

Shell Oil Buys Three War-Time Rubber Plants in Torrance Area

Government Confirms Plant Sale

The Shell Chemical Corp. has contracted to buy three of the government's big synthetic rubber plants in the Torrance area, it was announced Friday in Washington.

Locations to be taken over by Shell are: the Copolymer plant at 19201 S. Vermont, ave., now running under contract by Midland Rubber Corp.; the butadiene plant at 19821 S. Figueroa st., operated by Shell, and the styrene plant at 20021 S. Vermont ave., run by Dow Chemical Co.

The Los Angeles facilities will give Shell top-to-bottom production facilities. Butadiene is produced from petroleum. Then butadiene and styrene are combined in the copolymerization plant. The product will be standard GRS or general purpose synthetic used in automobile tires and many other products.

The price will not be made public until the Rubber Producing Facilities Disposal Commission makes its full report to Congress. Deadline is Jan. 27.

'S-D DAY' PRAISED BY CHIEF

The December holiday season is the worst accident season of the year, Police Chief Willard Haslam warned this week. The police chief pointed out, though, that a little caution on the part of drivers can go a long way in keeping accidents down to a minimum as was dramatically illustrated last week on S-D day.

"We only had two very minor accidents here," Chief Haslam stated. "There were no injuries and no serious accidents during the 24 hour period."

Minor Accidents
The two minor accidents involved two parked cars. One was hit by another car backing out of a drive way while the other parked car had its fender bent by a passing automobile.

Figures for 1954 through the month of November indicate that all traffic accidents for this year have increased considerably over 1953. Accidents stack up as follows:

| | 1953 | 1954 |
|--|------|------|
| Injury | 99 | 133 |
| Non-injury | 416 | 445 |
| Killed | 4 | 9 |
| Number of persons injured in accidents | 164 | 188 |

Chief Haslam indicated that the number of accidents rose in proportion to the increased local population and does not indicate

(Continued on Page 20)

Have Some Change



SHOPPER'S DILEMMA... Having the correct change handy for the new parking meters in downtown Torrance seems to be one of the problems faced by shoppers nowadays. John Hogan (right) of John's Paint store, 1413 Cravens ave., hit upon the bright idea of placing a bucket full of change outside his store, inviting shoppers to make their own change. Here Mrs. Lucille Rogers, 1731 Fern ave., avails herself of the service.

TORRANCE PRESS

Conveniently Located at 1406 Cravens Avenue — Phone FAirfax 8-2345

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4 LOCAL MEN NABBED IN \$5000 DOPE RAID

LOMITA MAN, FATHER OF FIVE, RECEIVES Ph.D.

Ten years of college work were finally climaxed with the receiving of a doctorate degree Sunday by Willard M. Brown, father of two sons and three daughters.

Brown, who, with his wife and children, has lived at 25316 Ebony Lane in Lomita

since 1941, had the degree of Doctor of Philosophy conferred on him in ceremonies at San Gabriel College in Santa Ana. The new Ph.D. has a distinguished academic, teaching, and sports record behind him.

Besides the two years of work he is completing in philosophy and literature at the Santa Ana college, he has also worked as a graduate student in the Bureau of Educational Research of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

USC
Prior to that he spent six years at USC, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Education and his administrative credential.

Brown has taught at Redondo Union high school and several high schools in the Los Angeles city school system as well as elsewhere.

Dr. Brown is a member of

(Continued on Page 20)

Auto Kills Utility Worker

Death of a gas company employee who was struck by an auto while working in the highway at 186th st. and Western ave. Friday was still under investigation today.

Dead is William Gratton, 42, of 18919 Yukon Ave., who succumbed at Santa Fe Hospital 20 hours after the accident. Driving the auto was Mrs. Paul Cline, 25, of 15322 Chanera Ave., Gardena.



IT'S 'DR.' NOW... Willard M. Brown of Lomita had the Doctor of Philosophy degree conferred upon him Sunday. The father of five has been working toward the degree for 10 years.

Lomita Zone Plans Approved

The long drawn out Lomita zoning battle was concluded Thursday when the County Board of Supervisors approved the zoning plan forwarded by the Regional Planning Commission.

Final adoption of the plans is due by the end of the month.

Following an hour-long hearing before an audience which packed the chamber, Supervisor Burton W. Chace moved that the zone plan be approved.

The board made no changes in the plans as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Victory

This constituted a victory for pro-zoning forces, concluding the controversial zoning issue which began five years ago when a zoning plan was rejected.

Pro-zoners, represented by Tim McCormick, president-elect of the local Chamber of Commerce, and the Rev. Howard Rosine, presented endorsements of the zoning plans from 10 major local organizations.

Spokesman for the antizoneers was D. J. Meyers of the Lomita

(Continued on Page 20)

Construction Starts on Bethlehem Steel Plant

First section of the \$5,000,000 fabricating plant being built here by the Bethlehem Pacific Steel Co. was put into place yesterday morning at 190th street west of Western ave., it was announced.

On hand were E. F. Gohl, vice president in charge of fabricating steel construction, and F. C. Todd, Jr., fabricating works manager.

The new plant, to be completed by next summer, will be on a 46-acre tract and will replace the present Fabricating Works at 111000 South Central avenue in Los Angeles.

Landmarks

The steel framework for many familiar structures in the Los Angeles area, such as the Los Angeles City Hall, Grauman's Chinese theater, Prudential buildings, Tishman buildings, and the UCLA medical

center was fabricated at the present Los Angeles plant. The plant will hire about 300 workers.

Increased Capacity

Capacity of the new steel fabricating works will be greater than that of the present operation. Production will be more diversified and will provide facilities for the fabrication of both light and heavy steel framing for riveted, welded and bolted erection.

Long span joists will be added to the established line of steel fabricated members for bridge, industrial and commercial structures.

TORRANCE PRESS SURVEY

How Do You Like the New Parking Meters?

The pros and cons of parking meters is no longer an academic question. The PM's are here! Local residents have had about ten days to form an opinion about the downtown parking meters. Here's what a spot survey made by the Torrance Press revealed.

MRS. DORIS WATSON, 1235 Cota: I like them. For the first time in 30 years I have been able to park next to the bank ... and only for a penny!

L. W. PUNCHER, 2317 Border: Well, I'll tell you, it's still just as hard to park.

E. E. SPARKS, 2516 El Dorado: Our neighbors tell us that parking is much easier now.

MRS. WM. SPECK, 1511 Acacia: It seems a little easier to find a parking space now.

MRS. SAM SHEPHERD, 807 Beech: I had to go 'round and 'round and 'round the block—can't see much difference.

ALBERT STAVENS, 2207 Maricopa: I think they're a very good idea—it's much easier to park.

MRS. B. WOODMAN, 1333 Engracia: I don't mind them one bit ... but my husband doesn't like them.

LEE OGDEN, 1815 - 178th st.: Haven't used them yet, but I think they're all right ... a benefit to the city.

MRS. HUGH STEADMAN, 1020 Portola: No trouble finding the right change ... I've been saving my pennies and nickles.

RUFUS GUFUS, 0000 P. M. Street: Ain't they cute ... how do you work 'em? (How did Rufus Gufus sneak in here?)

One Cries, One Fights, 2 Callous

Four young men were arrested here in a midnight dope raid on a Torrance home Friday night where they were found to be in possession of \$5000 worth of narcotics.

Confiscated were 24 tins of marijuana and 20,500 benzidine tablets, according to Det. Capt. Ernie Ashton of the Torrance Police Department. Ashton, who had been working on the case for three weeks, made the arrest together with Sheriff's Dets. Earl Talbot, Lee Stahl, and Dwight Smith.

Arrested at the home of Jerry E. Codd, 22, 1428 West 221st street, Torrance, were Codd; Gary C. Locke, 24, 4302 West 147th street, Lawndale; Norval Leroy Wood, 23, 4530 West 159th street, Lawndale, and Donald Lee White, 22, 811 Amapola, Torrance.

Money For Christmas

None of the men had ever been arrested on a narcotics charge before, Ashton stated. All but White denied that they were the guys they were weddling the stuff in order to raise Christmas money, according to Ashton.

It was pointed out, however, that the men had been trafficking in dope for three months.

White and Codd are both married and have a small child each. White is a soldier at Ft.

(Continued on Page 20)

School Board To Award Bungalow Bid

Bids on 20 portable bungalow classrooms will be awarded tonight by the Torrance Board of Education to J. E. Burrell and Sons for their apparent low bid of \$181,750. It was announced this week by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools.

High bid was \$213,765. The bungalows will house over 800 school children, taking 1600 pupils off double session, according to Hull.

The bungalows will be erected on school grounds around the city at critical points. The program should be completed by April, Hull stated.

Last Call For Gifts To Kids In Hospital

This is the last call for Christmas gifts to be taken to the children at Harbor General Hospital. As every year, the Torrance Press is asking local residents to bring gifts to the Press office to be taken to the Hospital Friday morning, December 24.

Deadline for gifts brought to the Press office is Friday morning, 9 a.m.

Helping the Press distribute the presents will be Santa Claus, appearing through the courtesy of the Naval Supply Booster's club in San Pedro.

Many generous and thoughtful gifts have already been contributed.

(Continued on Page 20)

SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

John's Paint Store Wins Again In Window Contest

John's Paint store at 1413 Cravens will be permitted to keep last year's trophy for the best Christmas window decorations for another year as the store again captured the sweepstakes in this season's Yule window contest.

Announcement of the prize-winning window was made this week by Jack Warnitz, contest chairman of the sponsoring Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Home Scenes
The paint store's windows, which attract the attention of many a passer-by, depict a bedroom scene showing a little girl praying and a family living room scene celebrating Christmas with gifts, a Christmas tree, and family singing around the piano.

The settings employ dolls and miniatures and were the inspiration of Mrs. John Hogan, wife of the owner of John's Paint store.

The store windows are painted to look like a brick house with two large windows, flanked by attractive curtains, through which the two Christmas scenes may be viewed.

Other Winners
While John's Paint store was the winner in Class B as well as the overall winner, winners

(Continued on Page 20)

Owl-Rexall Drug Opens In Waltheria

The new Owl-Rexall drug store at Hawthorne avenue and Pacific Coast Highway (next to Clark's market) is now open for business, offering local residents an endless variety of merchandise to suit their many needs.

The attractive spacious interior will contain numerous departments which will feature the many bargains for which Owl-Rexall is so well known.

While the drug store is open

(Continued on Page 20)

Free Show Today for Local Kids

Santa, who on occasion has an uncomfortable way of favoring "good" children, gave Torrance youngsters a break today by inviting them all to a free picture party with no questions asked.

Free movies and candy canes will be offered at the Stadium Theater, 1653 Cravens ave., starting at 2 p.m.

This is an annual event sponsored by the Torrance Civitan Club.

Four cartoons, and one comedy, "Mr. Scoutmaster" with Clifton Webb, will be shown, according to Civitan President Bob Belken.

Commercial Rezoning of Large Sections Approved

The proposed commercial rezoning of North and South Torrance gained the general approval of residents in the area with only a few problems still to be ironed out by the Planning Commission. Included in the North Torrance rezoning plan is a 55-acre site at the corner of 182nd st. and Arlington ave. intended for use as a huge retail shopping center, according to George Powell, Planning Commission secretary.

Also proposed for commercial or R-2 or R-3 (double or multiple dwelling) purposes was the north side of 174th street between Glenburn and Prairie.

The only objection came from the North Torrance Civic Improvement association which opposes unqualified strip zoning. The association asked that definite conditions be attached to the development of this area.

Request Rezoning
Residents of 174th street between Glenburn and Delia requested that their area be rezoned commercially because they felt that the freeway has lowered the value of their property.

Also intended for R-2 and R-3 rezoning by the Planning Commission is a strip of land which runs the length of Redondo Beach blvd.

A light manufacturing zone was recommended by the Planning Commission for areas lying in the vicinity of 166th street to 180th street, between Western ave. and Wilton.

A second hearing on the North Torrance rezoning plan will be held before the Planning Commission, January 5, 7 p.m., in the Council chamber of the City Hall, corner Cravens and El Prado.

South Torrance
Large sections of South Torrance were approved for commercial rezoning without any opposition at the second and final hearing before the Planning Commission. The zone plan will now be recommended to the City Council which will hold a third and final hearing on the matter December 28, according to Powell.

Zoned for commercial purposes are areas bordered as follows:

1. Sepulveda west of Hawthorne to undedicated Earl street;

2. Hawthorne south of Sepulveda to the restricted Waltheria lake zone;

3. 238th street to Pacific Coast Highway, between Hawthorne and Madison;

4. 238th street west of Hawthorne to Ellinwood and across Pacific Coast Highway to Walnut and its Newton street extension to Ellinwood.

Rezoned 2-family residential (R-2) is the area from 244th street to Newton on the west side of Park, to coincide with the zoning across the street from it.

Merry Merry Christmas To All Our Readers

From 104 Newsboys and Staff of the Torrance Press