

Vacation Drowning Takes Life of Seven-Year-Old Boy

More Budget Cutting Due as City 'Loses' \$1,600,000 In Valuation

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EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1950 24 PAGES

36th YEAR — No. 33



BIG BLOSSOM . . . This giant sunflower, nine feet high, towers above the garden of Sara Ann Wright, four feet high, who with the aid of a missing tooth grin helps point-out the size of the monster blossom in the yard of her home, 2824 West Carson street. The stalk, almost big enough to climb, measures nine-inches around and supports a bloom 36-inches in circumference.—(Herald Photo).

Must Trim \$14,500 Off Budget

City budget-makers began searching for \$14,500 yesterday to help cover up a \$1½ million "mistake," apparently made by the County Tax Assessor's office.

Basing their proposed budget of \$867,895 on an estimated \$52,000,000 assessed valuation, the city was informed late Tuesday afternoon that its worth was actually \$1,600,000 under the published estimation.

VALUE SET
The official worth of the city has been established by the County Tax Assessor's office as \$48,508,400—an increase over last year of \$1,594,460.

The "mistake," apparently a typographical error, resulted in the budget planners allocating \$14,500 more than anticipated income would allow.

City Manager George W. Stevens, in presenting the situation to the Council Tuesday night, asked for a special agenda meeting with the Council for Saturday morning to adjust the budget to make allowance for the \$14,500 "loss."

SUGGESTIONS MADE
Several suggestions were offered as to where the city might pare the budget to make the necessary adjustment.

Robert I. Plomert Jr., a member of the Industries Tax Committee, suggested the city could cut expenses at least \$14,500 and reduce the tax rate from 4 to 5 cents by eliminating \$20,000 the city has set aside to cover the anticipated loss of operating the bus line to Hollywood Riviera.

"The taxpayers of Torrance are spending between 4 and 5 cents for each \$100 of their assessed valuation to cover the bus fare of two passengers who ride each bus serving Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos," the authority claimed.

TRIM RESERVE FUND
He also suggested that the \$14,500 could be trimmed from the unappropriated reserve fund of \$26,228. He said the fund is a temptation and "would burn a hole in the city's pockets."

Another suggestion offered to offset the shortage, would be to hike the tax rate. The present budget is based on a tax rate of \$1.12—an amount equal to that of last year, although the cost of running the city was upped 2 cents. This was possible due to the discontinuance of the 2-cent levy for city employee retirement fund.

Still another suggestion was

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VACATION TRAGEDY . . . Harbor fire crews use grappling hooks in waters of Wilmington yacht anchorage in attempt to locate body of a seven-year-old Torrance lad who drowned August 14 while his parents worked on a pleasure craft 100 feet away.

Arithmetic Time To Be Increased In City Schools

Hey, kids! You'd better bone up on your fractions.

Teaching emphasis on arithmetic and mathematics in the city's elementary schools was promised by the superintendent of schools in a memorandum presented to the Board of Education at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

"It will be our purpose to develop within the school district more consciousness of real need in numbers, arithmetic and mathematics in the elementary schools during the coming year, so that we can bolster up that phase of the program to the satisfaction of the community," the memorandum stated.

Emmett W. Ingram, assistant superintendent of schools here, told the board that there would be no de-emphasis on reading, which has received the attention of teachers during the past two years.

Ingram, also business manager of the school district, met with the board in the absence of Dr. J. R. Hull, superintendent, who is in Canada on his vacation.



FUTILE . . . Resuscitator crews work over the body of seven-year-old Elliott Newlin in vain attempt to breathe life into his youthful lungs after the boy slipped and drowned in the waters near his parents' boat in Wilmington Monday afternoon.

Son Falls From Dock At Harbor

A joyfully planned vacation ended in tragedy for a Torrance family Monday afternoon as their 7-year-old son drowned in a Wilmington yacht harbor.

Drowned while his parents worked on a boat they had purchased only three days earlier, was taffy-headed, blue-eyed Elliott Newlin, 1955 West 186th street.

The lad's parents, Robert and Mona Newlin, were spending their vacation making the 30-foot cruiser, Mapuna, shipshape when the tragedy occurred.

GRAPPLING BEGAN
When the parents became aware that they had not seen the lad for some time, they summoned the harbor police, who with the aid of volunteers began grappling in the waters near the family craft. Feeling the boy might have crawled into one of the near-by boats and gone to sleep, the searchers were inspecting the other craft, when Officer Glenn Spies of the Harbor Division of the Los Angeles Police Department saw the body of the boy lying in eight feet of water approximately 100 feet from the Mapuna dock.

The body was discovered at the Island Yacht Anchorage, 801 Ford avenue, while Mrs. Newlin accompanied an officer to a near-by cafe where the boy was reported to have been seen.

Fire department crews began resuscitation immediately but were unsuccessful in their attempts to revive the lad who had been dead approximately an hour, Assistant Police Surgeon H. H. Horst estimated.

The boy's body is now at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, where private services will be held today.

Canvassing Still Illegal
A reminder that house-to-house canvassing is against the law in Torrance for persons not in business here, was expressed at the Torrance Council meeting Tuesday night.

Police Chief John Stroh said that householders who are solicited by door-to-door salesmen should notify the police department.

"This is the only way we have of knowing that solicitors are working the area," he said.

Liquor Store, Station Held Up by Armed Thugs

Armed robbery of a service station and a liquor store headed the list of crimes reported to Torrance police in the past week.

Heaviest loser was Sol Levine, owner of the Manor Liquor Store, 17310 Crenshaw boulevard. Levine told police that two characters held up Fred Schimmel, 1543 W. 209th street, last Friday night and nabbed \$345.27 in cash from the till.

Schimmel, who was pinch-hit hitting as a relief clerk for Levine, who also owns part of the A. and L. Liquor Store at Five Points, was threatened by the gun-toting thug who told the clerk:

"I've killed two men and I'd just as soon kill you as look at you."

After robbing the till one of the thugs beat him about the head to get him to tell him if he was hiding any other money. The thieves finally took \$2 from Schimmel's wallet and left saying:

"Stand right where you are for five minutes."

The pair also took two bottles of whiskey.

They had pulled the phone wires from the wall, according to the report. Delbert Alford, 17230 South Atkinson avenue, a passerby, summoned the police.

Brandishing a nickel-plated revolver, a holdup man robbed him of \$40 last Thursday night. George Brentner, manager of the Edwards Service Station, 172nd street and Hawthorne boulevard, told Torrance police.

The thief opened the station operator to force the cash till at the point of a gun and as a car drove into the station the bandit ran to a parked auto and sped from the scene, according to Sgt. Carl Friberg and Patrolman William Mitchell, in

Council Hears Pros, Cons on Pinball Machines

After hearing arguments pro and con on the proposed anti-pinball machine ordinance, the city council took the communications under advisement Tuesday evening pending the second and final reading of the bill—probably next Tuesday night.

The measure, which had its first reading on July 11, will ban, if passed, all types of coin-operated devices except cigarette, candy, and similar types of vending machines.

Speaking against the machines at the council meeting Tuesday was Alan S. Moore, 1222 Crenshaw boulevard, a member of the Torrance Council of Churches, a high school teacher, and homeowner.

"The only argument for the machines are they are profitable for the proprietor in whose place of business the machines are located and for the syndicates who own the machines," Moore claimed.

"The machines can be likened to a house of prostitution," he said. "I am led to believe that they are a profitable enterprise. If we allow pinball machines to operate here solely because they are profitable, then we should by the same reasoning, allow houses of prostitution to operate in Torrance."

Speaking for a group of cafe and restaurant operators, was William McFadden, attorney. He said it was unfair to compare

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Varsity Coaches Named



REX WELCH
Two Heads Are

Rex Welch and Cliff Graybehl will share duties in coaching Varsity football at Tartarville this fall, Principal John Steinbaugh told the Herald yesterday.

Welch coached the Junior varsity last year and ran the varsity track squad. Graybehl coached Bee football and varsity baseball and basketball.

The two-man coaching staff was appointed to take over where Coach Eddie Cole left off when he became Capt. Eddie Cole in the Air Force.

A third member of the coaching staff was approved by the Board of Education Tuesday night. He is Vernon R. Wolfe, coach at the Spanish-American Institute in Gardena last year. Wolfe will take over Bee football.



CLIFF GRAYBEHL
Better Than One

Counseling Offices Open At This Monday

Preliminary counseling of new students enrolling in Torrance High School will begin Monday morning, it was announced yesterday by Principal John Steinbaugh.

The counseling office will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday until Sept. 1, Steinbaugh said.

Urging new students to visit the counseling office early, Steinbaugh pointed out that students entering high school from one of the city's elementary schools are not required to participate in this preliminary counseling.

Counseling offices are on the first floor of the main administration building at the high school.

City Union Assails Death of Check-off

Sherman Miller, president of the United Public Workers of America, Local 569, spoke up this week in answer to the City Council's charge that the union was Communist controlled.

Miller, in a signed letter to the Torrance Herald, pointed out that all members of the union "have given the loyalty oath" and "all pledge allegiance to the flag at the start of each meeting."

The council at a regular meeting August 8 voted to end the check-off system and killed a motion to grant a blanket pay increase to city workers.

NOT CONSISTENT
The local president also claimed that the council was not consistent in its policy of applying the check-off system—a system whereby union dues are deducted from city employees' checks and sent to the union. Miller claims that deductions for insurance are allowed

but not union dues. This he claims is discriminatory.

He also stated that the City of Torrance is forcing a handicap on workers in the lower salary bracket. The president said that Torrance is below par of other cities and presented figures to prove his point.

LETTER TELLS VIEW
Following is a copy of Miller's letter:

August 14, 1950
To the editor:
In the Council meeting of August 8, 1950

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