

Much of City Flooded in Week-End Rain Storm



SOMETHING NEW . . . A group of youngsters inspect a newly-formed "lake" in Seaside Ranchos. Rain waters flooded the vacant lots in a small valley, making a temporary lake.

One adventurous youth is shown taking a jaunt on a rubber raft. Picture was taken Sunday morning. (Herald photo).



TRY USING A BOAT . . . A milk tank truck is temporarily stranded in extra large puddle at intersection of Wilkie and 164th streets last Saturday. Four feet of water filled the intersection. Street resembled canal during rain. (Herald photo).



A BRAVE CHARACTER . . . A motorist tempts fate, and a stalled motor, as he enters the intersection of Arlington and 166th street Sunday morning. Nearly two feet of water swirled over the 166th street "river" during the weekend. This picture, looking west, shows why some home owners were ready to trade cars for motor boats. (Herald photo).

City Digs Out of Mud After Rain

Torrance residents today were trading in their raincoats for heavier clothing as a cold wave blanketed the area after one of the wettest weekends on record hit the city.

Many local persons spent the pre-New Year's weekend baling rain water out of basements as 2.87 inches of water inundated many streets, slowed down auto traffic to almost a halt and drove all but the hardiest pedestrians off the sidewalks.

Hardest hit by the rains were areas in North Torrance and Hollywood Riviera. Two blocks of West 164th street, between Arlington and Crenshaw resembled a canal much more than a road Saturday morning, as swirling waters obliterated the pavement and curbs, rising to a height of nearly two feet.

The intersection of Wilkie and 166th streets had some four feet of water in it during the height of the rain. A big milk tank truck was held up in the intersection by the flooding waters.

Paseo de Gracia in Hollywood Riviera was inundated by nearly two feet of water over the weekend. Home owners reported that the water which "overran" the curbs did not do any damage to houses.

Hawthorne boulevard between Sepulveda and Pacific Coast highway also was flooded out Saturday, as was 223rd street between Denker and Normandie.

In the downtown area, five-points intersection again was covered with water, and huge puddles disrupted traffic on Cabrillo and Torrance boulevards. The surging rain water left many motorists stranded, as streets leading to their driveways became impassable. Many others were temporarily marooned as water prevented them from getting their cars on the road.

As farmers were rejoicing over the welcome rainfall, residents of the El Camino Homes tract, facing the first heavy rain in the newly-opened subdivision, were threatening legal action against the subdivider.

Irate residents of the tract, bordered by Crenshaw, Arlington, 164th and 164th, said during the height of the storm that they would seek damages against Wagner Realty Company. The residents said that information furnished them, and signed by D. D. Watson, California real estate commissioner, guaranteed that free school bus service would be provided for their children.

No such service has yet been provided, a group of the home owners said Saturday.

They pointed out that the heavy rains made it extremely dangerous for young children to walk to school on such heavy traffic routes as Crenshaw boulevard, which has no sidewalks for pedestrians.

It is also dangerous for their children's health, they said. Almost every street in the El Camino Homes tract was submerged under water. In many places the water surged up over curbs, covering lawns and driveways.

The flood control channel which crosses through North Torrance was swollen to capacity during the height of the weekend rain. Sunday emergency county crews went to work removing debris from the drainage pipes which go underneath Arlington avenue.

Weekend rainfall put Torrance more than four inches ahead of last year's total at the same time. So far the winter season has brought 4.83 inches of rain here, in contrast to the meager .81 inches that fell in a comparable time a year ago.

The Torrance Fire Department, which keeps the rainfall table, reported that 1.68 inches fell Saturday, and 1.19 inches on Sunday for a storm total of 2.87. This season's total is just about normal.

Prisoner Escapes From Road Camp

Dewey Duck Rockett, of Los Angeles, escaped Friday from County Road Camp No. 7 in Rolling Hills, sheriff's deputies reported.

Rockett was dressed in prisoner garb when he left the camp from which he was to have been released Aug. 3.

Rain Increases Drowning Hazard At Bixby Slough

The drowning hazard at the ill-famed Bixby Slough has been greatly increased by recent rains, parents were warned this week by Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

Darby urged that parents caution their children about approaching the edges of the slough which have been filled by recent rains.

The Supervisor said that county flood control engineers have surveyed the area on his orders and found that, while the water level has not risen greatly, rain has filled depressions around the slough perimeter.

The normal patrol of the area will continue, Darby stated.

Services Friday For H. W. Field

Henry Willard Field, former chief gauger for CCMO, died Tuesday at Harbor General Hospital. He was 74.

Funeral services for Mr. Field will be held Friday at 2 p.m. in Stone and Myers Chapel, with Rev. John E. Orr, former pastor of the Lomita Presbyterian Church, officiating. Interment will be in Green Hills cemetery.

Mr. Fields retired from work four years ago. He lived with his wife at 23624 Narbonne avenue. His widow, Mrs. Virginia F. Field, was the librarian at the Lomita library for several years.

A graduate of Stanford University, Mr. Field was a classmate and lifelong friend of Herbert Hoover. He is a cousin of poet Eugene Field, and was a native of Vermont.

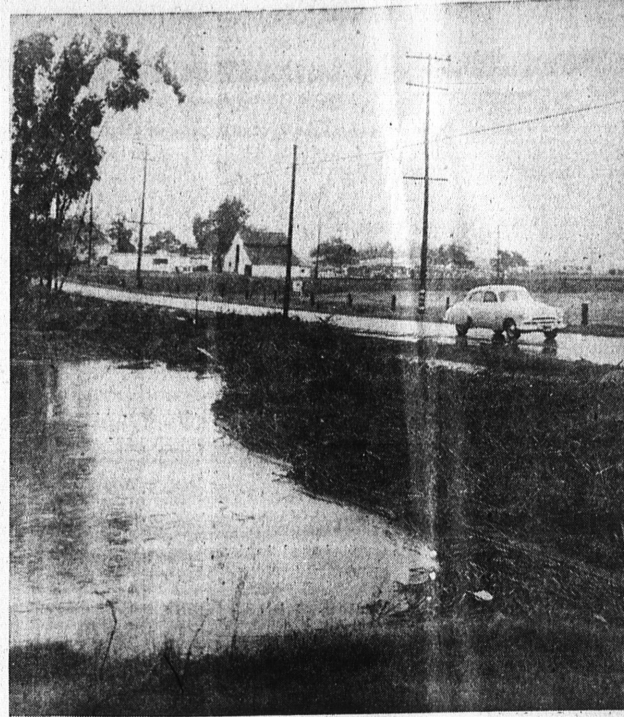
Besides his widow, Mr. Field is survived by two brothers, Allen D. Field of San Francisco and Russell B. Field of Alameda; a sister, Mrs. C. R. Peck of La Jolla, and a niece, Mrs. Catherine S. Pinkston of Wilmington.

Another brother, Charles, who died in 1948, was editor of Sunset magazine for several years.

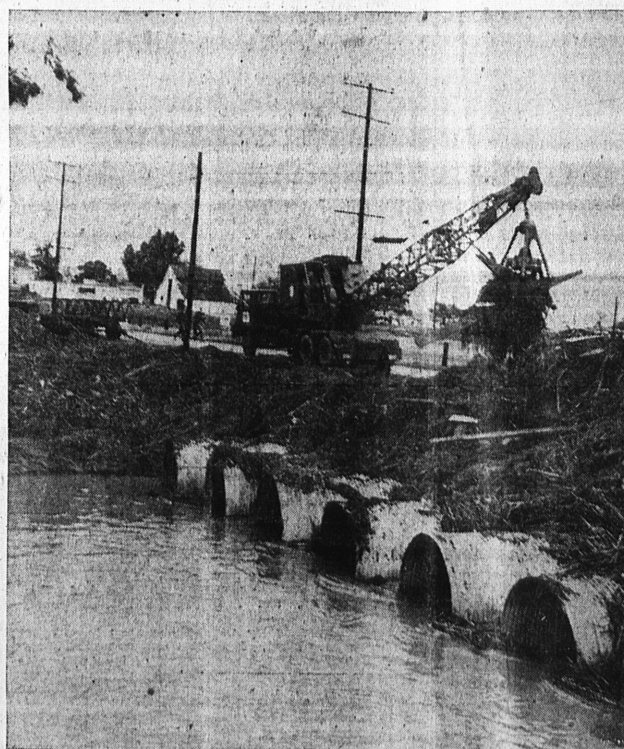
Capping Machine Patent Issued

A patent on a container capping machine has been issued to Howard R. Ames of Lomita, it was reported today.

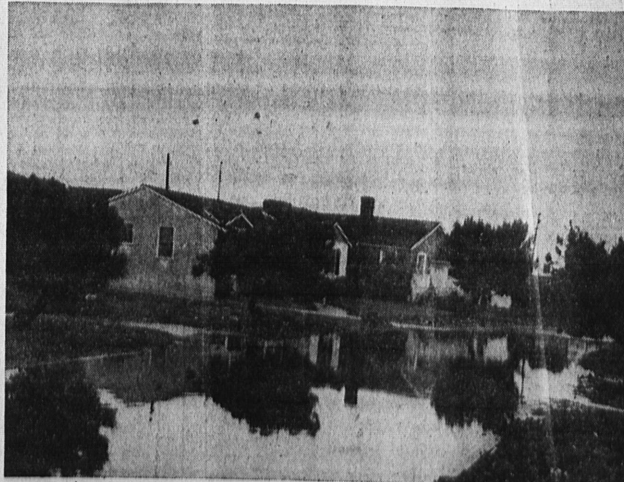
**It Won't Always Be This Wet—
Vote 'Yes' for Water
Next Tuesday**



ROAD THREATENED . . . Water from the Flood Control channel which runs between 166th and 174th streets threatened to cut off Arlington avenue when this photo was made at noon last Saturday during the height of the rain storm. (Herald photo).



CLEANUP CREW . . . County Flood Control crews clean the debris out of the Arlington Flood Control channel Sunday following the heavy rains which overloaded the drainage system. Tons of sticks, leaves and other "junk" were taken from the channel where it goes under Arlington avenue. (Herald photo).



IT'S REALLY A ROAD . . . This Hollywood Riviera street, Paseo de Gracia, looked more like an old Naples canal Sunday morning. Rain, coupled with little drainage, played havoc with motorists attempting to get in and out of their driveways. (Herald photo).