

# Building Crews Find 25 Million-Year-Old Skeleton



EXAMINE ANCIENT BONE . . . George Kanakoff, (left), curator at the county museum, and E. W. Egbert study piece of vertebra taken from ancient whale skeleton found in Palos Verdes hills. Amateur geologist discovered bones buried 25 million years ago on Thursday. A huge bulldozer had turned up the fossil during construction work in area leading to erection of housing tract.

## Rare Fossil Called 'Very Good Find' by Scientist

By ROGER BOEDECKER

"A chance in a million," was the way M. D. McKay, foreman for the construction company doing earth moving in the land development of the Montemalaga, Palos Verdes Drive North, area south of Torrance, described the circumstances involved in the discovery and recovery of the fossil of a 25-million-year-old whale.

According to McKay the find was first uncovered by a bulldozer some two weeks ago but the formation didn't look like anything other than "just some funny shaped rocks."

The area of the find was slated to be lowered some 10 feet last Friday.

Fortunately F. S. Harrod, amateur geologist from Long Beach, stopped by on Thursday afternoon, in search of specimens and noticed part of the fossilized cranium protruding several inches from the shale and sandstone surface.

He notified McKay of his discovery and suggested that

it might be of interest to some museum.

McKay acted promptly and ordered his crew to avoid the area with the heavy equipment, particularly when they started working in that section on Friday.

**Herald Called**  
The following morning E. W. Egbert, business representative of the International Union of Operating Engineers, stopped by the job and was shown the find.

Egbert promptly contacted

HERALD reporters who in turn notified George Kanakoff, curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Los Angeles County Museum.

Kanakoff was on the scene within two hours and in short order identified the find as being a shovel-nosed whale from the middle Miocene period, with an approximate age of 25 million years, "give or take 10 million years."

The fossil expert termed the discovery as being "a very good find," indicating that the usual procedure of people discovering such remains was to tear them from the ground and bring them to the museum, thus losing much of the value of the find.

**Museum Staff Arrives**  
Early Saturday morning Kanakoff returned with Leonard Bessom, museum senior preparator, and Rudolph Pesci, geologist, to begin the laborious task of chipping and chiseling the stone from around the remains.

The discovered that the whale was about 35 feet long, and that the most valuable portion was the cranial section, which they removed to be taken to the museum for further study.

**Should Stay Dry**  
According to geologist Pesci, the Palos Verdes region has had its ups and downs in relation to the level of the nearby ocean. He estimated that at the time the whale deposited itself in the area, the present hills were well under water.

He further stated that the hills last were under water more than a million years ago, and that from all indications should maintain their relatively high and dry position for some time to come.

**Reports Tools Stolen**  
Bruce McIntyre, 53, of 25835 1/2 Lucille, Lomita, told sheriff's deputies last week that someone broke into his car while it was parked in front of his home and got away with \$57 worth of tools.



SWI-S-S-SH . . . Queen Contestant Gaye Wilson gets ready to set the spark to a rocket to remind HERALD readers once more that Independence Day, with its fireworks and pyrotechnic displays, is almost with us—day after tomorrow, that is. Miss Wilson asks that you have fun . . . but take it easy.

# INDUSTRY BACKS SCHOOL TAX; DECISION TUESDAY

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas

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### New City Proposed

## Lomita Boosters Hear Expert Outline Incorporation Plans

### Neighbors May Protest Union In City Plans

Interest on the subject of incorporating Lomita and portions of the Rolling Hills area as a city reached fever pitch last week end as the Lomita Chamber of Commerce heard a report recommending the incorporation on the "Lakewood Plan."

Guy Halferty, Lakewood public relations man, submitted the report at a dinner meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, saying tentative results of the survey he had been hired to make indicated that a city could be formed in the area without an appreciable change in the tax rate.

**To Protect Area**  
Admitted purpose of the incorporation move is to protect the boundaries of the area from encroachment from other incorporated cities — presumably Torrance.

The proposal being discussed by the Lomita boosters is separate from that under consideration by Rolling Hills residents inside the gatehouse area. The Lomita-Rolling Hills union would include areas on the north slope of the peninsula outside the gates of Rolling Hills.

**Neighbors Skeptical**  
The proposal is not taking the hill area by storm, it was indicated at the meeting when a number of Westfield and other peninsula area residents spoke out against the idea.

The proposal will be discussed further at a meeting scheduled for 8 p.m., July 12.

### Chamber's New Publicity Committee Opens Campaign

Groundwork for an ambitious program of securing greater recognition for Torrance in communications mediums, was laid at an enthusiastic meeting of the newly created Chamber of Commerce publicity committee held Friday morning.

Presiding was Dr. Gerald M. Eastham who delegated preliminary tasks to committee members present with the hope that a program of large scale effort, within the bounds of a limited budget, could begin functioning at once.

**Survey Ordered**  
Considered elementary by the committee members was better marking of the geographical boundaries of Torrance. W. R. Zappas and Jack Phillips were assigned to make a survey of important locations for the signs and to meet with city officials to request at least quota installation of the



ONE IN MILLION . . . That's the probable odds of anyone coming out of this one alive, but William R. Leach, 22, of 5020 Rodeo Rd., Los Angeles, can be thankful he's one of the few. Leach was at the wheel of this slightly smashed Cadillac, which was slammed onto curbing at Hawthorne Ave. and Sepulveda Blvd., Saturday morning by huge

truck, with Jerry Lee Tindall, 26, of 21013 Greville, at the wheel. Officers Don Nash, left, and Buck Ingram, who investigated, said accident apparently was caused when car turned left in front of truck. And that truck was carrying 18 tons of sand! Leach suffered minor injuries.

### Final Rites Held For J. L. Decker

Final rites were held for Mr. James L. Decker, prominent Torrance area realtor Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. at Gandy's Mortuary, Lomita. The interment took place at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

Mr. Decker is survived by his wife, Irene M. Decker, of Torrance, his son James L. Decker, Jr., Torrance, a brother, Edward L. Decker, of St. Paul, Minn., and his mother, Margaret Decker, of Long Beach.

The deceased was born in St. Paul, Minn. During his residence in the Torrance area he was very active in real estate affairs, serving as president of the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board.

### HERALD TO RESUME ITS SUNDAY HOME DELIVERY

In the belief that its advertisers and subscribers will be better served, THE HERALD will return to Sunday morning publication effective next Sunday, July 7.

As in the past, all paid subscribers to THE HERALD will receive prompt delivery hereafter on Sunday morning.

Those wishing to subscribe to THE HERALD may do so by telephoning FA 8-4004, the direct wire to the circulation department.

No delays in making the switch are anticipated so look for your HERALD next Sunday morning. Present news and advertising deadlines will continue in effect.

### District's Budget Held 'Conservative'

The school district's proposed 75-cent tax override received strong support last week end and as the representatives of Torrance's leading industries approved the measure and declared the school had prepared "a very conservative budget."

In a meeting held at the National Supply Co., the Torrance Industries Tax Committee heard Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, and S. G. Waldrip, assistant superintendent for business, describe the school's financial status and the need for the additional tax funds to meet the ever-rising costs of the operating budget.

The proposed tax increase, which would cost Torrance taxpayers 75 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation, will be considered tomorrow evening by the Board of Education. If approved tomorrow, the new tax will bring in about \$900,000 annually. It would mean nothing this year.

The committee last week were R. O. Bonus, Santa Fe; H. W. Creager, American-Standard; John Ebbinghouse, American Rock Wool; K. E. Herber, Pacific Electric; R. N. McMaster, Chanslor-Western Oil; F. W. Mill, National Supply; A. K. Muir, Great Lakes Carbon; R. H. Parkin, Doak Aircraft; R. J. Plomert, Jr., General Petroleum; H. H. Pottle, Southern California Gas Co.; G. Schmid, Columbia-Geneva Steel.

### TEAC WILL DISCUSS HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The Torrance Educational Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, July 9, at noon in the YWCA. Program will include questions pertaining to the high school athletic program, the 1956-57 school budget, the coming election for a state building loan and a proposed override tax.

Reservations for the meeting may be placed with the superintendent's office, call FAirfax 8-0540, through Thursday, July 5. The cost of the luncheon is \$1.30.

### New Park Building Dedicated

Activities at El Nido Park will be in full swing this week as the county's new recreation building on the long-neglected recreation site has been completed, dedicated, and staffed with program supervisors.

A crowd estimated in excess of 400 turned out Thursday to witness official dedication of the new recreation building at the park and to welcome Stan Radon and Helen Thomsen, new program directors at the park.

**Parks Needed**  
Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said at the dedication that he did not like to see parks and recreation centers neglected and so many children playing in the streets.

"I believe that it is of great importance to the growth and prosperity of Los Angeles County to have the finest recreational facilities for all," Hahn said.

**City Represented**  
George Morehart, president of the El Nido Civic Assn., served as master of ceremonies at the dedication, introducing Mayor Albert Isen, Councilman Nick Dralle, and City Manager George Stevens who represented Torrance at the affair.

On hand to witness the dedication were a number of El Nido residents who had worked for the improvement, among them Ed Risdon, outstanding booster for the area, Scout units and El Nido civic leaders.

The park will be supervised from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. week days, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.