

City's Schools Grow Faster Than Taxable Wealth

While every property owner seeks to avoid a new tax like the plague, most of them in Torrance must be convinced by the board of the Torrance Unified School District that the special 50-cent override election on Feb. 14 should reflect approval through necessity.

Defeat of the proposal can and will bring chaos to Torrance schools, in the opinion of proponents who realize that

Torrance school problems result largely from the fact that a once wealthy area — taxwise — is impoverished.

It is impoverished for two reasons:

1. The fertility of a majority of Torrance residents who daily establish a birth rate far beyond the state and national average. Out of our 103,000 population, 26,800 are in school.
2. While Torrance has a tax-

able wealth of \$215,000,000 it has only \$8,022 per pupil as compared with some unified districts in the state that have only \$10,000,000 taxable wealth who can spend from \$10,000 to \$100,000 per pupil.

"EVEN WITH approval of the 50-cent override, we will have to skip to avoid deficits," declares Dr. J. H. Hull who heads up a vast system embracing 31 elementary schools,

three high schools, 1525 employees and 27,000 pupils. In 1947 when the system was unified there were only 2000 attending.

School financing has kept pace in complexity with the organization and operation deemed essential by the Board of Education to give every pupil an adequate elementary and high school education.

the current \$11,300,000 annual operating budget comes from local taxes 60 per cent of which are paid by industry; 45.1 per cent come from the state and 2.4 per cent from the federal government.

Torrance voters will hear a lot about the tax "override" issue during the interval to Tuesday, Feb. 14, and many still do not understand the term.

A STATE LAW passed in 1930 set a legal lid of \$1.65 and a voted maximum rate consists of this legal maximum plus whatever override tax is in effect. The voted rate in Torrance now is \$2.40 and, if Torrance voters again vote to override the 1930 law, it will become \$2.90. This would compare with present rates in Manhattan Beach of \$3.58, Hawthorne at \$4.05, Re-

dondo Beach at \$3.58 and Los Angeles at \$2.81.

IF TORRANCE does vote to override on Feb. 14 the then \$2.90 rate still will keep the local district in the lower voted maximum rates of unified school districts in Los Angeles County, highest of which is Claremont with \$3.65.

appear in The HERALD seeking to inform voters of the city on the coming special override tax election. They will explore in depth the needs for the additional tax, using voluminous statistics provided by the Board of Education, the special Citizens' Advisory Committee and any other responsible organizations who wish to help inform the voters on the issue.

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THREE INJURED IN CAR PLUNGE

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think high school plays and variety shows develop talent for future professional actors?" This question was asked five Torrance High students who were rehearsing for their show Friday and Saturday.

Jan Planz, senior: "I hope being in high school plays and shows helps future actors as I plan to go into dramatics. I know I am gaining experience and hope for a career in this field. I am sure drama helped Eddie Shaw make good."

Sharon Knapp, freshman: "I think high school dramatics helps for a future career. I know I am getting a lot of good experience and I know the future will develop more talents in me. I have made a lot of new friends through dramatics, too."

Wayne Hawkins, junior: "To an extent, I develop talent, but to be a successful actor one must have a feeling for acting. He must live the part he is playing and make unusual conditions and situations real. If you don't have this quality it is better to find out in high school."

Pat King, senior: "I think we are getting real good dramatic experience here at Torrance High and think we are lucky to have someone like Rosemary DeCamp to help us as well as our teachers. I would like to go on in acting and make a career of it."

Everett Farsance, freshman: "Yes, high school dramatics helps make a future actor. I think it helps overcome stage fright and gives confidence. Even if a student does not plan to be an actor it is good for him to appear in front of audiences."

Council Eases Ban on Trash Pickup Firms

The council's order limiting private haulers from picking up trash at a Torrance residence was modified Tuesday evening on the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens to permit pickups on call.

And, an ordinance introduced by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer and approved by the council would permit private haulers to enter into contracts with residents, although it would not relieve the resident of paying the \$1 a month fee levied all single and double family homes.

THE ACTION by the council followed an editorial published in the HERALD Sunday pointing out the unsoundness of the council's previous limits on disposing of rubbish which will not be picked up by the city crews.

The new ordinance which governs all phases of rubbish pickup, will be presented for adoption next week, and will become effective about 30 days after that.

IN OTHER action, the council presented a permanent copy of a resolution to James Burchett in gratitude for his years of service to the city. Council George Bradford, who once attended classes taught at Torrance High School by Burchett, made the presentation.

Overturned the recommendation of the planning commission and granted approval of a variance requested by Robert J. Baldwin which will permit him to construct a 12-unit apartment on two R-2 lots in the 2500 block of Carson St.

DELAYED action on petition of R. A. Watt for variance to operate a cut and cover dump between 178th and 179th St. near Western Ave. until objections from nearby property owners could be studied.

Denied claim of Nazario C. Vitoria for alleged damages as the result of a bus accident Oct. 13, 1960.

APPROVED request of Hi-Shear for permit to establish propellant laboratory and magazine on their airport lease with conditions set down by the city's new chemical board.

Adopted resolution congratulating radio station KNX for airing editorials.

APPROVED city manager recommendation to approve new classification for golf starter for Sea-Aire park.

Referred to city engineer and city attorney suggestion by Councilman George Vico that the \$500 an acre drainage fee on undeveloped land be scrapped. City Attorney Remelmeyer said a new formula whereby the city would be divided into drainage districts was being worked out and would be presented later this year.



REHEARSAL . . . Gwen Piekutewski and Diane Gan'eck are backed up by hand as they swing into a dance routine which will be featured in Torrance High School Variety Show to be held in Tartar auditorium Friday and Saturday nights. The vaudeville type show is coached by faculty director George Knights and student director John Alter.

Torrance High's Annual Variety Show Due Friday

Torrance High School will present its annual variety show at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the school auditorium.

This year's show is entitled, "The Rehearsal," and the vaudeville-type performances will display the finest talents on campus.

THE PRODUCTION gets off to a hilarious start by depicting the common fear time has slipped by and performance dates forgotten, and the show must go on without the usual dress rehearsal.

After a period of auditioning, these students and their acts were selected for the annual school event:

MARILYN Holcomb, Judy Minor, Sue Larson, Nancy Hornbeck, Anna Blount, Sharon Murphy, Karen Henderson, Sharon Clark, Roxanne Barnard, Sharon Radi, Marcell Cook, Judy McTee, Sandie Crabtree, Carol Echols, Alan Hay, Jim Dawson, Mike Hadley, Ed Foster, David Wright, Bill Waterman, Betty Kautte.

Kathleen Whitney, Linda Kidner, Sandie Baker, Merle Korpi, Art Badger, Larry Flagg, Greg Simmons, Ron Dutton, Bob Bauman, Dale Stitt, Kathy McCune, Sharon Knapp.

JERRY Roberts, Carol Waggoner, Jane Strohm, Marjorie Winter, Jimmie Ruth Lawrence, Barbara Scherer, Georgiann McLean, Gwen Piekutewski, Diane Gunlock, Jan Planz, Linda Kraegel, Art Grant, Ronnie Kendal, Tom Felix and Larry Melton.

The Variety Show is under the direction of George Knights and John Alter, student director.

Auto Careens Off Roadway On Grapevine

Three Torrance area persons were injured, one seriously, when their light car plunged over a 500-foot embankment on the 5-mile grade near Castaic.

Hospitalized at the Santa Clarita Hospital, Saugus, were Stanley Blegogevich, 49, of 826 Patronella Ave.; his sister, Margaret Jerkovich, 45, of the same address; and Margaret Misitz, 50, of 22336 S. Normandie Ave.

Highway patrolmen and other rescuers used ropes and a basket stetcher to bring the victims up from the canyon into which they had plunged, reports stated.

Blegogevich was reported to be seriously injured in the plunge.

IN OTHER accidents throughout the area, a 30-year-old Compton Highway Patrol officer was injured when an auto hit his cycle on Crenshaw Blvd. south of Rosecrans Ave.

Injured was Roscoe Sherrill, who reportedly was stopped at a signal light when his cycle was hit by an auto driven by Carol A. Armenta, 20, of 3111 W. 180th St.

ANOTHER motorist, Louie C. Flores, 29, of 1412 W. 219th St., was taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital after his car went out of control and hit a building in the 400 block of Arlington Ave. Flores received possible head and internal injuries.

William W. Pickett, 22, of 21222 Marjorie Ave., was hospitalized at the Little Company of Mary after a head-on crash at 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave. He was listed in serious condition after the accident. The other driver, Robert L. Webb, 23, of Gardena, apparently escaped injury.

Water Supplies Plentiful In Southland, MWD Reports

Despite the current, protracted dry spell, there will be no shortage of water for domestic, industrial, or other purposes in Torrance or any of the other 90 cities in the 4000 square mile service area of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

This assurance was given yesterday by Robert B. Diemer, general manager and chief engineer of the District, which delivers a supplemental water supply to the Southern California area through its Colorado River Aqueduct.

"THE PEOPLE living in Torrance can rest assured that their water needs will be met," Diemer said.

The official pointed out that the Colorado River Aqueduct was brought to its full planned delivery capacity of one billion gallons of water a day early in 1950 through a \$200 million expansion program started in 1952.

"THERE IS now enough surplus capacity in the Aqueduct to meet the needs of approximately 2,500,000 more people than presently live within the MWD area," Diemer said.

Narcotics Perils Outlined for Local Church Congregation by Expert

Southern California is one of the greatest narcotics problem areas of the United States, a representative of the Narcotic Education Foundation of America said this week.

The Rev. Paul Friedmann, speaking to a congregation of St. Andrew's Episcopal church Sunday, said the proximity to the Mexican border, which is crossed by 16 million persons a year, has made the problem so acute in Southern California that "the Governor has, at last, declared that 1961 should be 'Fight Narcotics Year' in the state."

SPEAKING specifically of heroin, a derivative of the opium poppy, the Rev. Mr. Friedmann labeled it the most destructive drug known to man, and reminded that its use or possession was strictly illegal throughout the United States.

"Less than 1 in 100 have ever been cured of heroin addiction," he said.

ADDICTS TO heroin live on the lowest level to live, and as the mind and body deteriorates, turn to crime to support the costly addiction, he said.

Costs of maintaining an addict average about \$30 a day, or more than \$10,000 a year, the Rev. Friedmann said.

"No addict can support that kind of a habit through legitimate means," he said. "His one desire is to obtain the necessary narcotics to keep his habit fed — he has no other ambitions."

THE REV. Mr. Friedmann, who is chairman of the Southern California branch of the Narcotic Educational Foundation, said studies had shown that there were about 25,000 heroin addicts in Southern California. Twice that number are regular users of other narcotics, including opium, marijuana, barbiturates, and other forms.

"And, it's not always on the other side of the track," he warned. He cited cases showing addicts have come from all strata of society and all levels of culture.

PRODUCTION of heroin by Communist Red China is a big industry and is being done with the deliberate aim of enslaving free world youth, the speaker said. He cited testimony before a Senate Committee as support of the allegation.

Parents in the audience were warned that "it is we who pay the bill." Citing a recent case in which a young man was shot by two addicts during a hold-

Bids for Freeway Due Soon

Bids for construction of the San Diego Freeway from Artesia Blvd. in North Torrance to a point west of Hawthorne Blvd. in Lawndale will be opened in Los Angeles March 9, it was announced yesterday by the State Department of Public Works in Sacramento.

The project involves grading and paving of the 1.1 miles of eight-lane freeway through the North Torrance area, the announcement said. Call for bids went out this week to contractors.

Four traffic separation structures will be built to carry the freeway over Prairie Ave., Rondono Beach Blvd., 166th St., and Hawthorne Blvd. Interchange and access facilities will be provided at several locations, the Sacramento announcement said.

This project is one of a series of current or budgeted jobs which will provide 35 miles of continuous freeway from Signal Hill to a point north of the Ventura Freeway in the San Fernando Valley.

McLean Rites Set

Funeral services for Pat McLean, 51, of 20526 S. Western Ave., will be held at Snyder's Southwest Mortuary Chapel today with the Rev. Floyd Alexander of the First Baptist Church of Gardena officiating. Mr. McLean had resided here for about 10 years.

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