

IN WIND'S WAKE . . . Firemen and volunteers were hampered only "slightly" last Thursday as they fought this blazing oilwell at Narbonne avenue and 235th street. High winds fanned the flames, 16,000 volt power lines dangled

nearby, hydrant pressure fell when the water company's pump went out, and it all took place in a heavy downpour. Two firemen were treated for eye injuries. (Photo by Reid Bundy).

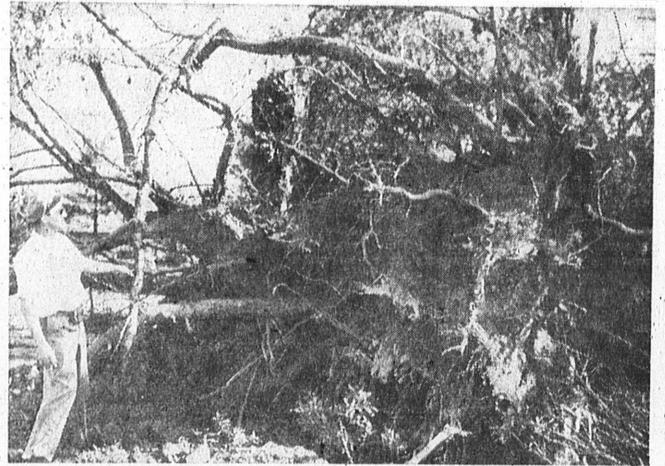
Twister Snaps Main Powerlines

Thursday's "Big Wind" left several hundred homes in the dark and speechless when toppling oil well rigs tore down 16,000-volt lines and Lomita exchange telephone cables.

A. B. Smith, manager of the Torrance office of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company said that an unusually heavy volume of calls during the afternoon following the time when the tornado-like wind hit caused a main discharge fuse to blow in the telephone central office at 2164 West Lomita boulevard. Lines affected by the fuse blow-out were back in order in 18 minutes, he said. Other telephones, numbering approximately 325, served through cables which were severed by the falling oil wells were out for a maximum of 20 hours.

Sixteen crews of the Southern California Edison Company including two from Santa Monica and four from Inglewood, worked all night repairing two main feeders into the WALTERIA Substation in Lomita.

L. M. Judy, district superintendent for Edison, said crews were still working Monday to repair the storm damage. Stand-by equipment in San Pedro was rushed to Lomita to generate battery power for the telephone system.



A PUSH-OVER . . . Del Gould, bakery man, stops on his route to inspect this uprooted 60-foot pine tree. The tree toppled when winds estimated to be in excess of 75 miles per hour struck during a mid-West type tornado which cut a path through the oil fields between 235th street and 236th street last Thursday. The tree was growing near 235th street and Pennsylvania avenue.—Herald Photo.

Soldier Seeks Men at Ft. Ord

Hunting for a needle in a haystack is a cinch compared to finding a soldier at Ft. Ord, claimed Recruit Herbert E. Curley.

"I don't mean just any soldier," Ret. Curley said, "but somebody from Torrance." If you know of a boy at Ft. Ord, Mrs. H. C. Curley, 1536 W. 218th street, Phone 1057M, would be happy to hear from you so that she might inform her son.



WHEN THE RAINS CAME . . . Larry Martin, 11, and Gary Mella, 12, wade across Arlington avenue at Plaza Del Amo as they make their way home from school following last week's storm. (Herald photo).

Freak Tornado Drops 12 Wells In Local Field

Among the 12 oil wells which tumbled during Thursday's unusual tornado were these ten in the City of Torrance, according to Captain Gene Walker of the Torrance Fire Department.

Two rigs in the county also fell.

J. C. Hansmeyer, 1977 Mandeville Road, West Los Angeles, rig—south of 235th street, west of Narbonne avenue.

S. and B. Oil Co., rig—south of 235th street, east of Narbonne avenue.

Kenney Day, rig—south of 235th street, west of Eshelman avenue.

California Southern Oil Co., rig—across from 2061 west 235th street.

California Southern Oil Co., rig—east side of Pennsylvania avenue, south of 233rd street.

H. T. Davis, 2152 West 235th street, rig—southwest corner of Pennsylvania and 235th street.

Atlantic Oil Company, 1241 East Barnett street, Long Beach, rig—west end of 235th street, north side of street.

Kesson and Jones, rig—236th street, west of Pennsylvania.

Rippy and Robinett, rig—west end of 235th street on the south side of the street.

Dick Pettijohn, 1870 East Villa, Pasadena, rig—2455 west 236th street.

Army Recruiters Announce Poster Contest Opening

High school Rembrandts will get a chance to display their skills and do a patriotic turn at the same time, according to an announcement made this week by M/Sgt. Merritt G. Braun, in charge of the local Army and Air Force recruiting station.

A poster competition, designed expressly for high school art students, has been announced by Sergeant Braun.

In addition to providing a creative opportunity for students to design original posters, the posters will be used to stimulate interest of young Americans in United States Army and Air Force enlistments," Sergeant Braun stated.

On top of all this, three cash awards of \$10 and three of \$5 will be given to students, he said.

Interested students may obtain complete information at the recruiting station in the Post Office building.



BIG BLOW OUT . . . Mrs. Katie Gray inspects empty sockets in fuse block. Fuses were shot from their sockets like corks from the end of a popgun as high voltage ripped through her house during last week's storm.—Herald Photo.

Pop Go the Fuses!

HIGH VOLTAGE BLASTS RIP THROUGH HOUSE

When Thursday's tornado blew out fuses in a house belonging to Mrs. Katie Gray, they REALLY blew out—all the way across the porch, through a window screen, and into the bathroom 15 feet away.

The fuses popped out of their sockets like champagne corks when high voltage lines shorted out on Narbonne avenue south of 235th street. An oil well across the highway crumbled and fell across power lines as the twister swept near Mrs. Gray's home during last Thursday's freak weather.

Wires in a new stove in the house located at 1876 West 235th street left sickening black splashes as arcs of high voltage electricity leaped through the stove knocking salt shakers out of place and spot welding certain parts of the appliance.

AMS Prexy at Camino Heads State Officials

Ed Cook, Associated Men Students president at El Camino College, moved into the California state presidency of that organization last week when the former state president, a Fullerton junior college student, was called to active duty with the armed forces.

FALLING TOWER KNOCKS DOWN WALL OF KITCHEN

When Mrs. H. C. Kelly read, recently what to do in case of an atom bomb attack, she did not realize she would have occasion to put her learning to work as soon as she did.

Mrs. Kelly's kitchen of her home at 2431 West 236th street, was wrecked when a tumbling oil well knocked out the east wall during last Thursday's wind and rain storm.

Her nine-year-old son Bob came running from the bathroom as girders from the falling rig ripped through the wall and sent debris tumbling down on the spot where he stood only seconds before.

Mrs. Kelly grabbed her son and some visiting children and pulled a sofa over them for protection.

The rig, owned by John Kesson, clipped the corner of the kitchen. The east wall fell away. The tower missed by inches a house trailer in which Mrs. Charles Bennett was sitting.

Tartar Teen Talk

By MARIAN McDONALD

Well Student Body elections are over for another semester. There are some really wonderful students on our new council. Glynn Boyce is the new president; Jerry Downing the vice-president; Myrna Tomte, commissioner of records; Ann Bishop, commissioner of finance; Ann Stephens, commissioner of publicity; Edgar Forcier, commissioner of group control; Barbara Mondor, commissioner of activities; Shirley York, commissioner of entertainment; Bill Gray, commissioner of athletics; Donna Hatfield, girls court judge; Jack O'Call, boys court judge. Let's look forward to some great things from this fine student council.

Boys and Girls Leagues elections are also over, with Martha Dunn as the new Girls League president; Annette Castaner, vice-president; Karen Ness, secretary; and Amy Okazaki, historian.

Duane Mittan is the new president of the Boys League. Assisting him is Beryl Jones, the vice-president, and Fenny Baker, the secretary treasurer.

Our boys and girls leagues are organizations for the betterment of our school, and since everyone in school belongs to either one or the other, let's support these leagues this semester.

A very, very, important event is happening tomorrow night in the high school library after our basketball game with Leuzinger. What is it? The GAA sponsored basketball hop. Just think, dancing to the smooth music of all the famous bands, and listening to all those wonderful singers. Well sure, it's records but then what did you expect. The admission is 10 cents stag, and 15 cents for couples.

More news for GAA members. The banquet is scheduled for the 31st of this month, and promptly at 5:30 it will start. The menu and the price have not been decided upon, but the cabinet will let you know soon.

The Tartar Lady, Tartar Knight Ball will be the 21st of February at the Palladium. So remember, all you members, be sure and mark this date on your calendar.

The Tartar ladies have also had their elections, but only a few of the lucky people who counted the ballots know who the new officers are. I don't know when the rest of the members will get to know.

The Tri-Hi-Y Club is planning to go to the snow this weekend. It really does sound like a lot of fun, but that menu, I think everyone is planning to take extra food, just in case some of those wonderful cooks aren't too wonderful.

Last Monday your student council visited the Los Angeles Court Building, City Hall, and County Jail. What a day! When the Council first got to the court building they went to two lower court sessions, and then in the afternoon it was planned to visit the supreme court. But by the time a big lunch was eaten, the top of the city hall was reached and they had visited the county jail, there just wasn't time. It really is interesting to take a trip like that.

Buck Passing Hinders Street Improvements

Letters from the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, the engineers for Property Management Corporation and the district highway engineer did little last week to resolve the problem of getting 174th street improved from Hawthorne boulevard to Western avenue, the City Council decided Tuesday evening, January 9.

The Property Management Corporation, subdividers whose development fronts a small portion of 174th street, a state highway, informed the council that the firm could not improve the portion of the street facing their subdivision because it was a state highway.

STATE DIFFERS

At the same time, a letter from the district engineer said the plans for improving the street had such a low priority in the state program that the council should take steps to have the subdivider do the improving.

The North Torrance Civic Improvement Association letter indicated that that group wasn't nearly as interested in who did the improving, only that it be improved.

City Manager George Stevens said last week that actually what the city wanted from the state was the improvement of 174th street in its entirety from Hawthorne to Western.

ONLY PART

"If we are able to get that part improved which runs along the subdivisions, that will still be only a small part of the entire street," Stevens said. "The street is narrow, rough, and one of the poorest in the city of Torrance," the city manager said.

About two years ago, the state took over complete jurisdiction of the road which means it is responsible for maintenance, Stevens declared.

Vet To Tell Experiences

Chaplain Leo I. Wagner of the Hammett Tract Community Church will speak of his Christian experience in Korea Sunday evening, he said this week.

"I want to tell how God took care of me and my men in the Korean battle zone," Wagner said.

Rev. John Blake will also speak at the Sunday evening services.

Wagner was recently discharged from the Navy where he had been serving the past several months as an electrician's mate. He was the organizer of the Hammett Tract Community Church and director of the Gra-Wags Boys Club.