

HEAVY RAINS FLOOD NORTH TORRANCE AREA

Steady Rains Pose Local Flood Threat

LATE BULLETIN: Men, wading across the intersection of 171st and Glenburn, found themselves hip-deep in water, according to Mrs. Alex Bates, 17039 Glenburn. Jim East, a student at North high, not knowing of a 20-ft. storm drain hole being dug at the intersection, drove his car right into it. The car was completely flooded and East had to wade out.

North Torrance was hardest hit by yesterday's down-pour and it was feared that critical flood conditions might occur if the rain continued as heavily and steadily as it did in the early hours of the day.

So stated Ralph Perkins, street superintendent for the city of Torrance.

By 5:30 yesterday afternoon the street department had matters fairly well under control.

"We can just about hold it as it is now," Perkins stated.

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Man, Wife Killed in Car Crash

A husband and wife were killed early Monday morning on the way to work when their car hit the metal pipe barricades guarding the traffic signal in the center of Western Ave. at the entrance of Douglas Aircraft.

Dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital were John W. Robinette, 64, and his wife, Arma M. Robinette, 59, of 1613 West 209th street, Torrance.

The crash occurred at 6:25

PARKING ACTION INITIATED

City Manager George Stevens was instructed by the City Council Tuesday night to institute action for the purchase of the site next to the Richfield station on Cravens and Marcellina for off-street parking purposes.

The motion was introduced by Councilman Nick Draie as part of the recent compromise off-street parking proposed. Councilman Victor Benstead was the only member opposing Draie's motion.

The city of Inglewood at present is spending \$170,000 in providing off-street parking for 132 cars.

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Loses \$4800 For Funeral Expenses

A 77-year-old man who is almost blind reported to Lennox sheriffs that \$4800 which he carried on him to pay for his deceased wife's funeral had either been lost or stolen.

Reporting the loss was Herman Ely, of 2334 West 241st street, Lomita. He returned home January 17 and assertedly had only \$80 left in his wallet.

Bert Lynn To Head Planning Commission

Mayor Albert Isen's appointment of Bert M. Lynn as president of the Planning Commission was approved Tuesday by the City Council.

This action was based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission that Lynn's election to the post had been approved by a majority of the commissioners.

Lynn was elected by secret ballot and succeeds Beverly Smith.

Lynn has lived in Torrance since 1946 and presently resides at 1208 Greenwood ave., together with his wife, Lilyan, and two children, Brian, 7, and Barton, 2.

Presently retired, he owned Lynn Brick Works from 1946 to 1954.

A ceramic engineer, Lynn graduated from Alfred University, New York.

He served as lieutenant in the U. S. Navy.

He has been a member of the Elks club for 16 years and was president of the Alfred University Alumni Association of Southern California.

Lynn has served on the Planning Commission since 1954.

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BERT LYNN
... new president

TORRANCE PRESS

Conveniently Located at 1406 Cravens Avenue — Phone FAirfax 8-2345

Vol. VII 1 2 ■ THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1956 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NO. 41



WALTER LEE, 16-year-old here accepts a wrist watch from James Fleming, whom he saved last week from drowning.—Press Photo.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

STREET DAMAGE: Union Oil co. informed the city that it will do anything the city asks them to do to correct street conditions along 239th st., between Arlington and Crenshaw where they had laid underground pipes.

COUNCIL MEETING: All council meetings will start at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday from now on. Until now, every other meeting was held at 8 p.m.

CITY CLERK: The council was advised by City Attorney James Hall that it could retain City Clerk A. H. Bartlett on a "consulting basis" if Bartlett ever finds it necessary to retire because of ill health either during his term of office or when it expires. This, rather than a charter amendment, would be the legal way of handling the matter of a special retirement plan for him, Hall advised.

Two Youths Nabbed For Burglaries

Two 17-year-old Torrance youths were extradited from Portland this week charged with six counts of burglary, amounting to \$3000 in loot, according to Lennox Sheriff's office.

The boys assertedly admitted the thefts. Both property and money were taken from homes in the Torrance and Lomita area. The boys still had shotguns, rifles, typewriters and other equipment with them when they were caught.

Youth Presents Buddy With Watch For Saving His Life

James Fleming, 16, of 4717 Jacques st., this week expressed his gratitude to his buddy who saved his life by presenting him with a treasured wrist-watch which he had only recently received from his parents.

Fleming, who was saved last week from drowning in the ocean while playing hooky from school, beamed happily at his friend, Walter Lee, 16, of 4617 Jacques st., as he presented the watch for his heroic action. Only after repeated urgings did Lee accept the present.

While Fleming was up and around again the day after the incident, Lee was laid up in bed with torn ligaments and a punctured lung, suffered when waves pounded him against the rocks. Fleming still had to stay in doors for about a week because of a slight case of pneumonia. Lee will probably have to remain home for six weeks.

The boys and seven other buddies were involved in this harrowing adventure when they skipped school a week ago Monday. Fleming stated that he just happened to be the first one in the water and that the others held back, because the water was so cold.

Saves Pal

Lee, by unanimous agreement among the boys, was the hero of the day. He and Mike Duehring of 22025 Anza ave., had hitch-hiked to the beach and had just arrived at the top of the cliff when they saw Fleming floundering in the water about 25 to 50 yards from shore.

Lee scrambled down the side of the cliff and swam after Fleming.

"I had to dive down after him," Lee explained in his quiet, unassuming manner. "It was like going after a bomb."

Heads For Rock

He thought that Fleming was already dead but he grabbed him and swam toward a large rock. There he was met by Dick McMullin, 16, of 21817 Anza, who helped him get Fleming on the rock.

A wave came and knocked Lee off. It was then that he received his injuries. McMullin retrieved Fleming who had been washed off also.

Lee, realizing that he was hurt, now swam toward shore, scrambling up the cliff to flag

Voters May Register Now For Elections

Torrance residents who are eligible to vote in the next municipal and school elections but who have never registered locally must do so by February 16.

To be eligible to vote here residents must have lived in the State of California one year and in the county of Los Angeles 90 days.

The City Council election will be held in April. The School Board election will be held in May.

That has not been the case

Wealthy Father Missing

Still the object of an all-points bulletin is a wealthy Harbor City motel owner who vanished under mysterious circumstances sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning.

Missing is Matt Manestar, 56, of 1414 263rd st., father of six children ranging in age from nine to 27 years, according to Detectives Adrain Thornberry and T. Schmitt of the San Pedro Police Department.

Manestar received a call near midnight Sunday from two of his sons to have him pick them up at the Figueroa street landing where they had docked a fishing boat which he had given them.

After taking the boys home he returned home to his motel at 1345 W. Pacific Coast highway, according to detectives.

When the boys went to the

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Measure For Measure A Treasure!

LIVE and LEARN — AND EARN

That in a jingle—was Mrs. Virginia Reed's conclusion after placing the following ad in the Torrance Press classified section:

"I picked up my paper about 8 a.m. Thursday," Mrs. Reed, manager of the courts, explained. "As I went into the house the phone was ringing — it continued ringing all day and people kept coming with the Torrance Press actually in their hands."

JO-SANDRA COURTS
Modern 3 rooms, 1 story, oak floors, furnace, shower over tub, from \$7.50 incl. gar. No. 1014, Mgr. 1458 1/2 W. 220th St. FA. 8-1367

"I had ALL of the courts rented by mid-afternoon and I had several furnished and unfurnished ones."

"We usually use the metropolitan papers," Mrs. Reed concluded. "But honestly, this experience has sold us on local advertising—AND on the Torrance Press!"

For maximum returns on minimum investment, place an inexpensive ad in the Torrance Press—you'll be glad that you did! Call FA. 8-2345 today!

School Democracy Lags Under Administrative Grip

By RALPH GOMPERTZ

The strength of a democracy lies in the fact that it is firmly dedicated to the proposition that power distributed in the hands of the many is safer than power concentrated in the hands of the few.

To accomplish this end, our democratic society has developed a system of checks and balances, so that no one person and no one branch of government may rule supreme.

When that system of checks and balances breaks down anywhere along the line—from the smallest local level to the highest national level—it is time for alarm.

Such a break-down, in our opinion, has occurred in Torrance. We have reference to the operation of the Torrance Unified School District.

The power and control wielded by top level administration has grown out of all proportion and has dwarfed the importance of the Board of Education.

Members of the Board of Education—like the members of Congress—are the guardians and the spokesmen and trust have been delegated to them so that they may investigate, analyze, and criticize honestly, openly, and without constraint.

That has not been the case

for as long as we have viewed the school board scene, causing us to conclude that the balance of power has been destroyed and that we are faced in this instance with a lopsided Democracy.

We, therefore, feel that this balance may best be restored by combining the school board and city council elections again, as is proposed on the April ballot.



MODEL RAILROADER... George Barnes of 1646 Cabrillo has built four locomotives and 30 cars within the last 10 years. They are made exactly to scale. Barnes and other rail-

readers have built the tracks and facilities above at their Pacific Seaboard club house, 8250 S. Main.—Press Photo.

Model Railroader Builds 30 Cars, 4 Locomotives

If you think of dabbling with model railroads for a hobby you better think twice — because you're liable to really get involved and end up becoming an expert on railroads.

That, at least, is the experience of George Barnes of 1646 Cabrillo, who is employed by Northrup.

Barnes has been building model railroads for a hobby for 10 years now and his hobby has caused him to delve deeper and deeper into the field of railroading and related fields.

He spends his vacations traveling around the country on various railroads in order to get first-hand information of their construction and performance.

Barnes has also taken up photography so that he can take pictures of actual trains and railroad machinery (he is quick to emphasize that model railroaders always get permission first before taking such pictures).

Barnes is a member of the Pacific Seaboard club which meets Friday nights at 8250 S. Main st. There they have a complete model railroad set-up exactly to scale.

He, himself, has built four engines and 30 cars. The latest one, a Milwaukee Road "Super Dome" car, was reproduced in the January edition of the "Model Railroader," a magazine for hobbyists.

Construction of these cars cost anywhere from \$5-\$10 for each car to \$20-\$200 for each locomotive.

What made a model railroader out of Barnes?

"I can't quite pin it down," he said. "Some people just like to watch trains—it's like any other hobby. You just find trains fascinating. You wonder where they've been and where they're going."

TEACHERS' SALARIES MAY RISE

An increase in teachers' salaries will be considered at the next meeting of the Board of Education. Presently under consideration is the addition of \$50 to each salary step.

This would bring minimum salaries in Torrance above average while maximum salaries would be about average, according to Dr. J. H. Hull.

Industrial Variance Under Study

At the City Council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Albert Isen appointed a committee to further investigate a petition by McDonald Brothers for a change of zone from residential and commercial to M-1, light manufacturing at Carson st. and Crenshaw.

The committee will include two property owners, two members of the Planning Commission, and two representatives of the McDonald Brothers. Those named for the committee to date are: Councilman Victor Benstead, who is a property owner in that area; J. A. Beasley and John Mulvihill, representing the Planning Commission.

The committee, which will submit its report to the council on Tuesday, February 14, was formed in view of the fact that the Planning Commission split 4-4 in vote on the matter.

The tie vote was the result after Commissioner John Mulvihill recommended the firm be permitted to use the strip along Carson for light manufacturing with certain restrictions.

Favoring the development of a modern, light manufacturing center on the old Ideco property were Commissioners Bert Lynn, Beverly Smith, William A. Mason, and Mulvihill. Opposing the development were J. A. Beasley, David Figueredo, Thirvin Fleetwood, and E. S. Schoonover.

Residents of the area have steadily opposed the improvement of the strip. Councilman Victor Benstead, who attended the commission meeting, has

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Victor Hearing Slated

A hearing on the proposed Victor area annexation will be held Tuesday, February 28, at 5:30 p.m., before the City Council, 1511 Cravens ave., according to action taken by the Council Tuesday night.

This action follows the presentation of petitions last week requesting that an election be held to consider annexation of the area bounded by Hawthorne ave., Torrance blvd., Del Amo blvd., and the Redondo city boundary line.

The annexation proposal, drafted by the city of Torrance, makes no reference to the inclusion of the area into the Torrance Unified School District.

Residents of the Victor area who are in favor of annexation, were said to want to remain in

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Bond Issue Answer to Recreation

A \$4½-million bond issue would be the real answer to Torrance's recreational needs, Harry Van Bellehem, superintendent of recreation, stated this week.

"Our present facilities are not ample for the growing demands of our population," he stated. "Torrance is now a young city with about 15,000 children. Why wait 20 years until we start building parks? Soon we'll go through stages when we will need them and we won't have them. Why wait until we don't need them and then start putting them in?"

Van Bellehem would like to see the voters pass such a bond issue and then set up local committees to study neighborhood needs and plans.

Sgt. Cook Named Most Outstanding Young Man

Police Sergeant D. C. Cook, head of the city's juvenile department, was named the "Outstanding Young Man of the Year" when the Junior Chamber of Commerce presented him with their annual award at the Jaycee dinner last Thursday.

The award is given all over the nation by the various Junior Chambers of Commerce to the man between the ages of 21 to 35 who has made significant contributions to his community during the year. The man need not be a member of the Chamber to merit the award.

This year's group of judges, whose impartiality is insured by the fact that they are not members of the Junior Chamber and that they are over the age of eligibility for the award themselves, were: Judge John Shidler, Darwin Parrish, Dean Sears, and Mervin Schwab.

This representative group of men chose Sergeant Cook for the award in view of his many contributions to the community. Among them is the work he has done as liaison officer in planning Operation Dominguez, the Civil Defense project that won national recognition.

He was chairman of the rodeo for the 1955 Fair, co-ordinator of the parade for the armory dedication ceremonies, and director of the Christmas parade which brought the largest crowd to the downtown area in the history of Torrance.

Juvenile Cork

Deemed most important of all is the work he has done on the Community Committee on Juvenile Delinquency. His untiring efforts in this direction have led him to spend numerous off-duty hours in work fighting juvenile

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PHIL LISMAIN presents Sgt. D. C. Cook with plaque honoring him as the outstanding young man of the year.—Press Photo.