

COMMUNITY COMES TO AID OF FAMILY OF 10 WHOSE HOME BURNS TO GROUND

Civil Service Commission Stripped of Review Power

Outside Reviews Planned

The City's Civil Service Board was stripped of its functions as a review board here Tuesday night and the City Attorney was instructed to streamline the entire Civil Service ordinances and regulations.

Future needs of a review board to hear grievances of city employees will be supplied by the County through a contract arrangement, thus assuring a board composed of outsiders, according to the terms of the motion adopted by the City Council.

Proposed by Councilman Albert Isen, whose motion last week to oust the whole board was declared invalid because a four-fifths vote was needed, the new provisions will continue the functions of the present Civil Service Board, but its members will not serve as an appeal board. Members of the board are Gordon Mothersell, chairman, and George Downing, Steve Schmidt, Charles Schultz Jr., and Mark A. Wright.

Isen's move to transfer functions of a review board to the County was supported by Councilmen Victor E. Benstead Jr., Willys G. Blount, and Mervin M. Schwab. Only Mayor Nicholas O. Dralle voted against it. City Attorney James M. Hall said a proposed ordinance which would put all of the Civil Service regulations in one package had been drawn up about two years ago but never adopted. He said he would review this ordinance and bring it up to date before presenting it to the Council.

In the meantime, he is preparing an ordinance which would authorize the city to enter into a contract with the County to handle review board functions. This ordinance should be ready for the Council's approval next week, it was indicated.

School Board, Council To Discuss Problems

School board members and city councilmen are planning to get together in the near future to discuss mutual problems now confronting the city. In a letter addressed to Mrs. Grace Wright, board president, Mayor Nicholas O. Dralle asked that representatives of the two bodies get together in the near future.

WEATHER

Mostly sunny with some high cloudiness. Little change in temperature, with high about 78. Some early morning fog.

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Dope Suspects In Court Today

Four youths nabbed in a narcotics raid in a Torrance home are free on bail today, awaiting court hearings at South Bay Municipal Court on misdemeanor or felony charges. All were arrested by agents of the Sheriff's narcotics squad and the Torrance police department last week end.

Family Watches As Blaze Roars Through House

Neighbors and civic groups have come through in true Christmas spirit to aid a family whose holiday was marred by disaster this week, as fire completely destroyed their home and all their belongings. Left in a state of virtual ruin by the blaze was Mrs. Daniel Perez and her eight children, of 2580 W. 235th St., who watched helplessly as flames roared through their farm home, Tuesday afternoon.

But within an hour after the tragedy, Assistant Civil Defense Director George Powell had the wheels moving to provide the necessities for the family, at least for the night. And neighbors of the Perez's brought what they could—a dozen eggs, an extra warm blanket, or a clean pair of trousers for one of the youngsters.

Husband In Hospital
Mrs. Perez's husband, a patient at Harbor General Hospital for several weeks with a serious kidney ailment, was not informed of the disaster, at the request of his wife. She was afraid the shock might bring about additional worries, and desire that he be spared the grief. The fire was discovered by a neighbor, Mrs. Helen Grajalva, who was helping clean the Pe-

Released on a writ which is returnable at court today was Jerry Eugene Codd, 21, of 1648 W. 221st St., at whose home the arrests were made Friday night.

Free on \$2500 bail is Donald Lee White, 22, a Ft. MacArthur cook, whose home is at 911 Amapola Ave. Complaints charging possession of narcotics, a felony, and possession of barbiturates, a misdemeanor, were slapped on both Codd and White.

Jury Trial Set
Two other youths, Norval L. Wood, 20, and Gary Locke, 21, of Lawndale, were freed on \$500 bail each. They pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor possession charges and were ordered to return for jury trial at South Bay Court on Jan. 8.

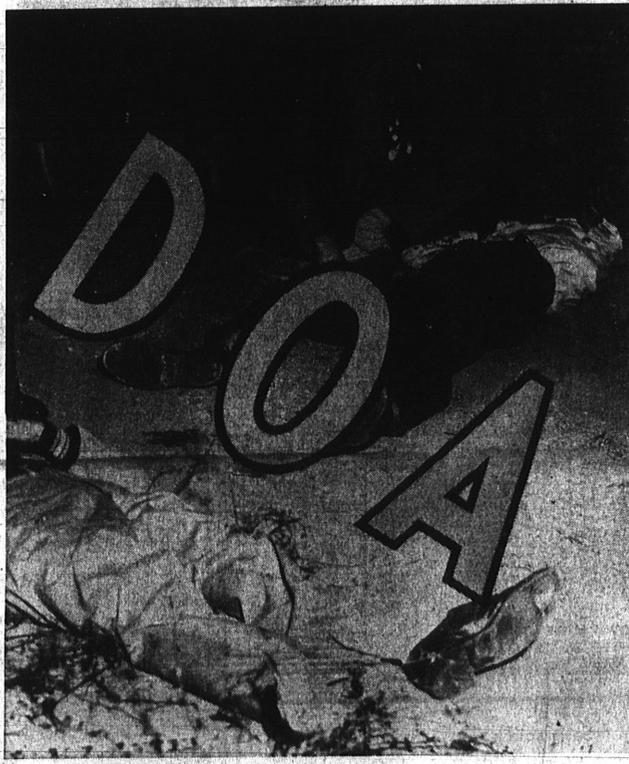
Court arraignment on the felony charge against White was continued until Dec. 28, in South Bay Court.

Officers reported they found large quantities of marijuana and benzadrine in Codd's house, and while searching his home, White walked in. He was arrested when officers said they found a marijuana cigarette in one of his pockets.

From Mexico
At White's home, investigators charge, they found additional drugs, including seasonal tablets, or "goof balls." Narcotics men said the drugs were brought over the border from Tijuana and offered for sale to youngsters in the Torrance-Carson area.

On the black market, the drugs would have brought in more than \$5000, they said.

Going Somewhere? Don't Be 'Dead on Arrival'



Blaze Perils Oil Derrick

Fire which swept through an oil well pump house threatened the entire derrick, but was extinguished before extensive damage was done, yesterday morning, at 229th St. and Arlington Ave.

Three engine companies from the Torrance Fire Department confined the flames to the engine room of the well. Damage to equipment was listed as \$1000.

Owner of the structure is E. A. Shanlin, of 1932 W. 238th St., according to reports. Cause was listed as friction from a slipping oil well belt.

Churches Reveal Christmas Plans

COMMUNITY METHODIST CHURCH: Cantata, "The Adoration," by Chancel Choir, and group of carols by Youth Choir, Thursday, 7:45 p.m. Holy Communion, Friday, 7:30 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH: Church School program, "Christ, the Light of the World," Thursday, 7 p.m. Sermon by Pastor Luther Siefkes, Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

PARK VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH: Cantata, "The Chimes of the Holy Night," Friday, 11 p.m. Sermon by the Rev. Karl S. Oelschlaeger, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Drink? Don't Drive!

Police Will Nab Road Yule Fools

Police Chief Willard Haslam issued a double-barrel greeting card to Torrance people yesterday. It said:

1. Every officer of the police department wishes each man, woman and child a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

2. Every officer of the police department will be on duty to arrest any person who attempts to deprive any man, woman or child of a happy holiday, by driving on the highway while under the influence of alcohol.

Haslam said that he has instructed the traffic bureau to stop any driver who operates his vehicle in an erratic manner, and not to spare the rod in making pinches.

"We do not want a black Christmas in Torrance for 1954," the chief said. "While we realize that this time of year is a time for many parties and merrymaking, it must be realized that the drunk driver is a killer, and we will be out to nab him before he destroys the Christmas holiday for some innocent motorist or pedestrian."

Last year, the Torrance jail was crammed to capacity with would-be merrymakers who spent a not-so-merry Christmas behind bars. Persons convicted of drunk driving usually are meted out a 60-day fine in South Bay Municipal Court, may have their

May Election Set On School Taxes

Decision to hold a special election next May asking voters to approve a \$1 override tax to finance six new elementary schools and a new high school was made by the Board of Education, Tuesday night.

After conferences with the Torrance Industries Tax Committee, the Board was informed by the school administration that such a special levy was necessary to avoid a critical situation in the next five years.

If approved by the voters, the measure would raise the maximum tax rate from \$1.65 to \$2.65 for a period of five years, 1965 through 1960.

Reports furnished the board members indicated a need for over \$4 million within a five-year period. Proposed are the following new schools: Anza, Arlington, West Torrance, Sepulveda, Meadow Park, Edison elementary schools, and a south Torrance High School.

Other Additions
Also, additions to Crenshaw, Perry, Carr, Wood, Hillside, and El Nido schools are proposed in the five-year period.

Plans now on the boards call for construction of the Pacific School in the Hollywood Riviera section, plus purchase of sites for the West Torrance, Sepulveda, Anza, Edison and Parkway elementary schools. Funds now available would be exhausted after these measures were carried out, it was indicated.

Payments from current funds are now being used to finance building of Hillside, Steele elementary schools, and the North Torrance High School, and additions to the Carr and Riviera elementary schools.

Better Than Bonds
Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, told board members that the \$1 override tax was far better, in his opinion, than asking voters to approve a bond issue which would be spread out over a longer period of years.

School Board members also went on record as opposing any immediate annexations to the City of Torrance in that they would create an additional hardship on the school district. The remainder of the taxpayers would have to "carry the load" until tax revenues from the new areas were sufficient, it was indicated.

PUC Slates Hearing on Water Limits

The California Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing Dec. 29 in Los Angeles on the application of four water companies for authority to execute an agreement to limit pumping in the West Coast Water Basin.

They are the Southern California Water Co., the Dominguez Water Co., the Palms Verde Water Co., and the Park Water Co., serving communities on and near the coast from Santa Monica to Long Beach. They seek Commission approval of an agreement curtailing withdrawal of water to forestall further salt water intrusion and to maintain the present water table level in the West Basin.

Examiner Stewart C. Warner will conduct the hearing at 10 a.m. in the Commission courtroom, ninth floor, 145 S. Spring St., Los Angeles. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard, he said.

First-of-Week HERALD Due Next Tuesday

Your next first-of-the-week issue of the Torrance HERALD will be distributed Tuesday morning instead of Monday evening to allow employees of this newspaper a longer weekend with their families.

Following the Tuesday morning delivery, the HERALD will resume normal Monday evening and Thursday morning distribution schedules.

The staff of the HERALD takes this opportunity to wish each of this newspaper's readers a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy 1955.

FAMILY LEFT HOMELESS ... The Daniel Perez family was left without a home as flames raged this dwelling at 2580 W. 235th St., Tuesday afternoon. Neighbors, friends and civic groups have rallied to aid Mrs. Perez and her eight children. Her husband is in the hospital. Firemen were endangered by exploding butane tanks while fighting the fire.

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN