

# Ignorant Child Better Than Dead One

# 300 PARENTS BOYCOTT SCHOOL, IRATE OVER TRAFFIC HAZARDS

Parents, concerned over the safety of their children, kept about 200 youngsters out of school for the third successive day yesterday, promising to continue their strike until given adequate protection.

Pupils involved are those going to Stephen M. White Junior High school living between Normandie and Western aves., north of Carson st.

Parents, who have held a number of meetings and also petitioned the Los Angeles City Board of Education, claim that the two-mile walk between their homes and the school is hazardous.

### Dangerous Crossing

Parents pointed out that youngsters must cross

Figuroa st., a State highway, as well as travel Normandie, Vermont and Carson.

Furthermore, there are no sidewalks and the children are exposed to the heavy traffic going and coming to work at the local industries.

Parents, who have sent a petition bearing more than 300 signatures to the Board of Education, are demanding bus service for their children.

### Bus Rules

Traffic conditions out here demand that the normal rules governing bus transportation be set aside. Usually no bus transportation is provided to young-

sters living within a 2 1/2-mile radius of school.

Some of the youngsters living outside the 2 1/2-mile radius have been offered bus transportation.

Principal Albert Cartwright said that municipal bus lines in the area, including Torrance, are not willing to provide bus transportation.

Before being assigned to the new school at 223rd and Figuroa sts., a majority of the pupils in the area were taken by school bus to the Peary Junior High school in Gardena.

The present condition was first reported exclusively in the Torrance Press two weeks ago.

## An Open Letter to The Torrance Press

We, a group of irate parents, ask your help in finding a solution to our problem. What can we do to open the eyes of our Los Angeles Board of Education to the danger to our junior high school children—to the fact that they may be killed or crippled for life?

A new school, just opened to our children on 221st st. and Figuroa st. It is on the east side of Figuroa, which is a State freeway. So that 300 of our children can attend this school, they have to walk in the shadow of death and from school, leaving for school at the time that employees of Douglas Aircraft, Shell Chemical and numerous other companies swarm into our streets and over the Harbor freeway.

Other busy streets youngsters must travel are Normandie, Vermont and Carson. On reaching school the children have only one crosswalk, as the corner of Carson and Figuroa.

Other hazards are the absolute absence of walkways, numerous foggy mornings, swamps and washouts when it rains. At 3:10 p.m. our children are supposed to buck traffic of the said company employees who are going to work swing shift, and the day shift people come off work, driving like maniacs to get home.

We have asked for school bus transportation and because some hard-headed school board members set our walking distance to school at 2 1/2 miles or less we have gotten no results.

They stay behind their mahogany desks and refuse to investigate our Valley of Death out here.

We ask you to investigate our problem and we feel you can help. We know how many causes you have helped in the past.

Now, and until we do get action, we, as a large majority, are refusing to send our children out on the highway to school. We know we are violating a State school law, but we understand that if we do send our children we will break a State highway law by letting them walk on a State freeway.

We ask for any suggestions from you and your readers. Let us re-emphasize that we do NOT object to the (Turn to Page 24)



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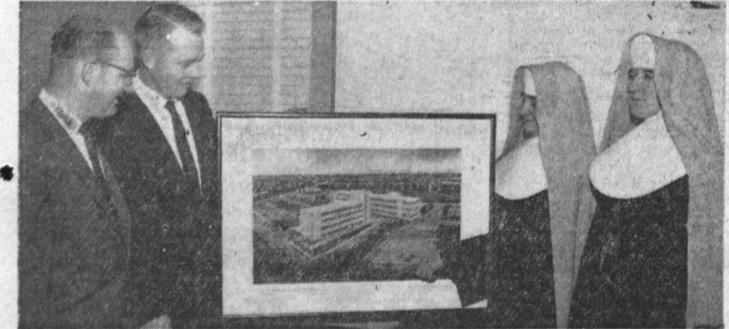
# TORRANCE PRESS



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### GIANT PLEDGE FROM GP

Mother M. Genevieve, Provincial of the Little Company of Mary, points to architect's drawing of new 125-bed Sisters hospital at conference with A. E. Thompson, manager of General Petroleum Torrance refinery, and George W. Post, treasurer of \$776,000 fund drive. Mother Genevieve and Mother M. Patricia, of her hospital council, today announced receipt of \$100,000 pledge from General Petroleum.

## General Petroleum Pledges \$100,000 To Hospital Drive

A pledge of \$100,000 from General Petroleum corp. to the Little Company of Mary hospital campaign at Torrance was announced today by Mother M. Genevieve, Provincial of the Sisterhood and its highest-ranking officer in the United States.

Mother Genevieve came to Torrance from Chicago, American headquarters of the 70-year-old Order of Nursing Sisters, to confer with A. E. Thompson, manager of General Petroleum's Torrance refinery and president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and other industry leaders, concerning plans for building the new 125-bed institution.

"We are happy to do our share in helping to meet the hospital needs of Torrance," Thompson said in presenting the gift.

George W. Post, of the California Bank's Torrance branch, serving as campaign treasurer, expressed appreciation for the community.

"This pledge by General Petroleum," he said, "is a fine example of industry meeting its civic responsibilities."

The total cost of the proposed 125-bed hospital is estimated at \$2,385,000. Local doctors have pledged \$150,000, and \$776,307 will be made available from the federal Hill-Burton allocation, with another \$776,307 set aside from matching state funds. In addition, the Little Company of Mary has purchased the land for the hospital site, 10 acres fronting on Torrance Blvd. near the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd.

## Press Ad Leads to Happiness

"I'm so happy with the Torrance Press that I've been recommending it to all my friends."

So exclaimed Mrs. Marian Hanson, 3519 W. 185th st.

The reason? Her terrific results with the following ad which she placed in the Torrance Press classified section:

SEWING MACHINE—1 yr. old. Beautiful modern blonde cabinet. Sew forward and backward with buttonhole attachment. Also daps. \$75. DA. 4-4846

"I received seven calls the first day and sold it to the first person who came to see it," she stated.

It's so simple and inexpensive. Fifteen words cost only \$1.30. There's a 30 cents discount if you pay at the time you place your ad. Call FA. 8-2345 for quick, effective results.

## HEARING SLATED ON MUFFLER FACTORY, PARKS, RECREATION

A public hearing has been called to determine whether local residents want to see a muffler factory locate on the civic center, or if they want the area developed for park and recreation purposes.

The hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, at 8 p.m. in the council chamber of the city hall, Torrance Blvd., and Maple ave.

The matter came to a head when the council was informed two weeks ago that J. S. Belond, president of Belond Manufacturing corp., owns 10 acres along the Santa Fe railroad tracks (immediately north of the swimming pool).

Belond was planning to use the area, which is zoned for heavy manufacturing, for a muffler factory.

### Park Plans

There has been talk about developing the area around the civic center for park and recreation purposes. The hearing is to determine whether Torrance voters would be willing to support a bond issue for the recreational development of this area as well as park throughout the community.

Unless such money is made available, the city would not be able to buy the land proposed for the muffler plant. Mayor Albert Isen indicated that if the muffler factory goes in, the firm would install 200-ton presses which would be pounding continuously and could be heard throughout the area.

Representatives from all interested groups and organizations, as well as individual citizens, are invited to the hearing.

### Belond Losing Interest

Belond, in a statement to the Torrance Press, said that he does not want to get into a hassle and that he wants the city to make up its mind as to what it wants to do.

"We don't want to go in if they don't want us there," he said. "The whole thing is beginning to lose its attraction. It looks, too, as if the tax rate is going up."

Belond denied that the firm would annoy local residents. He maintained that an industrial zone should permit industrial use.

Letters or petitions to the council should be in Friday. They may also be read or presented at the time of the hearing. Oral reports may also be made.

## 'Y'-Drive Kicks Off With 'Victory At Sea' Theme

The Torrance YMCA launched its annual support campaign with a kick-off banquet for most of the 135 men and women who will serve as Y-campaigners.

With a theme of "Victory at Sea" each of the YMCA campaigners assumed mock titles. Campaign chairman for 1957 is "Admiral Sam Levy."

The eight divisions of the YMCA campaign are headed by "fleet commanders." These leaders are: L. N. Gill, initial gifts fleet commander; C. C. Morgan and Nelson Rucker, industrial fleet commanders; Ed Raphael and Paul Diamond, business fleet commanders; Dr. John Nursall, professional division fleet commander.

Following introductions of these men and their division workers, known as ensigns, a humorous play was presented with Mayor Albert Isen and YMCA Board Chairman Ralph

## Merchants Name New Directors

Twelve newly-elected directors of the Downtown Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce were announced Friday by Charley Gotts, president.

Those elected will serve for one year and will select their officers at the next regular board of directors meeting on Wednesday in the Chamber of Commerce building, Gotts stated.

Elected were: Paul Diamond, the Gay shop; Charlie Gotts, Daniel's Cafe; Francis Lee, Bernard's Bootery; Vern Lovelady, Lovelady Hardware; T. E. Moore, Moore's Dress shop; George M. Naylor, Torrance Hardware; J. H. Paget, J. J. Newberry co.; Abraham Robinson, Lawson's Jewelers; Ben H. Smith, Torrance Cycle & Sport shop; O. R. Trueblood, McMahon's Furniture co.; George Whittlesey, Whittlesey Motors; and William Zappas, Torrance Press.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**LIQUOR LICENSE:** The City Council decided not to take a stand either for or against a liquor license at 3800 Pacific Coast hwy., stating that the Alcoholic Beverage Control board should make up their mind to hear the pros and cons.

**RABID DOG:** A medium-sized mixed black cocker spaniel which took ill January 28 died of rabies January 31. It was owned by H. C. Williams. (Turn to Page 8)

### 4TH SPECIAL CENSUS

## Males Hold Slight Edge Over Women

There are almost as many women as men in Torrance, but the men still have a slight edge over the women.

This is shown in the report released by the US Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, based on the fourth special census held locally October 10, 1956.

Torrance's population at that time was 82,241. Of these individuals, 41,228 are men, 41,013 are women. Racial break-down is as follows: 81,366 white; 875 non-white.

Among the white population, 40,783 are men, 40,583 are women. Among non-whites, 445 are men, 430 are women.

The median age for all classes is 25.6 years, with the median age for males being 26 years, for women 25.2 years.

Broken down racially, the median age is as follows: White—male, 26 years, female, 25.2 years; non-white—male, 27.4 years, female, 22.6 years.

Torrance's population growth since April, 1950, to October 10, 1956, represents an increase of 60,000 exactly, or 269.8 per cent, according to the report.



### PRESENT AT LAUNCHING

Top brass of the YMCA fund-raising drive were introduced at a kick-off dinner held Monday night. They are (l-r) Sam Levy, general chairman; Al Turner, community division (together with Dr. Rollin Smith, not shown); L. N. Gill, initial gifts division; Ed Raphael and Paul Diamond, business division; (rear, l-r) Dr. John Nursall, professional division; Bill Speck, church division; Sam Van Wagner, parents division; Gil Derouin, club division; Nelson Rucker, and C. C. Morgan, industrial division.—Press Photo



### YEARNIN' AFTER LEARNIN'

Stinky the Skunk decided last week to get an education. Filled with self-assurance, he paraded himself into Torrance elementary school. Principal D. Boone Kirks, who appreciates the desire for knowledge, did have to draw the line somewhere, though. He called Dean Martin, who specializes in skunk-ology. Martin, who raises skunks, took Stinky, who had learned his lesson, with him. No one suffered any ill after-effects. It was all good, clean fun.—Press Photo

## Residents Complain Of Homes

Residents living in the Torrance View Estates appeared before the Torrance City Council Tuesday night to register complaints about the condition of their homes.

The council referred the matter to John Russell, superintendent of building, for investigation and report.

The problem centers primarily around the condition of the floors and doors.

Sam Len, of Len Construction co., said that he plans to look into the matter this week. He said that matters needing correction are taken care of when the whole tract is completed.

He also stated that some of the problems have been corrected and that only a few homes are involved.

## Local Airport Breakfast Topic

The future of the Torrance municipal airport will be the topic for the monthly membership breakfast of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, February 19 at the YWCA building. It was announced today by Co-Chairmen Dale Sears and King Williams.

Members of the Airport Commission will be special guests of the Chamber and a report will be given by representatives from Quinton Engineers who have submitted a master plan for the airport.

## Grand Jury Investigation Of Hospitals Considered

A resolution asking for "a Grand Jury investigation of conditions existing in the Los Angeles county hospitals contrary to the public interest," will be presented for consideration at next Monday's meeting of the Torrance lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, Joseph Platt, civic affairs chairman, revealed this week.

Verbal communications reaching the Civic Affairs committee, according to Platt, "are strong in their complaint that patients in both Harbor and Los Angeles General hospitals are receiving haphazard care from county employees. Our organization," continued the Moose spokesman, "is not in a position to investigate the validity of these charges. We, do believe, however, that it is our duty to consider forwarding a request for investigation to the Grand Jury."

The resolution presented to the Moose membership will cite the lack of attention received by the patients, "infrequent change of bedding, sanitary care, and crowded conditions."

## Three Trips To Las Vegas Offered By Merchants

Three couples will have a chance to spend three nights and two days in Las Vegas, as part of the Dollar Day promotional activities sponsored by the Retail Merchants division of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The couples will fly to Las Vegas through the courtesy of Western Airlines.

Entry blanks may be obtained from participating merchants, who represent the leading stores in town, as of today, February 7.

The Dollar Day week-end will be held February 21-23, and winners will be announced Saturday, February 23.

There are no other requirements for participating except to fill out one of the blanks.

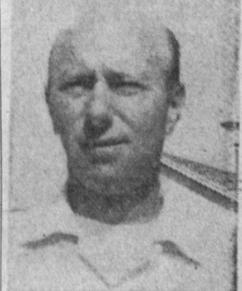
## Know Your Gold Seal Merchants

Gold Seal Merchants who are outstanding leaders in their particular fields have been selected for their integrity and honesty and are especially pledged to uphold the highest code of business ethics.

Displayed in their window will be a Gold Seal which is the symbol of satisfaction when shopping.



JAMES CASS, owner of CRESCENT EQUIPMENT RENTALS, 2073 Pacific Coast hwy., carries a complete line of power equipment for contractors and homeowners. He also specializes in plumbing equipment rentals, installations, repairs and remodeling, and the sale and installation of water heaters. Such nationally known plumbing fixtures as Standard Sanitary and Crane are included in his line of rental equipment. He has been well-established four years at his present Lomita location and was formerly in business in Manhattan Beach. He and his wife, Millicent, reside in Redondo Beach.



FLOYD V. MILLER, JR. has been in the fence and construction business for 3 years at his present location, 1636 W. 221st St. His construction company specializes in room additions, garages, remodeling, all types of home improvements, screen, weatherstripping and installation, fencing and concrete work of all kinds. It also includes floor refinishing and installation. He and his wife, Delta, have three children—Stephen 5, Frances 3, and Linda, 15 months. He is active in the JC's, Elks and is treasurer of the Civitans.