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Boys Cheat Death in Abandoned Sump



TAR BABY—Butch Crabit, 3 1/2, looks somewhat unhappy while Clinton Anthony, a neighbor, escape with no worse injury than to be covered scrubs tar off him. The boy and his brother fell into an abandoned oil sump, but managed to escape with tar.

Ex-City Engineer Chided

Action of a former city official came under fire Tuesday night when the City Council withheld a \$14,000 payment for the reconstruction of Lomita Blvd.

Wyatt Bunn, attorney for Norwalk Asphalt Concrete Co., contractor on the job, said that his firm conceded \$10,000 in the bill, but claimed that John Patrick, former assistant to the city engineer, ordered that the street not be constructed to the width originally specified.

"I sometimes wonder if he was working for the city or for you," Mayor Albert Isen snapped, after Bunn confirmed that Patrick went to work for Norwalk after he resigned his Torrance city position.

Wade E. Peebles, public works director, who made a field test of the project after Norwalk's bill for \$182,000 was received, recommended that the city withhold \$14,000 in payment.

Councilman J. A. Beasley also had a word of criticism for the project.

"I drive on Lomita Blvd, quite frequently, and I never drive over it but that I wonder if I'm drunk or sober," he declared. He said that the roadbed is not smooth enough for driving.

Bunn claimed that his firm merely acted in accordance with orders given by Patrick in narrowing the width of the road by two feet.

But Peebles countered that Patrick was aware that change orders in the project were to be in writing.

Councilman George Bradford agreed with him.

"I would not accept changes except in writing. I think that was very lax of you," he chided Bunn.

He also criticized the contractor for not consulting the then city engineer, Ronald W. Bishop, in making alterations from the original contract.



GRIM BATTLE—County fire crews battle grass fire started by 11-year-old boy playing with matches, which caused more than \$2100 damage to a nursery at 22565 S. Figueroa St., Monday afternoon. Firemen from five companies battled blaze for more than two hours after it roared across tinder-dry grass from Vermont Ave., to Figueroa St., driven by strong winds.

Photos by Bud Blankenship.

Civic Center Plans

Creation of a 15-member committee to plan development of the civic center was proposed Tuesday by Councilman J. A. Beasley. The motion was approved and referred to City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier.

Two Elementary Principals Resign for Other Posts

Two Torrance elementary school principals Tuesday night submitted their resignations to the Board of Education, after they accepted promotions in other districts.

Dr. John Dunworth, principal of Casimir School, resigned to become assistant superintendent of schools in Lawndale, while Robert Evans, principal at Howard Wood School, is leaving to take a post as personnel consultant with the Monterey County Schools.

Dunworth recently received his doctorate from the University of Southern California. He has been principal at Casimir for the past three years, previously serving as vice principal, teacher, and special education consultant in Torrance and San Diego. His wife, Lavone, is a curriculum coordinator at North High School. They live at 2400 Torrance Blvd.

Principal at Howard Wood School since it opened in 1954, Evans will leave his post on Aug. 1. He previously was an attendance supervisor in Torrance and Fontana. He has been active in Cub Scout and YMCA work while here. He and his wife, Margaret, and their three children live at 1212 Felbar Ave.

Named as summer school prin-



DR. JOHN DUNWORTH



ROBERT EVANS

Youngster Sets Fire; Estimate \$2100 Loss

An 11-year-old boy playing with matches admitted setting a grass fire which roared out of control and caused \$2176 damage to a nursery at 22565 S. Figueroa St., Monday afternoon.

Deputy sheriffs found the youngster still at the scene of the fire which singed more than four acres between Vermont Ave., and Figueroa St., near 228th St.

Steel Pact No Bearing on Closing

Strike or not, the Torrance Works of the Columbia-Geneva Division of U. S. Steel will be shut down as of Sunday.

Although the strike deadline has been postponed until Tuesday, the plant will close during a vacation period which extends to July 25. The open hearth department will be closed until Aug. 1.

With the exception of minimum crews in the maintenance, shipping and industrial relations departments, all wage, salaried and management employees will take their vacations at this time.

Approximately 800 persons are employed in the Torrance plant.

Carl's Mother of Year Entries Go to Judging Group

A judging committee will shortly begin to sift through a mountain of entries received in Carl's Mother of the Year contest which ended Tuesday.

The hundreds of essays will be turned over to the judging committee composed of Mayor Albert Isen, Dick Fitzgerald, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, and W. R. Zappas, Torrance Press publisher, who will select the winner.

The winning mother will receive a beautiful mink stole, a shopping cart full of groceries, and be the guest of honor at the ribbon cutting ceremonies for Carl's Market which will open this month at Vermont Ave. and 228th St.

Watch the Torrance Press for the announcement of the winner to be published soon.

Complaint that a motorist was assaulted by residents anxious to have a neighborhood fireworks display marked one of the few reported incidents here connected with the traditional Independence Day celebration.

Norman B. Watson, of 5501 Via del Valle told police that when he tried to enter Via Pasqual Saturday evening, he was stopped by residents who had blocked off the street.

The motorist said that he was not permitted passage through the street and was told that the area was sealed off for a fireworks display.

During an ensuing argument Watson said he was threatened, and one man swung on him and cursed him.

Although Torrance is one of the few cities in the area to permit "safe and sane" fireworks, no injuries were reported, and few incidents occurred at the 18 licensed fireworks stands.

Firemen reported that they ejected a juvenile from one of the booths, and they suspicion that children with fireworks were responsible for a couple of minor grass fires over the weekend.

The show was sponsored by the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department, the Shoestring Strip Committee and contributions from merchants.

They included Alter Realty, Jack's Restaurant, Dunham's Auto Parts, Safeway Stores, American Disposal, Sueda's Garage, Sam's Market, Melodee Music, Fred's Automotive Service, Dr. Chew, Water's Motors, Hilo's Garage, Custom Shop, Murphy's U-Drive, Ted-Rad Service, Scott Bros., Hancock Dealer, Gus' Barber Shop, Pisciotta's Restaurant, Blue Diamond Market, Carson Cleaners, Boyd's Coffee Shop, Halldale Beauty Shop, Shoestring Market, Carson Liquors and J. J. Chaudano Standard Station.

Takes Sleeping Pills

A young woman was taken to Harbor General Hospital for stomach pumping after she took an overdose of sleeping pills Monday.

In critical condition at the hospital was Jeanne Fales, 28, of 5141 Deelane. Police said a neighbor said that she had quarreled with a boy friend earlier that day.

Nab Tire Seller

A Redwood City man was arrested on suspicion of car theft after he allegedly tried to peddle a couple of new tires and 24 cans of oil in a Lomita service station.

Deputy sheriffs arrested Lawrence L. Portillo, 39, after Pete Chavez, owner of the gas station at 2204 Pacific Coast Highway became suspicious.

Brothers Escape Tar Pit

Two youngsters escaped death Tuesday after they slipped into an oil sump where they had been playing.

Edward Crabit, 2 1/2, was taken to an emergency clinic where tar covering his legs and hands was scraped off, while a neighbor removed tar from the body of his brother, Butch, 3 1/2, who was immersed up to his neck in the greasy substance.

The brothers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Crabit, 20323 Valerie St., apparently slipped into an abandoned oil sump near Valerie and Spencer Sts. Tuesday afternoon.

Butch managed to get out of the pit and ran home to his mother, screaming loudly. A search was immediately begun by police for the younger boy, who also escaped unharmed except for a thick coating of tar.

"I was scared to death," said the mother, Mrs. James Crabit, after Butch came running home to the family's trailer.

A compound of vaseline and a detergent was used in the hour long scrubbing administered, by a neighbor, Clinton Anthony, also a resident of the trailer park.

Mrs. Barbara Newsome, of 4815 Spencer St., said that she was summoned to the oil well site, after she thought one of her children had wandered into the sump. She picked up Eddy Crabit and returned him to his mother.

The fence which surrounded the oil pool at the site was torn down on one side, and gave easy access for the boys to wander in.

Neighbors said that they had complained previously about the danger of the oil sump.

Fireworks Display Stirs Row

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Huge Crowd Sees Normandale Park Fireworks Show

More than 6500 persons attended the fireworks display held in Normandale Playground on Independence Day.

The show was sponsored by the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department, the Shoestring Strip Committee and contributions from merchants.

They included Alter Realty, Jack's Restaurant, Dunham's Auto Parts, Safeway Stores, American Disposal, Sueda's Garage, Sam's Market, Melodee Music, Fred's Automotive Service, Dr. Chew, Water's Motors, Hilo's Garage, Custom Shop, Murphy's U-Drive, Ted-Rad Service, Scott Bros., Hancock Dealer, Gus' Barber Shop, Pisciotta's Restaurant, Blue Diamond Market, Carson Cleaners, Boyd's Coffee Shop, Halldale Beauty Shop, Shoestring Market, Carson Liquors and J. J. Chaudano Standard Station.

TEAC MEETING

The Torrance Educational Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday noon at the YWCA.

Parking Meter Hater in Blast With Fireworks

A prankster gave unwelcome support to a drive to impose a moratorium on parking meters.

Carol Craig, a parking enforcement officer, reported that six meters in the 1600 block on Cabrillo Ave., were damaged by a vandal who inserted firecrackers inside them.

The glass was broken out of the six meter heads, but police were unable to determine if the explosion had blown out the glass, or whether it was broken out by the prankster when he inserted the firecrackers.

Police assumed the mechanism was not destroyed since the meters had apparently been fed with coins since none of them showed violations.



PARKING INDEPENDENCE—W. N. Harold inspects one of six parking meters damaged by firecrackers over the weekend.

Burglar Steals Church Candles

A burglar wound up with nothing more than four candles after vainly trying to crack open a church safe Sunday.

The theft report at the Ascension Lutheran Church, 18002 Prairie Ave., was made by W. W. Rittamel, organist, who said the thieves probably hid inside the church until he finished practice.

The combination dial was knocked off the safe, but it was not opened.

figures are as high as expected prospects for a two per cent raise are good, he said. School districts throughout the area generally have been raising teachers salaries.

School District Tax Windfall

Budget prospects for the Torrance schools brightened somewhat this week, as the district received an additional \$86,000 from the State School Aid fund.

An additional \$80,000 also should be forthcoming as the result of the legislature's adoption of Gov. Brown's budget, Superintendent J. H. Hull reported. However, school officials are waiting to get final assessed valuation figures, particularly the contested inventories and utilities.

Action on a salary increase probably cannot be taken before the figures are in next month. Hull said, if assessed valuation

Reverse Robin Hood

According to legend Robin Hood used to rob the rich to give to the poor.

But in Torrance a reverse system was demonstrated last week.

This was done in granting lush salary increases to a few members of the top brass, and balancing this by cutting costs at the bottom of the chain of command.

Let us hasten to add right here that nobody received a pay cut. Everybody actually got a raise.

The bulk of the city employees received a 5 per cent salary boost. And employees in 45 classifications, including nearly all top echelon officials, received a bonus adjustment on top of that, which raised their salaries by as much as \$150 per month.

By contrast, about 50 employees not only did not receive a bonus, they did not even receive a 5 per cent raise. A majority of the City Council thought that two and one-half per cent was sufficient for them.

The explanation given by the officials who proposed the new schedule was that top brass here is vastly underpaid compared with their colleagues in comparative cities, and that some of the employees on the bottom of the scale are actually overpaid.

This may be entirely true, but it still smacks of favoritism.

One must keep in mind that percentage raises naturally add considerably more dollars to the pay envelope of the official who receives a five figure salary than the employee who receives less than half of that.

For example, a city hall custodian whose raise was trimmed in half stands to gain a princely \$9 a month from the new salary schedule.

This hardly compares with the \$158 a month boost granted to City Manager Stevens, nor the additional \$117 a month raise given to his assistant, Chapman L. Bone.

These figures clearly illustrate why Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Nicholas O. Drale and Victor Benstead, called the salary measure "discriminatory," and voted against it.

Press Service

Residents within the Torrance Press circulation area who have not received their copy by 11 a.m. on Thursdays will be assured delivery if they call in their request by 4 p.m.

The carrier boy's income depends to a great extent on the collections he makes on his route. The nominal charge of 25 cents per month is made if the Torrance Press is delivered on Thursday only. Boys will collect 45 cents if delivery is made both on Thursdays and Sundays.

All persons who reside in Torrance will be guaranteed twice-a-week delivery if they pay 45 cents to the carrier.

These boys are independent young businessmen who are building character as well as earning money by working their routes.

Be sure to demand a receipt whenever the boy calls to collect for the preceding month. Collections for June are now under way.