

# Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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16 PAGES

## A Penny for your Thoughts

With summer vacation fast approaching, young students' thoughts are fast turning to vacation plans. With spring in the air, the Torrance HERALD reporter and photographer went out among the young to find out:

"With school letting out next month, have you made any plans for summer vacation?"

**John Flewelling, 10, student at Ralph Waldo Emerson School in Compton:**

"I haven't made my plans yet. Maybe I'll just loaf . . . don't know yet. There'll be time to play

ball, and then I'm a Cub Scout, too."

**David Foote, 14, student at Howard Wood:**

"I don't have too many plans . . . I might go to summer camp. We go to the beach most of the time during the summer."

**Tommy Hatt, 12, student at Meadow Park School:**

"I plan to go swimming . . . we go to the Torrance municipal pool. At the end of the summer, my family is going to take a trip to Oregon. Then I'll go to the beach in between times and just loaf."

**Kathleen Peterson, 6, student at Hall-dale School:**

"Go to the beach. My mommie, daddy sister, and brother, we all go to the beach. I like to play in the sand and the water."

**Ann Watkins, 10, student at Harbor City Elementary:**

"We might take a trip to Canada or Baltimore. The rest of the time I'll play with my dog and take care of my little brother who is only two years old."

## County to Get Right of Way For Hawthorne

A resolution approving the County's acquisition of necessary rights of way for the improvement of Hawthorne Blvd. between Palos Verdes Drive North and Silverspur Road was adopted Tuesday by the Board of Supervisors on the motion of Supervisor Burton W. Chace. Chace's resolution called attention to the fact that the road is of general County interest because it will provide a north-south route for the motoring public through the Palos Verdes Hills.

The Supervisor said the improvement of Hawthorne Blvd. will also relieve an existing over-crowded condition on Palos Verdes Drive North and that the improvement is in accordance with the County's master plan of highways.

Appropriations for the opening of Hawthorne Blvd. will come from the County's gas tax monies.

# UNIONS STUDY AIRCRAFT BIDS



OH BOY . . . There's no thrill like the thrill of sitting behind the wheel in a real engine, according to Kathy Ann and Gerri Lynn Sprout who were among the many guests at Torrance's Fire Service Day. Here, Capt. Walter West shows the youngsters how to pilot a fire engine. (Herald Photo)

## Family Ends Flight From Oppression, Settles Here

By VONDA CARLTON  
Herald Staff Writer

On a dark, stormy night, nine years ago, three Czech patriots fled from behind the Iron Curtain. Taking with them not even a change of clothing or a single coin—for fear they would get caught by the border guards and returned—the trio made their way into Germany.

Today, the trio—now a quartet—has arrived in Torrance. It took Joe and Mary Sedlacek, their seven-year-old son, Josef, and Mary's brother, Charles Sramek, nine years to complete their trip.

A Catholic priest in Germany played an important part in the nine-year journey. For he provided the stamp which made possible the mailing of a letter to Mary's cousin, J. B. Kuska, 24201 Walnut St., Lomita.

Mr. and Mrs. Kuska promptly

agreed to sponsor the family in this country.

**Buy a Spoon**  
The priest also gave the Sedlaceks enough money to buy a community spoon, so the three of them could eat their meager meals during the eight months they spent in refugee camps.

Finally, they made their way to Australia, where Josef was born. Both the men worked on a hydro electric project in the bush country, surveying and measuring rivers for a dam and bridge. This way, they earned enough money for the trip to America.

All of the adults are university graduates. Mary and Joe speak five languages. Sedlacek taught French, German, Italian, Russian and Czech for 12 years in colleges before fleeing from behind the Iron Curtain.

"I had been to Russia in 1938, so I knew what life under

the Russians would be like," declared the soft-spoken former professor.

**A Botanist, Too**  
Sedlacek, who is a botanist in his spare time, brought his collection of 25,000 beetles and 5000 butterflies that he found in South Asia, Afganistan, through the Himalayas to New Guinea and in the Pacific Islands.

Many of the multi-colored rare specimens were found in Samoa, Tahiti, New Zealand, Fiji and Cook Islands.

The new arrivals spent six months coming from Australia to the United States in order that Sedlacek could add to his collection. Part of his rare assortment of beetles and butterflies were collected for museums.

Now in this country, he hopes some day to obtain his university transcripts from behind the Iron Curtain in order to continue his teaching career.

Enrolled in American schools only one week, young Josef already has formed a strong opinion of the United States school system.

"It's pretty easy here," he youngster said, with a grin.



REFUGEE FAMILY . . . Arriving in Torrance after a nine year journey are from left; Josef Sedlacek, 7, Mary Sedlacek, Charles Sramek, and Joe Sedlacek. Fleeing from their home in Czechoslovakia, the group finally made their way to this country and freedom. (Herald Photo)

## New Court to Handle Youth Violations

Juvenile traffic citations will now be handled by the Long Beach Superior Court.

A new regulation, put into effect Tuesday morning, requires juveniles and a parents or guardian to report to Juvenile Department, Superior Court, in the Long Beach office.

Donald A. Odell, presiding judge, announced the Juvenile Traffic Division will now process the citations.

Formerly, Torrance youths receiving citations were required to report to local juvenile authorities.

Monday, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., is the time set aside for local violators to report to the Long Beach court, 120 E. Ocean Blvd.

## May Strike Wednesday Union Says

A mass meeting of aircrafters has been called by the United Auto Worker in Long Beach this afternoon to discuss a wage offer of Douglas Aircraft Co. for its Long Beach plant while officials of the International Association of Machinists are studying the offer for Douglas workers in Torrance, El Segundo, and Santa Monica.

A similar offer made to North American Aviation employees was described by UAW Local 887 President Jack Hurst as "inadequate and insufficient."

Offers of Douglas and North American generally call for a basic hourly wage increase of from 2 to 11 cents an hour, depending on the employee's classification.

**Two-year Pacts**  
Both firms offered contracts for two years with a 3 per cent across-the-board increase at the end of the first year.

United Auto Workers represents the Long Beach and Tulsa, Okla., plants of Douglas and the North American Aviation plants.

The International Assn. of Machinists represents the Torrance, El Segundo, and Santa Monica plants of Douglas.

Bargaining between Douglas Aircraft and the two unions was broken off a week ago, but resumed Friday evening when the new offer was made. The unions are reported ready to strike at midnight, May 7, if a settlement is not reached.

**Terms of Offer**  
Terms of the Douglas offer included provisions for:

A two-year contract which, at present employment levels, would add \$16,500,000 to employees' paychecks. An increase of from 2 to 11 cents in addition to cost-of-living increases.

A year after the effective date of the contract, an additional three per cent across-the-board pay increase.

An additional paid holiday to be named by the company. Job adjustments to reflect current operating conditions.

## Waremuende Wins Award

Jim Warnemuende, North High School student body president, has been selected to receive the Torrance Council PTA scholarship.

The youth, who plans to become a history teacher, was chosen on the basis of leadership, scholastic achievement, personality and ambition.

Prominent in North High activities, he has been senior class president and vice-president of the student representative assembly. He was president of the Scholarship Society and is treasurer of the school service club, the Valiants.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin E. Warnemuende of 4118 W. 177th St.

## Ten Saxons Write Essays

Ten North High seniors have been selected to represent the school in the annual National Supply Essay Contest. These students were chosen on the basis of essays written in competition with 39 students in the school.

Those selected were Diana Bybee, Ann Bulch, Dale Coburn, Ron Downing, Pat Kimble, Judy Nelson, Lee Ruecker, Jean Wagner, Jim Warnemuende and Glenn Yokoyama.

In competition with ten students from Torrance High, one boy and one girl will receive \$150 each, with the opportunity to compete for a larger scholarship in May.



ELECTION FEVER . . . Students at Seaside Elementary School took their school election campaign outdoors Friday as the candidates for the various student offices went through a nominating convention and made their campaign pitches to members of the student body. Here students (in the foreground) listen to the candidates speak during the outdoor rally. (Herald Photo)

## D. A. Refuses Complaint In Bottle Beating Case

No complaints will be filed in an assault with a deadly weapon case here Friday which hospitalized a Los Angeles man with a fractured skull.

**15 Juveniles  
Apprehended**

Torrance police continued to mean business about enforcing the curfew law as 15 additional youngsters taken into custody Friday night for being out after hours.

In addition, two persons were jailed for contributing the delinquency of minors.

Juvenile officers, yesterday declared the department would continue to enforce the 10 p.m. law in an effort to curb malicious mischief and petty thefts, believed to be caused by juveniles.

Trick Attorney's office refused to file a complaint and the victim, Don Wilburn, 26, also refused to press charges.

Wilburn was allegedly struck over the head with a 30-inch decorative bottle early Friday morning by Victor H. Grace, 33, of 3209 Onrado Ave., police said.

Wilburn was visiting with Grace's estranged wife, Virginia, who lives at 3313 Onrado Ave., at the time of the mishap.

Grace told officers he and his wife had been living apart for the past two weeks and had driven to her to talk with her about 3 a.m.

Finding house lights on, Grace said he waited outside, returned home, then came back again.

According to officers, Grace finally entered his wife's home, found Wilburn and proceeded to hit him over the head with the 10-pound jug.

Police and an ambulance were called immediately and

Wilburn was taken to Harbor General Hospital where his condition was reported satisfactory.

## Library Sets Emphasis on Kiddie Books

The Torrance library will join with other branches of the county library in the traditional May honors for creators of children's books, according to Joe Scott Paxton, librarian at the local library, 1345 Post Ave.

Emphasis at the library will be on imaginative literature of childhood during May. Youngsters may sign up for the summer reading program at the library anytime during the month. Theme of this year's summer program will be a book tour of the world called "Around the World in 80 Days."

A Spring Book Breakfast for librarians will be held on May 6 at the Statler Hotel with several children's writers scheduled to speak.

## Yukon School Bids Opened

Apparent low bidder for the construction of the Yukon Elementary School at 182nd and Yukon was the Stigelbauer Bros. firm with a bid of \$388,950. They were the lowest of nine bidders.

The school will include 16 classrooms, shop, home economics facilities, a multipurpose building, and the administration building.

Award of contract will probably be made at the board meeting Tuesday.



CHAMP DRUMMER . . . Floyd Ault, Torrance Area Youth Band drummer, was declared the winner in the Western Champions drum contest in Santa Monica last week. (Herald Photo)

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