

City Employees Granted Five Per Cent Pay Boost

New Elementary School Proposed for East Torrance

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YOUTHFUL COOK CONFESSES TO STAGING FAKE HOLDUP



IN THE WHITE HOUSE . . . Jack White, president of the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, shown here with his family, tossed his hat into the ring yesterday when he filed his nominating petition indicating he would be a candidate for one of the three vacancies on the Torrance City Council during the election in April. Pictured with him at the family home, 4308 W. 178 Pl., are his wife, Emy, and their three children, David 15 months, Leo, 4 and Denna, 9. (Herald photo).

Civic Group Leader Enters Council Race

From North Torrance this week came Jack White, president of the area's civic improvement group, to toss his hat into the ring as a candidate for City Council.

White, a tooling liaison engineer at Hughes Culver City aircraft plant, filed his nominating petition with the city clerk yesterday afternoon.

In the ring also is the cap of City Councilman Ed Karlov, who was appointed to the Council a year ago to succeed George Powell, currently the city's assistant director of civil defense.

Agents Sign New Contract

Settlement of the 81-day-old strike of AFL Insurance Agents Union against the Prudential Life Insurance Co. was affirmed Tuesday with the announcement that the agents had voted to accept the terms of a new contract agreed upon between company and union negotiators Sunday.

Harry C. Harper, manager of the South Bay District office here, said that all the local agents were back on the job yesterday.

The strike, which began Dec. 1, has been described as the longest strike of white-collar workers in U. S. labor history. It resulted from a disagreement over what pay increases should be provided in a new contract between the union and the company.

The contract approved by the company and union officials Sunday and accepted by agents Tuesday calls for wage increases of approximately \$5.40 a week to the average agent.

The new contract does not include a closed or union shop agreement which the union had sought. It does make provisions for return of contributions made to the agents' retirement fund during 1951. This will give about \$150 refund to each man, company officials said.

Zeke Hurt In Cycle Spill

Policeman H. G. "Zeke" Treise was injured Saturday when his three-wheeled motorcycle overturned on Western Ave. when he was being towed to the city garage.

The tire-marking officer suffered a severe sprained ankle and probably won't return to work until tomorrow or Saturday. He was treated at the Medical Center and taken home.

City Workers Given Monthly Wage Increase

A five per cent, \$15 minimum, monthly cost of living wage hike was granted to all city employees by the City Council following approval of a recommendation made by Mayor Bob L. Haggard Wednesday night.

And a city-wide salary schedule and position classification survey will be undertaken by City Manager George Stevens so that revised wage scales can be adopted, if necessary, when the new fiscal year coffers are tapped on July 1.

In submitting the 5-per-cent plan Haggard said he had conferred with Stevens and felt that a percentage sliding increase was more suitable and equitable than the flat per month wage plan which had been suggested.

Soon after the council oked the wage increase, a letter from Local 1135, Government and Civil Employees Organizing Council-CIO was read, which asked for a straight across-the-board \$50 monthly boost plus other pension and days off provisions.

The city councilmen were slated to meet with employee council members Robert Faren, Gus Weber, Sherman Miller, Everett Wallace, F. L. Fritz and Director H. H. Dalrymple last night.

An interim wage increase was granted to police sergeants and fire department engineers when their salary schedule was upped one step. Sergeants will now earn from \$283-\$334 and fire truck operators \$295-\$348.

Stevens urged the immediate salary survey so that compensation inequities and the city's salary schedules can be maintained at a favorable level in comparison with those of comparable cities in the area.

The survey will be finished by May 15. Government and civil employees council asked for seven paid legal holidays per year, a provision allowing all accumulated sick leave in excess of 30 days to be added to the annual vacation, and requested that the city take steps to provide city workers with Federal Social Security coverage.

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Threats of Gang Wars Hit Area

Sheriff's deputies broke up a crowd estimated at nearly 100 students on the Narbonne High School campus last night as Torrance police searched the area for a crowd of Torrance students reported to be nearly as large.

Threats of a major "gang-fight" have been brewing during the week as a series of near skirmishes put police on the alert.

A large mysterious "T" appeared on the lawn of Narbonne High some time Monday evening, and the school's revered Indian statue was smeared with paint when students reported for school yesterday.

The city is also a member of the Metropolitan Water District and obtains part of its supply from that source. If necessary, the city could obtain all of its water from Metropolitan, the water superintendent said.

McVicar said last night that Torrance has pumping rights which it is not exercising at the present time, and that a curtailment of rights would not seriously affect the supply of water to users here.

One of the two men discharged by Columbia Steel last Jan. 7, which resulted in a 28-day walk-out of 1250 steelworkers has been reinstated by the company, a management spokesman said last week.

The other worker has entered the Navy. His case may not come to grievance for some time, it was indicated.



MRS. HARRIETT LEECH
... To Seek Office

TREASURER RETURNS PETITION

Mrs. Harriett Leech, 1414 Cravens Ave., now rounding out a term as city treasurer, a position to which she was appointed last December, this week returned her nominating petition, indicating she will be a candidate for the office in April.

A mother of three boys, Weston, a United Airlines pilot, Dick, a teacher at Torrance High School, and Bob, who is employed at the Torrance Lumber Co., has served two other full terms as city treasurer. She first took office in 1938 and held it until 1946. She did not seek re-election. She was appointed by the present city council to succeed Mrs. Margaret Fordice, who was declared incompetent in a 1951 Superior Court action.

The treasurer candidate is the widow of James Leech, manager of the Bank of America until his death in 1935.

State Urges Drastic Cut In Water Use

Recommendations by the State Division of Water Resources made yesterday that pumping rights in the entire West Basin be reduced 66 per cent would affect less than half of Torrance's water supply, Angus McVicar, superintendent of Torrance's Water Department told the Herald last night.

The report was made yesterday to the Superior Court by the State Division, which is acting as referee in a prolonged litigation over water rights involving two large water companies and one municipality.

Nine cities and several county areas would be affected, if the court adopts the referee's suggestion.

Hardest hit would be Inglewood and Hawthorne. Others would include Palos Verdes Estates, Manhattan, Redondo, Gardena, El Segundo, and part of Los Angeles as well as Torrance. Torrance joined in the original suit.

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State Says 'Black Corner' To Be Channelized Soon

The state is going to "channelize" the black corner at Newton St. and Highway 101 within the next few weeks in an effort to cut down on the number of traffic killings which have occurred there during recent months, George Stevens, Torrance city manager, revealed this week.

Additional lighting also will be installed at the dangerous Y-shaped intersection, according to L. E. Hutchison, assistant district engineer for the State Division of Highways.

Had it not been for the recent rains and the havoc they brought to local highways, our street repair probably would have had the installation done by now," Hutchison stated.

The state official claimed that traffic signals at the intersection were not warranted, according to state standards. He said that by erecting "islands" and outlining traffic lanes that the hazard at the treacherous intersection would be greatly reduced.

The residents of the adjacent Pacific Hills residential area had long sought to have traffic control lights installed at the intersection, which is located in the middle of "Murder Mile"—so named for the relatively high number of fatal and near-fatal accidents which have left a bloody trail along the adjoining high-speed stretch of the highway.

Some hope also was given by the state official to those citizens in Seaside Ranchos and Hollywood Riviera, who have sought some traffic control measures at the intersection of Roberts Rd. and Highway 101.

The highway official stated that the state does not feel that the amount of traffic passing through the T-shaped junction warrants a traffic signal.

However, he stated that the department was asking for a clarification of a recent state law regarding the installation of signals at intersections near schools and used by school buses.

If the legal opinion is favorable, some form of traffic control devices may be installed within the next few months, he said.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred; two children, Ralph, 6, and Thomas 2; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl R. Alderson, Redondo; two sisters and a brother.

In another Keystone crash, one Gaudin Gonzales, 41, address unknown, died following injuries received when he was struck by a car near Figueroa and Gardena Blvd., Sunday night. Driver Robert F. Brownell, 21, of 18610 S. Figueroa St., was not held.

Keystone Crash Kills Butcher Trapped In Car

Thomas E. Alderson, 33, for nine months a butcher at the D & D Market here, was fatally injured in a traffic accident at 189th and Main Sts., Saturday night. His car apparently went out of control and hit a tree.

It took efforts of California Highway Patrol officers and a County Fire Department rescue squad to free Alderson from the crushed wreckage.

Alderson, who lived with his wife and two children at 714 E. Broadway, Hawthorne, operated a Harbor City meat market for one year prior to coming to the D & D store.

He also had been employed at D & D several years ago. The butcher was pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital.

Friends said that he is believed to have "blackout" and lost control of the auto. He had suffered severe headaches and dizziness spells.

Alderson attended Redondo High School and was a veteran of world war II.

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WILLIE AND CHIEF JOHN STROH
... Sinkers Man Sunk

Inside Job

Donut Man Faces Rap In 'Holdup'

Willie, a tall, slender donut maker at a downtown restaurant, yesterday still was turning out the delicate sinkers, but today he appears in City Judge Otto Willett court to face a burglary rap.

The 21-year-old donut man, cooked up more than donuts two weeks ago, detectives say. He cooked up a bizarre story about a hold up, complete with a description of the lone gun-carrying bandit.

Warner was bound and left in an adjoining room while the "gangster" fled with the receipts totaling more than \$100.

George's Meat N' Place, 1340 El Prado Ave., was the location for the merry-go-round robbery. Owner George Paltridge was in Oakland attending his father's funeral at the time.

Detective Capt. Ernie Ashton said that the entire deal involved Warner and two others, including one James Cadwell of 22608 Catskill Ave., Avalon Village, also a donut maker.

Cadwell, who made off with the loot, has not yet been found. Neighbors say that he, his wife and daughter reported that they were heading for Oakland.

Warner and a pal planned the affair and brought in Cadwell to assist. On D-Day, the pal thought the idea was foolish. Cadwell took him home, then returned and helped Warner open the safe.

Ashton said Warner allowed himself to be tied while Cadwell made off with the money. Warner soon realized the plan

was "pretty sloppy" and sought to find Cadwell so they could return the money. Detectives broke down Warner's original story point by point and gained a confession late Wednesday night. He was released under \$2500 bail.

Bus Rides Okay In No. Torrance 'Danger' Areas

Children living in a North Torrance area who attend school at 174th St. and Casimir Ave. won't have to walk down busy Crenshaw Blvd. nor wade through a muddy drain ditch west of Arlington Ave. any more, the Board of Education decided Tuesday night.

School buses will now make pickups throughout the tiny area following a school bus survey conducted by bus supervisor John E. Mock and a committee of North Torrance men.

Jack E. White, chairman of the Improvement Association there, sparked the campaign to get children off of Crenshaw Blvd. and off of all un-sidewalked streets in an area bounded by Redondo Beach and Crenshaw Bvds., 166th St. and Casimir Ave. Some 47 citizens protested to

(Continued on Page 5)

Editorial

Carpenters Build Houses Faster Than Schools

Four years ago there were 2600 children in Torrance schools. Today there are 6100. Approximately 600 are getting the "short course" of education because they are on double sessions.

What's the trouble? Why do we have double sessions? Why do we have long distances to send our children to school? Why don't we have enough classrooms with the money we have spent?

Our trouble is simple. Carpenters can build houses faster than schools.

When we divorced ourselves from the Los Angeles School System four years ago we had enrolled in kindergarten 212 students who were being taught by seven teachers.

Today there are 862 kindergarten students and a staff of 29 teachers to teach them. We have come a long way since our school system was born just four short years ago.

We had 54 classrooms then. Today we have exactly 100 more than in 1947 or a total of 154. That is still not enough to house our children.

Why? Because carpenters can build houses faster than schools.

A house can be built in three months. It takes a year to build a school—that is unless we have a lot of wet weather, and if we can get the steel, and if there are no labor difficulties, in which case it takes longer.

Tuesday the residents of Torrance are asked to bond themselves for \$3,000,000 to build three more elementary schools and a high school.

This will cost the average homeowner in Torrance one cent per day for the next 25 years. This cost is inexpensive insurance. It is insurance that our children will be adequately housed in local schools.

Let's not be lulled into taking no action on the theory that "the bonds will pass. I won't have to go to vote."

If we want to be certain that our children get these new schools we will have to vote on Tuesday.

Polling places are located at the following schools: Perry, North Torrance, Fern, Torrance High, Torrance Elementary, Waverly, Seaside and at 716 Calle de Arboles in Hollywood Riviera.

Your "Yes" vote on the school bond issue is needed because . . . Carpenters can build houses faster than schools.

Area Schools Recommended By Stoddard

A new assembly hall and cafeteria for the Halldale Elementary School and the purchase of site and erection of an additional elementary school in the East Torrance area were among the items included in a proposed \$148 million bond issue put before the Los Angeles Board of Education yesterday by Superintendent Alexander J. Stoddard.

The new facilities at Halldale and the new elementary school would go far to relieve the double sessions which are now being held at the school.

Also included in Dr. Stoddard's recommendations yesterday was construction of a \$3½ million high school for Narbonne at Lomita Blvd. and Western Ave. The present Narbonne High School plant would be converted into a Junior High School, according to the proposed plan.

Voters will be asked to pass on the proposed bond issue next June 3.