

City Renews Drive to Get State College

Torrance will give it a good old college try — for the third time!

Mayor Albert Isen revived the issue of "South Bay State College" last night and won a 5-0 vote of confidence to "carry the fight to Sacramento if necessary."

What the mayor wants to fight for is two colleges — one in the Dominguez area on a site already selected by the State College Board of

Trustees and one in Torrance on a site located at the northwest corner of Crenshaw and Sepulveda Boulevards.

Isen told his colleagues he had talked with Assemblyman Vincent Thomas (D-San Pedro), who first suggested the two colleges, and won a promise of support for a new effort by Torrance. "Further effort would be in order," Isen declared.

"I don't think we should feel the case is completely lost," he continued. "Watts-Dominguez deserves a college, but not at the expense of the South Bay."

The mayor also said, "The people I've talked to don't want to quit the fight yet."

Trustees of the state college system have selected a 346-acre site for the college at Avalon Boulevard and 190th Street in the Domin-

guez area. Additional funds, however, must be appropriated by the State Legislature before the land — estimated to cost about \$10 million — can be purchased. Only \$5 million has been appropriated for the purchase of the college site.

The Sepulveda - Crenshaw site mentioned by Isen last night was rejected by the college trustees during the first round of the site selection

process. At that time, a 175-acre site on the Palos Verdes Peninsula was selected.

Subsequent to that, the State Board of Public Works rejected the Peninsula site as too expensive and ordered the trustees to make a new selection.

Torrance, with the support of all surrounding communities, pushed for a site near Pacific Coast Highway and

Crenshaw Boulevard during the second round, but lost that decision to Dominguez. Assemblyman Thomas at that time pushed for a San Pedro site near Western Avenue and 25th Street.

The new effort will focus on the original Torrance site, seeking to win a second college for the area.

Councilmen Ken Miller was not present for last night's discussion, and George Vico left during the middle

of Isen's presentation. The mayor's suggestion was approved unanimously by the remaining members.

Isen said he had discussed the matter with some members of the Citizens Committee for South Bay State College, a group which endorsed the second Torrance site, and felt the city could count on the committee's support.

"I just don't think the battle is lost yet," he declared.

Torrance Press-Herald

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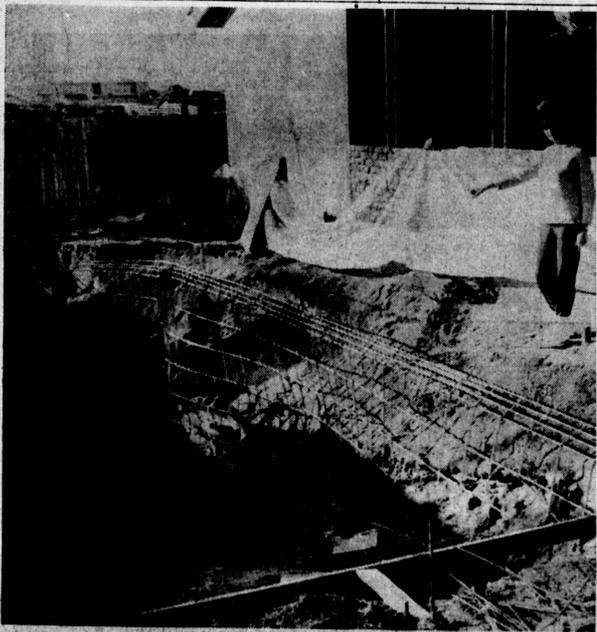
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BACKYARD DISASTER . . . Mrs. Tony Borges of 2718 W. 181st St. points out storm-wrecked swimming pool project which twice has been caved in by heavy rainstorms. Last week's heavy rains which caused the latest trouble may also have been responsible for cracks which have appeared in the side of the Borges home near the excavation, the Press-Herald was told.

(Press-Herald Photo by Hal Fisher)

Family Dreams of Pool; Finds Its a Nightmare

By HAL FISHER

Building a family swimming pool in their backyard turned out to be something more than they had counted on, one Torrance couple reported this week.

The swimming pool project at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Borges at 2718 W. 181st St. has come apart at the seams. The blame is being put on the heavy rainstorms which have hit this area this winter.

It started back on Nov. 17, Mrs. Borges told the Press-Herald this week. At that time, a Garden Grove pool firm began excavations and the plumbing and reinforcing work which were necessary for the pool.

BEFORE ALL could be put in readiness for the concrete coating, the first of the season's heavy rainstorms hit

and the days-long rain was just too much for the excavation — it caved in, taking reinforcing steel, plumbing, and chunks of the surrounding yard with it.

Back into the yard came the construction crews, the old forms were torn out, the site replumbed and new reinforcing steel installed.

A crew was due last Wednesday to blow the concrete liner into place.

LAST WEDNESDAY it rained. It rained about three and a half inches, in fact.

It rained some more Friday — a lot more at times Friday morning.

In addition to caving in the excavation again, wrecking the plumbing and steel skeleton,

the latest onslaught by rains may have been responsible for new cracks which appeared in the home next to the pool area. Workmen were scheduled to add to the footings at that point in the house this week in an effort to avoid further damage.

HOW ABOUT the pool? "I guess they'll just have to take it all out and start over again," Mrs. Borges sighed. They've seriously thought about abandoning the whole project, she admitted.

Most disappointed, if they do, probably will be Tina, now 4½, and Carol, 7½. They kind of had their hearts set on a pool party next summer.

New Year's Traffic Claims Two Victims

School May Tap Reserves for Building Funds

Reduction of a \$3.9 million reserve fund and immediate use of a 17-acre parcel of land which may be given to the Torrance Schools were suggested by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, at Monday's meeting of the Board of Education.

Dr. Hull suggested the district's reserve monies — which now total \$3,900,000 — might be cut to less than half the current total to provide additional classrooms and school facilities.

The superintendent said passage of a \$12.8 million bond issue next month will not solve all problems because the district already is bonded to capacity. Only \$3 to \$3.5 million of the bonds could be used next year since the state limits the indebtedness which a district may assume.

USING RESERVE funds, however, would provide more than \$2 million for immediate construction, Dr. Hull said.

"I don't think we should collect 3 or 4 million dollars from the taxpayers and hold it," he added.

Cold Shoulder Given to 'Compatibility' Clause

Efforts to include an "architectural compatibility" clause in Torrance's zoning ordinances apparently will

not receive much consideration from the City Council, despite a plea last night by Mayor Albert Isen.

Isen, reading from minutes of a recent Planning Commission meeting, took note of complaints about the architectural incompatibility of a restaurant and candy shop in the Del Amo Center.

Commissioner George Brewster called the matter to the attention of fellow commissioners and suggested a way might be found to incorporate "some kind of blanket provision in zoning ordinances on architectural compatibility."

Isen said he wanted to "urge the council to commend the commission and encourage their efforts."

"Would you also urge them to define 'architectural compatibility'?" asked John McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety, "I've been trying to define it for 18 years."

The mayor put his comments in the form of a motion after a few chuckles were heard, but the motion died for lack of a second.



PHILIP E. WATSON To Speak Here Next Week

Assessor To Speak On Policy

"Assessments — Where Do We Go From Here?" will be the topic of Philip E. Watson, Los Angeles County Tax Assessor, Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. The public meeting is being sponsored by the Torrance League of Women Voters as a community service.

Watson will describe innovations which he has made in assessment procedures since being elected in 1962. The most basic of these changes has been basing all property tax assessments at 25 per cent of market value. He will also discuss tax reforms which he has advocated at the legislative level, including his controversial proposal of limiting the property tax levy to 2 per cent of market value.

Time will be allotted for a question and answer period, with Mrs. Louis Lanzer, former Torrance League president, acting as moderator.

Watson holds a bachelor's degree from UCLA in accounting and economics. Prior to being elected Assessor, he was employed in the tax department of Lockheed Aircraft Corp., worked for eight years in the County Assessor's office, and was self-employed as a tax consultant.

Flasks Stolen

Two aluminum casting flasks weighing more than 50 pounds each and worth about \$1,500 were taken by thieves from Alcast Foundry, 2829 W. 190th St., Carl Alleman of the firm told Redondo Beach police Monday.

Pedestrian Hit By Car Still Not Identified

An unidentified man who was struck early Sunday and killed Tuesday as she crossed the street near her home. The victim, listed by the county morgue as "John Doe Number One, 1966," was struck by a vehicle driven by a Dominguez man. The driver was not cited.

A 79-YEAR-OLD Gardena woman was struck down and killed Tuesday as she crossed the street near her home. Pronounced dead at Gardena Hospital was Sanny Wilamina Gerbi, who lived at 1541 W. Compton Ave. The driver of the vehicle was not held.

Mrs. Burke was injured when the car she was apparently driving and another car driven by Isamu Hirose, 24, of 2456 W. 234th St., collided.

Wendell M. Burke, 51, husband of the victim, was taken to Harbor General Hospital where he was admitted with internal injuries listed as serious.

A SECOND death was reported early Sunday when a man not immediately identified was struck by a car on Alameda Street about half a mile north of Sepulveda Boulevard.

The unidentified man was described as small, dark, and muscular. He weighed about

117 pounds and had thin features and gray hair.

The victim, listed by the county morgue as "John Doe Number One, 1966," was struck by a vehicle driven by a Dominguez man. The driver was not cited.

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ECC Professor Writes Article

An article by El Camino professor and author Robert W. Kirk has been published in the "Georgia Review," a quarterly magazine of general interest. Kirk's latest article was a commentary on one of the characters created by William Faulkner. The local professor is the author of the book "Faulkner's People," published by the University of California Press in 1963.

City Manager to Speak . . .

City Manager Edward Ferraro will speak to more than 2,000 delegates to the California and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Conference when it meets in Los Angeles in March. He will speak March 7 on the topic, "The Nature of Public Interest." Delegates to the conference will be drawn from California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. The role of boards, commissions, and citizens' groups in the development of parks and recreation programs will be emphasized during the five-day conference.

Bank Robbery Try Fails . . .

An attempt to rob a Wilmington bank teller of \$5,000 failed Monday when the would-be victim scoffed at the bandit—a woman. Harbor Police were told that the attractive bandit handed a note to teller Thalia French at the Bank of America branch at 108 W. Anaheim, Wilmington, about 1:45 p.m. Monday. The note demanded \$5,000 in \$5, \$10, and \$50 bills. "You're kidding," Mrs. French said she told the woman. The thwarted bandit left the bank and fled in a car parked nearby, witnesses said.

Three Booked in Shooting . . .

One man was hospitalized and three arrested on suspicion of assault with intent to murder as the result of a street corner shooting in Wilmington early New Year's Day. Taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment of a bullet wound in his stomach was Manuel Lopez Jr., 17, of 1115 Flint Ave., Wilmington. Arrested after being identified by witnesses at the scene were Ralph Malero, 24, 907 Fries Ave., Wilmington; John Alaque, 22, 2251 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance; and Nestor Flores, 21, of 1004 E. Joel St., Torrance.

First Bond Discussion Scheduled

First in a series of meetings to explain the need for the forthcoming school bond election will take place at 7:30 tonight at the North High School cafeteria, 3820 W. 182nd St.

School administrators and Board of Education members will discuss the Feb. 8 bond election at four area meetings to be held at the city's high schools during the coming week.

Meetings will take place as follows: Thursday at South High School, 4801 Pacific (Continued on A-3)

Slow-Down Reported

1965 Building Values Lowest in Five Years

Construction activity in Torrance — as measured by the value of building permits issued by the city — hit a five-year low in 1965, according to figures compiled from the city's Building Department and Press-Herald records.

Permits valued at \$2,013,789 were issued during December, bringing the totals for 1965 to \$30,943,575. Not since 1959, when the total value of all permits was \$29.9 million, has the figure been lower.

The December totals showed the addition of 28

new apartment units and 19 single-family homes, bringing the totals for the year to 425 apartment units and 475 single-family homes. Twelve duplex units were added during the year.

The city's record was established last year when permits valued at nearly \$61 million were issued. A total of 3,368 new apartments were built, while 665 single-family homes were added.

In 1963, a total of \$58.7 million in new construction was reported, with home building again leading the field. More than 2,900 apartments and 713

new homes were built during 1963.

Not reflected in the 1965 totals, however, is an \$80 million expansion program at the Mobile Oil refinery here. Much of the work now under way at the refinery, located on 190th Street, is not subject to building permits, according to City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

The 1965 figures do reflect a general slow-down in home construction. The total number of new dwelling units built in 1965 — 912 — is the lowest since 1958 when only 681 new dwelling units were built.