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POLE CAT—Frank Bakulich, a lineman, gives demonstration of pole climbing to Janice Little and Sharon Chavira during Pacific Telephone Co. open house Thursday and Friday.



TOOL DISPLAY—Gene Nelson paints out some of the smaller tools used by telephone personnel to sixth graders of Perry School. Some 2400 youngsters from all Torrance schools toured the company's Torrance exchange.

More Than 4000 Attend Phone Co. Open House

There was real community interest in Pacific Telephone's Open House event last Thursday and Friday and according to the latest count by local manager Dick Pyle who said 4129 visitors showed up for the festivities. School children and teachers by the busload visited the telephone center during the morning hours and in the afternoon housewives, friends and neighbors toured the big communications center and watched the demonstration in the parking lot outside.

Crane to Be Held For Trial

Kenneth Raymond Crane, 30, is held for arraignment in Inglewood Superior Court Nov. 28 on charges he murdered his wife, following preliminary hearing in Torrance Municipal Court Friday.

Judge Donald Armstrong ordered Crane, a longshoreman, held without bail. He is charged with shooting his attractive wife, Joan, 27, an estate saleswoman Oct. 31 in the couple's home, 22910 Cabrillo Ave., with a shotgun, to climax an argument over money and her housekeeping.

Carson Dump Zone Rejected

Carson area residents have won their battle to prevent establishment of a rubbish and garbage dump on Vermont Ave. between 208th and 214th Sts.

Seek Members of Disaster Group

Councilmen have been asked to make nominations to the new Civil Defense Commission, but this time there will be no selection of names from a hat, which resulted in a walk-out by councilmen recently.

Seek Christmas Jobs

Several hundred high school students will be available for Christmas jobs during their vacations, L. R. Albro, work experience coordinator for the Torrance Unified School District announced this week.

Isen, Drale Feud on City Tax Assessor

A suggestion that Torrance have its own tax assessor to keep taxes from zooming out of control resulted in a heated argument between Mayor Albert Isen and Councilman Nickolas O. Drale and even talk of secession from the county.

The verbal duel was triggered when Drale suggested that City Manager George Stevens study formation of a tax assessor's office instead of using the county's.

"I wouldn't even waste Mr. Stevens' time on this," snapped Isen. "You're opposed to anything for the benefit of the people," Drale charged back.

Face Deficit
The councilman said that the county is presently faced with making up for \$6,000,000 in tax revenue lost by the county due to a recent court ruling exempting defense plant inventories.

"We're a city of \$200,000,000 assessed valuation and pay a lot of expenses for the county and not receiving benefits," Drale asserted.

Isen termed the councilman's suggestion "obsolete and medieval," and claimed that Long Beach and Pasadena, which have their own assessor, are trying to get rid of them.

Only For City
The mayor also said that the city assessor could only set valuation for city taxes and that the county, school district and other taxing agencies will still use the county assessor, making for duplications.

"People have received huge tax increases, we'd be of service to them," Drale said. Isen countered by saying that only 16 per cent of the tax bill is for municipal services, and that the city has nothing to do with the other 84 per cent.

"Let's not fool the people. I'm just as interested as you, if not more, in keeping the tax rate low," the mayor said.

"Anything we're for, you're against," Drale retorted.

Torrance County
At this point Councilman Robert Jahn said that he favored a tax office for the South Bay area, and even State legislation to set up a county government for this area.

"I favor a Torrance County," the mayor agreed. Drale's motion to refer the subject of a municipal assessment system, or at least a branch office of the county assessor in Torrance was finally approved with all but Isen voting in favor.

"When all the hullabaloo and smoke dies down, you'll find I'm right," the mayor said closing the subject.

Culture Group Problems Aired by Co-Council

A round table discussion to discuss the problems of Torrance cultural groups will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Victor Benstead Swimming Pool.

The session will be sponsored by the Coordinating Council. "There is much room for assistance and patronization of Torrance cultural groups, and an understanding of their aims is the first step in helping them assume their proper place in our community," said Mrs. John Mangan, president of the council.



CHAPMAN L. BONE

Bone Is New City Assistant

Chapman L. Bone, 38, former Hermosa Beach city manager, was appointed administrative assistant to City Manager George Stevens this week.

Bone, who held administrative positions in San Diego for eight years before he served two years in Hermosa Beach, will succeed Bob Rogers who recently resigned the post.

Starting salary for the position is \$758 per month. Stevens said that Bone will be assigned to make reports surveys and investigations and will be placed in charge of the weed abatement and employes safety programs.

Selection of Bone was hailed as a "good choice" by Mayor Albert Isen. The Council confirmed the appointment unanimously.

Tax Cuts May Hit Torrance

Torrance councilmen were none too sure whether they should praise or condemn an economy move by the county government.

Mayor Albert Isen proposed that a letter be sent to Supervisor Burton W. Chace, praising the Board of Supervisors for a reported program of cutting county government costs.

But Councilman Robert Jahn was not too certain whether this is such a good move.

"You notice that Long Beach and Santa Monica are going to be taken care of in the budget. Where's the economy going to come from, Torrance?"

He said that Chace has taken care of other parts of his district, and that the economy measures might be undertaken at the expense of Torrance and other less favored cities in the supervisor's district.

"I won't vote for such a letter until I know where the cuts are going to be," declared Councilman George Bradford.

He charged that Del Amo Blvd. is paved in Long Beach, but no money is allocated for the same street in Torrance city limits.

Ship Wreck, Power Failure in Storm

A powerful storm mowed down a tree, signs and powerlines causing a black-out in Waverly, and sank a fishing boat off the coast, Friday night.

The 42-foot "Linodia", sank off Pt. Fermin, but both crew members, who wore life jackets, managed to swim to shore at Portuguese Bend after nine hours in the water.

Deputy sheriffs said that Curt Morgan Olsen, 35, the skipper, and Lauren Scott, 39, were taken to Hillside Emergency clinic after their long ordeal in the choppy seas.

A powerline was blown down at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Crenshaw Blvd. causing a power line failure that plunged the Waverly section into a black-out for 90 minutes.

A tree was felled in the 200 block on Paseo de Gracia, and signs were reported blown down, in other parts of Torrance.

Police also logged false burglary alarms which might have been set off by the storm.

Architect, Library Chairman Clash over Bid Procedure

Charges of poor bidding procedure were hurled during an argument over furnishing the El Retiro branch library when the architect and chairman of the Library-Commission clashed over prices.

William J. Hansen chairman of the library board claimed that his specifications for fixtures actually brought in more favorable bids than those of Architect Marion J. Varner.

"I think there is something seriously wrong with our bidding procedures," declared Councilman Robert Jahn.

He said that Varner's specifications were written so that it limited bidding to one cabinet-maker.

Lower Price
Don Mansfield, assistant city manager, said that prices received on Varner's bids are actually lower than those received from Hansen's specifications, and moreover that they are more complete.

Hansen maintained that the respective specifications were sent to different firms making comparison more difficult.

At one point Varner angrily accused Hansen of continuous criticism.

"For the past year I have taken considerable abuse and ridicule from Mr. Hansen . . ."

Commissioner Quits In Airport Hassle

Charges that the door is being opened to political pay-offs in future airport leases were hurled Thursday night at a stormy meeting of the Airport Commission when one of its five members resigned in a huff.

Commissioner Malcolm B. Neal stalked out of the meeting after announcing his on the spot resignation while the other four framed a motion that they want a clear-cut statement from the City Council on their duties.

The storm was raised by a recent Council decision that stripped the commission of the power to negotiate leases on Torrance Municipal Airport.

Campaign Funds
Neal charged that if all the leases are negotiated directly by the Council, management of the airport will become "political."

"I think that future leases will have campaign funds written in. I'm resigning," Neal said. The commissioners all expressed disapproval of a motion made two weeks ago by Councilman Willys Blount that lease negotiations be taken out of the hands of the commission.

"If Mr. Blount wants to handle all negotiations, I think we should pass his phone number around and post it at the airport," Commissioner Dick Floyd said.

Table Agenda
Anger over the Council's new policy erupted at the beginning when the commission decided to dispense with its regular agenda and proceed with oral communications.

But the first request for a hearing was made by Thomas Chester regarding a lease.

"Since the Council has taken over all the negotiations on leases lets not waste your time or ours," Floyd informed Chester.

Tom Abrams, commission president, said that until the ordinance regarding the new policy is adopted, he feels that the commission is still empowered to negotiate leases.

Floyd finally made his motion to ask the Council what it considers the commission's job is, now that the leasing powers have been taken away.

Abolish Group
He said that if the Council wants to take over most of the duties, it might as well abolish the commission.

Before Neal quit, he said that airports run directly by the Council are not successful since the council has neither the know-how nor the time to devote to the operation.

Insanity Plea by Boy, 16

A psychiatric examination for Wilburn Anthony Henderson, 16, accused of shooting, raping and robbing a Torrance girl, was ordered made before his trial in Long Beach Superior Court Dec. 15.

Superior Judge Joseph M. Maltby ordered the youthful Colorado Springs defendant to be examined by Drs. Marcus Crahan and Robert Wyers, after he pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity at his arraignment Wednesday.

Henderson is formally charged with forcible rape, assault with a deadly weapon, assault with intent to commit murder, assault by force and robbery.

The youth allegedly attacked the 15-year-old Seaside Heights girl in her home, and shot her in the chest with a .32 caliber pistol after she screamed for help. Henderson then assertedly slugged and robbed the girl's boy friend as he rushed to her rescue.

After fleeing the scene, he changed his clothes, dyed his hair, but failed to fool an alert Redondo Beach policeman who captured him an hour after the crime.

Henderson is also named defendant in a \$400,000 civil suit brought by the girl.

Torrance Third in Campaign

With 48% of its total goal of \$7,740 collected, Torrance Community Chest residential campaign was in third place at the Harbor Area Report meeting attended by more than five hundred Community Chest volunteers Thursday at the Plush Horse.

In individual awards they ranked higher, taking five of the twelve "Oscars" awarded for firsts over goal, divisions and sections, and of the total of 54 divisions in Harbor Area making 100% of goal, Torrance had 22.

Overall the residential division of Harbor Area Chest Campaign was leading the rest of the Los Angeles Community Chest with 42% of its goal collected, and five of the first six residential divisions to report 100%. These divisions were two in Torrance, one in Rolling Hills and two in Gardena.

Gardena Leads
Gardena led the Harbor area cities with 80% of its total residential goal, San Pedro was second with 59%; Torrance next with 48%; Harbor City-Lomita, 31%; Wilmington, 30%; Palos Verdes 24% and Rolling Hills 21%.

Many Torrance workers had not yet reported on Thursday according to Mrs. Ruth Schrum, unit chairman for Torrance and she said the campaign seemed good prospects for making goal to be in excellent shape with when all reports are in and the necessary call-backs have been made where people have not been at home.

50 Per Cent
In its over-all campaign for \$27,060, the Torrance Community Chest headed by Jim Becker has now reached a little over 50% of its total quota which is about 2% behind Gardena and only 8% less than San Pedro at present the leader in Harbor Area.



OSCAR WINNERS—Receiving "Oscars" in the Red Feather drive are two Torrance division chairmen and their section chairmen who went over the top in the Community Chest drive. In rear at left is Mrs. Gloria Baxley and Mrs. Jean Gerald, division chairmen. In front are Mrs. Nancy McNeil and Mrs. Edith Dussiere. The latter accepted in behalf of Mrs. Joseph Orchard, who was unable to attend the meeting.