

COUNCIL FIRES CITY BUILDING OFFICIALS, BOARD OVERRULED

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING
—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

TORRANCE HERALD

Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at post office Torrance, California, under Act of March 3, 1879.
—and Torrance Herald Shopper reach 100,000 Buyers

"Twice Weekly Is Twice As Well Read"

10¢

Per Copy

Every Sunday and Thursday Home Delivered by Carrier 30 Cents Per Month (Average 9 Issues per Month)

40th Year—No. 34

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1954

PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000

28 PAGES

CAA CONDUCTING PROBE OF FATAL PLANE CRASH



CRASH SURVIVOR . . . This plane, piloted by Michael De Francesco of Long Beach, landed safely following a mid-air collision near Torrance Municipal Airport late Saturday. Here Charles M. Demaree, CAA safety agent, examines tail section of another plane which caught on landing gear and wing struttings.



MICHAEL DE FRANCESCO . . . Survives Plane Crash

Report Due in Week, Eyewitnesses Sought

CAA officials stated yesterday that a report on the collision of two light planes over Torrance Airport in which one pilot was killed Saturday evening will be completed in about a week and sent to the CAA main office.

Officials are attempting to piece together eye-witness reports on the crash to determine cause and responsibility.

Paul Stahmann, 28, of 3623 Pacific Coast Hwy., was killed when his Mooney monoplane collided with a Piper Vagabond being flown by Michael De Francesco, 30, of 3915 E. 14th St., Long Beach.

Stahmann's plane spiraled down, smoking, and crashed in a cornfield near 23rd St. west of Crenshaw Blvd., where it burst into flames.

Didn't See Plane
De Francesco, a research engineer at North American Aviation, said he was making an approach to the airport at about 800 feet when the collision occurred. He said he did not see the other plane until the crash.

Even though the tail assembly of Stahmann's plane got tangled in De Francesco's struts after the crash, the pilot managed to guide his craft to a safe landing on the flight strip. He received scratches and shock in the accident.

CAA spokesmen stated that Stahmann's plane apparently came up from underneath and hit the other craft.

Stahmann, who had a commercial pilot's license, and De Francesco, who owned a private pilot's license, had been flying for several years. Both belonged to the same fliers' group which gathers each weekend at

Popular Demand Brings Recreation Program Back

The adult and youth recreation programs will be resumed tonight in the Torrance High school gymnasium because of popular demand, according to Harry Van Bellehem, city recreation director.

The schedule will be:
Thursday: 7 to 10 p.m.—Adult volleyball, boys' gym.
Monday: 7 to 10 p.m.—Adult badminton, girls' gym.
Monday: 7 to 10 p.m.—Boys' basketball, boys' gym.

The program will continue through the remainder of the school year, Van Bellehem said.

Dismissal Voted Without Dissent

An overriding vote of the City Council this week voided recommendations of the Civil Service Board and two city building department employees who have been under suspension were discharged.

Dismissed by the Council action were James S. Dresser, city building inspector until his suspension March 10; and his assistant, Cecil W. Smith.

Dresser and Smith were suspended by the Council in March following an investigation of a North Torrance home tract by inspectors of the State Division of Housing and the California Contractors License Board.

A Civil Service Board hearing into their suspension resulted in the recommendation that Dresser be suspended for 75 days and Smith for 60 days and then restored to duty.

Charges Read
According to charges read before the City Council Tuesday, Dresser and Smith were found guilty by the Civil Service Board of allowing certain building code violations to go unchecked and inadequately performing duties of their offices.

Both Dresser and Smith were found not guilty of altering job and charges for a number of record cards in the department files, and Dresser was found not guilty of a charge of promoting his own subdivision on city time.

Hot Potato
The Council tossed the issue around for a few tense moments before taking the action calling for dismissal of the two men.

Mayor Nicholas O. Dralle called on the City Manager for a any remarks he might have, and City Manager George Stevens said he had attended, did not change his conclusions in the matter.

He had originally recommended their suspension to the Council. City Attorney James Hall commented only that the Council could, by four-fifths vote, override the Civil Service Board's recommendations.

The vote, with Councilman Victor E. Benstead absent, was 4-0 for dismissal of each.

Earlier in the meeting, Attorney Lloyd Wright Jr., who said he was representing Henry Albachten, developer of the housing tract under fire, appeared before the Councilmen in an effort to map out a program remedying the defects found by State investigators.

Suit Filed
The tract in question, consisting of 32 homes, was built by the Princeton Construction Corp. Seven of the homes were inspected by State officials and five of them were made the basis of a suit filed last week by the city against Princeton. The homes, all on Patronella Ave. in North Torrance, have been the targets of complaints and charges for a number of months.

It was the inspection of these homes that led to the suspension of Dresser and Smith.

The city has under advisement an offer by Albachten to seek a remedy for the alleged faulty construction. Albachten is no longer associated with the Princeton Construction Corp., his attorney said.

Protest Voiced Against Diatom Mine in Waleria

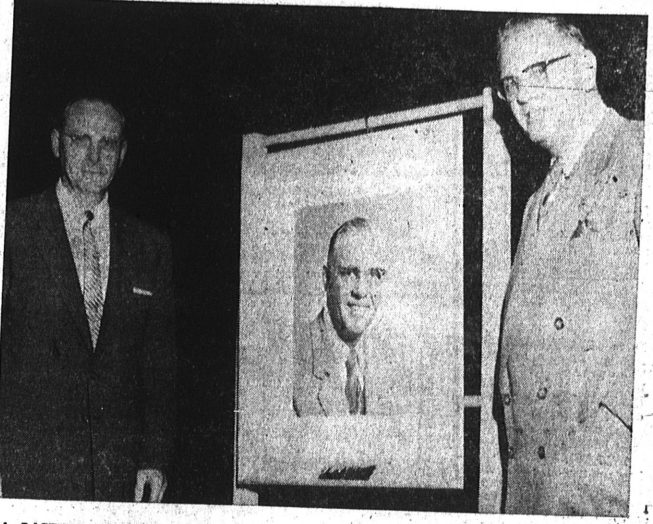
A protest against a proposed new diatomaceous earth mine in Waleria was voiced at Tuesday's City Council meeting by E. S. Schoonover, representing the Pacific Hills Homeowners Assoc.

Plans to open the new mine were revealed Monday in an application filed with the City Planning Commission. John J. Dimarco, of Los Angeles, is seeking a zoning variance and conditional permit to start an excavation on property near the southerly terminus of Madison St., just north of the existing pits of the Great Lakes Carbon Corp. diatomic division.

The property is presently zoned light agricultural. The application will be the subject of a hearing to be held before the Commission at City Hall on May 5 at 7 p.m.

Dimarco said that the material taken from the excavation would be transported in enclosed trucks to the Dr. Ross plant in Harbor City where it would be processed for use as a filtering agent.

He said precautions against dust and noise at the proposed mine would be taken.



A LASTING TRIBUTE . . . Dr. Howard A. Wood, (right) first president of the Torrance Board of Education, was "flabbergasted," he said, when his portrait was unveiled at Wood School dedications ceremonies Monday evening. Here he is with Kiwanis President Byron Scofield and portrait. "This is like being on 'This Is Your Life,'" he said.



THE LIVING IMAGE . . . Evelyn (Mrs. Hartley E.) Carr, left, poses with a portrait of herself which will hang in the new Evelyn Carr School as a tribute to her work in the field of education here. With her is Mrs. Elmer Moon, first vice-president of Torrance Council PTA, who presented the portrait on behalf of Council to Donald Robison, principal of the new school, at dedication ceremonies Tuesday night.

Dedication of New Schools Fetes Early Board Members

Raindrops fell, but some 400 parents and children sat in the open air Tuesday night to watch the dedication of the new Evelyn Carr School, thus getting a first look at the portrait which will hang in its halls as a tribute to the woman for which it was named.

Mrs. Elmer Moon, first vice-president of Torrance Council PTA, presented the portrait of Evelyn (Mrs. Hartley E.) Carr to Donald Robison, principal of the new school, citing Mrs. Carr's work in establishing the city school system, her service on the Board of Education, and her efforts as president of Torrance Elementary PTA and Torrance Council PTA.

"Unveiling of the picture came as a complete surprise to Mrs. Carr, who earlier was introduced by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of Torrance Unified Schools.

"This is the high spot in my life," Mrs. Carr said. "I feel very honored to have such a beautiful building named after me. I hope you enjoy it."

"The beautiful combination of colors, both inside and out, is one of the best features of the building, and I feel that in such fine surroundings the children's morale will be higher. In the

midst of such beauty, it must be easier to learn."

Dr. Hull also introduced Mrs. Grace Wright of the Board of Education, who stressed that schools belong to the people. "The doors are always wide open and anyone is welcome to visit," she said.

Dr. Joseph Bay, newest Board member, also gave a few words of welcome.

Official welcome was given by Jean Sorrell, student at the school, then Boy Scouts Joe Hedgecock, John Danbois, Dick Hedgecock, Steve Sandberg, and Clark Sandberg presented the colors and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The audience joined in singing "America."

Two selections by the school orchestra, directed by Mrs. Doris Crosier, and a group of four songs by the seventh and eighth grade glee club, directed by Mrs. Lyda Willis and Mrs. L. McKelvy, completed the program.

In similar ceremonies held Monday evening, the new Howard A. Wood Elementary School was dedicated and a portrait of Dr. Wood unveiled by Kiwanis Club President Byron Scofield.

School Principal Robert Evans presented a program by school students, including selections by the school orchestra, and short talks by representatives of various classes on "Why I Like the Howard Wood School."

Dr. Hull told the huge gathering—which included members of the Kiwanis and Optimist Clubs which had adjourned regular meetings to attend the dedication—that one of the district's policies was the recognition of those who had made outstanding contributions to the development of the city's school system.

"This, in a way, is the fulfillment of a part of that policy—a policy which Dr. Wood helped formulate," Dr. Hull said.

Introduced at the Monday night dedication were Dr. Wood's mother; school board members Grace Wright, Dr. Joseph Bay, William Tolson and former member Judge John Shidler.

WEATHER
The Weather Bureau predicts that the drizzles have definitely left the local area and that today will be sunny and warmer, with no high winds. The maximum temperature should hit around 72, with the low this morning about 50 degrees.

School Enrollment Up 2000 During Year

More than 2000 new students have entered Torrance schools during the past 12 months, according to a report released this week by the Torrance Unified School District.

Total enrollment in Torrance schools on April 21, 1953 was 7619, according to the report. Enrollment on April 20, 1954 was 9792—slightly more than 2000 pupils away from the 10,000 level.

Kindergarten, first, and second grades continue to lead the field in the number of enrollments, while the senior class at Torrance High School trails the field in the number of class enrollments. About 120 additional students are enrolled in special classes, home classes, and in continuation work.

Largest increases were recorded this year by the kindergarten and second grades. The kindergarten enrollment rose from 932 a year ago to 1318 last week.

School enrollment by grade levels last week and a year ago are shown below:

Second grade enrollment was

Grade	1954	April 21 1953
Kindergarten	1318	932
1	1092	1000
2	1186	760
3	907	716
4	855	716
5	851	619
6	726	568
7	680	507
8	586	475
9	533	438
10	462	344
11	321	250
12	208	24
Home Class	22	24
Special Class	23	18
Continuation	72	59
Totals	9792	7619