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Parking Meter Fund Drop Indicated in Survey of Coin Collection, Expenses

By Kurt Liepman

At the rate that parking meter revenue is falling off, it won't be long before the city will have to take a good hard look at the money-hungry meters.

A study of the city's own books indicates that only once in the past seven months have the meters produced enough pennies and nickels to support charges against the fund.

Not only are the meters a consistent source of annoyance to downtown area shoppers and merchants, but it now appears that the purpose for which they were installed is being defeated.

When the meters were originally placed in the central area, they were supposed to assure rotation of parking spaces and to furnish revenue with which to purchase off-street parking lots.

But recently by-passing of the downtown area by customers who are attracted to shopping centers where there is adequate free parking has resulted in plummeting income, although expenses have not dropped correspondingly.

Drop in Revenue

Figures obtained from Jerome I. Scharfman, city finance director, show that fixed charges against the meter fund are \$3128 per month.

Since last October, this amount has been collected only once. This was during February, when revenue amounted to \$3200.

Collections for the past seven months were as follows: November, \$2795; December, \$2850; January, \$2100; February, \$3200; March, \$3074; April, \$2898, and May, \$2872.

Against this dropping income, expenses have not gone down, but will actually increase as salary hikes are given.

Enforcement Costs

The enforcement program requires the service of a policeman for collection and maintenance, who receives \$520 per month. One and one-half women meterettes charged to the fund cost \$577.50 per month.

Automotive meter parts, ticket books and other expenses run 250 per month to write approximately 1000 citations each month.

None of the fines collected from these citations goes into the parking fund, but are diverted into the general fund, with the exception of 16 per cent paid to the county for court costs.

Above are more or less fixed expenses that come out of the meter fund.

Other charges against it include \$1150 per month payments for two parking lots at El Prado and Cabrillo Ave. The balance will not be paid off on these for several years.

Taxes on Lots

In addition the city is paying taxes on two lots at Torrance Blvd. and Cabrillo Ave. on a lease agreement with the owners in return for use of the property. This costs \$100 per month.

Closest relief the city can see in reducing expenses in the foreseeable future is when it has paid up its indebtedness of \$530 per month it owes for 265 meters it purchased. These will be paid up in 9 1/2 months and that money can be used in the meter fund.

The cost study proves one thing if nothing else. This is, that no additional off-street parking lots can be purchased by the city out of the fund for quite a while, since every available cent of income is already pledged to salaries, expenses and payments.

If revenues continue to dwindle even further, it appears that the city will be lucky to keep from dipping into the general fund for upkeep of the parking program.

Hearing Held on Monterey Buffer

A second hearing on a Planning Commission motion to reserve a 100-foot buffer strip on the south side of Monterey St. will be held July 1.

The "no-man's land" between residences to the north and the

proposed R. C. Mahon steel fabricating plant was requested by residents of the area.

The company's administration building will be the only exception to the buffer zone sought between Crenshaw Blvd. and Maple Ave.

Bus Riders Face Boost in Fares on Curtailed Lines

Bus Service Cut to Prolong Ride Time

Proposed service cuts on the Torrance Municipal Bus Los Angeles line will hit commuters in the pocketbook by 30 per cent, it was revealed today.

The change will also add 20 to 30 minutes to the time the strap-hanger will spend in transportation.

Bus Superintendent Marshall Chamberlain admitted in reply to questions that cost for a Torrance resident to go to downtown Los Angeles will increase by 14 cents for each one-way trip.

The transportation committee of the City Council is considering recommending that the Los Angeles line, which now terminates at Olympic Blvd. and Hill St., end at 120th St. and Vermont Ave.

Need Transfer

If the City Council accepts this suggestion, Torrance commuters will have to transfer to an MTA or Gardena Municipal Bus line to continue the trip.

Chamberlain said that present cost of a bus ride to downtown Los Angeles is 45 cents. If the change is approved, the same ride will cost 59 cents, he said.

The rider will pay 30 cents for the ride to 120th St. and Vermont, and another 29 cents to ride an MTA bus into downtown Los Angeles.

The trip, which now takes between 50 and 55 minutes, will consume 75 to 80 minutes under the transfer proposal if direct connections are made.

Long Beach Line

The transportation committee has also recommended chopping off the Long Beach line at Avalon Village, and adding a line to serve Southwood and South-west Park.

Chamberlain admitted that if the change is made it will mean lay-offs for at least five of the 23 bus drivers.

The transportation committee will hold another meeting Wednesday to discuss its recommendations. Councilmen have been eyeing changes in order to cut down the estimated \$55,000 loss which will be chalked up by the bus line this year. The deficit is made up of general fund money. Chamberlain said that the Los Angeles line has standing room only during the peak morning and evening rush hours, but that business dribbles off during other operating hours.

A number of protests against the contemplated change have been received by the city.

OK TRAILER PARK

Approval was given Wednesday night for a trailer park south of 186th St. and west of Hawthorne Blvd., following a hearing before the Planning Commission. R. A. Watt is the applicant.

Killers Get Life Sentences

Shotgun Slayers Are Sentenced

Two youths who mowed down a robbery victim here with a shotgun face life prison sentences.

Edward Thomas Benavidez and Gabriel Joseph Barrera, both 18 were sentenced Friday in Inglewood Superior Court for the Dec. 21 shooting at 182nd St., near Prairie Ave.

The two Los Angeles youths were arrested a few hours after they killed Aaron W. Johnson, 40 a Los Angeles barber, with a 16 gauge shotgun.

The victim's nephew, Dale M. Allsop, 25, of 18435 S. St. Andrews Place, who was also a victim of the robbery, witnessed the shooting.

A juvenile accomplice of the pair has already been sentenced by Juvenile Court.

Benavidez and Barrera were traced through the registration of their car which became bogged down in mud a few feet from the scene of the robbery.

Beautician, Wife Face Hearing on Abortion Charges

A husband and wife charged with performing abortions face preliminary hearing in Torrance Municipal Court June 30.

Clarence Eugene Santee, 47, Burbank beautician, and his wife, Blitz, 26, were released on \$1500 bail following their arraignment before Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett Friday morning.

The pair was arrested after Torrance detectives received a tip that Santee was to perform an illegal operation on a Torrance housewife last Friday. Investigation linked the cosmetologist and his wife to abortions in Manhattan Beach and Downey, detectives said.

LIBRARY HOURS

Request for longer library hours was referred to City Manager George Stevens for investigation.

TABLE COUNCIL RULES

Rules of order for the City Council which have been written and rewritten several times were tabled for further study Tuesday.



FATHER'S DAY PROBLEM—What does dear old dad do when his children present him with the inevitable gaudy necktie as a Father's Day present? While Peggy Ellen, 6 1/2, and Danny, 2 1/2, are obviously happy and satisfied with the gift they presented to their father, Sid Gans, looks less than gleeful about the haberdashery item added to his collection. There's only one suggestion for dad—grin and wear it.

Press Photo

Wall City Rezoning Passes

Development of a "walled city" residential development on 97 acres on the southwest corner of Crenshaw and Sepulveda Blvd. was approved by the Planning Commission Wednesday.

Final action on the rezoning of the land from manufacturing to residential, apartment and commercial, and a tract map will follow a third hearing by the City Council July 14.

Opposes Request

Opposition to the rezoning was expressed by A. C. Warren, representative of Standard

Oil Co., which owns adjoining land and Commissioners Larry Wing and Thirvin D. Fleetwood.

Warren told the commission that the rezoning will be incompatible with proposed industrial development of his company's land.

Wing agreed, citing that residential development will mean a loss of revenue to the city.

The tract is to be developed with 317 single-family lots, 18 apartment lots and 3 1/2 acres of commercial area on the northeast corner next to an existing service station.

Eight acres have been reserved on the southwest corner for an elementary school site. The residences will be surrounded by a six-foot brick wall on the east, west and south sides.

Oil drilling sites will be reserved on the northwest and southeast corners.

The land is owned by the Getty Oil Co. and will be developed by Don Wilson and R. A. Watt.

A rezoning request for the identical area was turned down by the Planning Commission last year.

List Backgrounds of New School Administrators

Backgrounds and experience of eight new administrators named by the Board of Education Tuesday were listed today by school officials.

The promotions were made following resignations of three top officials who have accepted other posts.

In making the promotions, the post of director of special services held by Dr. Warren

Hamilton was still left unfilled. Succeeding Dr. F. R. (Ted) Cypert and Dr. Max Appleby as curriculum consultants will be Dr. Bruce Magner, South High School principal; Lloyd Jones, Seaside Elementary principal, and Dr. W. Craig Thomas, former Torrance curriculum consultant, who has been added to the staff.

New principals are John A. Lucas, South High vice-principal, moved up to principal; William A. Zecher, Seaside teacher, to principal of that school.

Named vice-principals were Haig Marashlian, North High student activities advisor, and Jay Willard Morgan, boys' advisor at Torrance High, both of whom will become administrators at South High. Ralph E.

Wilson, Carr Elementary School teacher, was named elementary vice-principal, but was not assigned to a specific school as yet.

Backgrounds of the new appointees are as follows: JONES—41, Seaside principal since 1953. Former teacher at Fern and El Nido schools; vice-principal at Seaside and North Torrance (now Casimir) schools.

Here since 1947. Graduate of Narbonne High School and Laverne College. Master's degree, University of Southern California. Former professional singer. Army veteran. Married and has three children. Lives at 1915 Santa Rena, San Pedro.

MAGNER—43, South High principal for two years. Principal, Torrance High for four years. Former Torrance vice-

principal and teacher in Los Angeles and Burbank. Born in North Dakota. Graduate, Compton High School and University of Redlands. Has master's degree and doctor's degree from USC. Navy veteran. Married, two children. Lives at 3610 W. 224th St.

THOMAS—48, curriculum consultant here in 1955-56. Left to write book and travel. Former

director, Compton College. Former dean of instruction and chairman of graduate council, Arizona State. Graduated from Stanford Advanced degrees from USC. Married, one son.

LUCAS—37, vice-principal of South and North Highs for three years. Former boys' advisor of Torrance High and director of special services, Roseburg, Ore. Native of Portland, Ore. Bachelor's and master's degrees, University of Oregon. Graduate work, USC. Army veteran. Married, three children. Lives at 5010 Bindewald.

ZECHER—30, teacher, Seaside Elementary School for three years. Former teacher in Hawthorne, Nev., schools. Graduate of University of Nevada and holds master's degree from Los Angeles State. Married, has one child. Lives at 22522 Kathryn Ave.

MARASHLIAN—35, student activities advisor, North High. Teacher here for five years. Graduate, University of Southern California. Army veteran. Married, two children. Lives in Los Angeles.

MORGAN—38, boys' advisor, Torrance High, and former acting assistant principal. Teacher, varsity track coach and assistant varsity football coach at THS and NHS. Former teacher at Whittier and Vista High Schools. Married, three children. Lives at 24016 Huber Ave., Lomita.

WILSON—28, teacher at Carr Elementary School. Here four years. Graduate of Los Angeles State and master's degree from USC. Married, has two children. Lives in Gardena.



DR. BRUCE MAGNER



LLOYD JONES



DR. W. CRAIG THOMAS



JOHN A. LUCAS



JAY WILLARD MORGAN



HAIG MARASHLIAN



WILLIAM A. ZECHER