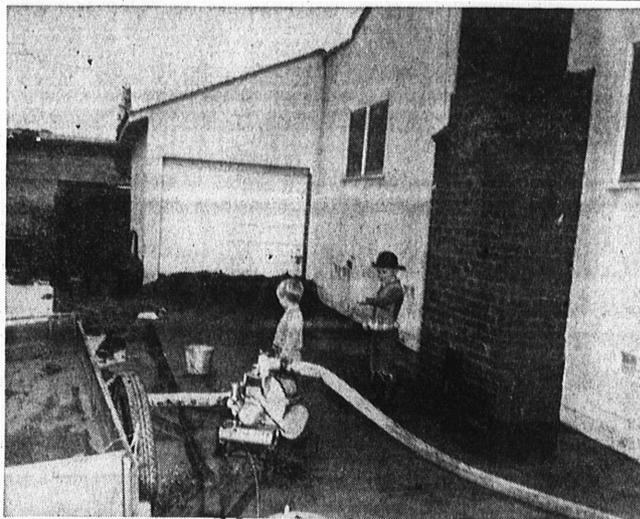


TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1952

Thirteen



TEMPTING FATE . . . Motorists disregarded "Road Closed" signs posted on Western avenue Friday morning to ford the fast-flowing Dominguez Creek as it went across the street near 174th street. Shoulders of the road were considerably damaged by the water. (Herald photo).



BAILING OUT . . . Spike Beck, by pump, and Bobby Jones watch as a city pump works on the lake formed at the Beck residence at 142 Paseo de Gracia, in the Riviera. The Becks banked dirt up around their garage and vents in a fight to keep the water out of their house and floor furnace. (Herald photo).

City Dries Out After Year's Heaviest Rain

A sudden downpour that dumped nearly two and half inches of rain on Torrance in less than 18 hours last Thursday and Friday, was strictly an event of the past today, except to those who are still trying to dry out homes that were swamped with water.

The storm hit the city shortly after noon Thursday and when it had finished at sunrise Friday, Torrance had added 2.42 inches of rain to its seasonal total. The seasonal total now stands at 11.42 inches.

Last year's rainy season brought only 7.75 inches in all. At this time a year ago the rainfall had reached 2.22 inches.

All that remains today, except damp basements and mud clogged walls, are a few scattered mud puddles in parts of Waverly. But during the downpour the city streets again resembled the famed Venice canals. Six days of sunny skies have dried out most of the water-logged areas.

Large patches of farm land along Hawthorne boulevard were transformed into lakes. Sumps filled to overflow. And the Hollywood Riviera "waterfall" cut deeper into the hillside below the site of the new Riviera School, depositing loads of mud in backyards of homes on Via El Chico.

Western avenue was flooded out during the height of the storm, making travel hazardous in either direction.

Arlington and Normandie were no better and, as usual, Hawthorne boulevard was under water.

Council Briefs

Requests of Donnie A. Cook and James O'Toole for two weeks' leave from their jobs with the city's water department were granted by the council. The two men will attend the police officers' training school to be conducted by Chief John Stroh.

The Shell Oil Company reported that no pipelines had been laid or taken up within the city of Torrance during 1951. The report was made in compliance with provisions of Franchise Ordinance No. 328.

General Petroleum Corporation submitted a check for \$627.69 as franchise tax under the provision of Franchise Ordinance No. 328.

The Council was notified that a public hearing on the application for adjustment of claim by Myrtle C. Schupacher would be held at 1:45 p.m., January 28 at 501 State Building. Mrs. Schupacher is the widow of the late Captain Frank Schupacher of the Torrance Police Department. The council directed that the city's insurance carrier be notified of the hearing.

Request of Geoffrey Morgan, president of the Shoreline Association, for dues from the city of Torrance was referred to an agenda meeting of the council scheduled for next Wednesday evening. The city has not participated in this group in the past.

Angus McVicar, superintendent of the city's water department, was named to the board of directors of the West Basin Water District as the Torrance representative. He succeeds William Stanger, former superintendent of the department.

Request of H. P. Fariss for permission to occupy a trailer on property at 2241 West 229th street was granted for 90 days with the condition that he take out a building permit to construct an addition to the house now on the property for the purpose of moving out of the trailer when completed.

Recommendation of City Manager George Stevens that Jean C. Lovelady be permanently appointed typist-clerk with the Fire Department as of January 15 was approved.

Recommendation by the City Manager that the bid of the Lund Company for furnishing liability insurance for the Torrance Municipal Bus lines be accepted as the lowest responsible bid and that all others be rejected was approved.

The council rejected all bids received earlier for the construction of the proposed Adult Recreation building on the recommendation of the City Manager of the grounds that the lowest bid was 50 per cent higher than the amount allocated for the project.

The suggestion of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett that the Adult Recreation Center be constructed on "force account," was voted by the council. In this case, the city will serve as the general contractor for the job, and city labor will be used wherever possible to construct the center. It will be located behind the library on Post avenue and Cravens.

A planning commission recommendation that a portion of 203rd street between Arlington and Western avenues be rezoned from A-1 (light agriculture) to M-2 (heavy manufacturing), was returned to the planning commission for revision at the commission's request.

Request of Merle N. Berge to construct a dwelling with 624 square feet of floor area on the rear of his property on 237th street east of Narbonne avenue was granted by the council on the recommendation of the planning commission.

The council overrode the planning commission recommendation that a modified elevation plan for proposed changes of Longren Aircraft Company be approved. The council sent the proposal back to the planning commission with the recommendation that new public hearings be held in view of the fact that several changes in the plan had been made since the official hearings several months ago, including changes in some of the phases of development ordered as conditions of the council's approval of the plans.

Request of the United Steelworkers of America (CIO), Local 1414, that the customary fee for use of the Civic Auditorium be waived for their meeting held there Monday afternoon was granted after discussion by the council. Members of the council approved the request after it was pointed out that other groups — not necessarily charitable or church organizations — had been granted use of the auditorium without fee.

City Manager George Stevens reported that street lights for 185th street and Crenshaw, near the new Crenshaw Elementary School, had been ordered.

The City Manager reported that part of the material needed to install signals at Five Points — Cabrillo, Carson and Cravens — had been received and that the control box and signals should be available by the end of February.

Walter Wiltanen, contractor of 819 Ampolava avenue, voiced his protest over the present licensing schedules in effect in the city and requested the council to look into the licensing ordinance (No. 483). The council referred his request to the agenda meeting next Wednesday for discussion.



RIVIERA CANYON . . . Size of this canyon cut into hillside in the Hollywood Riviera district may be judged by comparing it to figure of man standing on its rim (in front of phone pole). The water racing through the soft sand threatened several homes below the hill.—Herald Photo.

Naval Depot Sends Aid to Flood Areas

The Torrance Storage Area of the Naval Supply Depot got into the act last week when the Red Cross put out a call for emergency aid in caring for thousands of Southland residents driven from their homes by high water.

Reporting on the material furnished to flood stricken areas from the Torrance Navy depot, Comdr. Daniel T. Rohde, executive officer of the Naval Supply Depot, said 300 cots and 600 blankets were sent into the Bellflower area; 500 cots and 1000 blankets were sent into the Artesia area; and that 200 cots were sent to the Red Cross headquarters in Los Angeles to be sent to the San Fernando Valley.

Demands on the Red Cross were so acute in the Artesia area, Commander Rohde said, that Navy trucks were used to distribute the cots and blankets



NO GONDOLAS . . . This strip of 166th street in North Torrance has all the trimmings for a canal city except the singing gondoliers. There was easily enough water to float a gondola—too much for the auto marooned at the intersection. (Herald photo).

to emergency stations set up by the Red Cross. The Naval officer said the Navy would be reimbursed for their expense, but that such reimbursement would be on the "Washington level."

Tartar Variety Show Debuts Friday Night

"Fifty-two Skidoo" is the by-word at Torrance High School as the 1952 Variety Show is made ready for performance tomorrow evening.

The production numbers of "Something old, something new, borrowed and blue" and "vacation time" combine to insure a fun-filled two-act production this year.

Beth Jenkins, Girls' League president, and Richard Uglund, Boys' League president, working with Desmond P. Wedberg, faculty director, Nancy Ruth Miller, production manager, and Dwight Hanna, student director, have been hard at work for the past weeks on the details of putting the show together.

Kelvin Figgins is serving as business manager; publicity is being handled by Betsy Shaw and Charlie Babbitt; selling of the tickets is under the direction of Sylvia Harper; handling the programs are Dayle Denham,

Martha Gruver, Eat Merola, and Alice Loranger. Ann Marie Bishop is in charge of costumes, with Bob Kulp, Dave Ledbetter, and Don Babbitt acting as prop men. Dan Mayers is house manager.

Tickets are on sale now for the performance tomorrow night in the high school auditorium. General admission tickets are 50 cents and tickets for the reserved section are 75 cents. With talented students and teachers participating, this show promises to be one of the outstanding productions this year.

COLORFUL RACE DRIVER TO ADDRESS OPTIMISTS

Ralph De Palma, one of automobile racing's greatest figures, will speak before a joint meeting of the Torrance and Lomita Optimist clubs here next Monday evening, it was announced this week by A. C. Turner, program chairman for the Torrance club.

A veteran of nearly every phase of automobile racing, including such races as hill climb, dirt track, board, concrete, brick, and road races, De Palma drove competitively for 27 years. Of the 2889 races in which he competed during his career, he won victories in 257.

In conjunction with his talk, De Palma will present a film entitled "The Fastest 500," a colored motion picture made at the 1951 Indianapolis races. De Palma is one of the honored drivers to have the Memorial Day Classics listed to his credit. He won the 1915 race ahead of such greats as Eddie Rickenbacker, Louis Chevrolet, and Wild Bob Burman.

During the past few years, the colorful racer has been associated with the General Petroleum Corporation, and has toured the Southland in behalf of driver safety.



EARLY BROWSEERS . . . Checking in early at the new North Torrance library located at 174th street and Yukon are, (left to right) Jack White, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association; Dave Dyer, vice-president of the

group; Mrs. Rose Brown, librarian; and Councilman Willys G. Blount. The library is being made more useful daily as books become available, Mrs. Brown states. (Herald Photo.)