

CITY SWELTERS UNDER HEAT WAVE



HEAT BEATER . . . About to take a dip in the popular Hollywood Riviera Beach Club pool to beat the summer heat is Nancy Bentley, 225 Calle Mayor. Adding a pitcher of ice water assures Nancy her dip will be a real heat-beater. (Herald photo).

Heat, Humidity Send Thousands To Beach Areas

"It ain't the heat but the humidity," is the way one phrase-maker described the weather once, but Torrance residents were convinced this week that it was both as the summer's first extended heat wave sent the kids looking for swimming holes, and the old folks looking for shade.

Thousands thronged the beaches in the area Sunday as the mercury hit 80. The beaches continued to be popular spots with those who could get away later this week as the temperature hit 83 on Monday and 84 on Tuesday.

Weather bureau officials could offer little hope of relief yesterday. At that time they forecast scattered high cloudiness and early morning fog and low clouds near the coast for today. Little change in temperatures was expected.

Much of the discomfort of the week's heat was the humidity that accompanied it, according to weather officials. The humidity was measured at 44 per cent in Los Angeles Tuesday.

Four Day Landmark Disappears

Like the little guy in the comic strip, local residents finally lost the cloud they had been walking around under since Thursday when the big Union Oil plant fire finally was snuffed out at the Wilmington refinery.

Described by some sources as "the worst oil fire in Southern California history," the blaze burned out officially at 4:42 a.m. Monday after demolishing five tanks and doing some \$2,000,000 worth of damage.

Hundreds of firemen and company workers fought the fire in heat which ranged as high as 150 degrees. A sixth tank was saved when firemen using boat-hooks, turned off two valves.

Three persons were injured in the holocaust. Two were released from the hospital last week-end and the third was held under observation for a head injury.

Normal production is expected to be reached in the next few days according to company officials.

Just for Practice:

U. S. ARMY 'OUSTS' TOP CITY OFFICIAL

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'52 Tax Bubble Bursts

School Tax Will Hold At '51 Level

Bursting like a soap bubble this week were hopes that the Torrance Board of Education would be able to drop the local school tax 20 cents for the coming year.

Presented to the Board Tuesday night by Emmett Ingram, business manager of the local district, was the "Published Budget" which is based on last year's rate of \$2.887 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

The local board, viewing a \$48,000,000 school aid bill before the state legislature and estimating an increase in the assessed valuation of the city of approximately ten per cent had hopes of being able to finance the \$1,690,740 budget for the coming year with a 20 cent drop in the tax rate of last year.

Two developments threw the board's plan into a cocked hat. The legislature granted only \$13,000,000 for school aid and secondly, the city's worth climbed only six per cent.

Actually the Board considers itself fortunate in view of these developments in being able to hold the line on the tax rate and not upping it to pay for two major items in the budget which climbed considerably since last year.

COSTS RISE
Jumping were the cost of operation of school plants and teacher salaries. The first was caused by the addition of four new school plants which will be placed in operation within the district next year. The second major budget item, teacher salaries, jumped because of the increased number of teachers and administrators which will have

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FRIEND OR FOE? . . . Ousted from office this week was Mayor Bob L. Haggard shown getting a helping hand from members of the U. S. Army Military Government who "occupied" the city during a one-day maneuver Tuesday morning. The city's chief executive was routed to a screening area where interrogators (according to their practice dope sheets) discovered the Mayor to be "unfriendly" to the occupation troops. Pictured with the Mayor are Capt. Joseph D. Addario, Pvt. Charles Timms, Major Donald A. Stewart, and Pfc. Max K. Justice. (Herald photo).

'Murder Mile' Survey Underway By State

A way to end the bloody record being established at the "Dark Corner," Pacific Coast highway and Newton street in the middle of "Murder Mile" is currently being investigated by the California Division of Highways.

Los Angeles representatives of the state agency indicated "we should have the results of our investigation ready for recommendation within a month."

Demand for some traffic control measures to be installed at the intersection, scene of one death and 59 injuries during the past three years, was made by City Manager George W. Stevens. His demand for the investigation followed a few days later after the intersection chalked up its bloodiest record when 13 persons were injured within 24 hours during the week-end of June 23 and 24.

Joining in and adding his weight to the demand was Assemblyman Vincent Thomas who wrote the state asking for an investigation of the bloody intersection. Also asking for state assistance was Everett Balcom, president of the Pacific Hills Homeowner's Association. Membership of the association is comprised of many new home owners in the vicinity of the intersection.

Although the intersection is within the city of Torrance local city officials are hog-tied as far as taking steps to erect any traffic control devices at the intersection since it is on a state highway. If the Sacramento headquarters approves of any recommendation for traffic control devices, bids for the installation probably would be let here. Work could be started by October, it was estimated by Stevens.

Vetterli Faces Prison Term On Perjury Charges

Awaiting sentencing this week following his conviction on two counts of perjury is Clarence H. Vetterli, 41-year-old El Camino College journalism instructor.

A jury in the court of U. S. Judge Pierson M. Hall last Thursday handed down its guilty verdict on counts that (1) Vetterli lied when he said he didn't know that Ignacy Witczak was a Communist spy; and (2) that he lied when he denied providing funds for a Japanese-American's trip to Tokyo in 1941 to work against the Japanese military clique.

IN COUNTY JAIL
His \$10,000 cash bail exonerated, Vetterli was remanded to County Jail to await sentence on Monday, July 23. Possible maximum penalty on each of the two counts is five years in prison and a \$5000 fine.

Charges against the El Camino instructor grew out of his appearance before a Federal grand jury in 1949. The grand jury was investigating espionage activities at that time.

The grand jury indictment charged that Vetterli falsely denied providing funds for Ichiro (Red) Miwa, young Japanese-American, who to Tokyo in 1941 to work against the Tojo-led military government of Japan; and that he denied knowing that Ignacy Witczak was a Communist agent.

NAMED A RED
Witczak, an associate of Vetterli in 1941, was later named as Communist agent during the Canadian atomic bomb spy investigations in early 1945. He escaped from the United States and has not been heard from since.

The prosecution scored heavily last Wednesday with testimony by Franklin Patterson, teacher at Claremont, that Witczak approached him in 1941 with an offer to become an agent in South America. Patterson testified that Witczak admitted being a member of the Communist party.

The Claremont instructor said he told Vetterli about it but that Vetterli "froze up" and said nothing.

Army Takes Over City Government During Maneuver

Liberation of the city of Torrance from the enemy country of "Agressi" was accomplished with dispatch Tuesday morning and a Military Government Reserve unit moved in to supervise the city's government for the day.

"UNFRIENDLY"
Declared "unfriendly" after a screening by the military government was Mayor Bob Haggard. Fire Chief J. J. Benner, Police Chief John Strohm, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. J. H. Hull also were "oust-ed."

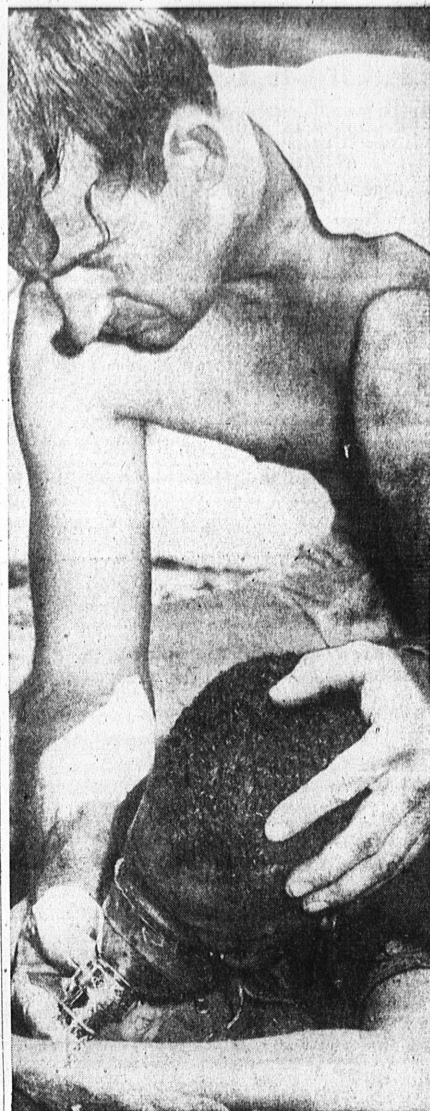
Left on the job was City Manager George Stevens and lesser administrative officials. "There was little resistance to the 'liberation' forces as they passed through earlier, and the townfolk displayed only mild interest in the occupation of their city. Of chief concern to the government troops entering Torrance were city officials and administrators who were immediately 'screened' to determine their friendliness toward the occupying force.

It was all hypothetical, however, and the only ones who took the "occupation" seriously were the nearly 60 officers and men of the 424th Military Government Company who made up the occupation government.

The company arrived at the City Hall shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday and immediately rounded up the top officials to witness the raising of the United States Flag over the City Hall and to hear the proclamation of the commander representing the United Nations. Maj. Donald A. Stewart, commanding the unit in Torrance, read the proclamation.

OTHERS OCCUPIED
Other cities "taken over" by the Army for the day included Long Beach, Huntington Park, and South Gate. Redondo Beach was under the occupation government yesterday in the final phase of the training program.

Time out from "occupation" duties were taken by Col. John B. Shepard, commanding officer (Continued on Page 4)



WATER TRAGEDY . . . Death won its race against Fire Captain E. Evans Monday as he tried vainly to bring back life into the stilled lungs of 13-year old Ernest Austin, one of three boys who drowned in the slimy waters of a near-by slough. (Herald photo by Jack Baldwin).

In Nearby Slough:

'Close It Up' Demand Residents as 3 Drown

Virtually at the same moment that near-by residents were signing a petition demanding the closing of Nigger Slough, three boys, one an orphan fell from a raft and drowned in the stagnant waters on Monday morning.

Yesterday Supervisor Raymond V. Darby in a Supervisors meeting in Los Angeles asked the County Council and Flood Control District to "see what they could do about closing the slough."

Darby was in possession of a petition signed by more than 250 persons living in the vicinity of the slough.

SCENE OF TRAGEDY
Scene of Monday's tragedy was a tule-surrounded pool of moss-laden, murky water slough south of 190th street, between Figueroa and Main streets.

The three victims, all newspaper carrier boys, were: Roy Bent, Wimerly, 11 of 13303 Crocker avenue.

Ronald Lee Thomas, 10, 13223 Towne avenue.

Ernest Austin, 13, 13228 Towne avenue.

A divers rig, grappling hooks, and "skin divers" all were used in the attempt to locate the bodies of the victims. The bodies were finally recovered as Los Angeles County firemen and volunteers used grappling hooks from a boat rushed to the scene by Walter Cook, 18518 South Broadway.

ADRENALIN NO HELP
Dr. Rachel Jenkins of the Hillside Clinic administered caffeine and adrenalin in the hearts of the victims but with no success. Their bodies were removed to Stone and Myers Mortuary pending funeral arrangements.

Deputy Sheriff Barney Dodge with Detective Lieutenant C. E. Gregory and Deputy W. Nickens administered artificial respiration to the drowned youths for an hour before Dr. Jenkins pronounced the victims dead.

THREE SURVIVED
With the three victims at the time of the disaster were three other boys, two of them brothers of two of the victims.

Survivors of accident and ensuing death struggle were: Fred Wimerly, 15, brother of Roy.

Charles Thomas, 13, brother of Ronald; and Anthony Wynne, 12, 13303 Towne avenue.

Across the chest of Charles were deep finger nail scratches gouged there by his brother whom Charles vainly tried to help.

Fred, brother of one of the three victims, tried also to get (Continued on Page 4)

Bob Faren Elected To Top Legion Post

Robert R. "Bob" Faren, 52-year-old veteran of World War I, was elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post of the American Legion here Tuesday night in a close race with Jim Wilkes.

Faren captured the top Legion post with 30 votes, Wilkes polled 26. Faren lives at 2419* Cabrillo avenue with his wife, Virginia, and 14-year-old son Richard, who will be a freshman at Torrance High this fall.

The new Legion commander succeeds Jimmy Parks who has held top spot for the past year. Faren is employed by the city in the parks department. First vice-commander for the coming year will be Harry Green. Stanley Heiman was elected second vice-commander, and Joseph Platt is adjutant.

Returned to his office as chaplain of the post was C. J. "Paddy" Ryan.

Other officers include Verne Babcock, finance officer; Ken Cunningham, service officer; William Dymond, sergeant-at-arms. Lyle O'Hara, James Baudin, and James Wilkes were named to the executive committee.



ROBERT R. FAREN
... Legion Commander



SMOKING IN THE BALCONY PERMITTED . . . Better than ring side seats were those enjoyed by four Torrance youths who watched the Wilmington oil refinery fire last Thursday from camp stools perched across the peak of a garage on 234th street at Falena avenue. (Herald photo).

(Additional Photo Page 6)