

A JUNGLE GROWS IN TORRANCE COUNTY AIDES HIT ON DRAINAGE DITCH

HOME OWNERS PROTEST



BACKYARD JUNGLE is pointed out by Clyde Dare, of 1003 W. 226th St., as he stands in drainage ditch Torrance area residents claim county wont fill in or clean up. Rats, snakes infest ditch.

... AND A DEPOSIT FOR REFUSE



JUNK DUMPED OVER WALL into drainage ditch by adjacent commercial enterprises is another problem. Dare and neighbor P. Marche, 22603 Duple St., ruefully watch inspect refuse. County says it can't do anything about it, residents claim. PRESS photos

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Pleas for Help Ignored, Torrance Homeowners Say

Residents of the 1000 block on West 226th Street in the county's Torrance area, near Vermont Avenue, have accused county officials of dragging their feet and ignoring protests about a thick "jungle" growing around a drainage ditch built and apparently forgotten by the county flood control district.

The ditch runs north and behind the tract and was built eight years ago when the tract was developed. It is about a mile long and about five or six feet deep. During storms it fills with water which stands stagnant long after rains cease. It is filled with rocks, dirt, and weeds.

Residents complain that rats, mosquitoes and snakes breed in and around the ditch and have come out to bother residents.

"It's a definite health hazard," says Mrs. Clyde Dare of 1003 W. 226th St.

"We've had rattlers — a cat killed one just a short time ago."

"And look at those castor bean trees," her husband said, pointing to the tall brushy growths hanging over his backyard fence. "They're poisonous."

Dare said, "Why, it's a regular jungle out there." He was standing in thick growth up to his waist as he spoke.

Dare charged that every time he and his neighbors have tried to talk to county officials, "We got the run-around. We were shunted from one department to another."

He cited the flood control district office at Lomita, the county health department, and county inspectors.

"One man did come out some time ago," Dare said. "He looked at the jungle, and said there was nothing he could do about it."

"We wanted to clean up the mess and fill in the ditch, but we were told we couldn't do that. And the county said they wouldn't do it either."

About 18 months ago, the residents sent a petition to Supervisor Chace, signed by everyone on the block, asking that the county, which has an easement on the ditch right-of-way, either clean up the ditch or allow the residents to do it.

"He never answered the letter," Dare said.

P. Marche, of 22603 Duple St., said the castor plants "only grow back" when residents try to cut and remove them.

The property owners are willing to cooperate with the county, but the county, they say, prefers to ignore the problem, or shunt it off on the residents.

BANDSHELL CONCERT SLATED HERE SUNDAY

The newest charter club in the Torrance Recreation Department, the Imperials Dance Band begun over a year ago by Jim Davidson as an outgrowth of the Torrance Recreation Department's "Fun Through Music" program, will present a concert Sunday, July 21, at the Torrance Park Bandsell. There will be no charge for the program which begins at 2 p.m.

Popular music will be played throughout the program and will feature the entire band supplemented by smaller combo groups.

Recently this band organized a parents' group, elected a board, and was granted a charter by the Torrance Recreation Dept. Elected to serve on the board the first year were: Gordie Helgeson, president; Carl Childs, vice president; Mae Park, secretary; Fred Petry, Sr., treasurer, and George Belcher, activities chairman.

Comprised of some 20 talented instrumentalists of high school age, the Imperials maintains a busy schedule of engagements. They perform annually for several Recreation Department activities, some of which are the Aquacade, Co-Recreation Teen Club dances, Area Park Dances and Sunday Park concerts.

Civic engagements during the year have included par-

ticipation in the Los Angeles County Battle of the Bands contest, performance at the Good Teachers' Conference sponsored by the Torrance Education Assn., dedication of the Recreation Center, and Parnell Jones Day. Gordie Helgeson, president of the board, states that "playing for civic functions is one of the intended purposes of this group."

Library Tells New Hours For Summer

A new summer schedule of hours of public service will go into effect at the Dominguez Library, 2749 Jackson St., beginning July 22. County Librarian William S. Geller announced today.

"There is traditionally a summer slump in library patronage as most families take their vacations during this period," the county librarian stated.

The new schedule at the Dominguez Library will be as follows:

Monday through Wednesday, 1 to 5 p.m.; 6 to 8 p.m., and Thursday, 1 to 5 p.m.

'The Truck Hit Me ... I Flew to Sidewalk'



NARROW ESCAPE — Mrs. Clarence Sandberg listens to Roger, 13, and Bethene, 7, her children, of 1844 Marinette, as they describe how they were hit by passing truck yesterday. The youngsters were found by Torrance police on sidewalk by railroad tracks near Arlington and Plaza del Amo. Roger was bringing Bethene home

from school on bicycle. Truck vanished after hitting bicycle. Four suspects have been interviewed but none held. The children were treated at Kaiser Hospital, Lomita, and escaped with bruises and cuts. Bethene she was sent flying by truck onto sidewalk.

PRESS photo by William Schell Jr.



HAWAIIAN RENDEZVOUS is theme of Victor Women's Club Luau scheduled tomorrow night at home of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Pollock, 5302 Maricopa, in the "little grass shack." Inspecting decorations for the event, are

Mrs. Richard Champion, vice president, and Mrs. Ted Blanke, treasurer. There will be food, dancing and professional entertainment at the luau, and prizes will be given for the most authentic costume.

PRESS photo.