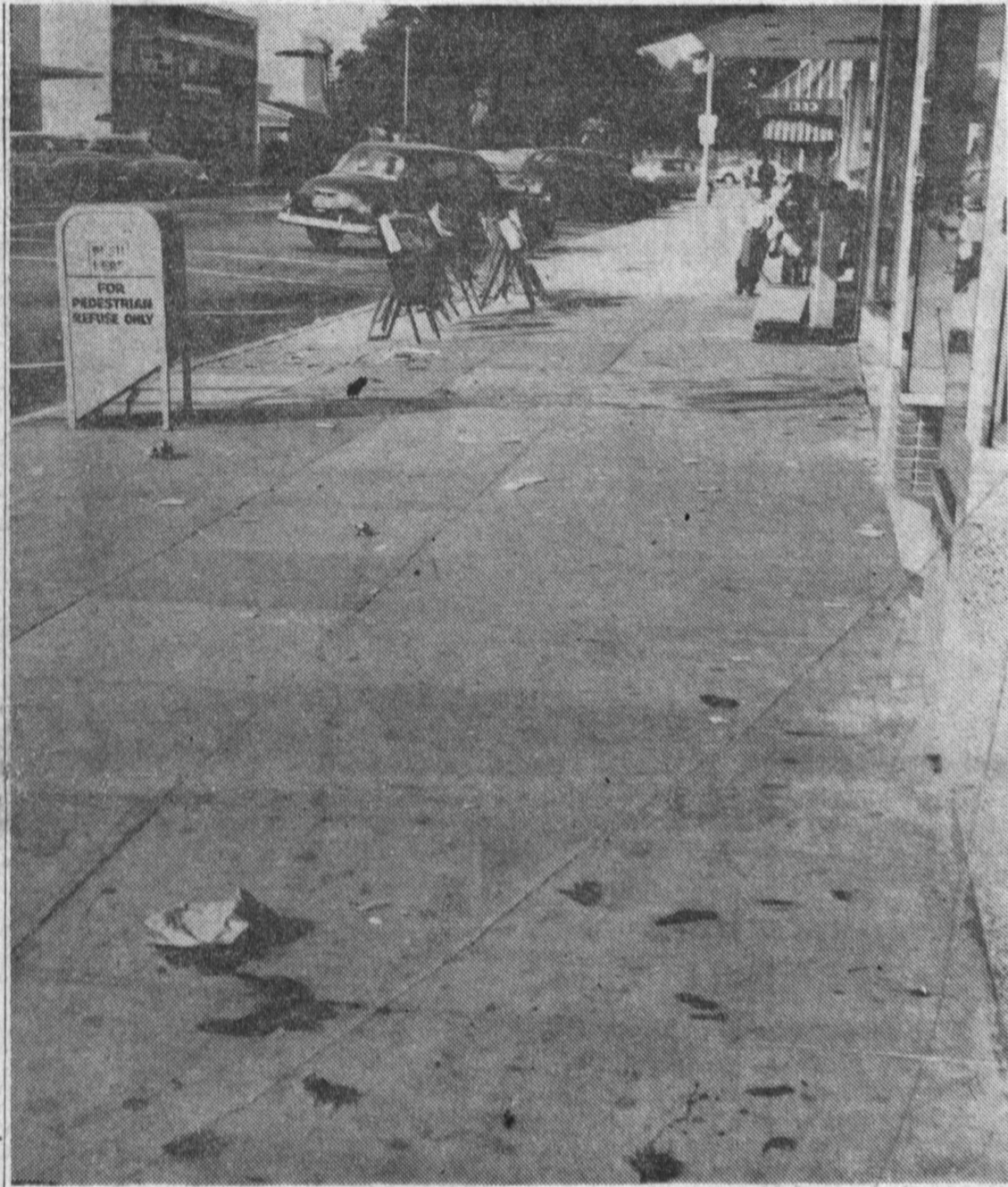


FRANK GATELY . . . to head Democrats

were the following officers: Stephen Darcy, vice-president; Margaret Weber, secretary; and Jess Dean, treasurer.

The newly elected board of directors includes: Robert

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LET'S CLEAN IT UP . . . "Spring Clean-Up Week," May 5, isn't just an empty phrase proclaimed by the mayor. There's plenty to be

cleaned up around Torrance. A sight such as this can be seen daily on any street or alley in the downtown business area.

Oh How I Love To Get Up In The Morning . . .

Thursday morning was one time when Mrs. Robert Leach of 950 Teri avenue didn't mind getting up early.

Mrs. Leach had placed the following ad in the Torrance Press Classified section:

FOR SALE—Youth bed. Blond color. Kentwet mattress and springs. Immaculate. FA. 8-3441

No sooner had the Torrance Press been distributed when Mrs. Leach received her first call at 7 o'clock in the morning. She sold the bed to the first person who called. The calls continued all day long.

You might have trouble getting out of bed but you won't have trouble getting results when you advertise in the Torrance Press.

DRIVE STARTS FOR A CLEANER TORRANCE

Lawbreakers, inadequate street cleaning equipment, and an expanded area to be serviced were blamed this week for the sloppy appearance of the streets and alleys in the downtown shopping area and in the outlying districts of Torrance.

"We don't get to the downtown alleys as often as we should," Ralph Perkins, superintendent of parks and streets, admitted.

"We clean them about once a month. Till about three to four months ago we used to

BULLETIN: The week of May 5 has been named "Spring Clean-Up Week" by special proclamation of Mayor Nikolaus O. Dralle.

sweep the alleys once a week." Perkins blamed the neglect of the business area on the shortage of street cleaning equipment. "We have only two street brooms (vehicles) and with the growth of the outlying



E. ASHTON

The natural result of this tremendous growth and terrific increase in our population is a corresponding rate of increase in our crime rate. This is only to be expected and certainly does not indicate ours is a lawless City.

The police department's job of protecting you and your property can be greatly aided and abetted, if you would observe a very few simple precautions as follows.

When you and your family take in the neighborhood drive-in theater for the evening do not merely close the front door of your residence, but make sure it is locked. Check the rear, side or patio doors and see that they are also locked as well as lower any raised windows and turn the fastener on your windows. Lower your shades or blinds and leave a light burning in your bath room and if possible in your living room also which will have the effect of making it not quite so obvious you are away for the evening.

When the women members of the household go across the street in the afternoon or early evening for coffee with the wom-

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CASE BEFORE PLANNING COMMISSION

Walteria homeowners were quick to register strong protest this week with the city council the moment they got wind that a new diatomaceous earth mine was being planned in their vicinity.

A spokesman for the Pacific Hills Homeowners association alerted the council to the fact that an application for digging such a mine has been filed with the Torrance city planning commission.

Seeks Variance

The request comes from John J. DiMarco of Los Angeles. He is seeking a zoning variance and conditional permit to excavate a triangular piece of property near the southerly terminus of Madison st. This is just to the north of the existing pits of the Great Lakes Carbon corp.'s diatomic division. It is in a light agricultural zone.

Purpose

DiMarco said the material would be taken in enclosed

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BODY SEARED IN MID-AIR PLANE CRASH

The charred and mutilated body of Paul Stahmann, about 28 years old, of 3624 East Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach, was found among the wreckage of his one-seater plane following a mid-air collision with another plane near the Torrance Municipal airport late Saturday afternoon, according to Herman G. Denner, aviation safety agent with the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

Stahmann's plane collided with a Piper Cub flown by Michael Francesco, 29, of 3915 East 14th street, Long Beach, near the tank area immediately north of the flying field. Francesco's plane sheared the tail off the Stahmann craft, causing Stahmann's plane to nose

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KEEP IT LOCKED

By DET. CAPT. ERNIE ASHTON, Guest Editor

(In order to air our civic needs, the Torrance Press is running a series of weekly editorials written by people of the community. Editorials may be submitted by anyone. All manuscripts become the property of the Torrance Press. We welcome ideas on any subject, controversial or otherwise. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publishers.)

It is hoped the following remarks directed to the residents of our rapidly expanding city through the medium of the Press will help your police department curb the rising tide of residential and garage burglaries with which we have been plagued in the past few months, particularly in view of the fact our City has forever lost the status of being placed in the category of a "village."

The natural result of this tremendous growth and terrific increase in our population is a corresponding rate of increase in our crime rate. This is only to be expected and certainly does not indicate ours is a lawless City.

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