

ACTION TAKEN TO SPEED UP SLUM REMOVAL

Redevelopment Agency Head Given Broader Powers

By SHERMAN MILLER
The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency took several more steps yesterday to end confusion and overcome obstacles holding up the slum clearance program in San Francisco.

Developments at an agency meeting were:

1—The agency specified the duties of Director James E. Lash, giving him the same authority and responsibilities as city department heads responsible to commissions.

2—Chairman Morgan Gunst was authorized to attempt to expedite approval in Washington of the San Francisco Housing Authority's two public housing projects near the Western Addition slum clearance area. The housing projects have no direct connection with the Redevelopment Agency, but are needed to house displaced families when slum clearance starts.

3—Lash reported that he is working on proposed amendments to the California Community Redevelopment Law for the elimination of bottle-necks that impede progress in slum clearance. He submitted a preliminary report which generally described the bottle-necks.

4—The meeting was fully attended by all five agency members for the first time in weeks. Numerous organizations, whose interest was kindled by a recent series of Examiner articles on the slum clearance delay, sent observers. Philip R. Faymonville, representing the county grand jury, was there.

Duties Clarified

The duties of Lash were clarified at the suggestion of agency member James E. Stratten, who said that such clarification was necessary if the agency is to intelligently formulate policy.

"I feel it is incumbent as an agency member to request immediate action to the end that the administrative procedure of the agency be pursued without procrastination and in a manner which dignifies the office of director," Stratten said in a report.

Agency members expressed the desire to find all possible ways to speed the slum clearance program.

When member Paul T. O'Dowd was questioning Lash on reasons for past delays, Lawrence Palacios broke in:

"The pertinent question is what can be done to accelerate the schedule. Our position should be to find out what can be done."

"What we want to do is to get the thing rolling and get it functioning as it should function."

Hearing Scheduled

The agency designated the High School of Commerce auditorium as the location for the public hearing October 14 on the tentative plan for the Western Addition slum clearance project. The hours were changed to 2 to 5 p. m., with the session continuing at 8 p. m., to accommodate all who want to be heard.

In the belief that a suit will be filed testing the legality of the Diamond Heights development project, the agency authorized a contract with the city attorney for employment of special counsel. Diamond Heights is not a slum clearance project but the district has been construed by the agency as a "blighted area" under the California law.

Slum clearance itself has been upheld in court tests in several other states.

E. Bay Marital Row Arrest

Mother-in-Law Jails Auto Case Figure

George E. Ray, whose wife allegedly tried to run him down with the family car last year, was arrested outside his ex-mother-in-law's home in Berkeley early yesterday morning and charged with disturbing the peace.

Mrs. Lillian A. Young of 2305 Derby Street, who signed the complaint, told police Ray was trying to kick her door in to see his ex-wife, Edith.

On November 19, 1951, an Oakland policeman was killed in a collision while responding to a call that Mrs. Ray was trying to run over her husband.



OUT THEY GO—Ray Wayne and Jose Herrera unload a truckful of stuffed animals which once adorned Sutro Baths. George K. Whitney, new owner of Sutro Baths, ordered the relics removed and sent to the dump heap as his first step to modernize the establishment.

Stuffed Animals Tossed Out of Sutro Baths

A lot of stuffed leopards, seals, hyenas, owls, and bears that gave San Francisco's youngsters the howling nightmares around the turn of the century got their just deserts yesterday, a half century later.

George K. Whitney, new owner of Sutro Baths, keeping his promise to "throw out those

diles, leopards sailed through the air—all of them stuffed, of course—in a weird kind of jungle fantasy.

Whitney bought the historic baths from Adolf G. Sutro on September 1 for "something over \$250,000," after Sutro had announced the famous structure would be put up for auction.

DOG RESCUES OWNER IN FIRE

A dog saved her crippled mistress as fires swept two ramshackle rooming houses in West Oakland early yesterday. Arson was suspected in both blazes.

Mrs. Edith Johnson, 61, owner of a building at 535 Market Street, was awakened when her dog, Queenie, tugged at her blankets. She managed to get in her wheelchair and was rolling out when firemen arrived to assist her.

The only other tenant in the building, William Curran, 60, was carried down a ladder to safety by firemen.

Damage to the three-story frame structure was estimated at \$2,500. Fire Marshall James J. Sweeney said the blaze started on the second floor.

Another fire broke out in a rooming house five blocks away at 1030 Market Street five minutes before.

Fourteen persons, including five children, fled to safety as the blaze fanned through the two-story structure. Damage was set at \$10,000.

Bridge Suicide Blocked

Despondent Bar Patron Grabbed in Time

What might have been the third suicide from the Golden Gate Bridge within three days was averted early yesterday.

James Miranda, 36, of 1169 Pine Street, was rescued by Highway Patrol Officer John T. Malley, after worried patrons of a bar phoned the bridge.

Miranda, who had been drinking earlier at the bar, 235 Jones Street, left a suicide note and two dollars with the bartender. Officer Malley found Miranda sitting on the bridge rail. He was sent to San Francisco Hospital for observation. Miranda said he had been unable to find work, and was despondent.

Meanwhile, the police were seeking the identity of a man who jumped to his death from the span Tuesday night. The auto he abandoned there was registered to Kent M. Barnes, of Berkeley.

An Albany housewife plunged to her death from the bridge Monday.



FATAL CRASH—Shown above is wreckage of an auto and truck which collided and skidded on a wet highway. Two tow trucks were required to pry the wrecked vehicles apart.

2 Die as Car Hits Truck

A Stockton couple met instant death near Livermore late yesterday when their speeding automobile skidded on a rain-drenched highway and struck an oncoming truck broadside. The impact carried both vehicles into a ditch.

The crash victims were identified by highway patrolmen as Aerial Robert Norris of 2616 East Roosevelt Street, Stockton, and his wife, Mary Alice.

Two tow trucks were needed to pry the wreckage apart.

A speeding ticket issued by Oakland police earlier in the day was found in Norris' coat, patrolmen said.

The driver of the truck, Ben Okasaki, was en route from Sacramento to San Jose with a load of tin plate. He escaped injury.

Actor, Wife Reconciled

HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 10. (INS)—Actor and TV commentator Freeman Lusk and his wife, Anne, kissed and made up and called off their divorce suits today.

Korean Marine Veteran Reunited Here With Mother

A few weeks ago Marine Cpl. Rudolph Lotito, a patient at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, got homesick.

That's understandable even for a Korea combat veteran, especially one who is only 19 years old and faced with the knowledge his left leg ended at the knee.

He telephoned his mother, Mrs. Irmgard Lotito, in Long Island, N. Y., and said he wanted to see her.

Mrs. Lotito wanted desperately to visit him, but a recent operation and illness suffered by her husband, Rudolph, a painter, prevented the trip.

The Marine Corps Fathers Association heard of their plight and took action. They provided money to fly her to Oakland and back, plus enough to cover expenses for the ten days she planned to stay.

The long sought reunion took place at the hospital yesterday. Mrs. Lotito arrived on a TWA plane and rushed to her son.

"Rudy, Rudy, how thin you are," she said to the wan figure against the pillow.

"Mama, Mama," was all Rudy could say.

Rudolph lost his leg last July 3 on Bunker Hill. He was on patrol when a shrapnel burst injured his buddy, "Slim" Franzio. Rudolph crawled out to help "Slim." A mortar burst landed almost on top of him, blowing off his leg and inflicting other injuries. Other soldiers got them both out.

While here, Mrs. Lotito will stay with her cousin, Mrs. Annie Rinkel, of 3354 Sacramento Street. They had not seen each other since both were children in Germany before World War I.

Cave-in Victim Dies

AUCKLAND (N. Z.), Sept. 10. (AP)—Gathanassios Atnassiadis, 28, who was trapped for thirty-one hours in the collapse of a tunnel, died today at a hospital of shock.



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