

# HIGH WATER FORCES EVACUATION

## Educators Hear Book Protests

Threatened fireworks at the Torrance Board of Education meeting Tuesday night produced only a little "pop," as parents and school officials exchanged opinions about a freshman problems workbook, "About You."

A group of about 15 parents appeared to read sections of the book, which they claimed was too advanced for youngsters and gave "unhealthy viewpoints" on sex, family life, dope, and drinking.

### Book Withdrawn

Dr. Albert Posner, assistant superintendent of schools, informed the parents that the book was on a state-approved list, but had been withdrawn from use, effective Feb. 15. Study showed that four of seven freshmen teachers at South High School had used the book this year as a supplement to the regular text, "Building Your Life." The book was not used in the other two schools.

Mrs. Alleen Goetz, Mrs. Salvatore Guagenti, Mrs. Rita Havens, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walters spoke against the book, objecting to treatments of various subjects.

### Unfavorable Light

Mrs. Goetz felt that the book failed to present parents in any but unfavorable light, while Mrs. Guagenti attacked sections on family life, "asking my children to psychoanalyze me."

Mrs. Guagenti exchanged opinions of the book with Mrs. Grace Wright, school board member, and Mrs. David Sokoloff, president of the South High School PTA.

Mrs. Wright said she saw no objection to the book, but felt it should be used in senior classes rather than in freshmen classes.

Mrs. Sokoloff said she and her husband both had read the book and did not find it in any way objectionable. She praised Dr. Bruce Magner, principal of South High School, who had clashed with the objecting parents before the board meeting.

### Book Praised

Children get a fuller understanding of themselves through using the book, she opined, because it makes up for things

which they might not have been taught at home. She saw nothing unhealthy in the book, and believed that the objectors might be immature in their own viewpoints.

Her viewpoint was seconded by another parent, Mrs. W. Allen.

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, thanked the parents for coming to express their viewpoints, declaring that the school board was always glad to hear from parents.

### Board Thanked

Mrs. Goetz and Mrs. Guagenti thanked the board for listening to them, "because we got the impression that we weren't welcome."

On this harmonious note, the group viewed a film, "Human Heredity," which had been a subject of debate. Mothers claimed that school officials had been reluctant to show them the film. The audience seemed to agree that the film was a good one.

The board also heard a group of parents from Seaside School who wanted to know where the attendance boundaries would be when the new Calle Mayor School is completed.

### Children Walk

Some objected to having their children walk a considerable distance to school, but school officials indicated that they bought the best sites for the least money possible. They try to avoid buying houses when possible, Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip said.

One parent wanted the school board to buy the Seaside Golf Course and use that for a school site.

"It's closer to our homes and we'd get rid of that golf course," he said.



RESCUE OPERATION . . . Harry Pettis carries his wife from their home near 189th and Crenshaw Blvd. Water filled a service road on the west side of Crenshaw, sending

the muddy liquid into homes, stores, and the Crenshaw Baptist Church. Waters subsided later in the day, however, and residents returned to clean up. (Herald Photo)

## Threat Eases As Rain Halts

Emergency crews relaxed slightly last night as threats of a major disaster in Torrance subsided following torrential rains which flooded many sections of the city.

Worst hit again was the north Torrance area where the Dominguez Channel ran over capacity, backing into residential and business areas along Crenshaw, 174th St., and Western Ave.

Police Chief Percy Bennett called off-duty officers back and all city crews were mobilized to meet the threat of flooded homes, and to handle blocked roadways.

Homeowners in the Paseo de Gracia area of Hollywood Riviera battled most of yesterday to keep the water from their

yesterday when the skies cleared and reports indicated that the major portion of the storm had passed.

Torrance had received more than 2 inches of rain by 7:30 a.m. yesterday, most of it falling in a six-hour period. Two hours later it had rained another inch, and ended with 3.35 inches of rainfall. Had it continued, it would have brought a major disaster to Torrance.

### More flood pictures today on page 17.

homes as the sump in the area overflowed. A number of pumps in the area proved unable to cope with the heavy run-off from the hills above the Paseo de Gracia basin.

The Cabrillo Ave. storm drain completed last year kept the downtown area relatively free of water, but it flooded Torrance Blvd. at Western, when the water could not get to the run-off channel east of Western Ave. Crews were still trying to open up the drain yesterday afternoon.

Evacuation centers were set up by the American Red Cross at the Civic Auditorium, American Legion Hall, and at St. Catherine Labouré Catholic Church, but were closed later

A roundup of the areas and the streets closed as gathered by HERALD reporters yesterday showed this situation when the rain subsided:

### South Torrance

Intersections at Janet Lane and Pacific Coast Hwy., 247th St. and Crenshaw Blvd., Newton and Vista Montana, and the sump at 236th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. were flooded.

Rising water created hazardous conditions at 5038 Newton Ave. and 4106 Paseo de las Tortugas. Mud and rock were reported washing down the hill at Hawthorne near the entrance to Palos Verdes.

The Hollywood Riviera Country Club again was in trouble as reports came in that the street in front of the club was washing away.

### North Torrance

Intersections were flooded at 168th St. and Crenshaw Blvd.; 187th St. and Falda Ave.; 20602 W. 166th Pl.; 184th and Falda; 166th and Arlington; 168th and Falda; 182nd and Falda.

A school bus was stalled in a flooded intersection at 182nd and Falda.

Police also reported 182nd St. was closed between Ermanita and Prairie Aves. because of flood conditions.

Families asked to be evacuated at 18737 Crenshaw Blvd.; 20602 W. 166th Pl., and 18416 Falda Ave.

### Central Torrance

Police reported a hot wire down in the alley between Torrance Blvd. and Portola Ave.

Sump grounds at Ladeene Ave. and 220th and Maple and Opal St. were flooded. The intersection at Maple and El Dorado also was closed temporarily.

## Council Orders Settlement of Beach Dispute

Out-of-court settlement of the lawsuit against the city filed by the Don Ja Ran Construction Co. over zoning of beach property at the Palos Verdes boundary was authorized by the city council this week on the recommendation of Atty. Charlton A. Mewborn, who was retained to represent the city in the matter.

Action of the council followed lengthy discussion of the history of the land, the zoning, and the dispute over a proposed motel which led the council to rezone the property R-1 several months ago.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement, the Don Ja Ran interests would build a hotel on the southern extremities of the property lying west of Palos Verdes Blvd. and at the south end of the Torrance city limits. Other property extending northward along the beach would be rezoned to R-3 and would permit development as an apartment area only with added restrictions.

"The proposal is not an unreasonable one and would result in a benefit to the city," Mewborn told the council.

"This is not a sell out of the city," he said. The matter is scheduled to go to trial next Wednesday before Superior Court Judge Baird Rhone unless a settlement is reached, Mewborn advised the council.

The attorney was instructed to pursue the negotiations with the developers.

## Attorney Vote Request Filed

A request by the North Torrance Civic Improvement Assn. that the city attorney's post be made elective instead of civil service was filed by the city council Tuesday when it was determined that it was too late to get a charter amendment on the April 8 municipal election ballot.

The request had been sent to the council by John G. L. Crain, president of the NTCIA.



IN TRAIN CRASH . . . Walter Gay Olsen of Torrance was injured when his auto and a train collided at Arlington Ave. near Plaza Del Amo at 4:30 p.m. yesterday. He was taken to a private medical center for treatment. (Herald Photo)

## 12-Year-Old Killed when Cave Falls

Funeral services were held Tuesday for a 12-year-old boy killed by a cave-in of sand while he was playing.

John Franklin Dunning, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen F. Dunning, 205 Via el Toro, died Saturday night when a cave in which he was playing collapsed while he was in it.

The boy was dug out by his father, who administered artificial respiration until an ambulance arrived. He was discovered about 8 p.m. by a searcher after the boy had failed to return for dinner.

The cave is located on bluffs overlooking Torrance Beach, about a half block from the boy's home.

Burial was in Pacific Crest Cemetery, with Stone and Myers Mortuary handling arrangements.

Survivors include his parents; brother, Donald; and two sisters, Donnette and Mary Jo; and grandmother, Elizabeth Markus.



FLOAT TROPHY . . . Hilles Bedell (left) member of the executive committee of the Tournament of Roses Assn., presents city's trophy for its entry in the Jan. 1 Pasadena parade—a framed colored photograph of the entry with an inscribed plaque attached. In the center is A. E. Thompson, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and on the right, George Bradford, chairman of the float committee. Presentation was made at the Chamber breakfast Tuesday. (Herald Photo)

## Dope Addiction is Local Problem, Survey Reveals

Beginning today is the first of a series of articles revealing the horrors of dope addiction, its inroads on the teenage citizens of Torrance, and the nightmares of an addict's withdrawal. Above all, the series will point out that there IS a narcotics problem—right at home.)

By VONDA CARLTON  
Herald Staff Writer

The girl being questioned was little more than a child . . . 13 years old. The best years of her life were yet to be lived.

But it's doubtful that the ensuing years will be the "best." At 13, the girl was pregnant. The result of a "marijuana" party.

It isn't a nice story and it couldn't happen in Torrance . . . the All-America city.

But it did!

Nor is it an unusual story. Files of the Torrance police department are filled with similar complaints and those even worse.

They reach the depth of human degradation, all prompted by the use of narcotics.

Along with every other city, county and state in this nation, Torrance has a narcotic problem.

It's getting worse.

Using Los Angeles police department's estimates, one out of every 18 persons is a narcotic user.

Theoretically, that makes 220 persons in this town using narcotic, be it marijuana, heroin or barbituates.

Each narcotic user can be figured to bring six new "recruits" into the fold, according to police statistics.

There's no way of knowing exactly how many "users" there actually are in Torrance, according to Lt. D. C. Cook of the Torrance juvenile department.

"But if there is one user, we have a problem," Cook declared.

Coping with that problem is an increasing chore for law enforcement agencies. Their undermanned staffs must arrest addicts, pushers and suppliers, and meanwhile try to solve the resulting 50 per cent of crimes. (Half of all crimes committed in metropolitan areas are caused by narcotics, according to a recent Senate investigation.)

In Torrance, the narcotic problem is centered in the teenage-young adult group . . . those 18-25 years of age.

### Supply Available

Any juvenile who starts out in search of narcotics, doesn't have to go far. And he'll know where to go.

Lt. Cook estimates that one out of every three local teenagers either have used, are using, have seen or know where to find narcotics.

All this in Torrance.

This city's main problem, Cook says, currently is marijuana and barbituates. There's little heroin being used.

### Stepping Stones

But in the same breath, he reminds that marijuana and barbituates are stepping stones to the more deadly drug . . . heroin.

There are other problems concerning narcotics and their users. All of these problems must be faced by local residents.

Can you, as a parent, recognize the symptoms of an addict? What can you do to make sure your children do not fall into the clutches of ruthless pushers? How can the illegal flow of narcotics into this country be curtailed?

### More Questions

What can be done to protect the lives and property damaged by drug users?

Is an addict ever cured?

These questions are important to each and every person who lives in this country.

In succeeding articles, the Torrance HERALD will attempt to point out some of the problems, some of the cures, and some of the misery and pain caused by illegal drugs.