

# Golf Course Study Delays Vote on Cemetery

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Series II, Volume II, No. 23



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Wednesday, September 22, 1965

By Carrier 50¢ Per Month  
By Mail \$12 Per Year

10¢ Per Copy

56 PAGES



**TOWER OF SMOKE . . .** Black smoke poured into the sky from the Mobil Oil Refinery at 190th Street and Van Ness Avenue during most of yesterday afternoon when a residual oil storage sump caught fire. The two-alarm blaze was fought by firemen from the city Fire Department and the refinery. The smoke obscured the sun in most of North Torrance, although the flames posed no problem for other parts of the huge refinery complex. Material which burned was virtually worthless, according to a refinery spokesman.

(Press-Herald Photo)

# Burning Oil Blackens Skies Over Southland

## Council To Seek U.S. Aid

Torrance councilmen delayed action on three of four major planning matters last night in order to permit city officials to study the items further.

In the major development of the evening, a hearing on a conditional use permit for a cemetery south of 235th Street and west of Crenshaw Boulevard was continued until Oct. 26.

The delay was ordered when the Citizens Steering Committee for a Municipal Golf Course revealed the 55-acre parcel is included in a 235-acre site now being studied for development of a golf course.

GEORGE POST, chairman of the committee, told councilmen a site which includes land north and south of Lomita Boulevard is being studied for possible development as a municipal golf course.

After delaying the hearing, councilmen authorized the city manager's office to pursue studies of the federal open space program through which 50 per cent of the cost of a golf course might be recovered. The council also appropriated \$500 to develop a preliminary plan for the proposed golf course.

DURING A second hearing, the council approved a zone change from R-3 to P-1 (parking) for property to the rear of a proposed high-rise site on the northwest corner of Torrance Boulevard and Madrona Avenue. While approving the zone change, the council denied the developer, C. N. Cake, access to Maricopa Street from the proposed parking area.

Two other hearings in connection with Cake's proposed high-rise office building were continued. A hearing on a

(Continued on A-9)



**TRAFFIC VICTIM . . .** Joseph E. Almquist of 4111 Pacific Coast Hwy. sits on the roadside after his car careened across the highway and overturned west of Hawthorne Avenue early Tuesday. The 50-year-old Almquist and Caryl Ellelson, 25, of 23910 Ladeene Ave., were treated at Little Company of Mary Hospital for injuries. Police were unable to determine immediately who had been driving the vehicle.

(Press-Herald Photo by Ray Deurlon)

## Firemen Control Flames

Burning oil at the huge Mobil Oil Co. Refinery in North Torrance kept fire fighters from the Torrance Department and the refinery on the job late last night as efforts to extinguish the blaze continued.

The two-alarm fire broke out in a residual oil storage tank at the refinery about 1:15 yesterday afternoon in the storage area near 190th Street and Van Ness Avenue. Cause of the fire is unknown, refinery officials said.

THE SPECTACULAR fire sent clouds of black smoke and haze into the sky, obscuring the sun during the late afternoon. The smoke was visible from downtown Los Angeles, according to one refinery spokesman.

At least six Torrance fire trucks were on the scene and one fire department official said it was impossible to determine how many men were fighting the blaze. No injuries have been reported.

SOME 12,000 barrels of residual oil were in the earthen-wall tank, which is located in an isolated section of the refinery. Other parts of the huge complex were not endangered, nor was construction work now going on at the refinery threatened.

Police reported traffic backed up along Crenshaw Boulevard as spectators streamed toward the fire during the afternoon hours. Both 190th Street and Van Ness Avenue were closed in the general area.

Ed Fulham, Mobil Oil public relations executive, said there would be no monetary loss since the burning material has no value.

## Parents Irked When School Bus Halted

How far should an elementary school student have to walk to school?

Members of the Torrance Board of Education say 1.25 miles is a fair distance, but parents of students attending Madrona School are contesting that ruling.

Parents of Madrona School children living north of Torrance Boulevard appeared at the Board of Education meeting Monday—the second appearance, this month—to protest removal of school buses from the area.

The buses were withdrawn this year when all children in the area were assigned to Madrona School and the traffic signal at Madrona Avenue and Torrance Boulevard was completed. Last year, buses served the area because of the danger of crossing Torrance Boulevard.

Boyd Howell told trustees he feels the distance is greater than the prescribed limit and also cited safety factors which make the walk "very dangerous" for children in the primary grades. He asked trustees to make additional

measurements of the distance, using routes "normally traveled by the children."

Assistant Superintendent of School S. E. Waldrip said several measurements have been made and that one house is probably beyond the 1.25 mile limit. Waldrip did tell trustees the signal at Torrance Boulevard is "too quick," but said the police department is working on that problem at the present time.

PARENTS ALSO challenged the validity of 1.25 mile limit set by the school district. They asked that bus service be restored for children in the primary grades and that safety hazards be eliminated where older children must walk.

Trustees agree to ask the City Council to install temporary sidewalks along Madrona Avenue, and they asked parents to consult the Torrance Safety Commission on the matter.

BUT BUS SERVICE apparently will not be restored. "There is just so much money in the pot," Bert M. Lynn told the parents.

Any modification of 1.25-mile limit for bus transportation should be considered at budget time, Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, president of the board, said.

## Bus Drivers Log 454,922 Safe Miles

Torrance Municipal Buses traveled 454,922 accident-free miles during a 12-month period which ended July 31, according to a report just released by the Safety Engineering Department of the Transit Casualty Co.

J. W. Prutsman, supervising safety engineer, said the city's municipal bus operators increased the safe driving mileage by 123,000 miles over the 1964 totals during the safe driving contest.

## Sister City Vice Mayor In Surprise Visit Here

By JERRY REYNOLDS  
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Torrance's sister city program with Guatemala City, initiated last year, shows all the signs of turning into a real romance.

That's the opinion of Rene Larrave, city councilman and vice mayor of Guatemala City. Larrave paid a surprise visit to Torrance yesterday.

An architect and engineer, Senor Larrave is a 1943 graduate of the University of Southern California and a graduate of the University of Berlin in Germany. Southern California is not new to him,

as his daughter now lives in Crescent Heights.

HE TOLD the Press-Herald he decided to stop in Torrance while visiting his daughter "to see my amigo the mayor." Larrave and Mayor Albert Isen first met at a conference of the Inter-American Cities in Louisville, Ky., last year. It was at that meeting that the sister city program between Torrance and Guatemala City was born.

Larrave has great hopes for the program, too. He is enthusiastic about exchange programs between the two cities and notes that such mundane municipal problems as garbage collection are now being discussed between the two cities.

FUTURE PLANS include an exchange of ordinances on such items as the civil service system and police and fire department organization. The purchase by Guatemala City of Torrance City equipment which has been discarded but still is in good condition, also is being discussed, he said.

Larrave also said plans are being made for Guatemala City officials to visit Torrance—possibly in late October and certainly before Christmas. Torrance officials visited the Central American city last year.

THE DELEGATION, said Larrave, will include councilmen, other city officials, and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Industry, and the Tourist Bureau.

A councilman for the past three years, Larrave also was a candidate for mayor of Guatemala City.



**WELCOME TO TORRANCE . . .** Mayor Albert Isen welcomes Rene Larrave, city councilman and vice mayor of Guatemala City, to Torrance. Larrave paid a surprise visit to the city yesterday to get a look at Guatemala City's new sister city. He expressed great hope for the sister city program in an interview with the Press-Herald.

(Press-Herald Photo)

## Enlarge Cafeteria

## Plans Approved For North High

Preliminary plans for the expansion of the North High cafeteria were approved by the Board of Education Monday evening. The plans are designed to increase the capacity of the cafeteria and eliminate long lines during the lunch hour.

Estimated cost of the project \$278,000, according to S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools for business.

Waldrip said the cafeteria, which also doubles as an auditorium, was designed to serve a student body of less than half the present North High enrollment. Inadequate seating and long lines have caused students to virtually boycott the cafeteria.

PRELIMINARY plans call for the elimination of the small stage and expansion of the seating facilities. An adjacent patio will be enclosed and the stage area converted to seating area. Waldrip said the work will provide 930 seats, compared to the present 280.

An additional feature of

the project is the introduction of a "scramble" system of service—now used at both South and West high schools, and the expansion of the kitchen area for more efficient use.

Waldrip also told the board that plans for the rehabilitation and expansion of physical education facilities at North High had been approved by the State Division of Architecture.

THE PHYSICAL education project will be presented to the board during the winter. The project currently is scheduled for March when basketball season ends. Estimated cost of the program is \$500,000.

Both the cafeteria and physical education facilities will be expanded with bond funds currently available, Waldrip said.

Trustees also awarded a contract for three portable classrooms to be used at Hickory and Victor elementary schools. The three classrooms, which will cost \$33,321, are expected to be ready for use Oct. 15.

## Cash Bonus Contest - - -

Interest in the Press-Herald Cash Award Bonus plan is mounting this week as the date for the first selection draws nearer.

The Cash Bonus Award contest, open to all persons in the huge Press-Herald circulation will be kicked off officially on Oct. 5, when the name of the first winner will be determined.

No entry blanks are required to enter, but readers can boost their chances of winning a larger jackpot if they are Press-Herald subscribers. Non-subscribers selected in the contest will be awarded \$10. Those who are subscribers will receive an automatic bonus of \$25 and the bonus awards will accrue each month and could total several hundred dollars when paid.

Winners of the first month's contest will be announced in the Press-Herald on Oct. 13. Winners will be selected each month after that, the names being chosen on the 5th of the month and the announcement made about one week later.

Are you eligible for the bonus award? Make certain today. Call the Press-Herald's circulation office at DA 5-1515 and ask to have the Press-Herald delivered to your home each Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon. It's only 50 cents a month.