

'Back-to-School' Merchants Stay Open Friday, Saturday Evenings

RECORD ENROLLMENT PREDICTED AS KIDS RETURN TO CLASSROOMS

City Sweats In Record Heat Wave

EDITED in Torrance — PRINTED in Torrance — OWNED by Torrance Folks — SINCE 1914

TORRANCE HERALD

31st YEAR—No. 36

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA — THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1949

Twenty Pages



George Thatcher Resigns School Board Position

George P. Thatcher's long expected resignation from his position on the Torrance Board of Education became official Tuesday night.

At a meeting of the school board, Thatcher, who until last month lived at 2908 Newton street in Waverly, stated that a change in his sales territory effected by the firm for which he works, has made it necessary for him to move from the school district.

Since he and his family now resides in San Marino, Thatcher is no longer eligible for Board membership.

Last year Thatcher served as vice president of the school governing body. His current resignation becomes effective October 1; his position on the School Board will be filled by appointment from the other four members within 30 days.

While the resignation of Thatcher had been anticipated for some time, members of the Board Tuesday night did not discuss any persons whom they had under study to fill the vacancy.

It has been learned, however, that since the Board meeting a written communication strongly endorsing Raymond E. Hole, a United States government engineer by the Board signed by the Hollywood Riviera Home Owners Association and the Seaside Ranchos Homeowners, Inc. Mr. and Mrs. Hole own their home at 816 Calle de Arboles, Hollywood Riviera. They have two children of elementary school age.

'REGISTER NOW' MINORS URGED

Twenty-year-olds who will be 21 by the November 8 election will have their first chance to vote—if they register by next Thursday.

According to the county registrar of voters, any citizen who is 21 and has been in the state a year and in the precinct 54 days by November 8 also is eligible to vote.



GEORGE P. THATCHER
... resignation official now.

Panel Studies Inter-C of C Relationship

Hopes for working out a basis for co-operation between the newly formed Junior Chamber of Commerce and the senior Torrance Chamber of Commerce now rests with a joint committee composed of three directors from the senior Chamber and three officers of the new Junior group.

This was the agreement reached Tuesday afternoon after a rather frank and extended conference between eight directors and officers of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and five officers and directors from the Junior body.

Pussycat, Pussycat...

Capricious Cat Causes Considerable Confusion

Police Chief John H. Stroh, on hands and knees, peered up into the abysmal darkness between the gasoline tank and the body of the car. A pair of green eyes peered right back.

"There's your cat!" he announced with triumph. The lady, who Wednesday afternoon had driven her car into the police station lot because she "kept hearing meowing noises," started scating and shoeing; Chief Stroh, capably assisted by other members of the Torrance police force scattered and shooed too.

Their efforts finally were rewarded when a small black cat gingerly stepped down from underneath the car. However, before anyone could flash his badge, it scurried across the lot and disappeared under Chief Stroh's car.

Miffed, the Chief jumped into his car and rased the motor. With the police in hot and aggravated pursuit, kitty nixed into the police station, avoided the desk sergeant and ducked behind a filing cabinet. From there—after listening to threats and official demands—it took off sure-footedly across the slick floor, ran out the door, across the alley, and concealed itself within the protective labyrinth of the fire station's equipment.

There, for the first time, strategy was employed; a saucer of milk was put down. Soon, the cat emerged, lapped up the milk, and with black fur unruined and tail held high, flounced out of the station. Torrance's departments of law, order and fire protection went back to routine.



BACK TO SCHOOL... the revolting development" which faces some 3698 Torrance youths Monday is greeted with mixed emotions at the Back to School dance at the Civic Auditorium last Saturday night.

RECORD 97 NOTED AT STATION

A sidewalk scorching, seat squirming, collar twisting heat blew into town yesterday, drove the mercury to a record 97 degrees and sent hundreds down to the beach.

It was hot. And it's going to stay hot. A brassy sun and a furnace-like wind off the desert started the mercury climbing early yesterday morning. By 10:30 a.m., the thermometer atop the Torrance Fire Station was perched at the 97 mark, subsided slightly in later hours, but hovered in the high 80's until the sun went down.

The mark was the highest registered in Torrance this year, surpassing the 96 degree mark reached on August 27.

Officials at the U. S. Weather Bureau predicted very little relief from the heat for today. Temperatures are slated to remain in the low 90 bracket. Although uncomfortable, the heat was not responsible for the flow of hospital cases at Harbor General Hospital yesterday, it was reported.

Date Set for Arraignment

Homer F. Neal, who after eluding police for 12 weeks was trapped near the home of his wife here, will be arraigned before a Long Beach superior court Sept. 23.

He is being held by Long Beach police under \$25,000 bail to answer to two counts of attempted murder and one count of arson. Date of the court trial will be set at the arraignment. At a preliminary hearing last week, Neal denied implication in an incident which nearly took the lives of a middle-aged Long Beach couple on June 4.

At that time Mr. and Mrs. Theodore R. Raymond suffered first, second and third degree burns when gasoline was tossed into their bedroom and ignited.

Open or Closed?

City Leaders Ponder Fate of Swim Pool Construction

Will Torrance's swimming pool be of the open air variety or will it be enclosed?

The question was high on the agenda when members of the City Council, the Board of Education and the Recreation Commission met for discussion last week at the City Hall. No decision was reached.

In line with a recent appropriation of \$25,000 for the purchase of a pool site adjacent to Torrance High School, J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, declared that the school system will maintain and supervise the pool when it is built if the City Council so desires.

At the same time City Attorney C. Douglass Smith cautioned the council that subsequent city governments could divert the presently appropriated pool money to other projects if they so desired. The council can not legally "tie up" the allotted \$25,000 for pool construction. (Continued on Page 2)

Football Great Slated As First Youth Rally Speaker

Torrance youth Sunday evening will jam the First Methodist Church auditorium to hear Mike Marienthal, nationally known athlete and World War II hero, speak at what is expected to be the largest city-wide youth rally staged in this community. Marienthal, particularly liked

as a speaker for his advice to the feminine sex on "How to Watch a Football Game," will relate his experiences on both the gridiron and the battle field. Also on hand will be Torrance High School's Athletic Director and grid coach Eddie Cole with members of 1949 edition of the Tartar varsity. Cole (Continued on Page 8)

'Shooting War' Against Flies Now Underway

Two months of appeal, legislation and paper work, put forth by the people of Torrance in an effort to rid their city of flies, reached successful climax last week.

The "shooting" war against flies is under way.

While the city awaited delivery of its own fly spraying gear, Jack Olson, of a pest control firm of the same name, Friday morning completed a short course of instruction of park department personnel who will be at the helm of the city's fly fight when its new equipment arrives. In a two-day demonstration,

Olson sprayed streets and alleys in North Torrance and the picnic grounds at Torrance Municipal Park. City personnel declared "they would be ready to go" as soon as the new spraying units come in.

At the same time, Boy Scout Troops in the Torrance area will distribute educational leaflets prepared by the Fly Abatement Committee of Torrance. To be delivered to housewives, the leaflets list 14 steps necessary to curb the breeding of flies.

Three full Scout troops, headed during the drive by Scoutmaster Bob Maxwell, will be utilized for leaflet distribution.

3,698 Ready To Start School Monday

Here is what may be a revolting reminder to 3,698 Torrance kids: School starts Monday!

When it does, there will be several notable changes in the school setup—and a record number of students to note them. The largest number of students in the history of the Torrance Unified School District—some 486 more than last year's record 3,212 will trek back to the old grind. However, the word is that school officials are ready to handle them.

All seventh grade students who would normally move into junior high school will continue to attend the same school they did last semester. Only notable exception are those students who live within the new Seaside Ranchos School district who will attend the new school instead of returning to Waverly Elementary.

Eighth grade students now attending the Junior High School will attend classes at Torrance High School. For this year only, the local high school will have five grades—eight through 12.

Reason for this unusual arrangement, explained Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull, is that the school system is in the process of switching from a "2-2-4" meaning six year in elementary school, two years in junior high, and four years in senior high—to the "3-4" system, eight years in elementary school and four years in high school.

For those parents not certain which school their offspring

(Continued on Page 2)

Cutback at Navy Supply Annex Seen

The projected government cutback of Navy activity in the harbor area will, when completed, result in a 50 percent reduction of personnel at the Torrance Naval Supply Annex, the Herald learned yesterday.

The annex, which utilizes 90 acres, employs 75 persons—all civilians.

Although naval officers indicated "there was no official word on the subject," it was learned that Captain George Duffly, supply officer in command of the San Pedro Naval Supply Depot—of which the local installation is an annex—Tuesday morning flew to Washington, D. C. where he is expected to confer with government leaders relative a proposed slow-down at the San Pedro depot.

200 'HOT ROD' RACERS REPORTED

A report that "about 200 hot rods" were racing on Sepulveda boulevard near Hawthorne boulevard was phoned to Torrance Police Tuesday by Mrs. A. E. Thomas of 22401 Ocean avenue. Redondo Beach Police who gave chase to the "hot rodders" were unable to overtake them.



CLEAN REMINDER... of what will be a typical scene after Torrance schools open Monday is given by Mrs. Edward Hansen as he gives her five-year-old son Eric a little early preparation. Eric, who lives at 1220 Elm street, will trek off to Fern Avenue school. —Herald Photo.

Construction Started on \$19,000 State Social Welfare Office

Construction started Tuesday on Torrance's branch office building of the State Department of Social Welfare. Site of construction is 1603 Cravens avenue.

Announcement of the establishment of the office which will process aged and blind application for state financial assistance

in this area, came from the offices of Mrs. Myrtle Williams, state director of social welfare.

The welfare office, with a staff of 30 workers is scheduled to move into the new building November 1 and will occupy virtually all of the space in the 3,250 square-foot structure.

The office will operate as a branch of the Inglewood welfare headquarters and will serve applications for state financial aid from residents of Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach.

The Hahn-St. John Co., of Hawthorne are contractors for building construction. The state negotiated lease agreements with Ben Langstaff, builder, of Gardena.

Clearing of the lot at the corner of Cravens and Marcellina avenues was started late last month. The structure will be built mainly of concrete block at a cost of \$19,000, according to building permits filed at the Torrance City Hall.

FIFTEEN 'NICKED' BY PICKPOCKET AT PARTY

Fifteen celebrants at a free spending flamboyant party, staged Saturday night at the Hollywood Riviera Club House by a Syrian-Lebanon society, fell victims to the deft touch of a pickpocket.

Responding to a call from George Asfour, of Burbank, who was one of those at the party, police learned that Asfour had

been "relieved" of \$82 in cash and \$150 in checks. An employee of the Club House told police that the wallets of 14 others had been subjected to the same treatment but could not estimate the total amount taken.

For local police, the pickpocket complaint was the second they received from the gala meeting—tapped the Great Pacific Maharajan—an annual event of the Syrian-Lebanon American Society.

Earlier, celebrants called police to complain that a nude man had attempted to "crash" their party. According to police reports, the man had shoved his fist through one of the windows and was treated for lacerations of the arm.

The evening hours this week, are expected to remedy the situation.

Minor Mishap Marsh Holiday

It remained for an out-of-towner to mar this city's otherwise unblemished Labor Day weekend traffic mark.

Dorothy Wright, 1100 El Prado, was treated for slight injuries at the Torrance Medical Center after the car in which she was a passenger overturned at Torrance boulevard and Maple avenue.

Harold Wright, of Phoenix, Ariz., driver told police he failed to see a curve in the road.