



POINTING THE FINGER at the terrible sump menace that confronts Torrance children are Billy (left) and Ricky Irons, sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Irons, of 2107 E. 237th st., who this week reported that a very dangerous unfenced sump exists near their home. They, and many other families, are asking the city to take some action to have the sumps fenced to protect Torrance youngsters.

Torrance Officials Continue to Ignore Local Sump Menace

Are the officials of this city waiting for a tragedy to occur, waiting for some small child to die a horrible death before enforcing the "Kathy Fiscus" law, which demands that all oil sumps be safely fenced?

That question is being asked more and more as aroused citizens become alerted to the danger of the deep, mire-filled pits that dot the length and breadth of this city.

This week William W. Irons, of 2107 W. 237th st., told this newspaper of a sump that lies very near his home in the middle of a well-populated section of town.

DANGER TOLD

"Shortly after we moved into our home about two months ago, my four-year-old son wandered away from the house. We began looking for him immediately," Irons related. "It was during this search that I found the unfenced sump lying less than 200 yards from my back door."

"My first thought was that my tiny son might have fallen into the deep sump, which is filled with sticky oil residue.

STEEP BANK

"I was horrified that anyone would allow such a menace to exist near human habitation. A child falling into the sump would not stand a chance of getting out. The steep bank around the sump is four feet high in places," Irons declared.

City officials have been slow to act against owners of the sumps. This newspaper and a number of outraged citizens have brought the many unfenced sumps to the attention of the proper authorities, but little if any action has been taken to compel sump owners to erect fences around the death-traps.

In May of 1952, this newspaper published an account and photographs of a sump near central Torrance that claimed the lives of a goat and several other small animals. This sump, similarly, was lying very near a number of homes. There were indications that numerous children played around and near the terrible pit.

One of these days a child is going to fall into one of these unfenced sumps. The child, like the animals, will not be able to get out

of the gooey tar-like oil waste, and so will perish.

Will the parents of this city have to sacrifice one of their children to prod city officials into action?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

According to City Manager George Stevens, the assistant director of civil defense, George Powell, who is a former city councilman, has been given the responsibility for investigating oil wells and sumps here. He is further charged with the responsibility of contacting owners of unfenced sumps and informing them of the existing city ordinance demanding a safety fence.

A few sumps have been fenced. Many have not even been investigated by the city and continue to exist as a constant menace to Torrance children.

Irate parents are demanding this week that if city officials responsible for enforcing the "Kathy Fiscus" ordinance cannot do the job, that they step down and make room for someone who will, because the lives of children are at stake in this matter.

TORRANCE PRESS

The Fastest Growing Community Newspaper in America

VOLUME IV THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1953—TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NUMBER 41

5¢

Member of the
Circulation
Newspapers of
America

100,000
READERS

Phone Torrance 1185

CARPENTER SCORES 2ND. REAPPOINTMENT SEEN

Only Two Make Grade On Exam

Frank Carpenter, who has served for three years as the head of the recreation department, was one of the two who successfully passed last month's civil service examination for his post.

The results of the exam were disclosed yesterday by City Manager George Stevens.

The only other successful candidate of eight who took the test was Harry Van Bellehem, an employee of the Los Angeles recreation system. Van Bellehem passed with top honors; Carpenter followed in second place.

According to Stevens the council will name the next head of the recreation dept. at next Tuesday's regular meeting.

On all probability the council will re-appoint Carpenter, whose resignation tendered early last month was refused by the council by a three-to-two majority. Several city officials ventured the opinion that the resignation, which came before the exam, was merely a feeler, a vote of confidence move.

In view of the majority council support, a strong likelihood exists that Carpenter will be named to succeed himself. Only the roll call vote Tuesday can determine whether he will get unanimous support or whether the vote will remain split.

Meanwhile, interested citizens are wondering whether all the furor stirred up in the department in the past two months will result in any changes in policy that will



FRANK CARPENTER

give greater benefits to the children.

The controversy started when charges were made that Torrance youngsters were getting the short end of the stick as far as recreational activities were concerned.

MERCHANTS, CLERKS SIGN AGREEMENT

Agreement has been reached on terms and conditions of the Mercantile Contract between Retail Clerks Local 905, AFL, and retail merchants in the Harbor Area, for the year 1953-54, it was announced jointly today by Frank S. Selover, executive secretary of the Harbor Area Employers' Council, and Haskell Tidwell, secretary of Local 905.

Under terms of the settlement, effective February 3, 1953, all employees under the contract will receive an increase in wages of \$1.00 per week, the allowable under Wage Stabilization Board regulations.

The contract settlement further provides that if controls on wages exercised by the Federal government expire on April 30, 1953, the contract will be reopened on August 1, 1953, for consideration of wages only. If controls are continued in effect, there will be no reopening.

The contract will run to Feb. 1, 1954.

Tests Offered

Parents of pre-school children between the ages of two and five years are invited to have free hearing tests administered to their children on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at the Calvary Baptist Day School, 2318 Manhattan Beach Blvd.

Open Letter to Illegal Trash Dumpers

(Editor's Note: Eleven-year-old Fred Martin last week fell on a rusty tin can while playing near his home; his arm may be permanently paralyzed. The can was part of a load of rubbish that had been illegally dumped on a vacant lot.)

His mother, Mrs. Pauline Martin, of 1630 Greenwood ave., wrote the following letter in the hope that it would awaken people to the damage done by the vicious practice of dumping trash and refuse where children might chance to play.)

Our child has been lying for nearly a week in a hospital, injured on trash you threw into a field. You wanted to save 50 cents or a dollar, or maybe just a little time. But think what it has cost this boy in suffering and his parents in both suffering and dollars.

You didn't mean to hurt a child, but you did.

Vacant properties have always been considered open playground by children. Before our house was built it was always peopled by 10-year-old cowboys and bandits. We didn't mind at all.

What we did mind was the multiplication of cans and broken glass. When the house was built, it was quite a job hauling away the accumulation of trash dumped by you.

Ask yourself if it could have been trash illegally dumped by you that hurt our child—or some other child. Ours is not the only youngster who has been injured in this manner.

There is regular trash collection provided by this city, also a free public dump for your accumulated trash.

Please don't set the scene for another child to be injured, even if you don't care how ugly it looks or how it inconveniences the property owners.

MRS. PAULINE MARTIN

Chamber Lays Plans For '53 'Banner Year'

The Chamber Board of Directors met the first time in the New Year and the meeting was highlighted by the seating of the two new directors, Donald Armstrong and John A. Ebbinghouse, the drafting of major and special committees, and the preliminary outline of a tentative project program for the year of 1953.

Executive Secretary Dale Isenberg stated that the Chamber has become a veritable beehive acting as a clearing house for ideas submitted by conscientious citizens in response to President Robert I. Plomert, Jr.'s request for suggestions of projects to be included in the 1953 program to be undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce. Letters and cards addressed to the Chamber on "What This Town Needs" show our citizens are clear thinkers and the contents reflect satisfaction and pride in their own community. Some response reflected criticism but an overall picture indicated many constructive suggestions with offers to roll up their sleeves and pitch in, Isenberg added.

President Plomert commented, "The Board of Directors of the Chamber are particularly interested in the citizens' viewpoint on community problems and development as these suggested ideas enable the directorate to plan ahead, anticipating the needs of the community, doing things today before they become problems tomorrow."

Torrance was complimented at a recent meeting in the north when industrial executives wondered how the Torrance Chamber of Commerce with a small size budget was accomplishing near



EMPTY—Four dejected Torrance teenagers point at the empty cash box that symbolizes the financial condition of the local Y.M.C.A. as it kicks off its annual fund-raising campaign. The drive to collect funds to finance the Y's many youth activities got underway last night with a kick-off dinner. Goal of this year's drive is to raise \$13,605. Above are, left to right, Bob Kulp, Joan Stephens, Marca Wright and Jim Haefel. All are seniors at Torrance High School, all are regular users of the Y facilities.

Employers Re-elect McCown

A. J. McCown, president of McCown Drug Stores, Inc., was re-elected president of the Harbor Area Employers' Council following the annual meeting of the corporation



A. J. McCOWN

Monday. One of the founders of the organization, he begins his fifth year as its president.

New directors elected to serve on the board are:

Norman Horwitz, Gardena grocer (Continued on Page 10)

High School Principal Quits: Name Wagner Successor

Wallace Bruce Wagner, Jr., has been appointed to fill the post of principal of Torrance High School following the resignation of John K. Steinbaugh.

Steinbaugh, who has been principal of the school for nearly five years, requested re-assignment as an elementary school teacher to allow him to complete his work at USC for a doctorate degree in education.

He was rehired by the school board to teach seventh grade at Riviera School in Hollywood Riviera.

Magner who is 37-years-old has made a rapid climb through the ranks in this school district since his employment in 1951. He was hired in September, 1951, as vice principal of Torrance Elementary School. Eight months later he was named to fill the vacancy when Wallace resigned as boys' vice principal at Torrance High School. He takes over his duties as principal of that school on Feb. 1, it was disclosed.

Magner, who is a resident of Compton, is married and the father of two children. He served as top staff aid in the U. S. Navy during World War II. He earned his BS at the University of Redlands.

(Continued on Page 10)

GOP Central Committee Post Filled

Jack Drown, prominent Republican leader residing in Rolling Hills, Monday night was elected chairman of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County for the 17th Congressional District, Frank S. Selover, district secretary, announced today.

Drown succeeds the late Richard Hunt Sampson.

The special meeting to elect a chairman for the 17th Congressional district was held in Gardena School, presided over by Mrs. Cora B. Woolley, vice chairman.

Following the election, the (Continued on Page 10)

Parking Lot Slated Plan Improvement Of Torrance Beach

The Los Angeles county department of parks and recreation is this week preparing plans for the development of the county-owned Torrance Beach that will make the beach one of the finest in this area.

Slated for construction this spring is a parking lot which would accommodate about 130 cars and serve to protect the area from erosion.

County Floats Bill All improvement to be made will be undertaken at the expense of the county. The beach is open to the use of the general public.

Proposed for development during the next fiscal year are a pedestrian walk-way from the parking area to the beach, a dressing room addition to the life-guard station and landscaping of the earthen bluff overlooking the strand.

Early Action Drawings and specifications are being rushed by engineers for the 200x250-foot parking area so that they may be presented to the Board of Supervisors within the next month, it was reported. Officials have expressed the hope that the paving will be completed by late spring. One reason for the paving is the protection of a storm drain which carries excess rain waters from much of the Hollywood Riviera residential section. The paving also would protect the life guard station, completed last month, from the effects of rain-caused erosion of the bluff behind it.



BANQUET ENTERTAINERS—Busy preparing their skits for the semi-annual Torrance High School GAA awards banquet are, left to right, Maron Wright, Norma Quine, Judy Wright, Mary Lou Saxe, Marily Poeske, Sally Moore, Iris Hauser, Marilyn Powell, Jill Moore, Jofran Hubee and Jeanette Thompson. The banquet is being held tonight at the Civic Auditorium beginning at 5:30. The installation of GAA officers for the new term will highlight the affair, to which all mothers of GAA members have been invited.