

Against Incorporation

'YOU'RE UNPROGRESSIVE -- KEEP IT THAT WAY' SPEAKER TELLS LOMITA



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THANKS FOR THE MAIL

Alyce Hill expresses the sentiment of downtown merchants when she gave letter-carrier Harry Thielman a big kiss and a mail cart to make his job easier. Merchants along Sartori ave. raised the money for the cart. Thielman has had the downtown route for the last two years. He started out with the Post Office 19 years ago. He had route no. 1 — the downtown route! — Press Photo.

SWIMMING POOL TO OPEN AUGUST 27

"We're shooting for having the swimming pool open by August 27," Harry VanBellehem, director of recreation, announced this week. Although the pool was used during the civic center dedication ceremonies for a water festival, it was not yet fully completed, he said.

Trial Date Posponed In Rape of Girl, 14

Trial date on the vicious raping of a 14-year-old Lomita girl by 15 youths recently was postponed Tuesday until September 7.

The trial will be held in the Long Beach Superior court.

Five youths, three of whom pleaded innocent to the rape charge, will come up for trial, including Joseph Fernandez, 18, of 1812 Marshall Field lane, Redondo; John Gomez, 18, of 23636 Pennsylvania avenue; Jesse Verdugo Grande, 20, of 2276 West 203rd street; Thomas Soto, 18, of 2562 West 235th street; and Felipe Perez, 18, of 2580 West 235th street, all of Torrance.

Grande, Gomez, and Fernandez all pleaded innocent.

Two other adults are still missing, while eight juveniles have been handled by juvenile authorities. Two were dismissed on grounds of insufficient evidence; three were committed to a work camp; and three others were placed on probation.

The 14-year-old girl was picked up at her home May 25 on a ruse and taken to the oil fields near Lomita boulevard and Crenshaw boulevard where she was raped for four hours by three carloads of youths.

Mother Killed In Crash

Funeral services were held on Tuesday for Mrs. Joan Mary Harmon, 23-year-old Hawthorne mother who died in Harbor General hospital early last Friday morning after her car collided with a truck the day before at 190th St. and Normandie Ave.

Rites were conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the Colonial Chapel of the Hardin and Flanagan Mortuary, Inglewood with Rev. John W. Burbury, pastor of the Lennox Bethany church, officiating. Burial was in Pacific Crest cemetery, Redondo Beach.

The accident which also critically injured the deceased's 3-year-old son, Danny Eugene, and caused severe injuries to her mother, Mrs. Charles H. Youngblood of 143 West 136th St., Hawthorne, occurred on Thursday at 2 p.m. according to investigating officers. The youngster suffered a fractured skull, broken arm, leg, and collar bone, internal injuries and severe lacerations.

Mrs. Harmon, the wife of Harley Harmon of the same address, was born in Alton, Ill., and came to California from there 15 years ago.

Also surviving are her father, Charles Youngblood of Hawthorne; sister, Mrs. June Flurschrimp of Redondo Beach, and brothers, Billie Joe Youngblood of Torrance and Donald Harmon of Lakewood.

In Germany

Pvt. Harold F. Berry Jr., son of Mrs. Wanda Berry, 2240 247th st., Lomita, is participating in field training exercises with units of the 8th Infantry Regiment in Germany.

A cook in the regiment's Company K, Berry completed basic training at Fort Ord.

He attended Torrance high school. Before entering the Army he was employed by the American Rock Wool Co., in Torrance.

Two major problems must still be taken care of: one, the chlorinating system must be hooked up, and two, the electrical wiring and some plumbing must still be fixed.

"The contractors—all of them—were most cooperative in getting the pool ready for the civic center celebration," Van Bellehem said. "They even worked over-time in order to make it available."

Pool fees have been fixed as follows by the City Council: adults, 50 cents; youths (13-18 years), 25 cents; children up to and including 12 years, 20 cents; service men in uniform, 20 cents; family nights, family price, \$1.

Swimming lessons: adults (10 lessons including admission) \$5; youths (10 lessons including admission) \$2.50; children (10 lessons including admission) \$2.

Normal hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until noon; 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.; 7 p.m. until 10 a.m.; Saturdays and holidays 10 a.m. to noon; 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Special arrangements can be made for private groups and special swim groups.

LATE NEWS

INTEREST: Councilman Bob Jahn asked for an opinion from the city attorney if the city could pass an ordinance forbidding loan agencies from charging more than 6% interest on loans.

SLOGAN: Mayor Albert Isen suggested that Torrance adopt as its slogan: "Torrance growing big, thinking big, and doing big."

LIONS: The North Torrance Lions club attended the first council meeting in the new city hall. Milton Hunter, president, congratulated the council and expressed his club's appreciation for all the council has done, promising the group's continued support.

TREES: Trees along Plaza del Amo will remain, according to a 3-2 vote of the council. The park department has been asked to trim the trees and grade the area.

FIRST MEETING: Councilman Victor Benstead attended the very first meeting of the city council at the old city hall; he was present at the first meeting, too, after being elected councilman; and now again attended the first meeting (as councilman) at the new city hall. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett also attended the first meeting. (Turn to Page 13)

He Found Business Too Good

Ever think business could be too good?

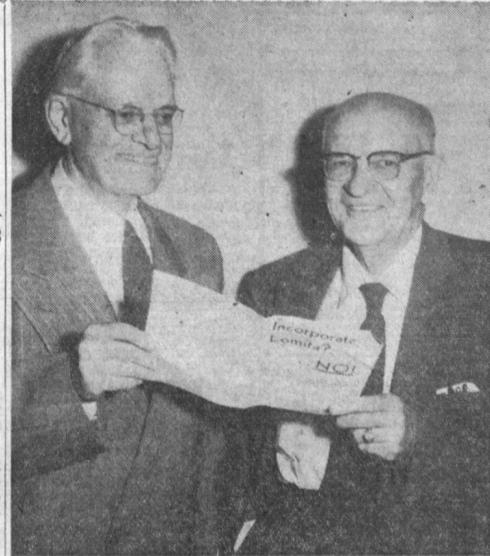
That's what Fred Hopkins, of 23927 Marbella Ave., had to admit this week when he cancelled a classified ad in the Torrance Press because of the overwhelming response to the ad.

His ad reads as follows:

CONCRETE construction work, foundations, driveways, retaining walls, sidewalks, concrete #1 & #2, rub-walls, at a reasonable price. For free estimate call FR. 9-7302.

"I had to cancel my ad because I was getting too much business," he said. "Results from advertising with the Torrance Press were very good and people are still coming in."

So, give it a try yourself. Call FA. 8-2345. The only chance you'll take by placing an inexpensive classified ad is that you'll be swamped with calls.



THEY'RE AGIN' IT
L. E. Ross (l) and Lou A. Gretz spoke out vigorously against incorporation or annexation of Lomita.—Press Photo

Residents Warned of Change

By RALPH R. GOMPERTZ
Scrappy Lou A. Gretz told Lomita residents Tuesday night in no uncertain terms that incorporation would be dangerous, undesirable, and expensive and that they would regret such a move for the rest of their lives.

Gretz, representing the California League of Unincorporated Communities, spoke to about 200 residents who attended a public meeting sponsored by the Citizens Committee Opposing Incorporation of Lomita.

At one point of the meeting during the question and answer period, Gretz was asked if Lomita residents would not be considered unprogressive if they failed to incorporate.

"I'm the most unprogressive individual you've ever met," he replied. "And I'm proud of it. You're unprogressive—and keep it that way!"

Gretz described himself as the secretary of the South-East Industrial Area Association of East Los Angeles, "the largest unincorporated area by population (125,000) in the entire U.S. and the most highly concentrated industrial area in Southern California."

"I am also a lobbyist, and very proud of it," he added.

Likes a Scrap
"When you defend a cause such as unincorporation," he began, "with so many so-called experts and self-seeking individuals trying to perpetuate themselves into some kind of political office, you get pushed around. I like it. I'm used to it. I like a good scrap."

He said that there was no problem faced by an unincorporated community such as Lomita that it couldn't solve itself, without resorting to "another layer of government."

He warned residents not "to swallow" statements allegedly made by proponents of incorporation that there is a law whereby Lomita must decide on either annexation or incorporation. He said there was no such law.

Suspicious
Casting suspicion on local government he challenged residents to "go into the city council of anyone of the 49 cities in Los Angeles county or read the minutes and see how few people get so much done for themselves and not for individuals such as you and I."

Lomita residents can get anything they want without forming their own government, he maintained.

"If you desire anything (Turn to Page 13)

Editorial LOMITA SPEAKER MAKES ILLOGICAL CHARGES

We are glad that Mr. Lou A. Gretz who warned Lomita residents Tuesday of the dangers of incorporation and annexation loves a good scrap.

Because, frankly, he's asking for it.

It's been a long time since we've had the pleasure to hear anyone make so many incredible remarks for the record at a public meeting.

Mr. Gretz' three-pronged attack against incorporation or annexation were based on the claims that local government is 1) not to be trusted, 2) undesirable, and 3) expensive.

The speaker painted some very sinister pictures about the terror and corruption of local politics. He hinted darkly at politicians who would enslave citizens and bleed them dry with taxes.

On the other hand, he talked in glowing and exalted terms of county government.

Politics being politics, it is surprising that Mr. Gretz could have such a low opinion of one level of government and such a high opinion of another level.

Nor does his faith in government by remote control stand up too well.

If local government were such a terrible thing, then there wouldn't be so many communities having their own government. In fact, we would all be clamoring to be controlled only by the federal government, eliminating every level of government that stands between us and Washington, D. C.

If absentee government is so ideal, the original 13 colonies wouldn't have thought of bolting against England. But they did — and they seemed to have had pretty good reasons.

Mr. Gretz claimed that incorporation or annexation would be a costly matter.

This is a very important point and we were hoping that he would enlighten us on this matter. But he didn't, except in very vague and sweeping terms.

The case for incorporation has been presented. The case for annexation or for remaining unincorporated must still be presented clearly.

Until this is done, no one can judge these issues properly.

GUILTY OF MOLESTING

Found guilty of child-molesting, Glenn W. Lawrence, 42, of 1851 Pacific Coast highway, will come up for sentencing September 6 in the Long Beach Superior Court.

Lawrence's trial was held in Judge Richard B. Eaton's court. Lawrence was arrested in May for allegedly molesting a 12-year-old boy whom he had given a ride. Lawrence offered

to let the boy steer, suggesting that he sit on his lap.

During the incident the car went out of control and plunged down a 100-foot bluff on Pennsylvania avenue south of Pacific Coast highway.

The boy crawled out of the totally demolished car and ran off. Lawrence also took off, but was arrested at his home shortly after.

TIME TO REGISTER

Individuals who have not registered to vote in the November election must do so by September 13, according to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett.

They may come to the main entrance of the new city hall to register. The new city hall is located at Torrance boulevard and Maple avenue (between Crenshaw and Hawthorne).

Engineer Unit Undergoes Stiff Summer Training

Crackling gunfire echoed across the hills at Camp Roberts and nearby Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation today as troops of Southern California's 40th Armored Division, including Torrance's Company E, launched their fourth post-Korea session of summer field training here.

The boom of explosives reached a full crescendo yesterday when 40th tankers started actual firing of the 76-mm and 90-mm tank guns. Later in the week, 105-mm and 155-mm self-propelled howitzers of the division's artillery elements will add their voices to the din.

Firing practice with the smaller weapons — rifles, machine guns, mortars, rocket launchers and grenades — started Monday and will grow progressively more intense through the week as additional units take to the range.

In addition to the heavy schedule of weapons firing, training emphasis also is being placed on tank driving and maintenance, according to Maj. Gen. Homer O. Eaton Jr., commander of the Southland National Guard organization.

Top Emphasis
"Modern armored warfare de-

mands that our troops be proficient in a wide variety of skills," said General Eaton. "But everything is subordinate to marksmanship and driving skill. The ability to shoot accurately and under the most unpleasant conditions is paramount, whether it is the infantryman with his M-1 rifle or the tankner and his machine guns and cannon.

"Just as important to the armored unit as the soldiers who man the guns are the drivers and maintenance crews who keep the tanks rolling. The best tank gunner in the world is no good if the tank is out of action (Turn to Page 13)

New Trial Requested By Woman Suing Policemen

Request for a new trial on grounds that the jury was dismissed and not permitted to judge the previous trial has been filed on behalf of a Torrance woman who sued two Long Beach police officers for a total of \$30,157.



"LA SIESTA"

This warm, affectionate study emerges as this week's finalist in the Torrance Press Photo Contest. The shot was taken by Evelyn M. Richmond of 17537 Yukon ave., Torrance. She is the sixth finalist in the semi-professional division, bringing the contest to a close. Finalists will now be judged, results to be announced next week. Turn to page three for the finalist in the amateur division.

The petition was filed in the Long Beach Superior Court by attorneys for Mrs. Millicent A. Wilson, 28, of 3321 W. 180th st., who charged two officers with manhandling and false arrest. Judge Ralph K. Pierson, ruled in favor of the officers last week. Officers are Sgt. Willis E. Platt and Officer Donald E. Phelps.

Jury Dismissed

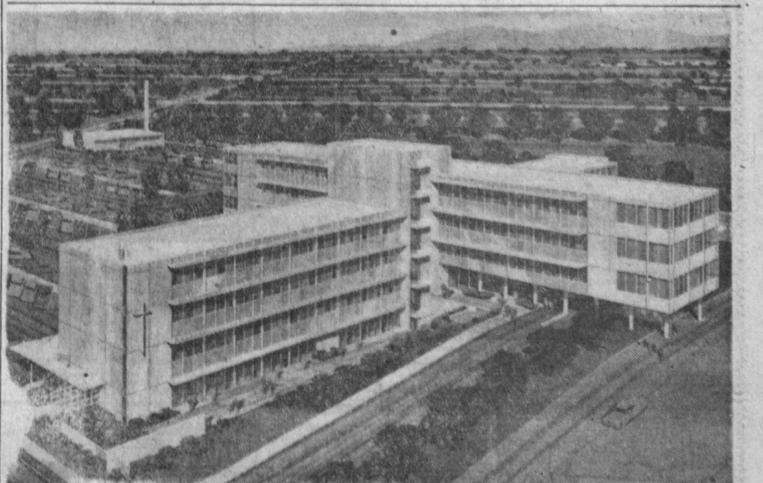
The judge handed down the verdict himself after first dismissing the jury.

This is done whenever a judge feels that there are insufficient facts available for a jury to decide the issue properly.

Mrs. Wilson's attorneys maintain, however, that the matter should have gone to the jury since, in their opinion, there was enough evidence available. If the judge refuses to grant a new trial, there is a strong possibility that the case will be appealed, attorneys indicated.

Mrs. Wilson maintained that she was in a Long Beach bar with her parents, husband and another couple in 1953 when she was approached by two men who demanded her identification.

She allegedly told them that she was 25 years old and her parents said they would vouch (Turn to Page 13)



CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

This is the way the proposed Catholic hospital will look, according to Gene Verge & R. N. Calhworthy, architects and associates, AIA. The hospital will be located on the northeast corner of Earl st. and Torrance blvd. on a 10-acre site. Construction on the 145-bed hospital will start in the spring of 1957, with completion anticipated about nine months to a year later.