

GP Says 'No' to Governor's Shut-Down Request

TRAFFIC TOLL: ONE DEAD, 15 INJURED

GP Says No to Smog Shutdown

Asked by Knight

Governor Knight's request for voluntary shutdown of refineries to test their effect on the smog problem "at best would be meaningless," R. L. Minkler, president of the General Petroleum Corporation, has advised the governor.

Rejecting Knight's suggestion, Minkler told the governor that the request could do great damage in solving the problem.

Knight today renewed his request that refineries shut down for "an adequate test period" to aid in finding a solution to the smog, which reached its highest density for some years in the area last week. Although skies were clear today, he urged a test period when smog returns.

Shutdown No Solution

Shutting down refineries would remove only about five per cent of the hydrocarbons from the air, Minkler declared. Atmospheric conditions determine whether a day is smoggy or not, he said, and if the refineries would shut down, the public might come to unjustified conclusions as to the cause, depending on the weather.

Men would be thrown out of work needlessly, Minkler felt.

The General Petroleum Corp. is 100 per cent in compliance with smog regulations, he said. Oil refineries are constantly at work on devices to reduce air pollution not required by law, he declared.

The proposed shutdown would affect some 54,900 oil workers whose payroll in 1953 amounted to 236 million dollars. Knight requested that workers get full pay during the shutdown.

About 687,500 barrels of crude oil are produced daily by the 25 refineries in the area.

Reserve stocks of oil would carry the region through the shutdown, Knight said.

Declaring that "the answer is not to be found in politics," Reese H. Taylor, president of Union Oil Company, said that auto and truck exhausts are far greater offenders than refineries.

Some experts back him up, estimating that the gases from autos and trucks are about four and one times more than those from refineries.

Shooting, Stabbing Wounds 2

Two persons are in Harbor General Hospital following a shooting, stabbing, and a pitched gun battle with Sheriff's deputies this morning.

Hospitalized with a gunshot wound in the head is Mrs. Frances Antonia Pagaling, 22, of 451 1/2 E. 21st St. Her husband, Fernin Boidanado Pagaling, 48, was hospitalized with gunshot wounds and stab wounds.

Deputy H. E. Springett, answering a shooting call at the address this morning, reported that he found Mrs. Pagaling in the couple's home shot through the head with a .22 caliber rifle. After his arrival at the scene, Pagaling drove up and opened fire on Springett. After several shots were exchanged, Pagaling entered the house, locked himself in with his wounded wife, and set fire to the frame structure.

Sgt. W. E. Shaw raced to the scene and called for fire equipment, tear gas, and other "heavy equipment." After several attempts to get tear gas into the house from a protected position, the sergeant was forced to race up and lob a gas bomb through the window.

Hospital attendants listed the condition of the Pagalings as serious at 11 a.m. today.

Planners Set Zoning Meet

All phases of North Torrance zoning will be considered when a committee of the Torrance Planning Commission meets with the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association at McMaster Hall at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The meeting arose out of a number of requests for zoning variances in North Torrance, and the Planning Commission is seeking to set up a pattern for uniform handling of zoning questions in the area.

WEATHER

Generally clear weather for today and tomorrow is predicted, with highs in the mid 70s. The high yesterday was 71, while the low was 52.

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12 PAGES

Mother Saves Polio Victim In Blaze

Greene 'Good Neighbor'



HARRY GREENE
... A Good Neighbor

Crowd of 750 Eats Pancakes

For his work in rehabilitating alcoholics, Harry Greene, of 1314 Beech Ave., has been named the YMCA's "Good Neighbor" of 1954.

The award was presented at Good Neighbor Breakfast at the Civic Auditorium Saturday by Awards Chairman Sam Levy.

Sgt. G. S. Evans, of the Torrance Police Department, who nominated Greene, praised him for his efforts in rehabilitating himself and other addicts. Every Wednesday Greene holds a party in his home for persons he is trying to help, Evans said.

"Pages could be used to record the full extent of the efforts and accomplishments of Greene," he said, "but testimony and corroboration of the facts may be obtained from many who have been saved by and through his work."

About 750 persons attended the breakfast, according to Dave Sowle, breakfast chairman. Pancakes, sausages, coffee, and orange juice were served to those in attendance.

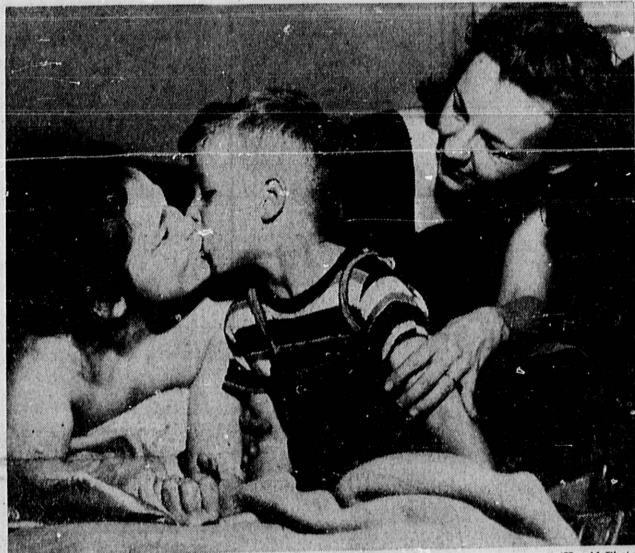
Singer Champ Butler entertained the guests with three songs, and handed out records. Throughout the breakfast the Torrance Area Youth Band played selections.

Planners Get Beach Plans For Housing

The Don-Ja-Ran Corporation Wednesday presented plans for a 211-lot development in an area along Torrance Beach which has been under consideration by city and county authorities as a park.

The City Planning Commission received plans for the 90-acre plot, which is west of Palos Verdes Blvd. and north of the Palos Verdes city limits, and bordered by the ocean.

Plans had been drawn up by the city showing possible uses of the area, which is owned under terms of a trust arrangement set up by Louis B. Mayer.



"SORRY, SIS" . . . Four-year-old Butch Sturgess, who set his house afire, "makes up" with his 10-year-old sister, Josephine, a bed-ridden polio victim who is bound from her chest to her thighs in a heavy plaster cast. Josephine was in the house when the blaze broke out, and fast-thinking by her mother, Mrs. D. R. Sturgess, shown here with the children, averted any possible tragedy. Mrs. Sturgess opened a window, and slid the girl to safety.

Girl in Cast Slid to Safety Out Window

A fast-thinking mother today is credited with averting a possible tragedy in her burning home as she slid her 10-year-old daughter, a polio victim bound in a heavy plaster cast out a bedroom window to safety.

The girl, lying helpless on her stomach, then called to her young brother and sister and kept them out of danger until firemen arrived.

Mrs. D. R. Sturgess, of 3207 W. 227th St., told investigators Friday that she was watering the front lawn of their new house when she smelled something burning.

"I knew that Butch and Dnette, two of our six children, were supposed to be taking a nap in a back bedroom," Mrs. Sturgess related, "but when I smelled smoke, I suspected they might have gotten into trouble."

Finds Room Ablaze

She swung open the back door, and already the house was starting to fill with choking smoke. Butch, 4 years old, came running out of his bedroom, where flames were eating away at a mattress, bed clothes, and starting to scorch the furnishings.

"I yelled for Butch and Dnette to go outside, and ran into Josephine's bedroom. Her cast makes her so heavy that I can not lift her by myself, but she has very strong arms. I pulled the bed to the window, and shoved her out to a small table which was nearby," Mrs. Sturgess said.

Josephine grabbed onto the window ledge, and helped herself out.

Takes Fire Outside

Then, the busy woman closed all of the windows, dashed into the burning room, and managed to drag the flaming mattress out the back door.

The Sturgesses have no telephone, so she sent a neighbor boy three doors down to summon the fire department.

First to arrive was Battalion Chief Neil Whitney. He said Mrs. Sturgess was standing in the front yard, "calm, cool and collected."

"In fact," Whitney said, "I thought I must have heard a wrong address over the radio and nearly went by."

Traffic Officer Donald Nash and two firemen carried Josephine across the street while the others put out the fire. Damage was confined to the floors, a scorched wall, and the bed.

Josephine Not Excited

Five Captain Gordon Northington said little Josephine did not even appear excited despite the fact that her vantage point outside the burning house was next to the window, and she could hear all the commotion and see the smoke through the glass.

Butch was named by his mother as the "culprit" for starting the blaze. She said he told her he had been playing with matches and accidentally ignited a plastic mattress cover.

Take Leather Jacket

A leather jacket valued at \$35 was taken from a shed at the Walleria Park owner Jerry Emerson, of 820 Cota Ave., reported to police.

Room Burns While Folks Eat Dinner

When Mr. and Mrs. Cecil B. Jones, of 238 Via Linda Vista, were eating dinner in the kitchen Saturday night, something was happening in the bedroom.

It was on fire.

A neighbor driving along the street saw smoke pouring from a vent, rapped on the door and told them they had better call the fire department.

Two Torrance fire companies, directed by Fire Battalion Chief Gene Walker, confined the fire to a small portion of the room. Many clothes were damaged by smoke.

Cause of the blaze was not determined.

Nursing Home Action Delayed

Action on a proposed 32-bed nursing home to be built near 174th St. on Arlington Ave., was postponed Wednesday by the Torrance Planning Commission.

Paul H. Smith, Gardena nursing home operator, had requested hospital zoning for the structure. At the present time, he said, it will operate as a nursing home, but future expansion might require hospital facilities. The area is zoned for light agriculture.

Eight protests against the nursing home were received from residents of the area. A petition declared that the area is too crowded for a hospital.

State Approves

Architect Paul Andrew said that the nursing home had received a letter from the state, approving the structure as planned. It would set back from the street, and would not interfere with residences, he said, nor would it have emergency facilities with ambulance sirens.

Action on the request for zoning variance was postponed until Nov. 3.

In other action, tract 20473, presented by Milton Kaufman, was approved with the changes recommended at the last Commission meeting. The area, between Sepulveda and Hawthorne Bvds. and west of Anza Ave., includes 1541 lots.

The changes provided for an 80 foot wide extension of Palos Verdes Blvd., and for a 80 foot wide street from Hawthorne to Palos Verdes Blvd.

An application for a change of zoning location within the Kaufman tract, at 190th and Hawthorne Ave., by the Dominguez Land Co., was referred to committee.

Committee Studies

Vacation of the south 10 feet of 242nd St., in tracts 7506 and 8202 was approved.

An application from C. D. Wood for a business license at 22809 Ocean Ave., was approved.

A committee was appointed to study the application of Guys and Dolls Day Camp, of 17328



DEATH AUTO . . . This demolished auto is the one that carried three-year-old Vernon Ray Johnson to his death, and sent five others to the hospital after it overturned near 190th St. and Hawthorne Ave. yesterday. The driver told police he left the highway after the road suddenly stopped, and roared over a dirt embankment. Many persons were injured in a series of traffic mishaps last week-end.