

Dr. Hull Gets Freedoms Award

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AIRPORT NOISE BATTLE SET

A Penny for your Thoughts

"Do you think it's important for the United States to land a man on the moon before Russia?" the Pennies inquirer asked.

Mrs. Charles Butterfield, 22713 Cypress: "I think it is important that we solve our problems here on earth before we go to the moon. There are enough problems here on earth to solve. The moon trip is important, too, but our problems here should take precedent."

Mrs. Albert J. Moreta, 1204 Cranbrook Ave.: "I think the United States would lose prestige. It would be a good idea for the United States to get there first. A moon trip is a big challenge and would open a wider span for the United States in space."

Mrs. Joseph R. Rosseau, 4703 Konya Dr.: "Yes. It would put us ahead in the space program. It is definitely important for prestige matters. We are always behind in space programs it seems. It would be worth it as far as expenditure because we spend a lot of money on projects which are scrapped. We know this will come to an end."

Mrs. Thomas Thomsen, 4811 DeLane: "I don't think we will. It's important just for the sake of beating Russia. If we could do it the feat would be of great value as far as propaganda goes. Considering the problems involved it is not important for the prestige. Instead of accomplishing it for prestige we would do good to take care of our internal problems."

Mrs. Jerome E. Muleahy, 10910 Talisman: "The Russians are more daring and it is obvious they have little consideration for their people. Statistics show if you keep trying you will make it. It's not important at the risk of becoming cold towards the people as far as their lives are involved in doing it. We would lose prestige if we lost lives in putting a man on the moon."

School Chief Wins Tribute As Educator

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance Unified School District since its formation 16 years ago, was honored with five other California educators Friday night when he was presented the American Educators Medal on behalf of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.



DR. J. H. HULL Wins High Honors

The six educators were guests of honor at an awards and tribute to education dinner at the Statler-Hilton in Los Angeles and received the awards from Don Belding, chairman and co-founder of the Freedoms Foundation.

JOINING DR. HULL in the select circle of educators were Ellis W. Evers, principal of a San Diego elementary school; Dr. Max Rafferty, superintendent of public instruction for the state; Dr. Gerald A. Smith, superintendent of Bloomington schools; Frank B. Thornton, principal of a San Diego junior high school; and Dr. C. C. Trillingham, Los Angeles County school superintendent.

Each year the Freedoms Foundation honors outstanding educators of the nation after selection by an award jury comprised of State Supreme Court justices, and the national heads of leading patriotic, veterans and service club organizations.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S program, attended by more than 1,000 persons, featured Dr. John C. Broger, director of armed forces information and education for the Department of Defense, as the principal speaker. He spoke on "The Challenge to Our Freedoms."

Others on the program included Commander Paul Terry, vice president of the foundation; the Monrovia High School concert choir; Raymond Burr, director of the foundation, and Belding.

Safety Record Cited by League

Torrance will receive a safety award during the meeting of the League of California Cities in San Francisco. The award, to be accepted by Mayor Albert Isen, is being made for the "excellent record of employee safety" in the city.



DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT . . . Youngsters and adults enjoyed the Torrance High School Tartar marching band which entertained Thursday afternoon at the celebration hailing the completion of the Downtown Business District project. The Tartar band was complete with flag twirlers and pep girls. (Herald Photo)

Trustees Face D-Day On School Tax Term

Monday is D-Day (Decision Day) for members of the Board of Education.

A decision on the amount and term of the forthcoming school district override will be made by the Board tomorrow evening when the trustees meet at South High School at 7:30 p.m.

Trustees have deferred a decision on the proposal but face a deadline at tomorrow's meeting if the election to boost the legal tax rate is held as scheduled on Feb. 4, 1964.

BOARD MEMBERS have not committed themselves to a given figure, but it is expected that the amount will be substantially above the present 50-cent override, due to expire at

the end of this fiscal year. The district must meet increases in operation costs due to new state programs and rising salaries. Population growth in Torrance also has been cited as a major factor in the rising costs of education.

While no comment has been made by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, his office is expected to ask for a \$1 override.

THE DISTRICT rate, legally set for \$1.65 per \$100 assessed valuation, was increased in 1957 by a 75-cent override with no time limit. The rate went up another 50 cents in 1961, when voters approved a three-year override. It will expire on June 30, 1964.

Should the district fail to get the additional override tax, the legal rate would revert to \$2.40 per \$100 assessed valuation, reducing local revenue about 15 per cent below the current level.

Speaking at a meeting of the Torrance Education Advisory Committee last week, Dr. Hull said the district faces a simple choice, added taxes or curtailed services in the school district.

During the Monday evening meeting, the board also will consider lighting for the stadiums at South and West High Schools, and will be asked to employ an architect for development of the school site in Tract 2200, near Crenshaw and Sepulveda Boulevards.

Low Flying Craft Named In Program

Selection of a four-point program of action headed by a resolution to wage a battle against low-flying, noise-making aircraft flying from Torrance Municipal Airport has been announced by officers and directors of the Southwood Homeowners Assn.

Details of the program have been outlined by William Uerkwitz, 23136 Anza Ave., who was named president of the group at a meeting of the directors Tuesday night.

An airport committee is prepared to take on the low flying and noise problem, and legal counsel will be sought to guide the homeowners, Uerkwitz said.

UERKWITZ, WHO has been acting president of the group following its formation earlier this year during the demonstrations by integrationist groups in the area, said residents have been concerned about the noise and low flying problem, and that their concern is deepening as work on a second runway at the airport progresses.

He said a twin-engine turbojet landed here two weeks ago, and that residents fear an increasing number of jet flights may be made from the field.

A SECOND point in the group's program concerns schools, the president told The HERALD.

"There is some concern that projected schools in the area will not be built in time to accommodate students coming from this area," he said. He said members of the organization would seek to get information on school plans for the area residents and to do whatever they could to assure that adequate facilities are provided.

MOSQUITO abatement is another problem in the area, and (Continued on Page 2)

Woman Hit By Auto Near City

A Torrance area woman struck by a car at Vermont Avenue and Torrance Boulevard was tossed 45 feet but escaped with a fractured leg, according to California Highway Patrol officers.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment was Marjorie Louise Lander, 43, who lives at 20714 New Hampshire Ave. Driver of the car was identified as Rodolpho G. Sanchez, 32, of San Pedro.

A 14-year-old Torrance girl was hit by a car Thursday near her home in west Torrance, police say. Taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital was Donna Bower, 5020 Torrance Blvd. Driver of the car was identified as Clarence E. Mabry Jr., 21733 Dewey Drive.

THREE PERSONS were injured in a two-car crash in front of 4330 W. 190th St. Friday evening. Taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital were Herbert Lloyd Barg, 38, of 19310 Sturgess, driver of one vehicle; Ella I. Barg, 38, his passenger; and Vernon Forrest Searcy, 51, Manhattan Beach, the second driver.

A passenger of an auto involved in a crash at Torrance Boulevard and Palos Verdes Boulevard early Saturday was (Continued on Page 2)

Fireman Closing 25-Year Career

A fascination with fire trucks and firemen which may have begun one night in front of the Torrance Theater in 1926 led to a career which has been capped with the retirement of a Torrance battalion chief this month after 25 years of service.

Bn. Chief Eugene (Gene) K. Walker, a barefoot lad in front of the theater on the night the city's new ladder truck was parked there to draw attention

to a new motion picture on the life of a fireman, kept his enthusiasm alive and joined the force as a "call man" on April 1, 1938.

"In those days," Chief Walker explained on his last day at central station, "we were paid \$7 a month and when called to a fire, got \$1 an hour after the first hour."

BEING A FIREMAN was a sideline in those days, and Walker's regular job was as a mechanic in the Ford garage in downtown Torrance.

By June 1, 1939, however, he had been accepted as a regular fireman and joined the force as an engineer. Walker became a member of one of the three-man shifts then employed as firefighters.

Their ranks were swelled by "call firemen" when it came

time to fight a fire, Walker recalled. An old siren mounted atop the station sounded the alarm and firemen came running from the stores and shops around the city. Prior to that an old steel rim served as an alarm to call firemen on duty. The steel rim is now mounted in front of the central station at Crenshaw Boulevard and Carson Street.

WALKER WAS promoted to captain in the city's fire department in 1949, and on July

21, 1952, was named battalion chief.

During those years he helped fight the huge fire at the Mobil refinery here in 1940, spent three days in the downtown area after the 1941 earthquake shook down much of the city's business district, and was on the scene at most other major Torrance fires and disasters.

WALKER ATTENDED college on a parttime basis for 10 years to gain 32 credits in fire science. During that time he

attended El Camino College, Harbor College, Compton Junior College, and the University of Southern California.

Because other firemen have had similar schooling — some of them even more — Walker said he was convinced that a Torrance fireman should be chosen for the next chief of the department. He will not be eligible for his retirement becomes effective Nov. 23 at the conclusion of terminal leave.

Walker has watched Torrance grow from a sleepy hamlet to the bustling city of nearly 120,000 during his 40 years of residence here. He and his family lived at Amapola Avenue and Carson Street years ago, and that was the west end of town, he reports. Oil fields and "maybe a ranch" was all (Continued on Page 2)



BN. CHIEF GENE WALKER Closing Out 25-Year Career

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