

50 Youths Scooped Up in Huge Dope Area Dragnet



GARCO AND FRIENDS — Betty Baker, Miss Torrance, appears slightly apprehensive as she faces embrace by Garco the Robot, who provided entertainment at Chamber of Commerce breakfast which welcomed AiResearch plant to Torrance. At left is Harry Wetzel, vice-president and manager of firm.

Robot Demonstrates Human Talents at C of C Breakfast for AiResearch

A 300-pound AiResearch "executive" was the center of attraction at Tuesday's Chamber of Commerce breakfast welcoming the division of the Garrett Corp. to Torrance.

He was "Garco" the robot made up of many of the aircraft parts and components manufactured by the firm which intends to build a plant on 66 acres on 190th St.

Harry Wetzel, company vice president and manager, announced that building on the site between Crenshaw Blvd. and Arlington Ave., could start as early as this July.

He also announced that the Torrance plant will consolidate some 14 separate locations, but that the plant in Westchester will continue in operation.

Wetzel, who received a key to the city from Mayor Albert Isen,

said that additional sub-contract work can be expected by Torrance firms once the plant moves here. It is designed to employ approximately 5000.

"Garco" who can talk, raise himself, flex his muscles, even demonstrated his talents by mixing a jet cocktail.

Later he demonstrated his human touch by embracing Betty Baker, Miss Torrance.

—Press Photo

Walteria Mail to Be Topic

Postmaster Clara Conners will discuss Walteria postal service at a meeting of the Walteria Civic Organization Feb. 3 at 8 p.m.

The meeting, to be held in the recreation building of Walteria Park, will be devoted to a discussion of longer business hours for the Walteria postal branch in order that box-holder may pick up their mail after working hours and during weekends. W. M. Crowe, president of the association announced.

Some time ago, residents of Walteria complained that they had difficulty in access to their post office box since they could be reached only during the post office business hours.

At that time, Mrs. Conner said that the reason that the building was closed down except during business hours, is because there is no partition between the box section and the rest of the building.

She is expected to give a progress report at the meeting and also discuss the carrier service in the area.

Relief Given to Knolls Slide Area

Torrance city fathers are willing to pay \$10,000 to stop a landslide in the Victoria Knolls area, but will test the legality of the expenditure with a "friendly" court suit.

The action was taken Tuesday night after residents of Portobello drive, where the home of William Wade Johnson is sliding over the high bluff, asked for relief to stop even greater damage.

On motion of Councilman George Bradford, the City Council approved a drain construction to correct underground water seepage, and instructed Jerome I. Scharman, director of finance, to protest payment by instituting the suit.

The legal test was ordered on grounds that the city does not know whether it would be liable in a taxpayer's suit, if it spent the money on the project.

Receive AA Degrees

Six Torrance students will be among 58 candidates for associate in arts degrees to be awarded by Harbor Junior College today.

Those who will receive degrees are: Eufaula E. Cartagena, Colin Guber, Charles Harb, John Jensen, Frederick Riales, and Sammie Terada.

NEW Y CLUB

A newly formed Gra-Y Club for children of elementary school age meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Greenwood School.

Additional Arrests Loom for Teenagers

Fifty Torrance area youths were arrested in what was termed "the largest juvenile narcotics roundup in the Los Angeles Police Department's history."

Arrests of juveniles and adults have been continuing over a two-week period, with five more nabbed Monday, according to Sgt. Griffin McKay.

He said that a substantial number of the youths are from Torrance and Lomita, and that at least another 30 will be picked up before the roundup ends.

One of the suspects seized in the mass arrests was said to be a top student officer of a nearby high school.

Three Schools

Another is an outstanding campus athlete.

Riviera Group to Hear Panel on Mail Change

A change of mailing addresses will be discussed at Monday's meeting of the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association, although the Post Office Department recently ruled that the area will remain in Redondo Beach for the time being.

The meeting will be held in the Riviera School at 8 p.m., and will feature Mayor Albert Isen, as proponent for changing to Torrance addresses, and Joe Wall, who will speak in favor of remaining in the Redondo Beach Post Office.

Postmasters of the two cities will also be present to answer questions.

Angus McVicar, water superintendent, will speak on salt water intrusion.

Woman Market Owner Robbed by Holdup Man

A lone bandit robbed a woman market owner of a package of cigarettes and \$5 in change Monday.

Bertha Mae Bragg, 49, told deputy sheriffs that the robber entered her store at 16525 Prairie Ave., and asked for cigarettes. When she gave him the smokes, she suddenly looked into the barrel of a revolver which he produced from under his coat.

During the robbery, a young girl walked in and out of the store, apparently not noticing anything wrong.

The gunman left when several other customers walked in after warning the victim not to sound the alarm.

Arrests were concentrated among students of Narbonne, Banning and Gardena High Schools.

The wave of police action was triggered when parents of the girl friend of a Camp Pendleton Marine intercepted a letter from him, in which he allegedly asked the girl to bring marijuana to the Marine base.

The leatherneck who wrote the letter was identified by police as Michael Becker, 18, formerly a Torrance area resident.

Most Juveniles

Of the youths already in custody, nine are over 18 and the rest are juveniles.

Among Torrance area residents who were arrested on narcotics charges were Warren Clemmer, 22, of 1516 Crenshaw Blvd., Donald Colclasure, 18, of 1511 W. 220 St., and Jerry Espinosa, 23, of 1125 W. 254th St., Harbor City.

McKay said that charges included possessing, using or furnishing of marijuana.

He said that in some instances, narcotics were sold on school grounds, but that there was no evidence of use on campus.

Among those arrested was Frederick Padilla, 18, who made All-Marine League as a member of the Gardena High School football team.

Arresting officers said that the youths are believed to have used marijuana at "reefer parties," or used it while riding around in automobiles.

Magruder School, 4100 W. 185 St., under Principal Edwin

Burglar Routed While Working on Cafe Safe

A burglar fled with six bottles of liquor and \$30 in cash after he was interrupted while apparently getting ready to crack a safe.

Harold Lester Rasmussen told deputy sheriffs that when he opened the door to Jack's Grill, 1815 Pacific Coast Highway Monday, the suspect ran out and took off.

Rasmussen, the custodian, immediately notified the cafe owner, John McGee who called deputies.

The burglar had pried open the juke box and cigarette machine and had brought tools along to crack the safe.

Failure Feared in Petitions

The drive for a water replenishment district is faced with failure unless communities take a more active part in obtaining 150,000 signatures on petitions during the next five weeks.

That warning was issued today by Carl Fosette, secretary of the West Basin Water District which includes Torrance and the beach cities.

"We are confronted with the certainty of ignominious failure unless we act now," the official warned.

Torrance's signature quota has been set for 6750.

The district is to be formed from the West and Central Water Basin, in order to recharge the underground supply to prevent erosion from salt water intrusion.

The signatures are needed to call a special election for the formation of a replenishment district.

Sportsocar Hits Truck-Trailer

The driver of a sportsocar was injured when his small machine piled into the rear of a huge truck and trailer rig carrying 70,000 pounds of molasses.

The collision occurred on Pacific Coast Highway near Whinlock Road in front of Torrance Municipal Airport.

Pete Washington Pfeiffer, 33, of 1034 W. 187 St., Los Angeles, driver of the sportsocar, was taken to Pacific Medical Center and later transferred to Pacific View Hospital with head and chest injuries, police said.

The truck driver, Clarence W. Nugent, 64, of 1718 W. 80th St., Los Angeles, was not hurt, officers said.

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Lift of Building Ban In Southside Asked

Markets to Open Again Today as Shutdown Ends

Supermarkets will open their doors for the first time in four weeks today, as the lengthy strike-lockout dispute was settled in night-long negotiations early yesterday.

The dispute between the market owners and the Retail Clerks Union was settled when both sides ratified a 60.8 cents per hour pay boost over a five-year period.

Settlement of the lengthy dispute was hailed by both the Food Employers Council, headed by Robert K. Fox, and Joseph T. DeSilva, executive secretary of the Retail Clerks Local 770.

The long shutdown of 1000 super markets in the Los Angeles area affected some 16,000 food clerks and allied market personnel.

It also ends inconveniences experienced by housewives, most of whom patronized independent markets and small stores during the long shut-down which began Jan. 1.

Most markets in the area announced that they will be open for business again today.

During the long shutdown there had been mixed sentiments from housewives. Some said they were not especially affected by the closing, while others claimed that there was "price gouging" by some of the smaller markets and liquor stores which handle some food sales.

Fire Peril Cited in Hearing

Claims that South Torrance is a fire hazard area and a potential health problem, were made during a 160-minute hearing Tuesday night.

Although the hearing to declare the section served by the private Narbonne Ranch water companies a hazard was continued until Feb. 10 at 7 p.m., some relief was given from the interim building ban.

Persons who can prove that they have gone to considerable expense in making plans for buildings, will be allowed to apply to the City Council for building permits.

No Permits

Building Superintendent Lee Schless was ordered several weeks ago not to issue new permits or grant final inspections to buildings in South Torrance.

Harold LaMour, president of the South Torrance Civic Improvement Association, protested that the whole area is being penalized because of low water pressure in some sections.

He claimed that low pressure was not the chief blame in the gutting of the home of Mrs. Marguerite Cliven, but alleged that firemen did not boost pressure with their own equipment soon enough.

PUC Wants Owners Of Water Company

It will cost approximately \$300,000 to improve the pressure in Narbonne Ranch Water Co. No. 2, the State Public Utilities Commission was told at Monday's hearing in Lomita.

The figure was cited by A. E. Cook, manager of the private water firm which serves portions of Lomita and South Torrance.

In a written report he listed the replacements of mains which would have to be undertaken to improve the distribution system, but expressed doubt that this work could be financed, even with an additional rate increase.

Examiner Grant Syphers recessed the hearing to March 2, and ordered Cook to furnish him with the names of owners and stockholders in the water company at that time.

He said another reason for continuing the hearing is the report of residents that they are currently circulating petitions to annex to the County Water District 13.

The PUC hearings have been conducted in order to determine what improvements have been made in the company since it was granted a rate hike in 1955.

At an earlier hearing, several residents charged that the water pressure at times is so low that they have difficulty using their indoor plumbing and outdoor sprinklers and hoses.

Cook said that he has used the additional revenue from the rate hike to make emergency repairs on the system.

Fireman Accuses Benner

Fire Chief J. J. Benner was accused of "attempted intimidation" in charges filed against him by one of his subordinates who is seeking a hearing before the Civil Service Commission.

The allegation was made by Fire Engineer Jerry R. Hollomon, who asked for a hearing to determine why he was skipped for promotion to captain.

The hearing, originally scheduled for last night, was postponed when City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer ruled that Hollomon must bring a formal charge and also cite what relief he seeks from the commission.

"I hereby charge Chief J. J. Benner . . . with attempted intimidation of me and with bypassing me for promotion to the rank of captain, due to personal reasons not based on my efficiency report," Hollomon alleged.

He also asked that he be appointed captain retroactive to Oct. 31.

Ross Sciarrotta, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, said that the board will meet Feb. 4, at which time it will probably set a date for the hearing.

Seeks Hearing

He indicated that the commission should go ahead and conduct a hearing, even if Remelmeyer rules against such a probe.

The city attorney said that after Hollomon brings his written charges he will then rule if the hearing can be legally held.

"Anytime a man is penalized, he's entitled to a hearing," declared Sciarrotta. "The merit system must prevail."

Witness List

In turning in his formal charge Tuesday, Hollomon also handed over a list of 14 witnesses he wants to subpoena. These include Mayor Albert Isen, Chief Benner and top fire department officers.

Hollomon claims that he was bypassed in the appointment although he was top man on the eligibility list, had been acting captain for 18 months, and had high efficiency reports from the chief.

He said that he requests the retroactive appointment to captain or "good and sufficient reasons" to warrant his being passed over.

Results Came Fast to Owner of Apartment

N. J. Mortenson, of 2706 Gramercy Place, didn't have to wait long to rent his one-bedroom apartment after he ran a classified ad in last Thursday's Torrance Press.

He received 10 calls from the ad and was able to rent the apartment to a suitable tenant before the day ended.

If you want fast action when you have something to sell, rent or buy, call a Torrance Press ad-taker at FA 8-2345 and let her assist you with your advertising needs.



JUST A REMINDER—Pretty Charlotte Hunter points to the 1959 California license plate tag to remind local motorists that the deadline for

the purchase of the tags is Feb. 4. After that date, there will be a penalty.

Council Orders Special Census

A special census, which is estimated to gain Torrance an additional \$10,000 to \$12,000 annual revenue, was ordered by the City Council Tuesday.

The nose count is expected to establish that Torrance has climbed over the 100,000 population mark since the last census was taken in December of 1957, when the population was slightly in excess of 93,000.

Cost of the special enumeration was estimated at \$17,000. It is expected to get under way in March.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEET

The City Council will hold an adjourned meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. to finish the agenda from Tuesday's marathon meeting.

STEAL RAINCOAT

Her raincoat, valued at \$14, was stolen from the home of Betty Jean Cook, of 2462 W. 250 St., deputy sheriffs reported.