



CIVIL SERVICE DOUBLE-CROSS CITY COUNCIL IN BUILDING SCANDAL

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READERS

Council Attempts to Fire Board Members

The long-slumbering building scandal issue erupted with new violence Tuesday night when three members of the City Council demanded the firing of the whole Civil Service Board for signing affidavits, apparently in direct contradiction to the city's stand, in the Smith-Dresser case.

Walteria Civic Association Reorganizes

Reorganization of the Walteria Civic Organization was begun last week as members chose temporary officers to help re-enlist and mobilize local residents.

The Council was informed that every member of the Civil Service Board has signed affidavits prepared by John McCall, attorney for James Dresser and Cecil Smith, recently fired building inspectors, who are seeking reinstatement, claiming the firing to be unjustified.

Double-Cross

It was claimed Tuesday night by city officials that the affidavits signed by the board are prejudicial to the city's position and that the board never asked the legal opinion of the city attorney before signing the documents. The affidavits are said to favor the Dresser-Smith side without adequately presenting the city's case.

While Councilmen Albert Isen, Willys Blount, and Mervin Schwab, upon Isen's recommendation, voted to fire the whole Civil Service Board, there was some question as to the legality of their action.

City Attorney James Hall was asked to render an opinion on what constitutes removal of the Civil Service Board.

It was felt that a 4/5 vote was necessary to remove the civil service board. Mayor Nick Draie and Councilman Victor Benstead opposed the firing of the board.

At Odds

The Civil Service Board and the City Council have been at odds over the Dresser-Smith issue ever since the hearings were held to determine the inspectors' responsibility for faulty home construction in certain North Torrance tracts.

While the board recommended temporary suspension of the two inspectors, the City Council

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City Council Considers Job Aid for Double Session Hi-School Students

COUNCIL TO STUDY PROPOSAL

Helping high school students find part-time jobs was given serious consideration this week by several sources.

The swift action followed in the wake of an editorial appearing in the Torrance Press last week focusing the community's attention on the need to solve the problem of Idle Time, potential source of juvenile delinquency. A community-wide attempt to provide jobs for Juniors was urged.

Council Consideration While not definitely committing itself on the matter at this time, the City Council planned to consider a city-sponsored program whereby high school youngsters could work part-time on community projects.

Mayor Nick Draie appeared in favor of the idea. Other members of the Council did not indicate their leanings at this time.

The idea was urged by Mrs. Herma Tillim who, together with the Torrance Coordinating Council, has waged an active

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HARBOR CITY

Admission To Variety Show Cans Of Food

The annual star-studded variety show held at 101 Bowling Center, 1615 W. Pacific Coast Highway will be held December 18 at 7:30 p.m., with the admission being two or more cans of food.

The food will be used for Christmas baskets to be taken to 25 deserving families in the Harbor area.

While two cans of food is minimum admission, residents are encouraged to bring as much as they wish in order to

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE... The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, was celebrated locally last Sunday, December 12. Highlight of the procession was a float depicting the miracle which occurred near Mexico City in 1531. Assuming the role of the Virgin Mary was Gloria Gutierrez, 21, of Hawthorne. Jose Rios, 14, (kneeling) of 2236 203rd st., Torrance, appeared as Juan Diego, the Indian convert to whom the Lady of Guadalupe appeared.

—Press Photo



Colorful Procession Marks Observance of 'Our Lady of Guadalupe' Feast Locally

The feast of "Our Lady of Guadalupe," described as the most important Catholic religious holiday observed by the Spanish-speaking population of the Americas, was celebrated locally with an impressive religious procession and a colorful fiesta Sunday, December 12.

The 2 o'clock procession wound from Columbia Steel on Arlington up to 203rd street to St. Joseph's church.

The day, as described in "Our Sunday Visitor," National Catholic weekly, commemorates a great miracle which occurred December 9, 1531, a few miles northeast of Mexico City.

Virgin Mary Appears

On that day the Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego.

When Juan told the Bishop of Mexico City of this visit he was not believed. Later, as a sign for the incredulous bishop, the Blessed Virgin told Juan to go gather roses from some rocks nearby.

Knowing that it was neither the place nor the season for roses but obedient to Mary's command, the Indian went and found the flowers.

The Virgin rearranged them for him, and, telling him not to

expose them or touch them, sent him to the bishop.

In the bishop's presence Juan unfolded his cloak to show the requested sign. He let the roses fall from his cloak and as he did so was amazed to see the bishop and the others present kneel before him.

Miracle

Upon Juan Diego's poor cloak they then saw what generations of pilgrims have seen since, a beautiful picture of the Virgin Mary exactly as she had been described in his first report to the bishop.

Highlight of the Torrance procession was a magnificent religious float depicting the scene between Juan Diego and the Virgin Mary. While the procession has been held annually here, this marked the first time that a float was used.

Charming Gutierrez, 21, of Hawthorne, wearing a fuchsia-colored dress with floral design and a dark-green cloak punctuated with gold stars, appeared in the role of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Kneeling before her with his cloak spread out containing the red roses was Jose Rios, 14, of 2236 203rd street. Jose, dressed in typical Indian costume, symbolized Juan Diego, central figure of the miracle.

Four young children appearing as angels composed the rest of the group.

The beautifully decorated float carried out the setting in which the miracle occurred, flowers, rocks, and cacti dotting the landscape.

Festivities began with a high mass said by Father Robert Gara at St. Joseph's church at

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FRANK H. HIGGINS, Assistant Secretary of the Army, (center) inspects the facilities of Harvey Aluminum and Harvey Machine Co., Inc., Torrance, California, during the course of a tour of the Army's guided missile industry in

the Southland. Accompanying Secretary Higgins are his aide, Lt. Col. William R. Campbell; Leo M. Harvey, chairman of the board; and (rear) Lt. Col. J. E. Johnston, District Chief of the Los Angeles Ordnance District.

Harvey's New Giant Presses To Start Operations In '55

Giant extrusion presses, capable of "squeezing out" the largest extruded aluminum shapes in the world, are being installed in the heavy press building now under construction at the Harvey Aluminum plant in Torrance.

Installation of the new extrusion presses, which will include a 12,000-ton and an 8,000-ton press, and Harvey's erection of a new press facility, comprise a joint participation project under the Air Force heavy press program. Construction is marked for completion during the first quarter of the coming year, with production scheduled for mid 1955.

NEW LOMITA POST OFFICE TO BE BUILT

Construction on a new Lomita Post Office is scheduled to start immediately, according to William C. Mertz.

Contract for the job is Mertz Bros. company which was awarded the contract on a 10-year lease by the federal government.

Mertz said the building will be constructed near Narbonne Ave. on Lomita Blvd., opposite the present post office building.

The building should be ready for occupancy in six months, Mertz said.

Sen. Thomas Kuchel accepted the Mertz Bros. bid for the project and wired agreement to the firm. The building will contain more than 4,000 square feet of floor space.

GIFTS FOR KIDS Yule Gift Suggestions For Hospital

As every year, Torrance Press readers will have a chance to make a lot of kids at Harbor General Hospital happy this Christmas. We have started to collect presents which will be taken to the hospital December 24 by Santa Claus (appearing through the courtesy of the Naval Supply Booster's Club in San Pedro).

Gifts may be brought to the Torrance Press any time.

There are many little children who have been confined to the hospital for a long time whose Christmas will be brightened by these gifts: For instance, there's little 5-year-old Georgie, badly crippled, who hopes Santa will bring him a cowboy hat (19½" circumference); 18-month-old Eddie, badly swollen, who needs coveralls and would like to have a pulling toy; and 5-year-old Diana, seriously burned some

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We'll Be Out Tuesday December 21

The next edition of the Torrance Press will appear Tuesday, December 21, instead of our regular Thursday edition.

We are coming out earlier next week because of the Christmas holiday.

Editorial deadline, therefore, has been moved up to Saturday morning, 10 a.m.

Deadline for all classified advertising and display advertising is 5 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

ASSISTANT CHIEF TO BE CHOSEN

Promotional examinations for the posts of assistant chief and captain in the Torrance Police Department have been called by the City Council upon recommendation of the Civil Service Board.

The Council accepted the board's recommendation that all police officers from the rank of sergeant and up will be eligible to take the examination for assistant chief, provided the individual has served on the local police force for eight years or more.

Qualifying to take the examination on that basis are five sergeants, three lieutenants, and one captain, it was disclosed.

Examination for other posts will also be held. No date has been set for the tests.

'Little Merchant Plan' Used For Press Distribution

Torrance Press carrier boys are in business for themselves. They are given the newspapers, a delivery route, and the opportunity to develop habits of industry and responsibility.

You are entitled to a free delivery of the Torrance Press. If you wish, you may pay the paper boy for his services. What he receives is his keep.

The sum you give him shows your appreciation of his careful service and is his compensation.

Each carrier is required to give a receipt for the sum you give him.

The amount you give him is optional. You are entitled to receive your copy of the Torrance Press whether you pay or not and regardless of how much you pay. However, boys are not to be paid unless they give the proper Torrance Press receipt.

Santa Claus To Appear Here December 21-23

Santa Claus will be passing out lollipops in downtown Torrance, December 21 through 23, according to Dale Isenberg of the Chamber of Commerce. Santa appears through the courtesy of the Boosters Club, San Pedro Naval Supply Depot.

CONFESSIONS OF A 2-WHEEL TRAILER...

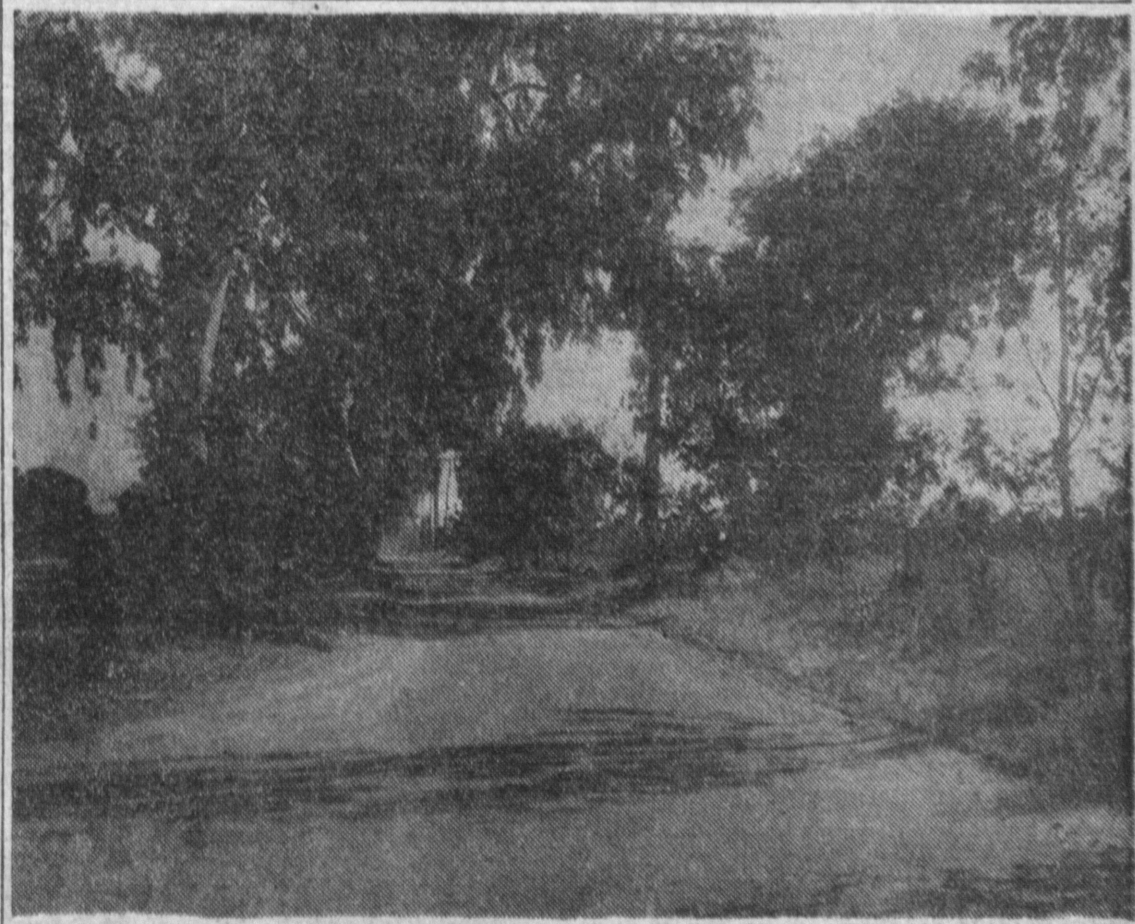
If trailers could talk, this is the testimonial the Torrance Press would receive this week:

"I am a two-wheel trailer with a spare tire. I belong to Arthur Chmielewski of 20906 So. Denker. When the Chmielewskis didn't want me any longer they put me up for sale—they asked \$25 for me.

"My story appeared in the Torrance Press classified section. It read as follows:

FOR SALE — 2-wheel trailer with spare tire. \$25. Ph. FA 8-4430

"I found a new home and I am useful again. All I can say is, there's nothing like the Torrance Press for getting RESULTS! Call FA 8-2345 and let a friendly Torrance Press classified sales girl help you as she helped me."



JUNGLE TRAIL... Plaza del Amo, between Border and Western aves., still looks like a jungle. Some time ago City Manager George Stevens announced that plans would be made for widening and paving the boulevard as has

been done with other sections of it. So far nothing has been done, it appears. Residents in the area object to the unsightly scene and want it cleaned up.

8 More Shopping Days Until Christmas