

Speeding Trucks Hazard on Crenshaw



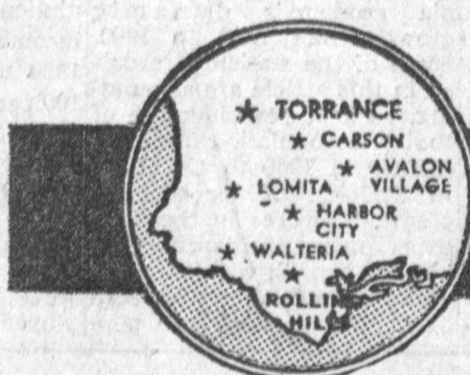
TRAFFIC HAZARD—City councilmen this week are trying to find a method of slowing down dirt-carrying trucks that are using Hawthorne and Crenshaw Blvd. as routes from their

source of supply to the local segments of the freeway presently under construction. Drivers of the trucks are paid by the load and the faster they go the more loads of dirt they

can carry. Councilmen are studying possible emergency ordinances that would slow down trucks over a certain weight to a safe speed, or possibly impounding the vehicles of the fla-

grant violators. Meanwhile trucks continue to course dizzily along the two thoroughfares, weaving in and out of traffic, and shaving time allowance at stop signals. (See story, page 6A).

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ON HIS WAY—Ross A. Sciarotta, Torrance educator and writer who will shepherd a group of teachers through Europe during the coming months, left Southern California on the two-month tour last weekend. Shown

boarding the plane, Sciarotta will interview European dignitaries and commoners and will submit a series of articles to the Press for exclusive publication.

Question Suspects In Market Holdup

Clear San Pedro Man Grilled in \$1800 Heist

Torrance police officers, following up a tip on a possible suspect in the Sunday robbery of a Western Ave. market, arrested a San Pedro resident, questioned him intensively and then released him from custody.

Detectives who questioned the suspect reported he satisfactorily accounted for his whereabouts at the time of the robbery and they immediately released him.

Officers are working around the clock following up tips and clues in the robbery of the Sav-Mart

market, 23401 Western Ave. Two bandits, one carrying a shotgun, robbed Manager James Murakami and Clerk Doris Marsh of an estimated \$1800. One of the bandits held the gun on the two store employees while the other ordered the woman to place the money in a paper bag. The two escaped in a car driven by a woman.

Earlier reports indicated that the clerk had placed between \$2000 and \$3000 in the bag but after a quick tally, the estimate was revised downward. Approximately one dozen

customers shopping in the store were unaware that the robbery was taking place until the two men ran and the manager shouted for help.

The clerk stated that she was forced to lie on the floor after the gunmen took the paper bag full of loot and was told to lie there until they were gone.

Four boys, standing in front of the store saw the men run to a car parked nearby.

When the men got inside, the woman, sitting behind the wheel, drove the car away.

DEAD IN AUTO . . .

Torrance Man Dies After Overdose of Narcotics

Only 22 hours after his wife gave birth to a seven-pound daughter, William W. Baker of Torrance died from an apparent overdose of narcotics Sunday.

Baker, 23, 1830 Torrance Blvd., was dead on arrival at Little Company of Mary Hospital after a minor traffic accident.

The body was found in an auto with two men who were booked after telling police they were with Baker during a prolonged narcotics and drinking spree.

Floyd L. Rust, 24, was the driver of the car in which Baker was found. The accident occurred at 190th St. and Hawthorne Blvd.

Pending outcome of a coroner's investigation, Rust and a third occupant, Jack R. Todd, 19, were jailed. Rust told officers he thought Baker had "passed out."

Todd was arrested a mile

away from the scene after leaving on foot. He told officers he was in search of help.

During questioning at police headquarters, Todd said Baker took "about 35" pills Sunday night. He lost consciousness while the trio drove during the morning.

Wife of Baker, Mary Ann, gave birth to a baby at 2:45 p. m. Saturday at Harbor General Hospital.

Todd and Rust were booked on suspicion of violating state narcotics laws and suspicion of grand theft auto.

STORY OF EXPANSION . . .

Leases Signed With Ten New Firms for Final Unit of Del Amo Shopping Center

Representing another chapter in the expanding story of the Del Amo Shopping Center, lease negotiations have been completed with a group of ten stores which will be the newest merchandising units in the huge center located at Hawthorne and Sepulveda Boulevards, Torrance.

According to the Del Amo Estate Company, owners and developers of the center, the new stores include C. H. Baker Shoes, Judy's Sportswear, Helen Morgan Women's Shop, The Men's Shop, Tot's Toggery and Suburban Shop.

In addition, Singer Sewing Shop, Mandel's Shoes, Veron's Jewelry and Children's Shoe Store are also among the list of new tenants. Coldwell, Banker & Company handled the lease

negotiations.

NUCLEUS

Pat O'Melveny, who as vice president of the Del Amo Estate Company is in charge of center operations, said that the new group of stores represent the major nucleus of merchants which will occupy the final building unit on the center's east mall section. The building, containing more than 50,000 square feet, is currently under construction in the center.

He also reported that leasing of the remaining portion of the east mall building, consisting of a 110' by 150' store unit, is underway to facilitate completion of the center's construction program scheduled for the end of November.

"The newly leased stores," O'Melveny said,

"will serve as an added complement to the already diversified group of national and regional merchandisers which comprise the Del Amo Center."

In addition, he said that the new shops would also provide a broader merchandise appeal for the convenience of shoppers in the greater South Bay area.



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Airport Plaza Discount House Gets Council OK

First step in development of a huge discount house at the corner of Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy. was taken last night when members of the Torrance City Council okayed engineering and architectural design and the plot plan of the soon-to-be-built Airport Plaza Center.

George Graziadio, Palos Verdes, of Eltinge and Graziadio, developers, appeared before the council and described the new facility, which will cover 76,000 square feet and cost in excess of a million dollars.

Following the council's approval of the preliminary plans, the developer reported that he would apply for a grading permit today and that work on the project would get under way immediately.

Interviewed by Press reporters, Graziadio estimated that the discount house would bring in sales of over \$9,000,000 annually.

Architects for the building are E. V. Mikles and Associates of Oxnard.

School Board Inquiries Turn Up Huge Surplus, Areas of Economy

A huge surplus of unexpended funds was turned up Tuesday evening at the special budget session of the Torrance Board of Education.

Approximately \$600,000 of the surplus funds were left over from the last fiscal year while another \$282,000 came from an unexpected \$8,000,000 increase in the assessed valuation of the district's taxable properties.

According to Assistant Superintendent Sam E. Waldrip, the assessed valuation of the district was expected to amount to \$230,197,080, but preliminary estimates indicate that the amount will jump to \$238,060,140.

A committee of five Torrance businessmen, reactivated as one of the first steps toward economy in the district by the three new members of the board, were present at the meeting to offer recommendations based on their study of the district's economics.

They are dedicated to slashing 10 per cent from the expenditures of the district this year.

ECONOMICS

New areas of economy were pointed out by the board in fields where the expenditures

seemed unduly topheavy.

Board Chairman William Hanson pointed out one area when he asked succinctly, "Can we get someone for less than \$1000 a month to hire janitors?" The administration spokesmen indicated that personnel directors are usually former principals with background of administrative work.

Former Board Chairman William Boswell indicated he felt that it was not necessary for a credentialed and high-salaried person to supervise clerks, custodians and non-teaching employees.

Bert Lynn, one of the more outspoken proponents of economy, pointed out that four persons working in the Educational Material Building receive in excess of \$40,000 per year.

"Wages of \$10,000 a year for warehousemen seems to be rather high," he said.

\$130,400 PROJECT . . .

Torrance Storm Drains Get County's Final OK

Approval by the Board of Supervisors of final plans and specifications for construction of the East Torrance bond issue storm drain (Project 587), was announced this week by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn's chief deputy, William N. Stivers.

Bids on the project will be opened at County Flood Control District headquarters on Aug. 4.

Allocated \$130,400 in the 1958 bond issue, the storm drain will be built in two lines. The project will be located partly in the second district, represented by Supervisor Hahn, and partly in the fourth district, represented by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Line A begins at 188th St. and Crenshaw Blvd. and extends south on Crenshaw to 190th St., then east to Van Ness and south on Van Ness to Del Amo Blvd.

Line B will begin at an existing drain west of Western

and south of Torrance Blvd., then northwesterly across Torrance Blvd. approximately 150 feet to an existing earth channel.

Supervisor Hahn's office pointed out that the project will eliminate the flooding of the intersection of Crenshaw and 190th St., which has posed a serious problem for a number of years, as well as provide flood control for a large portion of Torrance.

Plans for the project were prepared under the direction of Torrance City Engineer W. M. Nollac.

Contract for the work will be awarded by the Board of Supervisors and the project will be supervised and inspected by engineers of the flood control district.