

COOK-O-RAMA HERE THUR. FRI.

VOTERS ENDORSE \$3 MILLION SCHOOL BOND ISSUE 9 TO 1

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WEATHER

With no rain in sight, according to the Weather Bureau, the prediction for today in Torrance and vicinity was clear and continued cool, with a high temperature of around 63 degrees, and a low of about 54.

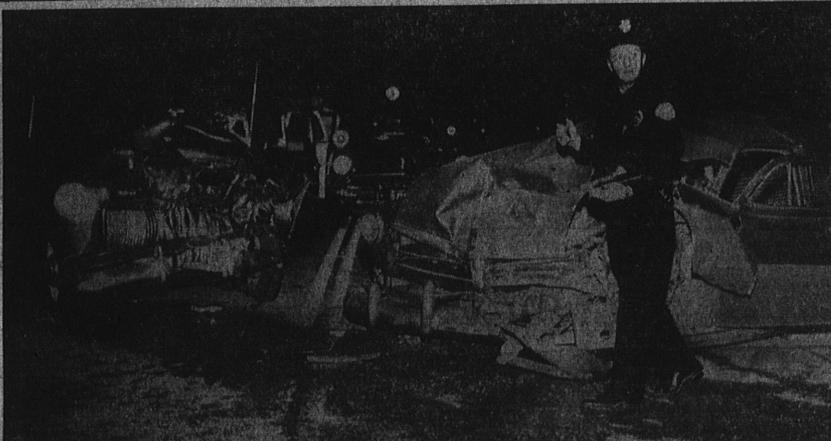
40th Year—No. 20

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1954

PHONE FA 8-4000

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(Herald Photo)

SIX INJURED HERE . . . Six persons were injured in this crash on Pacific Coast Highway at the Torrance-Lomita boundary last Saturday night when three cars collided. Police

sent the three drivers and three passengers to Harbor General Hospital following the crash. Two cars were demolished and the third suffered heavy damage to the front end.

Columbia Steel Closes Sheet Mill, 400 Jobs Hit

Six Injured in Three-Car Crash

A three-car collision on Pacific Coast Hwy. in Lomita Sunday sent six persons to Harbor General Hospital and demolished all three vehicles.

Vernita Madge Brown, 40, of 2068 Middlebrook Rd., driver of one of the cars, was reported in "good" condition yesterday at Harbor General Hospital. She sustained injuries to the chest and head.

Two other victims, still at the hospital, are Leonardo Garcia, 32, and Pedro Flores, 16, both of Venice. Garcia, who suffered a compound nasal fracture in the crash, was in "good" condition yesterday, and Flores, who sustained a ruptured viscerum, was "fair."

Three of the persons involved have been released to private physicians. They are Ramiro Martinez, 22, of Venice; Waitfred Alsted, 41, of Redondo Beach, and Marcelino Santana, 26, of Venice. They all received minor lacerations and abrasions.

Police said that the car driven by Mrs. Brown, heading east on Hwy. 101, apparently crossed over the double line and smashed into the other two cars, which were driving west. Drivers of the other vehicles were listed and Martinez.

Till Tappers Hit Station

A pair of till-tappers struck the Inglewood and Newell service station, 2119 Arlington, escaping with about \$50 or \$60 late yesterday afternoon.

Attendant Robert J. Wathen said one of the suspects pulled into the back of the station for a battery check, and the other punched the cash register while the attendant was out of sight.

Herald Cooking School to Open At 1:30 Today

With all the flurry and scurry kicked off preparations for the event, to be sponsored by the Torrance Civic Auditorium stage kitchen is a-buzz with preparations for Cook-O-Rama, the two-day cooking school which will open this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

Torrance merchants yesterday kicked off preparations for the event, to be sponsored by the Torrance Civic Auditorium stage kitchen is a-buzz with preparations for Cook-O-Rama, the two-day cooking school which will open this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.

Joan, who played the female comedy lead of "Daisy" in "Bloomer Girl," will sing "Mr. Snow," from the musical "Carousel," and "My Hero," from "The Chocolate Soldier."

"So In Love," one of the great Cole Porter hits from "Kiss Me Kate," and "To My Mother," will be sung by Boyd, and the pair will join in the duet "Love Me Tonight," from "Vagabond King."

Accompanist will be Verna Flynn. The entertainment part of the program will last from 1 to 1:30 p.m., when the Cook-O-Rama begins. The Cooking School will continue tomorrow at the same time.

Closing Set for April

Operation of the sheet metal mill at Columbia Steel, which was started here in 1927 with hand mills, will be closed down, it was announced yesterday by Alden G. Roach, president of Columbia-Geneva division of U. S. Steel.

Production in the obsolete sheet mill at the plant will be suspended at the end of April and steel output in the open hearth shop will be scheduled on reduced operations, a statement by Roach said yesterday.

About 400 employees will be affected and every effort will be made to place as many of them as possible in other operations, Roach said.

Closing of the sheet mill was ordered because the facilities have far outlived their economic usefulness, according to company officials. The move eliminates a program started early in 1933 for the gradual retirement from service of the time-worn sheet production lines at the local plant. The facilities have been maintained in operation far beyond their useful life in order to help provide steel products during World War II and more recently for the national defense effort during the fighting in Korea.

The Torrance sheet mill operation was started in 1927 with hand mills purchased from an older producer in Northern California. The sheet production lines were revamped from 1937 through 1940 with the addition of a three-high breakdown mill.

Council Suspends Top Building Inspectors

Only 305 Voters Oppose School Bond Measure

Torrance voters Tuesday approved the \$3,000,000 school bond issue that will provide classrooms for their children with a nine-to-one majority.

Of the 3061 ballots cast, 2749 were marked "yes" and only 305 said "no." The turnout of voters was about 18 per cent, which is fairly high for this type of election, according to Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull.

"I am happy with the continued support of the voters and we will produce as many classrooms as fast as possible to meet the mushrooming growth problems that face us," Hull said.

Hull said the work of the PTAs was a big factor in putting over the bond issue. He also cited the public support given the issue by the large industries of Torrance, who will pay the lion's share of the bill.

The Board proposes to pay off the \$3,000,000 in bonds over a 20-year period and will retire \$1,000,000 of them the first year. This will cost the average resident of Torrance, with an assessed valuation of \$2500, about \$3 per year, or less than a penny a day.

The bonds will help provide 78 additional classrooms needed to house the anticipated 9447 elementary students that will

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Pioneer Torrance Resident Dies, Services Slated

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Stone and Myers Chapel for Fred Sawyer Knapp, 78, a former resident for 26 years in Torrance, who died Sunday at his Hermosa Beach home.

The Rev. J. L. Taylor of the First Methodist Church will conduct the rites and interment at Pacific Crest Cemetery will follow.



JAMES B. DRESSER Official Suspended

City Attorney Flies To Capital Hearings

Stated to appear before the Committee on Municipal and County Government at 8 p.m. last evening was City Attorney James M. Hall, who flew to Sacramento yesterday to support the city's request for extension of leasing powers on city property from 25 years to 50 years.

Assembly Bill No. 19, introduced in the 1954 special session of the Legislature by Assemblyman Vincent Thomas, and included on the agenda by the governor, would add a section to the Government Code stating:

"§7395. A City may lease for 50 years property owned or held or controlled by it, or any of its departments, when not required for other city purposes, for planned commercial development consisting of retail store buildings, parking facilities, and retail outlets of various kinds for retail use."

The bill was introduced by Thomas at the city's request after representatives of a business organization had sought leases from the city to construct a \$15,000,000 commercial development on the southeast corner of the Torrance Municipal Airport, a section of the airport cut off from the rest by the extension of Crenshaw Blvd.

Investors interested in the site told city officials that they could not amortize such an investment under a 25-year lease.

Before flying to Sacramento yesterday, City Attorney Hall said he planned to discuss several other matters with state officials while in the capital.

Traffic Controls Receiving a high priority on his agenda will be discussions with officials of the Division of Highways concerning traffic control measures for Pacific

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Reorganization of Department Slated

Two top officials of the city's building department were suspended, effective yesterday by the City Council Tuesday night as an outgrowth of the investigations into charges by North Torrance residents that their homes did not meet State and City building code provisions.

Suspended on the recommendation of City Manager George Stevens, were Senior Inspectors James B. Dresser and Cecil Smith, both veterans of the city's inspection force.

Their suspension by the Council was ordered until such a time as a Civil Service hearing was held to fix responsibility for alleged code violations in a small tract of homes known as Crenshaw Gardens.

City Manager George Stevens told the Council that his investigations of the building department indicated that it needed better supervision, records, and other items, and he asked the Council for permission to reorganize the office. His request was immediately granted.

To Seek Expert The city manager said later that he would seek an expert in the field of building departments in an effort to set up an efficient method of handling the heavy load of work passing through the office.

Appearing before the City Council in behalf of the Princeton Construction Corp., builders of the Crenshaw Garden Tract, which has been under fire, was Atty. Harry S. Apter, who cautioned that the charges contained in the report filed with the Council last week by investigators for the State Division of Housing, "may be hard to prove."

After a letter he had submitted to the Council was read by the city manager, Apter spoke of the damage being done to real estate values in the area and promised his remarks with the promise that "we'll prove that they're good houses."

Meanwhile, investigations of the State Contractor's Licensing Board have been completed and additional reports are expected from that source in the near future.

Text of Apter's letter to the City follows: Dear Mr. Stevens: I represent Princeton Construction Corp., who constructed the tract known as "Crenshaw Gardens," referred to in your current investigation of that tract.

Our attention was called to the headlines that appeared in the TORRANCE HERALD in the March 4 issues of these papers and the reports accompanying them.

Inasmuch as the text of the report given to you by Mr. M. J. McDonough, Chief of the Division of Housing for this district, appears to be set out in full in these papers, I would like to state that my clients have not yet begun their own investigation of the homes in question.

However, aside from the general nature of the "alleged irregularities," we are convinced at the outset that most of the charges made in this report regarding my client are wholly untrue and without foundation. The following alleged irregularities identified three of the gang.

Gang Attacks Depot Worker In Drive-In

County Sheriff's officers were hunting today for part of a Torrance juvenile gang that apparently attacked and beat a young employee of the Torrance Annex of the Naval Supply Depot Friday night at the Hot-N-Tot Drive-in in Lomita.

David Sprayberry, 21, of Redondo Beach, a warehouseman at the Depot, told officers that six juveniles accosted him and his wife after they entered the drive-in, an argument ensued and the juveniles struck him, knocked him down and kicked him, he said.

Three of the gang, all from Torrance, have been located and are being handled by the Sheriff's juvenile office. The others, when located, will be handled by the same office, police said Tuesday.

Sprayberry said that one of the gang told him: "You'd better shove off." Then five others joined the first and began throwing rocks at Sprayberry's car. He got out, he said, and they jumped him and they fought until the manager of the drive-in broke it up. Sprayberry suffered a black eye, a swollen forehead, bruises and a sprained wrist. His wife, a former student at Torrance High School, identified three of the gang.

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