

Herald Favors New Civic Center, Swimming Pool

PALOS VERDES REFUSES TO TAKE DOWN STREET BARRICADES ALONG BOUNDARY

WEATHER

Weatherman says it will be generally clear Thursday, slightly warmer, with a high in Torrance of about 77. And, he adds, no fog, or at least, only a patch here and there, if at all.

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Council Orders Road Job

The refusal of Palos Verdes Estates to do anything about the barricades it has thrown up across a number of streets in the area triggered a serious discussion this week on the urgent need for major street repairs along Torrance streets which lead into the hilltop community.

"We don't want to do anything illegal like blocking off a street," Councilman Willys B. Blount said, "but I really believe some of our streets in that area should be looked into by the street department. They need fixing."

Pipelines Hinted

Discussions among the Councilmen turned to the manner of repairing streets and ranged from ditches to pipelines across the streets which needed "repairing." A letter from the City of Palos Verdes Estates touched off the discussion Tuesday night when it was read before the City Council. Signed by City Clerk William C. Platt, the letter informed Torrance officials that "the Council feels that the Council should carry out the wishes of the people concerned and not reopen the streets in question."

Road Work Ordered

The Torrance Council formally adopted a motion to have the city street department look into the matter of street repairs with particular emphasis on Palos Verdes Blvd. near the Torrance-P.V. border.

The "Battle of the Barricades" started several years ago when the City of Palos Verdes Estates closed off Via Alameda, Via Pasqual, and Via Colusa when upper Hollywood Boulevard was built. Last year, the city closed Via Las Vegas, Via Aridilla, Via Cardella, and Via Miralesta when it was learned that plans were being made to develop the adjoining area in Torrance.

Plans Legal Suit

Developers of that area, the Ellinwood Corp. have asked the city's cooperation in bringing legal action against Palos Verdes Estates in an effort to open the barricaded public streets.

Attorney Felix H. McGinnis, who is representing the Ellinwood Corp., wrote to City Manager George Stevens last month saying he contemplated taking such action as may be necessary to see that the streets are reopened.

His office said yesterday that the attorney was busy in court and could not comment on the progress of his case against the exclusive community. He had stated previously, however, that he would solicit the support of the Attorney General and the League of California Cities in his efforts to punch a hole in the "iron curtain."

He was assured the cooperation of the City of Torrance by action of the Council Tuesday evening.

School Total 2800 Higher Than in 1953

Torrance schools enrolled 11,590 students—nearly a 25 per cent increase over 1953—on the second day of classes, according to School Superintendent J. H. Hull.

Of the totals, 1940 were enrolled in Torrance High School, while 9650 were in elementary schools. This is an increase of 460 in high school, which went on double sessions this year, and 2340 in elementary schools, some of which are already on double sessions.

The biggest jump in enrollment, percentage-wise, was at El Nido School, which more than doubled its students—from 208 to 485. The only schools showing losses were North Torrance School and Torrance Elementary School, which lost students with construction of Carr and Wood schools, respectively.

Walteria School led elementary schools in enrollment with 1050, and recently completed Meadow Park School was smallest, with 450.

40th Year—No. 77

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TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 1954

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28 PAGES

Home Gripes Given Developer

Builder To Look At List

Developer Tony Paravano, who has been cast in the role of the villain in connection with the bitter complaints about the condition of a group of North Torrance homes, told members of the City Council this week that he has spent \$5000. of his own money on repairs of the homes, despite the fact that he was not a stockholder, officer, or director of the corporation that built the homes.

And besides, the subdivider said, he was in Europe during the time the houses were built. Paravano was appearing before the Councilmen at their request after residents of Crenshaw Gardens' tract of 32 homes continued to pour complaints into the city offices concerning the state of repair of some of their houses.

Accompanied by his attorney, Harry S. Apter, Paravano reported that he had done everything he thought was required of him in the matter of repairing the homes in the area, but he took a detailed list of the homes and complaints with him from the meeting and agreed to seek a settlement to the problems.

Homes Investigated
The homes under fire are the same ones which were the target of city and state investigations earlier this year. Those investigations wound up with charges being brought against two city inspectors resulting in their ultimate suspension and then dismissal.

Current complaints are concerned primarily with the finishing touches to the repair jobs ordered by city and state inspectors, residents say. A number of residents told the Councilmen last week that repairmen had been in their homes to repair faulty structural conditions, but had not replaced wallpaper, paint, and other final touches to the jobs.

Builder Blamed
Paravano said the responsibility for the repairs should be placed with Henry Albachten, former developer who was described as the principal officer of Princeton Construction Co., builders of the tract. He indicated that he might be considering legal steps to recover some of the repair money he had spent.

"I did the repairs because I wanted to keep the good will of the City Council, the City Building department, and the people of the area," Paravano said. He said he did it because most people believed he was responsible for the homes because of his position at the time as general foreman of the construction company.

To Study List

Any remaining code violations will be repaired immediately, Paravano said during the meeting with the Councilmen. The others, such as plaster, paint, wallpaper, and non-structural items will be subject to his study and arbitration with city officials, he indicated.

Paravano is to report next week on the list of 29 complaining homeowners which he received from Building Superintendent Russell.



SCHOOL DAZE . . . Some 4th graders might have been happy to get back to the "Heros of Readin' and writin'," but here are four lads who figured they would just as soon be out catching frogs, or shooting marbles, or running around on their bikes. Gary Hedrix, 8, left, Greg Sinecock, 9, Wayne Thomas, 8, and Bobbie Stout, 10, all attend Madrona School, and volunteered to portray the "Aw, Shucks . . . School Again," pupils.

\$1,400,000 Bonds On Block Soon

Approval for the sale and issuance of \$1,400,000 worth of school bonds for the Torrance Unified School District was given this week by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Money from the sale of the bonds will be used for acquisition of sites, new school buildings, additions to existing plants, and equipment.

School District Land in Dispute

The Torrance and Redondo Beach Boards of Education were doing an Alphonse and Gaston act this week over a strip of territory now in Redondo Beach, but in the Torrance School District.

But after the Torrance board received a letter from the Redondo board this week, indications are that Alphonse and Gaston may give way to "Rocky" and "Ezzard."

Since Redondo Beach recently annexed the territory, the Torrance Board feels that the beach city should take over the school system. The area was formerly county territory.

Subdivision Planned
The territory in question is between 182nd and 190th Sts., west of Inglewood Ave., and west of the railroad tracks, in the El Nido district. Although there are now only eight school children in the area, a 300-home subdivision is scheduled for construction there soon.

"Since they annexed the territory, I feel they have a moral obligation to take responsibility for the school system," board member Darwin Parrish declared.

Board members agreed that they would investigate ways of getting Redondo Beach to take responsibility for the district, which will undoubtedly contain many children when the subdivision is completed.

Action Planned
All agreed that they saw no reason why Torrance should support a part of Redondo Beach in its school district, and indicated they might take the matter to the County Board of Supervisors.

In other action, the board voted to send a letter stating its position to the Senate Interim Committee on Social Welfare, which will soon hold hearings on child care centers.

Child care centers, the board feels, are not the responsibility of the school, but of a welfare agency. Schools have enough problems with taking care of educational needs without taking care of child care.



NAME CHANGE . . . Shapely Shirlee Garner tries for size the new street name sign which soon will replace those now reading "East Rd." Official action this week altered the name to W. 208th St. Other name changes soon will be made to keep the streets consistent throughout the county.

An Editorial

Torrance is ready for—and needs—a new Civic Center and public swimming pool. With this conviction, The HERALD joins forces with those civic-minded and progressive citizens seeking a favorable vote at the special bond issue election on Oct. 19.

Present administrative and police facilities are inadequate and unworthy of a city already believed to have a population of 54,000 and destined to reach 100,000 by 1960. Numerous communities through Los Angeles county with far less wealth and lesser needs have swimming pools. Torrance can afford one!

There are many individuals, perhaps, who sincerely believe it would be more practical and economical to expand the present facilities at the old location. They have had time to come forward with a practical plan and should have done so after the proposal was defeated by a narrow margin last Spring.

It is our considered opinion that any effort to use the present location would be a temporary solution of the problem and ultimately would prove costly and unsatisfactory. Removal of the Civic Center to a section more centrally located to serve the needs of all the population is simple logic. Furthermore, it would relieve traffic and parking congestion in a vital area that should be made available for commercial expansion of the present business section.

The proposed swimming pool would become a community asset and an aid in helping to sell Torrance to prospective residents.

The argument is heard that removal of the Civic Center would be harmful to business. That is not substantiated in other communities where it has been found advantageous to remove such centers to less congested areas where offstreet parking can be provided. Actually, the scores of cars parked in the vicinity of city offices impede rather than help business by adding to traffic congestion and confusion.

Best of all, these two practical proposals will cost the owner of a \$10,000-\$12,000 home only \$1.75 the first year of assessment, declining each year thereafter.

Torrance no longer is a small town. All of us must realize that we must look forward to a city of 100,000 in a few years. Failure to comprehend the fantastic growth of this city since the war already has been costly to the community. If not disastrous, continued small thinking will result in chaos and confusion.

We believe the people who have the best interests of the community at heart and have foresight, will join forces with those who have set out to make Torrance a better place in which to live, work and play!

Treasure Hunt Set For Saturday Noon

Kids of all ages will have a field day in the El Prado on a field day in the El Prado on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 26, as the Kiwanis Club holds its annual Kids' Day.

Hundreds of prizes will be given away to youngsters who trade in shiny plastic discs found during a treasure hunt to nearby concession stands.

Two hide-and-seek sessions are planned, one for the small children and one for the older youngsters.

Unclaimed prizes will be distributed at the park Saturday, at 3:30.

The grand prizes, a week-end vacation in Las Vegas, an automatic clothes drier, and a diamond ring, also will be awarded at this time. Winners need not be present, only have purchased a ticket.

Proceeds from the Kids' Day go to sponsor youth activities of the Kiwanis Club. A major portion of the funds are used in the annual Learn to Swim project.

Stevens Urges Quick Action On Beach Plan

Urgent action to obtain property near Torrance Beach was urged Tuesday by City Manager George Stevens, in telegrams sent to state and county officials.

The property was given a first priority as a 70-acre beach park by Milton Breivogel, director of planning for the Regional Planning Commission. Stevens was alarmed by reports that the area was part of a proposed housing development by the Don-Ja-Ron Corporation.

"Urgent action is needed if this property is to become a public beach as planned, Stevens declared in telegrams to Gov. Goodwin J. Knight, Assemblyman Stanley Tomlinson, chairman of the committee on impounded tidelands funds; and state and county recreation and planning officials.

Plans were drawn up this week by William Wollett, city-retained architect, showing a proposed sketch of the beach, completely developed as a recreational and picnic area.

The local beach problem will be investigated by City Recreation Director Harry Van Belle, as he leaves tomorrow for a conference at Santa Cruz. The meeting will discuss methods of getting tidelands money for beach development.

Motorist Badly Injured As Car Skids Off Road

Suffering major injuries when his car skidded some 200 feet after leaving the road, and then somersaulted another 100 feet yesterday evening, was Hubert Eugene Morris, 41, of Lomita.

Traffic Officer H. B. Ingram said a witness reported the victim was headed west on Lomita Blvd., and left the street on a curve east of Hawthorne Ave. Some 200 feet of fence was taken out by the careening auto.

He was taken to Harbor General Hospital suffering serious head injuries.

Officers were unable to learn the victim's exact address.

Chest Movie, Peter Graves Here Tonight

The 1954 Community Chest movie, "Endless Days," will be shown for the first time in the Harbor area tonight at the Torrance Theater at 8 o'clock.

Its star, Peter Graves, will appear on the program to describe some of the events which occurred while it was being made. Graves appeared in "Stage 17," and recently completed "Black Tuesday."

Angela Ackerson, of San Pedro, will emcee the show, which will include entertainment by Joe Crisa and his guitar, and the Long Beach chapter of "Sweet Adeline."

Harbor Chairman Tommy Thompson, of Torrance, will also appear.

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