

Newton Parents Lose Bid for School Bus

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SCHOOL BUS WALK . . . William J. Hanson, president of the Board of Education, and Mrs. Donald F. Meade lead parents along a section of slide on Pacific Coast Highway during a Newton School "School Bus Walk" early Monday. Parents asked Hanson and other board members to join them in the walk to see for themselves how dangerous the walk is for small children. Dr. Donald E. Wilson also made the walk. The board, however, refused to restore bus service during a meeting Monday evening. (Press-Herald Photo)

Board Stands Firm On School Bus Ban

Children living in the Riviera section who attend Newton School won't get their school bus back, the Torrance Board of Education ruled Monday night.

And the board was unanimous, despite the fact that two trustees walked the route in question early Monday in company with some 25 parents.

Trustees rejected all pleas to restore the bus service for children who must walk along Pacific Coast Highway if they take the shortest route to school. Trustees and parents debated the issue for nearly two hours.

Mrs. Donald F. Meade told the board.

In a report to the board, the Torrance Police Department said the sidewalk "affords adequate protection for pedestrian traffic," but recommended that kindergarten children be transported or walked to school in the company of an older person.

Trustees eliminated bus service this fall when the new sidewalk was completed. It provides a shorter route to school, they said, and the new route is within the district's 1.25-mile limit for elementary school children.

protective fencing at the edge of the sidewalk if bus service were restored for the year.

"Give us a chance to make this a safe walkway," she told the board, "meanwhile, protect our children by giving them back their bus."

TRUSTEES, however, expressed doubt that the necessary fencing could be installed in a year and said reinstating the bus would only delay the present debate until next September.

Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts told the parents the board, homeowners, and city officials had worked for five years to persuade the state to install the sidewalk.

PARENTS contend the route is dangerous, despite the recent installation of sidewalks along the south side of the highway between Calle Mayor and Roberts Road. The walk is especially dangerous for kindergarten children,

A COMPROMISE plan offered by Mrs. Meade which would have provided for bus service this year was rejected by the board.

Mrs. Meade told trustees she and her neighbors would work to get the State Division of Highways to install

Board President William J. Hanson and Dr. Donald E. Wilson met 25 of the parents at Newton School early Monday and walked the 1.15-mile route to El Retiro Park. They were joined by Dr. Dale Wickstrom, principal of Newton School.

DR. WILSON told his colleagues the walk was a "traumatic" experience, but indicated he would not be in favor of restoring bus service.

"I can't conceive of any parent turning a small child loose on Pacific Coast Highway," Mrs. Watts said.

Under board policy, transportation to elementary schools is provided only to children living more than 1.25 miles from school. Trustees said they could not provide the bus for Newton School without doing the same thing for the district's other 34 schools.

AN ALTERNATE, slightly longer route was suggested and parents also were told they could transfer children to Parkway School, if space at the school is available. It also was suggested that they might make arrangements with a private bus company, paying the costs themselves.

Only three or four homes are beyond the 1.25-mile limit if children use a route which goes "over the hill," trustees said.



SLIDE AREA . . . Mrs. Donald F. Meade (center) and Mrs. Stanley C. Ecklund point out slide area along Pacific Coast Highway to William J. Hanson, president of the board of education, during Monday's "School Bus Walk" from Newton School to El Retiro Park. Slide areas along the sidewalk force children to walk in the highway, increasing danger, parents say. (Press-Herald Photo)

Request Federal Funds To Beautify Boulevard

Council OKs Bid For \$\$\$

Initial steps to apply for federal funds to finance beautification of Hawthorne Boulevard in Torrance were approved by the City Council last night.

Councilmen, by a 6-0 vote, authorized City Manager Edward J. Ferraro to prepare an application for funds under the Housing and Urban Affairs Department's Local Beautification Program for Urban Areas.

Ferraro estimates the city may qualify for as much as \$45,000 this year if the application is approved.

THE APPLICATION will be reviewed by council committees and other advisory commissions before final action is taken.

Action came as councilmen considered a recommendation of the Torrance Beautiful Commission that the city undertake a major beautification program for Hawthorne Boulevard. Such a program eventually would include landscaping of center median, installation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks where none exist, relocation of utility wires underground or to the rear of property fronting on the street, and the installation of ornamental street lighting.

Boundaries of the project, Ferraro told councilmen, should be 182nd Street on the north and Pacific Coast Highway on the south.

IN A MEMO to the council, Ferraro said he doubted that the city could qualify for the 90 per cent federal funds recommended by the Torrance Beautiful Commission. He said the city probably could qualify for a 50 per cent participation program which would result in about \$20,000 for the Hawthorne Boulevard project.

Ferraro said studies had been made and the city could get about \$45,000 this year if projects already approved and budgeted by the City Council this year are included in an application for funds.

The council approved the recommendation without comment. H. Ted Olson was not present at the meeting.

IN OTHER action, the council last night:

- Asked Ferraro and his staff to study the feasibility of permitting the Southwood Little League to use a sump at Ocean Avenue and Merrill Drive as a playing field.

Significant progress toward construction of one of the most unique schools in California has been made in the past several months, the Torrance Board of Education was told Monday.

Agreements between seven school districts for the operation of the school, an occupational skills center, are being studied by each of seven boards of education, Wilbur W. Lorbeer, planning director for the center, said.

The center will be built on a 10-acre site obtained from the U. S. Navy by the Tor-

rance school board and will be operated under the multi-district agreement to provide occupational and vocational training for both high school students and adults.

Lorbeer said his office also is discussing plans for the center with representatives from the State Department of Education, labor, and industrial firms in this area.

Lorbeer and his assistant director, Haig Marashlian, plan a swing through Northern California to visit similar schools and facilities in the next few weeks.

ment, which will be on the Nov. 8 ballot, will be selected and prepared for distribution to voters with sample ballots.

Any argument submitted to Coil for consideration must not exceed 300 words. Arguments from an organization must include the names of the organization and the names of at least two principal officers.

Other groups or individual voters may, however, submit an argument for or against the measure to Coil's office. One argument for and one against the proposed amendment, which will be on the Nov. 8 ballot, will be selected and prepared for distribution to voters with sample ballots.

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FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS . . . Al Norton, fire inspector for Santa Fe Springs, gets an assist from Chamber of Commerce staff members Gwen Younken (center) and Pat Gaynor as blankets and clothing are loaded on a truck on the first leg of a trip to aid victims of the late August earthquakes in Turkey. The material was gathered after a public appeal by the Chamber of Commerce to aid some of the 80,000 victims of temblors. (Press-Herald Photo)

Circus Clowns, Acrobats Perform Today, Thursday

Jaycee-sponsored performances of the Rudy Bros. Circus have been scheduled for 4 and 8 p.m. today and Thursday at the Torrance High School stadium as a benefit for Junior Chamber of Commerce youth activities.

Rated among the world's top five circuses, the performers today and tomorrow will include elephants, clowns, bears, dogs, ponies, and a more different species of wild animals than any other circus in America.

Acrobats and high-wire will compete with big-footed clowns for audience favor.

Tickets for any of the four performances of the circus can be obtained from a member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and may be obtained at the gate.

Progress Reported on Plans for New Center

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Ballot Arguments Sought

No official argument in favor of the proposed charter amendment which would give the City Council the right to name the mayor of Torrance will be submitted by councilmen.

The council, informed last night it has preference in submitting an argument — either for or against the measure — simply filed the

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Water Rights To City

Pumping rights to 59.4 acre feet of water were sold to the city of Torrance last night by the Torrance Unified School District.

The city paid \$6,162.05 for the rights, which must be exercised by Sept. 30 to be maintained.

Action came as a special session of the Board of Education last night. Dr. Donald E. Wilson cast the only negative vote on the motion to sell the rights to the city.

SALE OF the water rights was authorized by the board several weeks ago and trustees had called for sealed bids. Texaco, Inc., submitted the high bid, but in oral bidding Monday evening the city raised the bid to \$8,112.05. Texaco then added another \$50 and trustees tabled action on the matter pending approval of their action by the County Council.

In a ruling yesterday, the County Counsel told trustees the Texaco bid could be rejected and rights sold to the city in order to keep the pumping rights "in the public domain."

AT THEIR 5:30 p.m. session yesterday, the City Council authorized Assistant City Manager Jerome I. Scharfman to match the Texaco bid and the board later accepted that offer.

The new water supply will permit the city to augment its locally available water supply at peak periods without the construction of additional storage facilities here.

Chlorine Line Breaks ---

Three Redondo Beach firemen were treated for the inhalation of chlorine fumes Monday night after responding to an emergency summons to the Southern California Edison Company steam station in Redondo Beach. The escaping chlorine gas, used in the treatment of water in the circulating system of the steam generating plant, was being carried through a system just placed in service that day, an Edison Company spokesman said. An investigation of the accident is under way. In addition to the three firemen, two other persons reportedly sought treatment. None was seriously injured.

Walteria Round-Up Days ---

The eighteenth annual Walteria Business Men's Club Round-Up Days will be highlighted with the selection of a Miss Walteria queen Saturday night and a Sunday parade. The Saturday night dinner event will draw eight queen contestants including Debra De Lage, Lynne Doyle, Gayle Johnson, Tammy Kuechenbecker, Carolyn Lutz, Teri Poling, Gaye Suddarth, and Lynne Vander Meid. The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at Newton and Pacific Coast Highway, and proceed to Walteria Park for "fun, food, and games."

Fall Chamber Meeting Set ---

Don Hanauer, assistant general manager for economic development of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, will speak at the fall membership meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Thursday noon at a luncheon meeting in Walteria. Hanauer will speak on the prospects for business expansion and its impact on the communities in the five-county area of Southern California. Charles Cederlof, chairman of the Chamber's membership relations committee, is in charge of the event.