

# Council Asks County to Fence Dominguez Channel

# SUPERVISORS BACK REQUEST FOR THIRD SOUTH BAY COURT JUDGE

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas



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**THE WORLD IS FLAT . . .** Among the jobs which had to be done as Edison School opened to 765 children for the first time Monday was blowing up the new inflatable world globes. Kelko Otani and Philip Langendorfer are pumping up one of the "flat" worlds, while Barbara Barker and Principal Lester Foster hold up the finished product to show that the world really is round after all.

## County Asks for Torrance Judge

A third judge for the South Bay Municipal Court, to be assigned to Torrance, was recommended Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors.

A new court house is to be constructed soon in the Torrance Civic Center, and the third judge, if approved, would be assigned here. The \$274,838 building will be built on land donated by the city of Torrance.

A Dec. 31, 1956 survey of the state's Judicial Council showed that the South Bay Court in Redondo Beach had the heaviest load, with Judge John A. Shidler and Otto B. Willett handling an average trial case load of 2031 per year, compared with an average of 723.

The survey included more than 100,000 cases in the county municipal court district and indicated that the local case load was 281 per cent of the average for the rest of the area.

The new judge presumably would serve Torrance, Gardena Lomita, and the eastern

## Danger of Flood Control Ditch Cited by City

A demand that the County Board of Supervisors fence Dominguez Channel where it passes through Torrance was contained in a resolution adopted unanimously by the City Council this week.

Stating that the channel flows through heavily populated sections of the city where the percentage of children is high, the Council labeled the flood control ditch a hazard to children because of its muddy bottom in summer and heavy flow in winter.

The council asked that the fencing be done "as soon as possible, in any event, no later than the end of the current school year."

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett was instructed to send copies of the resolution to the clerk of the board of supervisors and to the Torrance board of education.

## Freeway Funds Asked by City In Resolution

An official resolution of the city of Torrance is on its way to Sacramento today, asking the State Highway Commission, Governor Knight, and members of the Legislature to allocate funds in the 1958-59 Highways budget for construction of the San Diego Freeway between Venice Blvd. and Harbor Freeway.

The miles-long stretch of the freeway, part of the federal interstate system, will be of great benefit to the 100 square mile area of southwest Los Angeles County and its 500,000 residents, the city said.

The resolution will precede an official delegation of representatives from this area to Sacramento on March 27 where the area's highway needs will be placed before the State Highway Commission.

Heading the delegation will be Torrance Councilman Nick Drale. He will be accompanied by Councilman Willys Blount from Torrance, and other city representatives from the cities cooperating in the Intercity Highway Committee.

## Traffic Crashes Take Heavy Toll

Four women were injured, one seriously, in three traffic accidents here, police reported Wednesday.

Mrs. Dorothy Bertrem, 35, of 5633 Rockview Dr., was taken to Harbor General Hospital with a possible fractured hip suffered when she was struck by an auto at Marcelina St. and Cravens Ave. on Tuesday evening.

The motorist, Mrs. Clara Zlaket, 36, of 2418 Gramercy Ave., was not held.

Another pedestrian, Mrs. Mary E. Cupp, 50, of 18307 Burin Ave., suffered minor bruises when she was bumped by an auto on Burin Ave., south of 182nd St., on Sunday.

The driver was William L. Post, 45, of 18528 Burin Ave.

**Girls Injured**  
Carol Ann Gately, 18, of 1847 Santa Fe St. and Marianne Parker, 18, of 16522 Atkinson Ave., were taken to Torrance Emergency Hospital with cuts and bruises suffered Tuesday night at 173rd St. and Casimir Ave. Police said Mrs. Gately's auto was involved in a crash with a car driven by Matthew Anderson, 33, of 17315 Casimir Ave.

**Other Crashes**  
In other Torrance area accidents during the weekend: William Hall, 19, of 1621 W. 254th St., Harbor City, received serious injuries when his motorcycle skidded into the rear of a vehicle driven by Horace Barnett, 40, of Los Angeles. Hall was taken to Harbor General Hospital where injuries were listed as broken right kneecap, possible fractured right leg, and multiple bruises. A passenger on the cycle, John Abbott, of 25425 Feija Lomita, was treated at San Pedro Emergency Hospital.

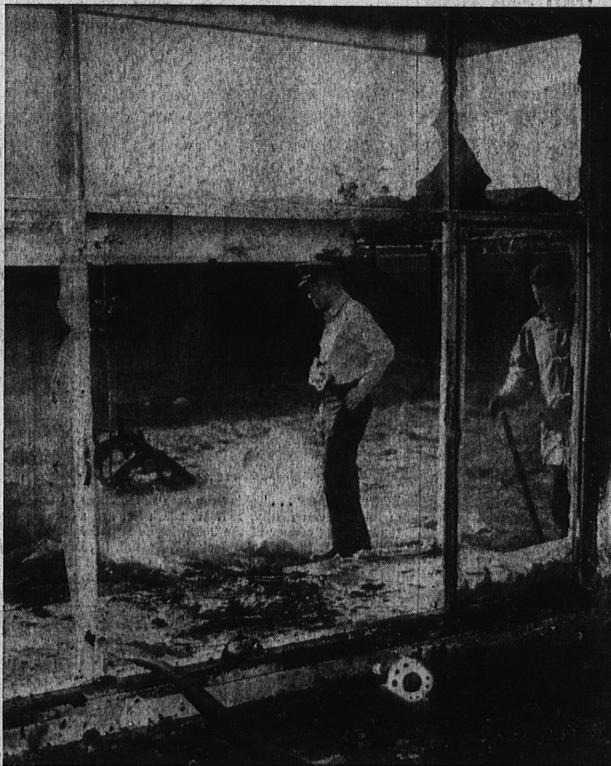
Joe E. Gracie, 32, of 21226 S. Main St., was held after his car collided with a parked auto owned by Ray Wilson, 18410 Hawthorne Ave. Wilson was treated for bruises after the Wilmington collision.

**Walks Into Car**  
Donna Ramirez of San Pedro was treated at San Pedro Emergency Hospital for bruises after she walked into the side of a car driven by Harriet Chandler, 41, of 24607 Narbonne Ave., in San Pedro. Delbert Frank Keller, 21, of 25045 Eshelman, Lomita, received possible major injuries when his cycle ran into the rear of an auto driven by Esther Norma Scott, 49, of 1122 Marine Ave., Wilmington. Keller was taken to Harbor General Hospital with head and leg injuries after the accident at 223rd St. and Avalon, Saturday evening.

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**FLAMES RAVAGE HOME...**The Torrance Gardens home of Mrs. Faye Leamon, 1103 Fonthill Ave., was heavily damaged by flames late yesterday afternoon. Here firemen pour water on furniture carried into the backyard during their attempt to quell the flames. The fire, which started in a couch, did \$2500 damage.

## Lomitans Claim Expansion Plan For Airport Bad

A number of Lomita area residents continued to voice their protests this week over plans to expand Torrance Municipal Airport according to a master plan drawn up for the city by an engineering firm.

Malcolm Cameron, of 1936 W. Lomita Blvd., told the HERALD that the Lomita area had been plagued with planes since the airport was opened by the government during World War II, and that the present operations are a threat to anyone living or owning property in Lomita.

"There have been many serious plane accidents in Lomita and the surrounding territory," Cameron said. "If Torrance feels the airport is so undeniably safe and valuable, why not shift the so-called flight pattern north over Torrance's territory," he commented.

City officials have said the airport activity would be moved further west under the proposed master plan.

## NHS Speakers Win Competition Honors

Talking has paid off for North High School students, as three walked off with top honors in three speech contests during the past week, and school debaters took third place in a Norwalk speech tourney.

Top winners were Allan Andrews, 2406 W. 171st St., who won the North Torrance Lions Club speaking contest; Bruce Harle, 3221 Dalemead St., who copped first in the Torrance Optimists Club speakoff; and Lee Harris, 4717 Towers St., who copped a first place in the spring tourney of the Southern California Debate League at Norwalk.

**District Meets**  
Andrews and Harle both will compete in the district competitions among high school students sponsored by the two service clubs. North runnersup in the Lion competition were

Carolyn Waddingham and Grover Fulkerson, while second and third place in the Optimists meet was taken by Gary Wescombe and Charles Rutter.

Miss Harris, by winning a first place in the impromptu speaking classification at Norwalk, led the North debaters to third place among 12 high schools competing.

**44 Attend**  
Three teachers—Robert Shoup, Miss Blanche Billingslea, and Mrs. Lavona Dunworth—accompanied 44 students to the competition.

Superior awards were won by Lee Harris, Bill Salby, Bill Bubinski, Carolyn Waddingham, and Dale Crowbridge. Excellent ratings were copied by Sharon Wright, Linda Harris, Elja Salma, Allan Andrews, Glen Aycock, Robert Terheggen, and Gary Wescombe. For most students it was their first competition.

## Old Structures To be Replaced

Although many old grads were moved at the announcement that Fern School may be torn down, school officials are moved by the thought that many children might be injured if an earthquake moved the school walls, Superintendent J. H. Hull told the HERALD yesterday.

The Torrance board of education Tuesday night passed a resolution to abandon Fern School, the Perry School administration building, and 24 temporary buildings located at five schools in the district as soon as these structures can be replaced.

The board declared its intention to apply for a state loan to build new structures to replace these buildings. Officials indicated that it will be up to the state whether Fern School is torn down or replaced to make it earthquake-proof in accordance with the Field Act of 1933.

**Perry Inadequate**  
The Perry School administration building, built in 1924, was termed "inadequate" and will be within five feet of Prairie Ave. when it is widened. The temporary buildings are located at El Nido, Crenshaw, Meadow Park, and Casimir Schools.

Fern School was first opened in January, 1933, shortly before the March, 1933, earthquake which leveled much of Long Beach and jarred many buildings here. In 1941, it survived a severe local quake, although Torrance High School and Torrance Elementary schools were damaged and later brought up to the standards of the Field Act, passed after the 1933 tremors.

**Must Act**  
By law, the board of education must act to replace or rehabilitate a school once it is declared unsafe under terms of the Field Act.

School buildings throughout the state, including seven in Redondo Beach, have been replaced because they did not meet earthquake specifications, Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip said.

The board indicated that it

## Schools Hire New Official

Hiring of Frederick R. Cyphert as a curriculum assistant for the Torrance schools was approved Tuesday night by the Board of Education.

Effective Sept. 1, Cyphert will work with curriculum program for elementary students, primarily in the upper grades, Superintendent J. H. Hull said.

A teacher in Pennsylvania for several years, Cyphert hopes to have his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh this summer. He was a supervisor in Pittsburgh schools and supervised instruction of the graduates of Ball State Teachers College.

## Harris Still Probing Bail Records Here

Special investigator Tom Harris continued his audit of Torrance Police Department bail accounts and warrants issued by South Bay Municipal Court this week as a search for a number of missing warrants continued.

A special D.A. auditor, Harris was going through 1956 records this week as fast as Court Clerk Ernest W. Stout could separate them from records of other South Bay Court jurisdictions, according to Deputy District Attorney William B. Keene.

"When this is completed, we face the task of interviewing possibly a hundred people about bail payments," Keene told the HERALD.

The probe was started several weeks ago when a Los Angeles man testified in court that he had paid bail to a special Torrance officer, Jack Gee, although his court record did not show the payment. Gee has since been dismissed by Torrance.



**PONITS THE WAY . . .** Mayor Albert Icen and Chamber of Commerce President Tommy Thompson check out new "Welcome to Torrance" sign at Crenshaw and Redondo Beach Blvd. Four other signs will mark major entrances to the city.