

# Torrance's Crazy All-Night Parking Law

There simply is not enough garage, carport, or driveway space in downtown Torrance to park the cars belonging to residents of the area.

The only alternative is to park on the street all night, which is prohibited in many places. Police on the graveyard shift, apparently alive to this dilemma, ignore many violations of no-parking between 2 and 5 a.m. and the street sweeper can't sweep.

This is obvious on Amapola, for example, where on the narrowest street in town cars are lined up on both sides night after night, all night. None ever is ticketed, although the street is posted.

Conversely, on Post Ave. cars are ticketed with a religious fervor for a time, then ignored.

There is an obvious and simple answer that would ease the entire situation for both police and parkers.

That is to prohibit all-night parking on one side of the street Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and on the opposite side Tuesday and Thursday.

Thus the street sweeper can sweep half of twice as many streets and catch the other sides on alternate nights.

Clean gutters would result, everybody could park near home, and violations would be cut to a minimum.

# Of Course Johnny Can't Read—Who Could?

Any perceptive driver today marvels not that there are so many accidents, but there are so few. Any parent treated to a specimen of the latest teaching methods will marvel not that so many children cannot read or spell, but that so many can.

Into each baby seems to be built a durability that can withstand anything, including the school system.

Last Monday those privileged to witness an exhibition put on for the city's school advisory committee must have departed bewildered, unless we have been reduced to a condition of accepting blindly anything the school system produces in place of instruction.

For a demonstration, eight adults were called to the platform and exposed to words created from an imaginary alphabet that resembled a combination of the Rosicrucian alphabet and Indian petroglyphs.

The object was to impress upon the audience the difficulty the poor, underpaid teacher has when exposing Johnny to a collection of unfamiliar symbols.

The principle of the demonstration was this: If &%\* spelled red, and K&%%æ spelled green, and ð&\$ spelled cat, we'd have a devil of a job reading the paper the first day.

It required nearly an hour to make this point. Who paid for the preparation was not mentioned. If teachers did it on school time, the taxpayers should be furious.

Except for its fallacies, the demonstration might serve to excuse the schools for their inability to teach reading.

If the letter R is unfamiliar to Johnny, it must have been omitted on every calendar in his house, from every headline he saw when reading on Daddy's lap, and from all the books Mommy read him at bedtime.

If the alphabet is unfamiliar by the time he hits first grade, he has come from an extremely unusual home. But since the alphabet is passe in modern teaching, this knowledge quickly will atrophy.

Apparently it has occurred to no one that 30 and 40 years ago Johnny DID learn to read—or else. We cannot recall a single illiterate in our classes. Perhaps the old system was abandoned because it did not provide group therapy and a sense of togetherness.

## Letters

### Praise for Multigrade

EDITOR THE PRESS:

This letter is in reply to an article appearing in The Press of Sunday, March 13, regarding multigrades in the Torrance Schools.

Recently I was a member of a group of visitors to Steele School to view the multigrades in action.

Your article quotes: "A member reported her visit to a multigrade class revealed a condition that was chaotic..."

We found "orderly disorder." In one class the children were engaged upon designing and building model airplanes. They worked together, were permitted to go about the room to get necessary tools and materials. It was obvious they were completely absorbed in the project, and while they answered freely questions we visitors had been encouraged to ask, this in no way interfered with their absorption.

Your article says: "Another mother, who took the regulation tour, said it comprised and hour of lectures on the merits of the school and five minutes inspection of a classroom."

At Steele School, we were invited into the principal's office and given a resume of the origin of the program and then OUR OWN QUESTIONS KEPT THE TOUR FROM COMMENCING.

This discussion period lasted for about half hour. We were then instructed to ask questions of the children in the classrooms regarding the work they were doing, and about anything we chose. After which we were invited into the classrooms. The guide stayed in the background and only briefed us on the nature of the class we were about to view, and, if a particular project were in progress, what it was.

In this unhurried and unrestricted fashion we visited at least 3 classes, and after about one hour, WE, THE PARENTS, MADE THE MOVE TO LEAVE (ALTHOUGH THE GUIDE INDICATED THERE WERE

OTHER CLASSES WE MIGHT CARE TO SEE) because most of us needed to be at home for children returning from school.

With no preconceived ideas regarding the multigrades, I was enormously impressed with the independence displayed by the children. In discussing the visit with the other members of the group, they appeared to feel the same way. One of the more interesting features of the tour was the equanimity with which even the younger children could accept a group of "intruders."

Their social development was notable. Nothing appeared to be put on for our benefit. If this were the case, one can only assume that the teachers and pupils at Steele school are the greatest actors in California!

As for the other matters discussed in your article: "Freedom of teachers to speak with impunity" merits considerable consideration, one feels.

Realistically, no employee feels free to speak with impunity. Diplomacy and tact are surely the important watchwords where human relations are concerned. A teacher, it seems to me, would no more feel free to speak her mind freely than would a physician or an executive. Each would speak with reservations.

Since the program is voluntary to parents, at any rate, those parents who feel they cannot accept its precepts are free to refuse to have their children placed in the multigrades. Surely this "committee" is aware that in each of the schools where multigrade is in progress, there is a waiting list of children whose parents are eager to have the benefits of multigrade incorporated into the children's education. It is the privilege of the parents to reject this program, and many will.

As for this family, we eagerly await the commencement of multigrades in the Jefferson School, feeling that it cannot but benefit our two children.

HANNAH SAMPSON  
4210, CARMEN ST.



HONORED—Charles Deck of Torrance receives commendation of Neftali Sanchez, president, Association of Blinded Veterans for work in public relations for the group.

## Charles Deck Honored by Scroll, Membership in Veterans' Group

Charles Deck, of 20513 Toluca Ave., who heads a civic committee on public relations for the Blinded Veterans Association of Southern California, received a scroll and honorary membership in the organization from Neftali Sanchez, president, at the annual dinner at the Los Angeles Press Club in the Ambassador.

Sanchez said, "Mr. Deck has been of great help to the blind veterans in their public-relations work and in also heading a committee which recruits personnel to aid the blind veterans in their work of obtaining jobs for the blind." Many have been placed in Los Angeles industry and government positions.

In accepting the award Deck, who is a sheriff's deputy and member of the county Suggestion Ward Board, said he would like to appeal to all people who have extra time to donate to this cause to contact the Blind Veterans' headquarters at 306 W. third St., Los Angeles.

The Board of Supervisors recently praised the blind veterans in their rehabilitation work.



RETIRED—Samuel C. Humer of 1313 1/2 Portola Ave. has retired after 34 years with the Pacific Electric Railway Co.

## Mobil Oil's New Delayed Coking Facility Largest

Mobil Oil Co. today announced a new delayed-coking unit, now going on stream, gives its Torrance refinery one of the largest delayed-coking installations in the world.

The new unit, with a daily output of 98000 barrels, increases Torrance coking capacity to 35,000 barrels a day, equal to the entire output of many refineries.

The new facilities, constructed by Bechtel Corp., cost more than \$4,500,000.

Mobil officials explained the new installation is particularly useful to the Torrance refinery because much of the crude supply is low-gravity heavy oil. The operation helps make saleable products such as gasoline and coke out of the low-value ends of the crude-oil barrel.

"It is a practical adjustment to changing supply-and-demand situation," said R. E. Lauterbach, Mobil's general manager of Southern California manufacturing.

"Increased imports of natural gas into this area and passage of Rule 62 of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District which prohibits the burning of fuel oil during the so-called smog season have resulted in a reduction in the consumption of fuel oil. Mobil Oil Company expanded its Torrance coking facilities in order to compensate for this marketing situation and make the best possible use of its crude supply."

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