

Fourth Annual Science Fair Planned Here

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High School Science Fair Set April 17

Torrance Unified School District will sponsor its fourth annual high school science fair Thursday and Friday, April 17 and 18, at the South High School gymnasium, 4801 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Students from all four district high schools will participate. For the second time, prize money will go to winning entries.

JUDGING will take place Thursday, April 17, from 2 to 4 p.m., preceding a one-hour critique of exhibits. Public viewing hours will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. High school students will tour the fair from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday.

Exhibits will be judged in five categories: physical group entry, physical individual entry, biological group entry, biological individual entry, and research briefs.

They will be judged on the basis of creative ability, scientific thought, thoroughness, technical skill, clarity, and dramatic value.

FIRST, second, and third place awards will be presented in each category, except where there are a limited number of entries. First place winners will

receive medals and cash awards. Ribbons will go to the runners-up.

Co-chairmen of the fair are Dr. Harold S. Widney, assistant principal of South High School, and Dr. Bruce Wagner, curriculum consultant. Committee members include: Charles Pilet, Torrance High School; Michael Stanford, West High School; Ronald Brown, North High School; and Wallace Geer, South High School.

The elementary school science fair will take place later this spring.

Loyalty Parade Slated

Loyalty Day Parade committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3261 and Post 1961 have set the schedule for the event to be held Saturday, April 26, at 2 p.m.

The first event will be a Pancake Breakfast Sunday, April 20, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Hall, Western Avenue and 162nd Street, Gardena. Donation is \$1.25 for adults. Children under 12 must pay 75 cents. The funds from this breakfast will go to defray the expense of the many trophies for the parade.

The parade committee, at their last meeting, invited all local fraternal organizations to enter a float, band, or drill team in the parade. We will have a trophy for all Gardena entries along with the competitive trophies, offered for the outstanding units in the parade.

Each year this parade gets bigger and better and is recognized as one of the largest parades in the west.

A dance will be held the night of the parade at the VFW Memorial Hall. The dance will honor all local people and the adult citizenship class from Gardena High School.

May 1 became Loyalty Day in 1955 when the late President Eisenhower signed a law making Loyalty Day a national observance.

Tool Boxes Are Reported Stolen

Two tool boxes worth a total of \$1,000 were stolen sometime Friday from Cosmodyne Corp., 2920 Columbia St. Police said burglars apparently entered the building through an open door sometime between 12:30 and 6 a.m.

Bedroom Erupts in Flames; Woman Is Burned to Death



MEET CONGRESSMAN . . . Tom Somers (left), 18232 Patronella Ave., and John Ryan, 21416 Orrick Ave., talk with Congressman Glenn M. Anderson in the congressman's Washington office during a national youth-in-

government program. Both Somers and Ryan were in Washington to participate in the Presidential Classroom or Young Americans. Anderson, a Democrat, represents the 17th Congressional District.

CHP Officer Fails in Bid To Save Victim

A 37-year-old Torrance woman died early Sunday morning when she was trapped in the burning bedroom of her second floor apartment.

Pronounced dead at the scene was Mrs. Doris Jean Higgins, 16020 Van Ness Ave., Apt. 19.

A California Highway Patrolman tried unsuccessfully to fight his way through a wall of fire and rescue Mrs. Higgins. He was identified as Thomas D. German, 24, who lived in the apartment adjacent to the one occupied by Mrs. Higgins.

TORRANCE fire officials said the alarm was sounded at 8:24 a.m. Sunday by German. The manager of the apartment house, Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson, called the fire department, it was reported.

Firefighters, responding with three engines, a truck, and a salvage unit, quickly controlled the blaze. Fire damage was confined to the bedroom occupied by Mrs. Higgins, although smoke damage was reported in Apartments 18 and 20, while water damage was discovered in

the apartment below Mrs. Higgins' unit.

POLICE said preliminary investigation indicated Mrs. Higgins may have been smoking in bed.

Cause of the fire is, however, still under investigation. Battalion Chief Frank Tuttle was in command of fire fighting units at the scene.

Police units were called to the scene and closed Van Ness Avenue to traffic between Redondo Beach Boulevard and 161st Street for about 90 minutes.

Harry Billerman and Bill Strlin, both deputy coroners, arrived about 9:45 a.m. to complete their investigation.

Developers Face Jail On Friday

Land developer Kenneth Batrum and three associates face two days in jail each following sentencing yesterday in Superior Court. The four were convicted of contempt of court last month and were denied a review petition Friday in the District Court of Appeals. However, attorney for the four filed today for a review on the State Supreme Court level.

Each of those convicted of contempt, Batrum, Richard Leonard, Teruyuki Fujii, and Robert Schulman, have already paid a fine of \$500 each.

If no stay of sentence is granted, the foursome will begin serving their jail sentences Friday at 5 p.m.

They were convicted of refusing to appear and show records in the Civil Service Commission hearings for suspended city engineer Walter M. Nollac.

Candidates To Speak Wednesday

Candidates for the Torrance Board of Education have been invited to speak next Wednesday, April 9, during a special election meeting at the Torrance Recreation Center.

All eight candidates have been invited to participate in the program, which will include a question-and-answer period for the audience.

Two incumbents are seeking re-election to the board in the April 15 balloting, with five men and one woman completing the roster. Three seats on the board are open.

William Hansen, who is completing his second term, is retiring from the board.

INCUMBENTS seeking re-election are Burton E. Belzer and Bert M. Lynn.

Others seeking seats on the board are Stanley L. Dunn, a commercial printer; Leroy F. Hovey, an applications engineer; Marjorie A. Jones, a teacher; John D. Kirby, an anti-narcotics educator; Dr. John L. Nagel, a minister; and Edgar R. Stevers, an industrial engineer.

Next Wednesday's session will begin at 8 p.m. The recreation center is located at 3341 Torrance Blvd.

Testimony Concludes

Nollac Sessions at End; Decision Due in 10 Days

The hearings against Walter M. Nollac were concluded Monday night, with both defense and prosecution attorneys winding up their arguments. The early conclusion of the hearings came as a surprise to all those involved, since at least one more session had been predicted at Saturday's hearing.

The Civil Service Commission is now charged with reviewing the evidence against the suspended city engineer and handing down a decision within 10 days. Commissioners must decide whether or not Nollac is guilty of the 17 counts of misconduct and incompetency brought against him by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

If the commission finds Nollac guilty, it may suspend him from his duties for up to 30 days, demote him, or discharge him. If convicted, Nollac has the

right of appeal to the City Council, which could reduce his sentence, but not increase it.

NOLLAC was relieved of his duties as city engineer last Dec. 6 when Ferraro brought the charges against him. Nollac also faced charges before the Civil Service Commission last August, but was exonerated.

His job as head of the city's engineering department pays him \$25,000 per year. If Nollac is found innocent, he will be paid his back wages. The City Council has also expressed some interest in paying Nollac's legal fees from the general fund if he is acquitted.

In winding up the testimony

against Nollac, prosecuting attorney Anderson said the defendant had chisled the city out of some \$40,000 by granting favors to prominent Torrance land developers.

SEVERAL of the charges against Nollac stem from the fact that the defendant issued grading permits on several occasions without first having a bond from the developer in hand. Anderson underlined the fact that the city code requires a bond to be posted before such a permit can be granted, adding that Nollac had no evidence that the bonds were on their way at the time the permits were granted.

Anderson also claimed that

land developer Kenneth Batrum saved roughly \$18,000 when Nollac waived certain soil compaction standards.

The attorney reviewed various other charges against Nollac, including those dealing with drainage reimbursements, competitive bidding, and the authorizing of occupancy certificates.

SPEAKING in Nollac's defense (See NOLLAC, Page A-2)

Oil Wells Still Ugly; 'Barrel Tax' Threatened

City Councilmen are threatening to impose a barrel tax on local oil well operators if steps aren't taken soon to clean up unsightly and dangerous conditions in Torrance oil fields.

Councilmen discussed the possibility of the barrel tax last night after receiving a pessimistic oil code progress report from John J. McKinnon, director of building and safety.

Local oil well operators were originally given a May 1 deadline to make needed improvements when councilmen passed their oil well beautification ordinance several months back.

However, progress has

been slow, McKinnon reports, and oil operators are "failing to show good faith or evidence of compliance with the city's provision of beautification and fencing."

Mayor Albert Isen termed the situation "disgraceful," and said the barrel tax may be the only way to force compliance with the ordinance. The council will reassess the problem May 22.

Councilman Orin Johnson said that the safety aspect of the ordinance alone was enough grounds on which to take the oil operators to court. Councilman Kenneth Miller agreed, insisting

that the city must take action to force compliance even if it means spending money.

MCKINNON pointed out in his report that the city has "bent over backwards in the dissemination of information and on-site conferences to help the oil operators and show them how the sites could be brought into conformance with the provisions of the ordinance."

The oil well beautification ordinance was passed by Council after irate citizens organized and demanded a change.

Jaycees Hit 100 In Member Drive

Torrance Jaycees last week welcomed the 100th member of the organization for young men.

The newest member is Edgar Stevers, 3503 W. 228th St., an industrial engineer employed by Aerospace Corp. Stevers also holds the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

He was installed Friday evening at the Jaycees' quarterly awards dinner. Members of the Jaycees also attended the dinner.

Leon Taylor, president, accepted a resolution approved by the City Council commending the Jaycees for their contributions to the city and honoring the Jaycees on the occasion of reaching 100 members.

Mayor Albert Isen presented the resolution.

STEVERS is founder and president of Humanitarian Services, Inc., a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers who collect food, clothing, furniture, and toys for Indian reservations.

He and his wife Dolores are parents of two daughters, Becky attends South High School and Cheri Ann is enrolled at Sam Levy Elementary School.

The membership drive which led to the 100th member was initiated by Richard Spaan three years ago when he launched the 100 Club program. Membership breakfasts, statewide Jaycee



100TH JAYCEE . . . Edgar Stevers (center) has become the 100th member of the Torrance Jaycees, according to Leon Taylor (right), president of the organization. Here, Stevers and Taylor accept a resolution adopted by the city council from Mayor Albert Isen, who joined in festivities last Friday evening celebrating the 100-member milestone. Reaching the 100 figure ended a three-year program initiated by Richard Spaan to increase the membership.