

# Hi-Lites Of Seaside Heights

By GRAYCE RYCKMAN  
FRontier 5-2410

I take my quaking typewriter in hand this morning to give forth with the latest from hereabouts.

We have some visitors in the tract who will never . . . but never . . . forget their trip to California this July . . . Visiting the Floyd Holstin family of 5121 Zakon Rd. are Mrs. (Merle) Holstin's mother . . . Mrs. Elsie Penton, her two sisters . . . Mrs. Phyllis Getman and Mrs. Shirley Jean Flohr, and their respective young sons . . . Rodney and Eddie. They drove here from Greeley, Colo., last week and are leaving "the end of this week."

Visiting for only a short time last week were Mr. and Mrs. Phelon of Kansas. They are sister and brother-in-law of Dee Callahan of Bindewald Rd. Dee's father, G. H. Price, had gone to Nebraska to see an ailing brother and Mr. and Mrs. Phelon drove him back, just for the ride. They did not waste a minute of their short stay, and Dee was mighty weary when I saw her.

Putting his nose back to the proverbial grind stone last Monday was Ed Thorne of Zakon Rd. He had a nice 17 day vacation in which he and his wife, Peg, and son, Charles, made many daily jaunts: Belmont Shore, Farmers Market, Knott's Berry Farm, La Brea Tar Pits, fishing . . . you know . . . places that out-of-staters come to see.

Several of our younger residents left last Saturday for a week at the Christian Camp in Idyllwild. These were Dolores Dwyer of Bindewald Rd., Sharon

Herbst of Vanderhill Ln., John and Arlene Weber and Clifford Burk of Zakon Rd. Doris Herbst and Nellie Taylor drove these children and a few others to the camp.

Saturday night, July 19th, did you get a whiff of the luscious odors that issued forth from Ted Marchel's direction? . . . did you hear the laughter? . . . see the lights blazing? Party time . . . barbecued spare ribs for Ted and his guests; Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilshire, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Wilson, and Miss Lucille Stark. Yes, a good time was had by all.

Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Phillips celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary last Saturday with an evening of dancing.

A very lovely birthday with a fascinating circus motif was given for Jerry Wilkerson, locally known as "Little Jerry." He was five years old Sunday the 13th but the party was the next day. Guest list: Gary and Barbara Ledbetter; Beth Urbach, Dolores Dwyer, Grey and Jackie Jurisch, Alan Wagstaff, Tommy Sokolowski, Leslie Taylor, and Jerry Filigiano. And, Oh . . . Dee Callahan took little four month old Vickie Lynn to the party . . . need I say her very first invitation? One of the biggest thrills was the presence of Jerry's great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Martin. She helped serve. Also helping serve and joining in the games was Mrs. Norma Ledbetter.

Well, there is one thing about it neighbor . . . you are not alone . . . we all got our Sewer Assessment bills last week. In fact, somehow or other the Trekmans managed to get two for the same assessment. . . Many here in the Heights feel that Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reesor deserve a vote of thanks from all of us, for the work they did on the problems which had arisen from formation of the Sewer District. Many others helped but the Resors were the leaders.

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# Council Briefs

At a regular meeting of the Torrance City Council held Tuesday night in the City Hall the following matters were considered:

Concurred with a recommendation of the Planning Commission that in the future no new home will be considered to conform to local building requirements unless the house has a minimum floor space of 890 square feet in the case of a three-bedroom home. No change was made in the law requiring a minimum of 800 square feet in the case of homes with less than three bedrooms.

Councilman Nick Drake asked the city to re-evaluate all property owned by the city and that parcels which are not considered vital for the operation of the city be sold and the money given to the Recreation Commission.

A letter from Attorney C. T. Rippey was read and filed. The attorney objected to the proposed tax of \$25 the council is considering placing on residential lots. The council is to discuss the matter at an agenda meeting.

## GP Refinery; How Much Is It Worth? Council Wants To Know

Apparently dissatisfied with a company explanation, the Torrance City Council Tuesday night, pressed home its investigation to determine why General Petroleum's assessed valuation has decreased despite increased building activity at the local refinery.

A. E. Thompson, manager of the Torrance refinery, appeared before the council recently to explain that the drop was due to the inventories of crude oil stored here in 1952 were far less than in previous years, especially during the "petroleum slump."

The value of the decreased inventories far exceeded the valuation of the new construction at the refinery, Thompson claimed.

The council Tuesday night ordered the city manager to re-assess the refinery.

John R. Quinn, the county assessor, said yesterday that he did not believe it would be possible legally and that he would refer any such request to the county counsel for an opinion.

"Had the Torrance City Council members wished to challenge the assessed valuation of the refinery, they should have appeared before the Board of Equalization which closed its hearings last Monday."

At the council meeting Tuesday night George Stevens, the city manager, stated:

"The assessed valuation of the General Petroleum Corp. is \$13,417,870 or more than the total valuation of Columbia Steel, National Supply, Ideco, Pittsburgh Paint, Rome Cable, National Electric and American-Standard. I feel that General Petroleum is certainly carrying its share of the tax load."

Nevertheless, the council ordered Stevens to ask Assessor Quinn for another appraisal of the company's holdings here.

Stated Isen in his letter: "It is the feeling of the Torrance Unified Taxpayers that such an amendment to the City Charter would be beneficial to the community, and would make possible the best expression of the will of the majority of the citizens. We feel that it would bring about an equitable expression of all the people on such matters, as well as effect a needed economy by eliminating the cost of unnecessary elections."

President Expresses Opinion Judge John A. Shidler, president of the Board of Education, expressed his opinion in the matter:

"It is my personal feeling they (the city and school elections) should be separated. If they are held at the same time the Board election will become political, with voters casting their votes for the 'Pros' or for the 'Ants' as is now the practice in city elections."

Torrance School Board members were once elected at the same time as members of the City Council, but on advice of the county counsel the two elections were separated.

Children Would Suffer It was pointed out that if school bond elections were only held every two years, as are council elections at present, it would work an extreme hardship on Torrance school children who might have to attend double sessions in crowded schools while waiting for election time to roll around. The school board would not be able to hold bond elections as needed.

Still another objection to the consolidation plans was the number of interligent persons who would refuse to run for the School Board because they would not want "to get mixed up in politics"—a condition prevalent during city council elections.

Election Cost, \$300 A look at the records shows that the last school election cost about \$300. It had been charged that the school elections were costing \$400 to \$500.

Approximately 50 per cent of the school districts in California are now conducting elections independently of city elections, with the trend toward more and more districts divorcing themselves from municipal elections.

The council accepted the letter and ordered it filed as a matter of record. No action was taken on the matter.

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## Two With Navy Reserve Unit at Los Alamitos

Two local men are engaged in military maneuvers with Fighter Squadron 772, U. S. Naval Reserve, stationed at Los Alamitos, California, the Navy revealed this week.

The men are Gerald A. Cunerty, of 17039 S. Elgar Ave., who served in the European and Pacific Theaters of Operation in World War II. He is holder of the Distinguished Flyers Cross and the Air Medal.

"The other man is Ralph Borelli Jr., of 17029 Atkinson Ave., who served three years on mine sweepers in the South Pacific and two years with an Air Transport Service unit in the same field during the last war.

Borelli is holder of the Navy and Marine Medal. Cunerty, when not serving with the reserve squadron, is employed as a tank truck salesman, while Borelli is a traffic signal electrician with the City of Los Angeles.

VP 772 is a carrier-type squadron, flying Grumman Helcat pursuit planes.



DERBY BOUND . . . Mrs. Nell Whitney, police matron, dishes out tickets to members of the Torrance Auxiliary Police as the young people set out for a night at Roller Derby last week, courtesy of the police department. TAPs, boys and girls 12-19 years old, take in mountain trips, shooting exhibitions and other events nearly every month. Interested youngsters can apply for membership at the police station.

## Quake

(Continued from Page 1) its trucks outside the station so that they would not be trapped if the walls gave way.

Actual damage was at a minimum. It was reported to police that the A-1 Photo Supply store at 1312 Sartori Ave. had sustained a cracked plate glass window, but a check by Manager Jim Giacalone failed to disclose any break.

Quaking of the earth set off a burglar alarm at Schilling's Cleaners, 1111 Sartori Ave. Shortly after daylight Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, toured and inspected the local school buildings.

"All we found was two hair-line plaster cracks and we are not certain they were caused by the earthquake," Dr. Hull reported.

A. B. Smith, manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. in this area, reported that

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## Assault Charges Dropped Against Local Residents

Charges filed last week against a Torrance man claiming that he took part in the beating of two high school boys were dropped Tuesday in South Bay Justice Court.

Judge John A. Shidler dismissed an assault complaint filed against Gregory J. Reger Jr., of 5251 Doris Way, because the two youths could not positively identify the man from among four they claim "worked them over" after a traffic fracas two weeks ago.

Found not guilty after a brief trial was Louis Johnson, of 620 W. 220th St. However, another Torrance man already had entered a guilty plea and was given a suspended sentence.

Victims Ralph and Israel Felix of Lawndale, could not say from the stand that Reger and Johnson had beaten them during a one-sided beef in front of their home.

Complaints against the men were signed by the boys' father, Estaba Felix on July 15.

Reports indicate the fight was the aftermath of a near traffic crash in Redondo and was marked by a wild auto chase through North Redondo to the youths' home.

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