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LOCKING THE DOORS—Mrs. Esther Mailander shows new safety lock to her son, Robbie Alan, 2, after the toddler decided to take a long walk through the night while his mother was at work. Mother finally located him at the police station Friday morning, where he was bedded down for the night.

City Aide Quits as Road Probe Begins

Engineer Shakeup in City Continues

Resignation of another top engineering official was received Thursday even as the City Council awaited results of an investigation into allegedly shoddy construction of major streets.

John V. Patrick, assistant to the city engineer, quit his nearly \$1000 per month post Thursday morning. He had been employed by the city for 14 years.

Wade E. Peebles, who took over as director of public works April 1, is expected to present preliminary findings of his investigation into road construction to the City Council Tuesday during an executive personnel session.

Nowhere Road

The probe was ordered by Mayor Albert Isen Tuesday after he expressed concern over the state of the "nowhere" section of Arlington Ave.

Although the mayor Tuesday told councilmen that "there are a lot of questions to be answered," indications are that top city officials do not want to prejudice future state and county tax funds.

Isen said he was "shocked" at the present state of Arlington Ave. between 190th St. and its dead-end north of Del Amo Blvd. He said that although the street had hardly any use except by illicit drug racers, the pavement shows signs of crumbling and contains pot holes.

No Fear of Probe

Patrick said that his resignation had nothing to do with the investigation, but that he had debated this step for the past year. "I have nothing to fear by an investigation," he declared.

He has been on sick leave for several weeks because of surgery.

His resignation followed closely that of Ronald W. Bishop, city engineer for six years, who is now on terminal leave pending his leaving the post on June 1. Bishop, who asked for demotion last December, reportedly under strong Council pressure, said he found it a "physical impossibility" to continue on the job.

Quits Job

It was also learned that the only remaining engineering inspector, Earl Roberts, has also submitted his resignation in order to enter private employment.

Recent resignations, firings and leaves, have reduced the engineering staff to an office engineer, three draftsmen and five secretaries.

In his probe, Peebles was ordered to make corings of Arlington Ave., Carson St., Lomita and Del Amo Blvds., to determine if the city had been short-changed in materials used. Peebles said he will make his report on the investigation Tuesday.

Isen said he was disturbed over the crumbling state of Arlington Ave., completed only 17 months ago at a cost in excess of \$90,000.

He said it will take "several thousands of dollars" to repair it and bring it up to acceptable standards. The street was only opened across the railroad tracks Thursday morning and now ties in with Del Amo Blvd.

Legal technicalities have prevented the street from being opened completely and connecting with the downtown area.

Decimation of the engineering staff actually began before Peebles took over, it was also learned.

A veteran inspector was fired as of Feb. 28 by John V. Russell, then director of public works, reportedly for intoxication. The dismissed employee had worked for the city for nearly 13 years.

Clarence Hall, another engineering aide, resigned shortly after Peebles took over and another man went on a leave of absence.

Russell, who was slated to serve temporarily as public works director, also decided to quit city service.



CONTROVERSIAL ROAD—This section of Arlington Ave., which started a probe of public works projects, was finally opened to Del Amo Blvd. Thursday. Crumbling surface of street, which was completed only 17 months ago at cost of \$90,000, started investigation. Until this week, the road led "nowhere."

Seek Rezoning of 97 Acres for Second Time

Another application to rezone 97 acres of manufacturing land for residential and commercial uses has been filed with the Planning Commission.

The request for zone change of the vacant land at the southwest corner of Sepulveda and Crenshaw Blvds. was made by the Getty Oil Co.

A similar rezoning request was turned down last year, but with the comment that it might be reconsidered unless the area is developed with industry.

WINS FIRE AWARD

Robert L. Clark of 20518 Wood Ave., Torrance, is one of 12 Los Angeles firemen who received certificates for completing a course in aircraft crash fire fighting.

Roaming Toddler Slips Family Dragnet

Robbie Alan Mailander, two and one-half, spent an adventurous night Tuesday while his mother, father and grandmother were completely unaware that he was not sound asleep in his bed.

After he was tucked in bed by his grandmother, Mrs. Audra Mailander, the toddler decided to leave his home at 19326 Beckworth Ave. and visit his mother, who was working in an Inglewood restaurant.

Robbie slipped unnoticed out of the house and yard but finally was spotted by Bob Okrai in a shopping center at 190th St. and Inglewood. He brought him down to the police station, where officers bedded him down for the night in a juvenile cell, while they tried to find his parents.

At about 7 a.m. Friday, the grandmother discovered that Robbie was missing, woke up his father, who in the meantime had come home from his swing shift job in an aircraft plant.

The mother, Mrs. Esther Mailander, contacted on her graveyard shift, joined the frantic search until they finally found the tot in the police station.

When she came in to claim the missing tot, he was calmly munching on a doughnut and drinking a glass of milk, undisturbed by all the uproar.

Rubbish Worker Layoffs Seen in Cost-Cutting Suggestions

Recommendations that city rubbish-hauling crews be reduced to cut the cost of the municipal trash program, will be submitted to the City Council Tuesday.

Chapman L. Bone, assistant city manager, said that primary savings can be made by using two-men instead of three-man crews on packers.

Elimination of 15 men from the department was estimated to save \$68,000 from the municipal rubbish program, which last year cost \$482,000, including cost of privately contracted garbage hauling.

The city also will pick up an additional \$4000 in savings by transferring the billing from the water to the finance departments and by using punch cards, according to the recommendation.

Bone, who made the suggestions, together with Wade E. Peebles, public works director, and Jerome I. Scharfman, finance director, said the report will go to the council Tuesday.

The council had ordered an investigation into the program after it noted that the rubbish and garbage programs cost \$180,000 a year over the income from the monthly \$1 charge.

The recommendation also calls for tighter supervision and better equipment maintenance. Bone said that possibly some of the men whose jobs will be

Isen Says City Seeks Restitution

"There is no intention of 'white washing' anybody in the current probe of defective road work."

So stated Mayor Albert Isen Friday in commenting on investigation of Arlington Ave., which is deteriorating rapidly although the \$90,000 project was completed only 17 months ago.

"We will do our best to get restitution from contractors if the work was not done according to specifications," he said.

He also blasted city employees responsible for these projects. "If they hadn't resigned, they certainly would have been fired," the mayor said.

Although he made no formal accusations, Isen said that the "employees involved certainly did not act in the best interests of the city."

Man Killed When Pushed Auto Struck

A Carson man was killed when another auto crashed into him while he was pushing his car.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Edward L. Acuna, 24, 150 W. 203rd St., after he was struck by the other machine on Main St., north of 208th St. Wednesday night.

California Highway Patrolmen arrested John Kenneth Hawkins, 34, 13128 Liggett St., No. alk, approximately one quarter a mile away from the accident.

Officers Tom Ferrill and Ed Flamm quoted Hawkins as saying that he had been unable to stop because his brakes had failed.

Hawkins and his passenger, Marilyn Neptune, 31, of Norwalk, suffered minor injuries, as did Peggy Duncan, 17, of 20508 New Hampshire Ave.

Miss Duncan was steering Acuna's car while the latter was pushing it, officers said.

A Law with Teeth

AN EDITORIAL

Our study of Shanty Town conditions in South Torrance oil sites clearly shows need for a stronger enforcement program not only to clean up the obvious mess, but also to make certain that hazards are eliminated.

We have pointed out places where unfenced wells and uncovered dangerous holes exist, apparently in flagrant violation of the existing ordinance.

In one instance where we pointed out an unfenced well, the owner made the correction immediately. At another site, a week has elapsed and the well is as unprotected as ever.

City officials charged with enforcing the present law claim that it is so full of legal loopholes that their task is extremely difficult if the well owners are uncooperative. They believe that a new ordinance to be presented to the City Council Tuesday, will plug some of these loopholes.

We hope that the new ordinance accomplishes this. In order to do the job, it should definitely fix responsibility for enforcement of its provisions.

A law which is not enforced, or enforceable, is practically useless, as the present conditions prove.

Pay Hike Asked of Schools

Classified employees have joined teachers in pressing for salary increases in the Torrance Unified School District.

Both groups, while indicating they want pay hikes, have left the amounts unspecified, school officials said.

The latest request for higher wages was asked by C. Charles Hogan, representative of Local 1101 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO.

In addition to more pay, the union wants a number of fringe benefits, including reduction of the present five-step plan to three phases, night differential pay, overtime pay, twice-a-month pay instead of once, bereavement leave and others.

The Board of Education took the requests under study at Tuesday's meeting. No estimate of the cost was made by school officials, although the amount is expected to be quite high.

The district employs approximately 500 non-teaching and 900 teaching staff members. "The budget for the year is expected to be close to \$10,000,000 without inclusion of possible salary increases."

Municipal Bus Line Reshuffle Move Looming

Some changes in the operation of Torrance Municipal Bus Lines will be recommended at budget time to overcome a \$42,000 deficit accrued during the first nine months of the present fiscal year.

Councilman J. A. Beasley, chairman of the Transportation Committee of the City Council, said that this will call for the elimination of some "fringe" services.

"We're not recommending to eliminate any particular lines within the city," he said. But he hinted that some reshuffling may be in store for routes that serve areas outside the city.



WINNING SLATE—Mike Walker, left, elected Torrance High School student body president, chats with some other victorious candidates in Wednesday's election. They are Susan Saari, commissioner of records; Judi Sherwood, commissioner of finance; and Bill Tilley, student body vice-president.—Press Photo

Narbonne Ranch Water Sale Issue to Come to City Council

An offer from Dominguez Water Co. to buy out Narbonne Ranch Co. No. 3 is expected to be presented to the City Council Tuesday night.

The sale of the smaller private company to the larger firm has been advocated by Harold F. LaMour, vice president of the South Torrance Home Owners Association.

He asked City Council approval of the merger in order to solve the lack of water pressure which has resulted in a building ban in the southern part of the city.

Under terms of agreement with Dominguez, that company will buy out the interests of shareholders in Narbonne, and make necessary overhauling of the distribution system.

LaMour pointed out that residents of the area cannot be "gouged" by Dominguez, as had been suggested by Council members, because the Public Utilities Commission sets the rates.

The PUC will have to approve the deal after the owners of the two private water companies agree on terms.

Councilman Robert Jahn had cast doubts on the sales terms because "no one gets anything for nothing."

Previously city and county

Seek Release of Federal Strings on Airport Land

Request for federal deed restriction release on Torrance Municipal Airport was made by an attorney to speed up development of commercial enterprises.

James Hall, special counsel for the city, flew to Washington, D.C. Friday to seek relaxation of the recapture clauses not covering the bulk of the airport land.

The recapture clause, retained by the Federal government when it turned over the field to the city 12 years ago, was seen by city officials as a block to obtain the most favorable development.